



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D C

January 4, 2010

Dear AU Family Member:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the Winter Break with your AU student.

I am writing to share with you a letter that Executive Director of Housing & Dining Programs, Chris Moody, has just sent to all resident students. It announces changes in the room reapplication process for fall 2010, and provides information which merits your family's consideration in the months ahead.

American University has seen a marked increase in our demand for on-campus housing as a result of three trends. We have enjoyed unprecedented success in recruitment of new students, retention of current students, and satisfaction with the residence hall experience over the last several years. These excellent results have presented us with challenges in on-campus housing capacity that must be met through changes in the allocation process in the near term, until we can expand our housing inventory in the years ahead.

The changes will limit the availability of on-campus housing for third and fourth year students beginning next fall. We will make a limited amount of campus housing available to upperclassmen through a lottery, and we will work closely with those who must look for alternatives off campus. We are enhancing our off-campus housing services to help ensure that all students have satisfactory housing arrangements.

We are prepared to help your student evaluate housing options for next year and make sound personal choices. Toward that end, we will conduct several Information Sessions at the beginning of the spring semester and meet individually with students who have exceptional circumstances and concerns.

I want to be sure you have plenty of time to prepare for this adjustment. I encourage you and your student to work with the Housing & Dining Programs staff to successfully navigate the revised room reapplication process, and to access the new off-campus housing services, if you need them.

Sincerely,

Gail Short Hanson  
Vice President of Campus Life