



STUDENT ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

ZipAssist

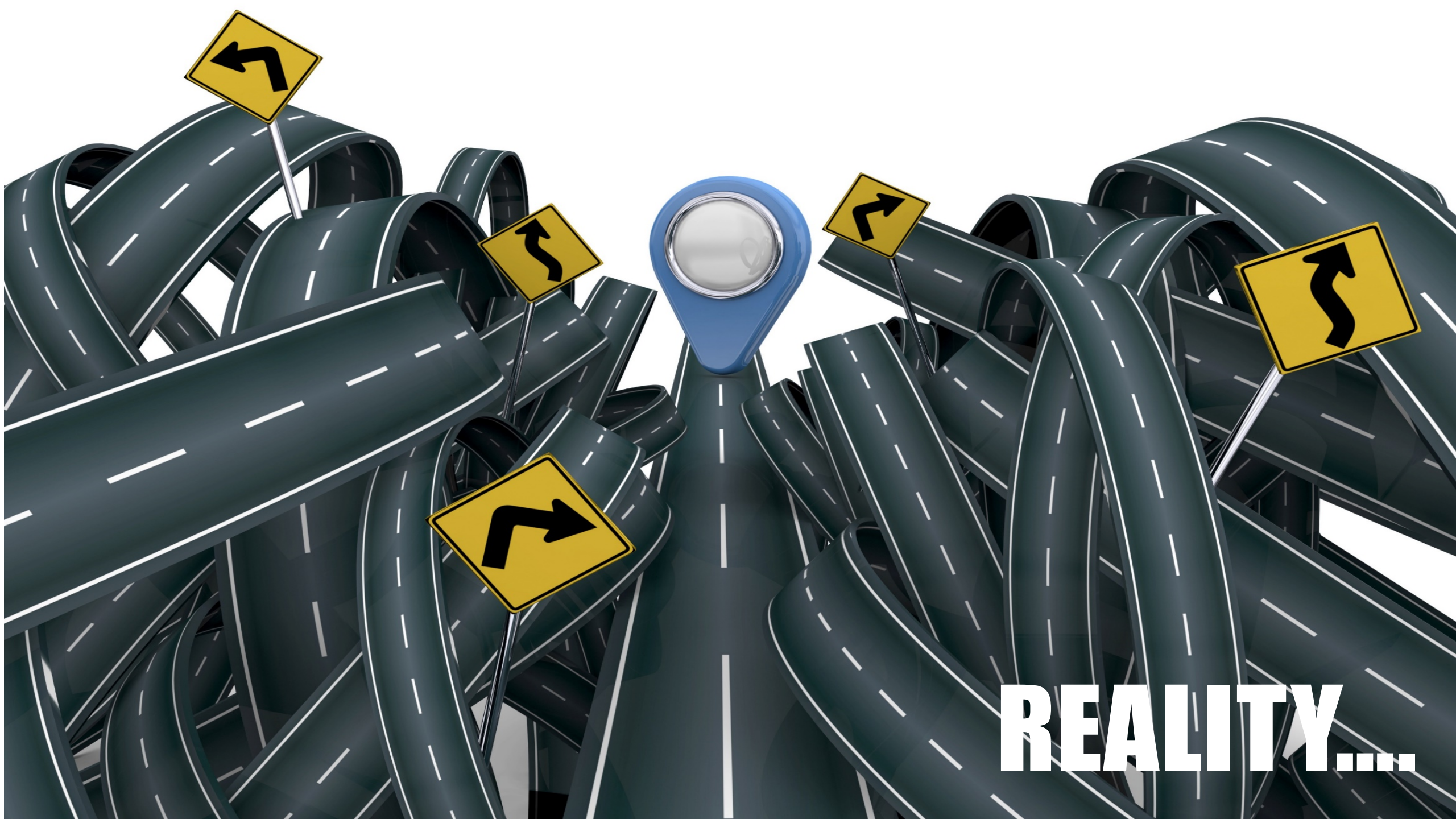
The University of Akron

Alison E. Doehring
Director, ZipAssist



A dirt path leads through a lush green forest. The path is flanked by tall grasses and vibrant purple flowers in the foreground. The trees are tall and thin, with dense green foliage. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast across the path.

THE HOPE....



REALITY....

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT STUDENTS...

- Help-A-Zip Referral Form
- Emergency aid and support programs
- Off-Campus Living & Commuter Resources
- Balance on a Budget Series [financial wellness]
- Parents & Family Association [PFA]
- Campus and community resources





HOW TO CONTACT US...

WWW.UAKRON.EDU/ZIPASSIST
UAZIPASSIST@UAKRON.EDU

330-972-7272

SIMMONS HALL – FIRST FLOOR

Refer a student: www.uakron.edu/referral

A word cloud visualization of terms related to financial and social struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, with the largest word, "struggling", forming the central spine. Other prominent words include "financial", "difficult", "work", "alone", "job", "resources", "support", "isolated", "emergency", "tuition", "balance", "scared", "class", "graduation", "rent", "internet", "college", "freshman", "family", "friends", "worried", "childcare", "confused", "computer", "commuter", "emergency", "tuition", "balance", "scared", "class", "graduation", "rent", "internet", "college", "freshman", "family", "friends", "worried", "childcare", "confused", "computer", "commuter". The colors used are primarily dark blue, light blue, and yellow/gold.

food
internet
job alone
rent
graduation
work
class
friends
issues
college
freshman
resources
support
worried
childcare
confused
balance
scared
family
isolated
emergency
tuition
commuter
computer

Supporting Students... Mental Bandwidth



Paying tuition

Depression

Cost of textbooks

Cultural differences

Childcare

Stable employment

Safe housing

Family support

Food insecurity

Financial stability

Mental health

Sense of belonging

Academic success

Social anxiety

Title IX concerns

Health concerns



HELP-A ZIP REFERRAL FORM

uakron.edu/referral



GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

- Support, mentorship, and connections
- **Common questions**
 - Academic
 - Personal/Social
 - Tuition/Fees
 - Emergency Assistance
 - Textbook Assistance
 - ZipsTech
 - Other

www.uakron.edu/referral





EMERGENCY AID & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

uakron.edu/zipsassist/resources



SEFA

- Student Emergency Financial Assistance [SEFA] Program
 - One-time emergency aid – non-tuition expenses [ex: rent, food, utilities]
 - Paid to a third-party vendor by ZipAssist staff
 - Over 550 recipients totaling over \$390,000 in support since August 2017

RETENTION GRANTS

- Advocating for additional grants and scholarships based on need
 - Oversee emergency tuition assistance fund
 - Work closely with campus colleagues to provide additional resources

ZIPSTECH

- In light of COVID-19 a *new* program
 - Loaned technology
 - Able to utilize for a semester
 - Chromebooks, webcams/mic, and hot spots
 - Request: www.uakron.edu/referral [ZipsTech]

TEXTBOOKS

- Support by the Salvation Army of Summit County
 - Loaned textbook program
 - Pell-eligible students in good academic standing
 - Request: www.uakron.edu/referral [Textbooks]





CAMPUS CUPBOARD

uakron.edu/cupboard

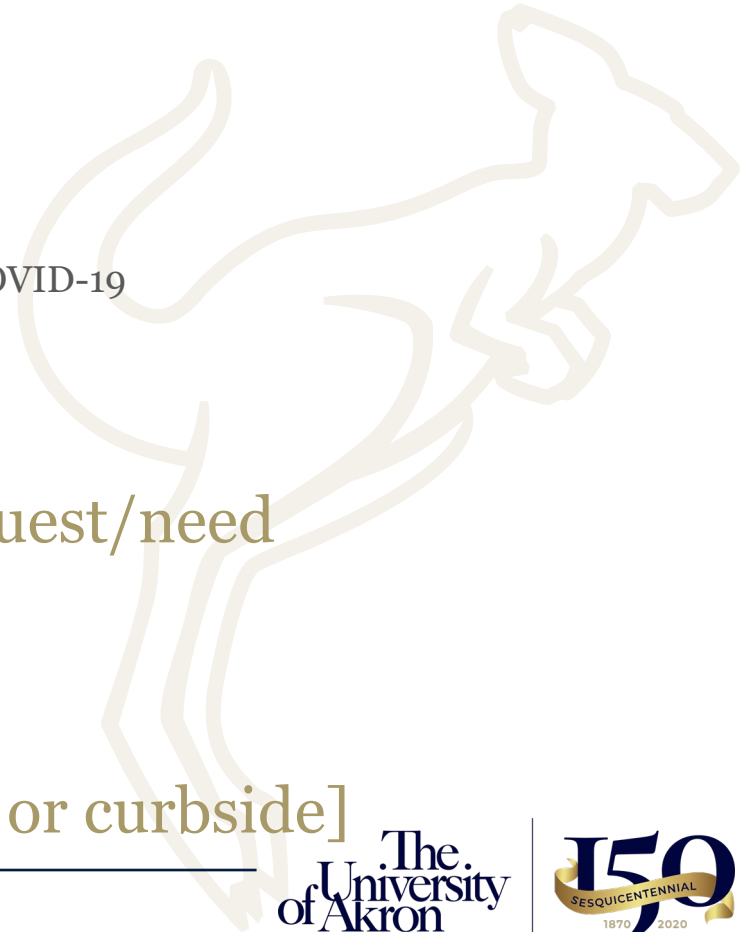


GRAB-AND-GO LOCATIONS

- Jean Hower Taber Student Union
- Polsky Building
- Simmons Hall
- Bierce
- Wayne

WALK-IN PANTRY

- Simmons Hall – Room 102C *recent modifications due to COVID-19
 - Open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm
 - Providing full-size food and hygiene products
 - Cooking equipment and bedding available by request/need
- Zips Care Packages
 - Student completes an online request form
 - Items are picked-up at Simmons Hall [front desk or curbside]





CAMPUS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

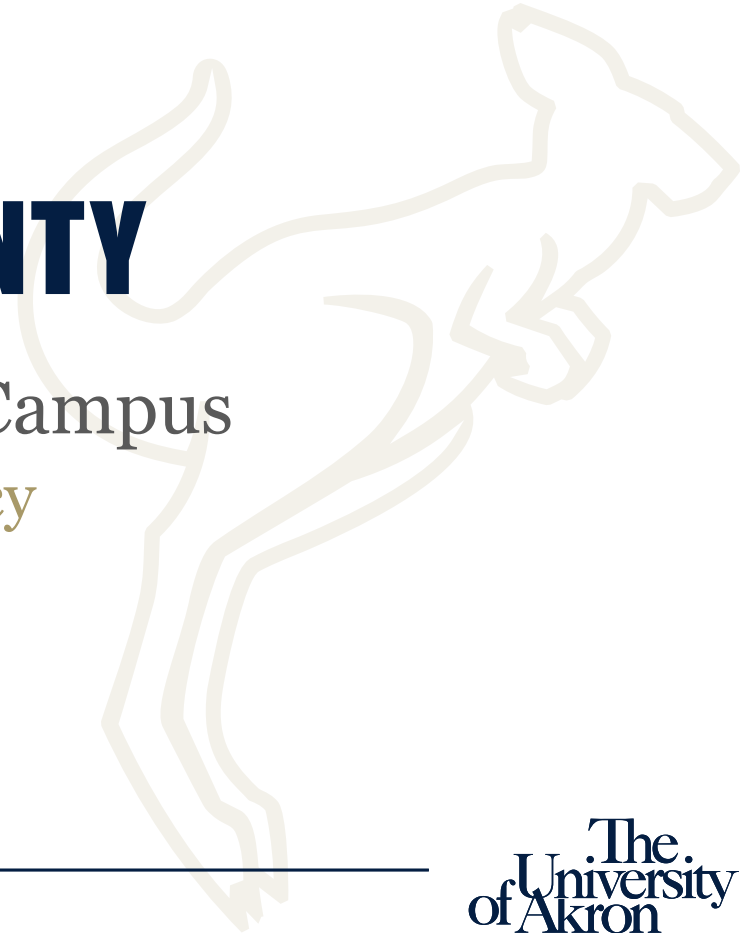


UNITED WAY OF SUMMIT & MEDINA CO.

- Financial Empowerment Center
 - Free, on-campus financial coaching
 - Community resources and referral

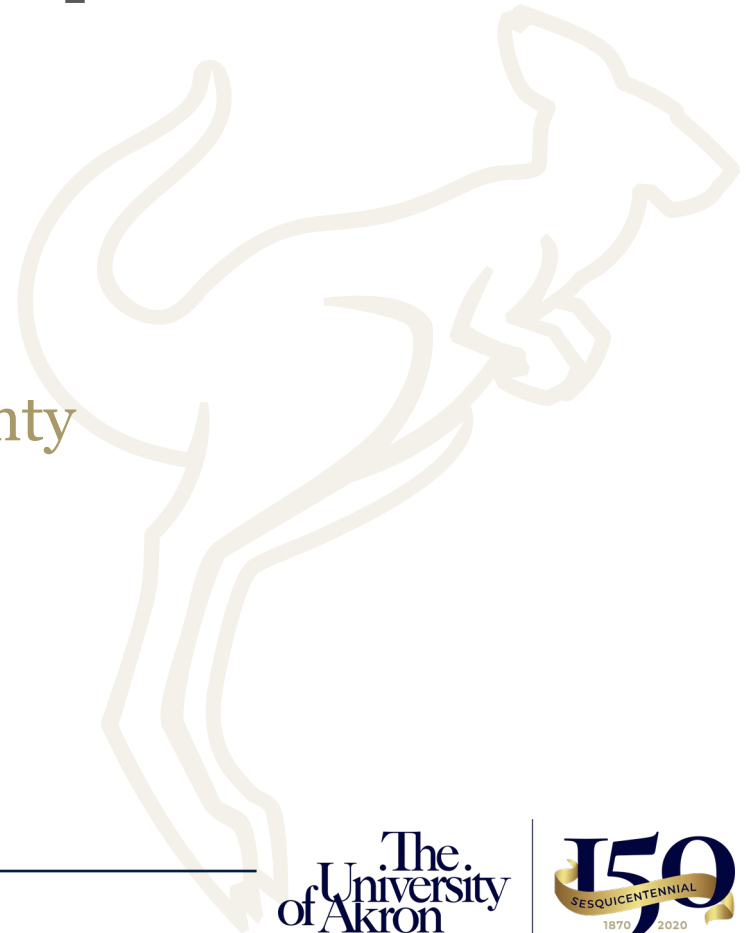
SALVATION ARMY OF SUMMIT COUNTY

- Licensed Social Worker assigned to UA Main Campus
 - Providing direct community support and advocacy
 - Directly sponsor a textbook assistance program
 - Connection to the Akron-Canton Regional Food



JUGGLING FINANCES IN COLLEGE

- Series of programs: Balancing on a Budget [BOB]
 - Webinars
 - Workshops
 - Monthly challenges
- Financial coaching
 - Partnership with the United Way of Summit County
 - FREE and confidential
- Tools and Resources
- Incentives!





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