Mission: Support and engage students to advance and achieve their goals through dynamic opportunities. The Division of Student Affairs engages all students in educational, academic support programming, and activities to meet student development needs throughout their college experience.

- Accessibility
- Career Services
- Counseling and Testing Center
- Dean of Students
- Exploratory Advising and Academic Support
- Learning Communities / Akron Experience
- New Student Orientation
- Registrar
- Residence Life and Housing
- Student Academic Success (Tutoring)
- Student Conduct and Community Standards
- Student Health Services
- Student Recreation and Wellness Services
- Student Life
- Zip Assist

Accomplishments

- **18th Annual LIFE Awards**: The LIFE (legacy, integrity, fellowship, excellence) Awards are held annually, honoring students, faculty, and campus organizations that have demonstrated the LIFE values. Recognition was given to over 100 students including the 2018 Top Ten Seniors, four faculty members, and five student organizations/club teams. The Top Ten Seniors include: Ariana Cubela, Carlisle DeJulius, Linsey Grzeschik, Amber Knepper, Zachary Michel, DeGraffh Palmore, Travis Pero, Jessica Repko, Cierra Simmons, and Anna Tombazzi. The Outstanding Freshman Award went to Alexis Gore.

- The Undergraduate Student Government recently held their inauguration ceremony to swear in the members for the 2018-19 academic year. President Taylor Bennington and Vice President Andrew Barry, Chief Justice Katie Mills, Executive Justice Brittany Hartman and members of the Senate were sworn in during the ceremony. President Bennington provided an inaugural address where he emphasized the further development of #UnitingUA campaign.

- The Department of Student Life, Undergraduate Student Government and the Office of Alumni Association partnered to bring Nick Jonas and The Shadowboxers to the James A. Rhodes Arena for the SpringFest Concert on April 20.

- **SpringFest 2018**: The Department of Student Life partnered with the Zips Programming Network (ZPN) to host SpringFest 2018 on May 4. This program, which celebrates the completion of another academic year, had an attendance of over 5,600.

- **Sweet Treats Study Break**: Over 600 students attended the annual Sweet Treats Study Break in Rob’s which was co-sponsored by RHC, RHPB, Sigma Lambda and Aramark.

- **The University of Akron is the first Northeast Ohio College to offer passport services**: ZipAssist opened a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility on December 15, 2017, approved by the U.S. Department of State. From January 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018 the office has processed 76 passport applications for UA students, staff and community members. Six members of the ZipAssist staff are certified by the Department of State to process U.S. passport applications and additionally trained to take official passport photos, both facilitated within Simmons Hall.

- **Song Fest**: On April 15, the fraternity and sorority community participated in the 85th Songfest, a song and dance competition-style philanthropy event. Delta Zeta and Tau Kappa Epsilon took home first place for a combined act. The women of Delta Gamma won the sorority first place award with a tribute to Journey and the men of Lone Star won the fraternity first place award portraying The Beatles.

- **Emerging Leaders Video**: The newly-created Emerging Leader video was posted on UA’s Facebook page as well as the Emerging Leaders website http://www.uakron.edu/reslife/lkc/emerging-leaders.dot. There have been over 7,300 views on UA’s Facebook page.
Career Services (CS)

- Student connections for March/April 2018:
  o 232 students exploring careers with CS online assessment tool Focus2
  o 1,039 student appointments
  o 94 mock interviews
  o 693 resume reviews
  o 3,760 students used Handshake job board
- Employer connections for March/April 2018:
  o 11,499 employers using Handshake
  o 5,788 new job postings on Handshake (full- and part-time)
  o 1,351 new internship/co-op job postings on Handshake
  o 7,129 total full-time, part-time and internship/co-op job postings on Handshake
- Career Fair
  o Career Services and The College of Education collaborated with a consortium of NE Ohio colleges and universities to plan the “NOTED Career Fair” for education majors that was held at the John S. Knight Center on April 10. Northeast Ohio Teacher Education Day (NOTED) is a consortium that consists of The University of Akron, Youngstown State, Cleveland State, Walsh University, Mount Union, Malone, Ursuline, Baldwin Wallace, Hiram and Ashland. There were 116 school districts that participated in the event which included local and nationwide districts. There were 151 UA education majors attending the event to network and participate in on-site interviews with the school districts, including Akron Public Schools.
- Etiquette Dinner
  o There were 156 attendees at the April 11 Etiquette Dinner. Some of the 16 employers sponsoring the event included: AAA East Central Office, ArcelorMittal, Castle Metals, Cintas Corporation, Community Assessment Treatment Services, Exacta Land Surveyors and Lien Search, FedEx Custom Critical, GOJO Industries, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Kase Equipment, Lauren International, Progressive Insurance, RVshare, Skylight Financial Group, Summit County Children Services, and Synchrony. As part of Five Star Fridays, this event will be held at lunch time in the fall on Friday, November 9.
Suit Up Event: JC Penney at Chapel Hill Mall partnered with The University of Akron (UA) and Kent State University (KSU) for the JC Penney Suit Up Event with over 300 UA students participating. The store was closed to the public and open only to UA and KSU faculty/staff volunteers so they could shop for career clothes at heavily discounted prices to prepare for interviewing. Zippy and Flash were in attendance along with 20+ faculty/staff volunteers who assisted with measuring/sizing and purchase decisions. Many parents and families attended with their students and were very appreciative of the opportunity to purchase clothing at such discounted prices and to have faculty and staff on hand to assist in making their clothing selections.

Counseling and Testing Center (CTC)
- CTC Psychologists Dr. Eric Hayden and Dr. Sara Rieder Bennett worked with WZIP students on the third episode of their podcast series entitled Anxietea: the Experts. The psychologists talked about mental health and CTC services.
- CTC psychologist Dr. Matt Altiere was interviewed for WZIP TV where he talked about CTC Taking Care Week and CTC psychological services.
- Dr. Natacha Keramidas is the newly-appointed advisor for “Active Minds.” Active Minds is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness among college students, on the peer level. Active Minds was founded by Alison Malmon in 2003, after her older brother committed suicide in 2000. There were 23 students at the first meeting with the group creating a social media campaign through Twitter (@AMUofA), Instagram (amatuofa) and Facebook.
- Samsara Soto (graduate assistant in CTC) was awarded the Masters Scholar Award at the LIFE Awards.
- Dr. Sara Rieder-Bennett was elected Treasurer-elect of the National College Testing Association that certifies CTC Counseling Services.
Dean of Students (DOS)

- **Education and Prevention of Sexual Assault**
  - Each year The University of Akron recognizes **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** during the month of April under the leadership of the Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) team. This year, 15 separate programs or initiatives were planned and implemented during the month. More than **1,300 students** participated in programs and activities throughout the month. The keynote speaker was sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program. **Tarana Burker** drew **720 students and community members** to listen to her experience and work to empower survivors of sexual misconduct to raise their voices. Tarana is the founder of the movement now identified with **#MeToo**. Other programming highlights include:
    - Poetry Night in the Student Union, sponsored by the student organization **Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CASA)** and was attended by **30 students**.
    - LIFT (Leverage, Insight, Freedom, Truth) BRO – a program designed to help men better understand wellness, health and their experiences as young men – was first presented to The University of Akron football team and again to 27 additional students.
    - A video premier of the HBO documentary “I Am Evidence” and panel discussion about the backlog of testing rape kits with **65 students and community members** in attendance.
    - Take Back the Night march across campus to raise awareness about sexual assault and sexual violence.
    - Pink Gloves Boxing program which is a women’s high-energy self-defense program in the Student Recreation & Wellness Center which was attended by **24 students**.

- **Assessment of Campus Climate Related to Gender Based Misconduct**
  - There was a 42-question online survey in February that allowed for students to share their experiences and attitudes related to gender based misconduct at The University of Akron. The survey included 13 benchmarking questions required by the Ohio Department of Higher Education for continued participation in a Changing Campus Culture initiative for which UA has been recognized since 2016. The remaining questions were based on the previous climate survey last administered in 2015. The SAVE Assessment Team is in the process of reviewing the data and identifying key findings for the campus community. From the initial response, **3,510 (17%)** of the **20,595 students** enrolled at UA completed the climate survey.

- **Partnership Rape Crisis Center**
  - The University of Akron recently celebrated the promotion of Rape Crisis Center employee Julius Payne to the position of Campus and Education Services Manager. Julius leads a dedicated staff to provide advocacy and assist with education and outreach initiatives.
  - Earlier this year, the Rape Crisis Center of Summit and Medina Counties and The University of Akron renewed our Memorandum of Understanding to ensure partnership in collective efforts to end sexual assault and all gender based misconduct at The University of Akron. The partnership ensures support is available for survivors of sexual assault. The three-year memorandum continues to shape a collaborative partnership and is recognized as a best practice across the State of Ohio.
Exploratory Advising and Academic Support (EAAS)

- Degree programs and campus resources was discussed with **more than 100 prospective students** during the Spring Visit Day held April 21, 2018, and sponsored by the Office of Admissions.
- EAAS and Career Services conducted a seminar on information about exploring majors and careers to prospective students and families in two presentation sessions with **over 300 students and families** attending.
- As part of a university-wide retention initiative to target unregistered freshmen in the residence halls, especially those who might need assistance with course selection or financial matters, EAAS worked with Residence Life and Housing and visited students in their residence halls. Over the three-day period, **789 students** were contacted. Two weeks later, the percentage of freshmen residents who were registered for fall 2018 **increased 32.6 percent**.
- Through the month of April, there were **36 academic referrals received** by Academic Help-A-Zip referrals. Each student was contacted to provide support and guidance on their academic concerns. By referral type: academic services (9); absences (18); and poor academic performance (12).

Learning Communities / Akron Experience

### Learning Communities (LC)

- For fall 2018, 52 Learning Community offerings are available for incoming students with a total capacity of 1,216. Of these, eight Learning Communities will be new offerings for the upcoming fall semester:
  - Adult Focus
  - Pre-Med
  - Business (12)
  - Computer Information Systems
  - Pre-Computer Information System
  - FAST Trackers (2)
  - STEM for Engineering & Science
  - Tech.
  - Allied Health
  - Sports Studies
  - Exercise Science
  - Social Work
  - Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
  - Dietetics/Food & Environmental Nutrition
  - Nursing (4)
  - Nursing Honors
  - Global Connections Residential International
  - Choose Ohio First (2)
  - Explore (6)
  - Engineering Blue Shirt
  - Engineering Gold Shirt (2)
  - Women in Engineering
  - Education
  - Military Service Members
  - African-American Male
  - Passage I – Soft Science/Liberal Arts
  - Passage II – Hard Sciences
  - Latino/Latina/LatinX Raices
  - Honors Emerging Leaders
  - Ritchie I Emerging Leaders
  - Ritchie II Emerging Leaders
  - Sisler-McFawn Emerging Leaders

- To date, a total of **258 students** have been enrolled into a Learning Community for fall 2018. Of the 598 students who attended NSO during spring break, 43 percent are participating in a LC opportunity.

Residence Life and Housing (RLH)

### Co-Curricular Programs and Activities

- Since July 1, 2017 Residence Hall Program Board (RHPB), Residence Hall Council (RHC), Sigma Lambda and the Richard L. Hansford chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) hosted a combined total of **130 programs** with a **combined attendance of 19,845**. Highlights from March to May include:
  - LEAP Program where residents received a succulent plant as a keepsake with 34 students participating.
  - RHPB and RHC sponsored a 7:17pm Coffeehouse with D and Chi with **128 attendees**.
  - Sigma Lambda held their 2018 Initiation in the Honors common Room with 22 students and three honorary members being initiated, and 71 attendees.

*D and Chi at a 7:17PM Coffeehouse*
- RHC sponsored the first Zippy’s Let Dodge Cancer Classic (dodgeball) in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center where eight teams participated with 79 attendees. This event raised $153 for Relay for Life.
- RHPB and RHC co-sponsored Open Mic Night with Emcee SungBeats at 7:17PM in the Student Union Starbucks with 190 attendees.
- RHC took part in Relay for Life with 130 participating in the RHC Booth raising $805.75.
- The LEAP Mentors and Sara Caris sponsored the annual Emerging Leader Graduation in the Honors Common Room with 75 attendees. The guest speakers were Dr. Melinda Grove and Student Board of Trustee member Zack Michel.
- RHC, Sigma Lambda, NRHH and RHPB participated in the annual campus MS Walk with 29 attendees raising $800 for the MS Society. Residence hall leaders have been associated with this worthwhile cause (Multiple Sclerosis) since 1987.
- Over 600 students attended the annual Sweet Treats Study Break in Rob’s which was co-sponsored by RHC, RHPB, Sigma Lambda and Aramark.

**Media**
- The newly-created Emerging Leader video was posted on The University of Akron’s Facebook page and as of April 16, there have been 7,233 views.
**Regional and National “Of The Month” Awards (OTM)**
- UA received seven CAACURH (Central Atlantic Affiliate for College and University Residence Halls) Regional OTM awards for March, 2018:
  - Advisor – Tiffany Schmidt
  - Executive Board Member – Lydia Brooks
  - First Year Student – Katie Carpenter
  - Institution Faculty/Staff – Dr. Kevin Dreider
  - Passive Program – Exchange March Basketball Tournament
  - Student Staff Member – Tara Myatt
- As of July 2017, UA has received **44 Regional and four National OTM awards.**

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**Student Academic Success (Tutoring) (SAS)**
- **Over 1,500 students** have used the Bierce and/or Polsky tutoring labs through April 2018.
- **Over 150 students** have used E-Tutoring this semester with 390 submissions.
- Nearly **700 students** have attended Learning Assistants study tables and/or review sessions this semester.
- **Over 40 students** through the Office of Multicultural Development continue to meet biweekly for their study tables at Bierce Tutoring.

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**Student Life (SL)**

**SpringFest**
- The Department of Student Life partnered with the Zips Programming Network (ZPN) to host SpringFest 2018 on Friday, May 4. This program, which celebrates the completion of another academic year, had an attendance of **over 5,600.** Due to weather, the festival had to be moved into the Student Union. As a new initiative this year, the first 1,200 students received a food voucher to be exchanged for a meal at one of the four food trucks. Other attractions included three henna artists, caricature artist, inflatables, free sno cones and cotton candy to the first 1,000 students, and raffle prizes. The Ultimate SpringFest Challenge winner was **Daniel Sulenski,** who competed against 11 other seniors in timed challenges.

**Campus Programs**
- Campus Programs hosted the **18th Annual LIFE Awards.** The LIFE (legacy, integrity, fellowship, excellence) Awards are held annually, honoring students, faculty, and campus organizations that have demonstrated the LIFE values. Recognition was given to **over 100 students** including the 2018 Top Ten Seniors, four faculty members, and five student organizations/club teams.
- **Alternative Spring Break (ASB):** Our ASB trips saw a total student participation of **48 students.** The Camp Twin Lakes trip, led by Thad Doyle and Tori Strobel, engaged in cleaning and maintaining campgrounds in Winder, GA with **41 Fraternity and Sorority Life members volunteering.** The **Pittsburgh Project** trip engaged in renovating a large family home with nine UA students volunteering:

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*(Senior participants in the Ultimate SpringFest Challenge)*
*(Recipient of the Top 10 Senior Award at the LIFE Awards (pictured from left to right): Cierra Simmons; Jessica Repko; Ariana Cubela; Zach Michel; Travis Pero; DeGrafth Palmore; Anna Tombazzi; and Carlisle DeJulius. Not shown: Amber Knepper and Linsey Grzeschik)*
Abbey Carneal, Taylor Davis, Matthew Margaritakis, Laura Metzger, Punita Peketi, Abby Perkins, Alex Robinson, Adam Beverly; and Derek Daily.

The Roo Lounge (the game room in the Student Union) held its annual UA Men’s and Women’s Bowling & Billiards Championships in April. The winners names are engraved on plaques displayed in the room. In Bowling: James Fishel took first place Men’s, Steven Innocenzi took second and Scott Owens took third. Abbi Kuykendall took first place Women’s. In Billiards: Men’s: First place Sam Petrash, second place David Milostan, and third place JJ Brown. While in Women’s Billiards, Dominique Moore placed first and Abbi Kuykendall second.

- **Zips Programming Network (ZPN)**
  - The Zips Programming Network hosted several events throughout April and early May including cohosting with LGBTUA for the annual LGBTUA Prom and collaborating with E-Sports for a “League of Legends” semi-finals watch party. The last bus trip of the semester was a Cleveland Indian’s game during opening weekend. The annual Cupcake Wars was also held and students showcased their cupcake decorating skills based on their favorite animated movie. Earth Day was celebrated where students were able to decorate and plant their own succulent plant.

- **Undergraduate Student Government (USG)**
  - The Undergraduate Student Government recently held their inauguration ceremony to swear in the members for the 2018-19 academic year. President Taylor Bennington and Vice President Andrew Barry, Chief Justice Katie Mills, Executive Justice Brittany Hartman and members of the Senate were sworn in during the ceremony. President Taylor Bennington, Vice President Andrew Barry, Chief Justice Katie Mills, Executive Justice Brittany Hartman and members of the Senate being sworn in.
Bennington provided an inaugural address where he emphasized the further development of #UnitingUA campaign along with promising that members of the undergraduate student government would work alongside Interim President Green during this transitional time. Over 60 special guests attended the inauguration including Dr. Green, who addressed the gathering along with Vice President John Messina, Board of Trustees student member Zach Michel, family members and other UA employees and staff as well.

- The Department of Student Life, Undergraduate Student Government and the Office of Alumni Association partnered to bring Nick Jonas and The Shadowboxers to the James A. Rhodes Arena for the SpringFest Concert on April 20. Over 2,000 tickets were purchased by students, faculty, staff and the general public.

- serveAkron
  - serveAkron promoted National Volunteer Week with a series of drop-in service events, weekday volunteer events, a volunteer fair with 18 nonprofit agencies represented, and a Super Service Saturday featuring a drop-in service event to benefit the Battered Women's Shelter. Students also volunteered with OPEN M and The Well Akron. Additionally, RePlay 4 Kids collaborated with serveAkron for a drop-in service event to repair and rewire broken toys. A total of 37 students participated in the event.

- SOuRCE
  - During the month of April, 155 students traveled on behalf of 15 student organizations. These students traveled to conferences, trainings and tours in 10 states from California to Louisiana to Maryland. Funding for the majority of this travel was allocated from Undergraduate and Graduate Student Government.

- Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL)
  - The fraternity and sorority community participated in the 85th Songfest, a song and dance competition-style philanthropy event benefitting Camp Quality Ohio. Delta Zeta and Tau Kappa Epsilon took home first place for a combined act, portraying The Jonas Brothers and The Cheetah Girls. The women of Delta Gamma won the sorority first place award with a tribute to Journey and the men of Lone Star won the fraternity first place award portraying The Beatles. In addition to the stellar performances, the community was able to raise $5,315 for Camp Quality Ohio. Since 2011, the fraternity and sorority community has been raising money for this non-profit summer camp for children with cancer. The Executive Director of Camp Quality Ohio and several board members were in attendance and are beyond grateful for our continued support.
The Greek Leadership Program concluded this month with all 22 students from 13 chapters graduating from the program. As a joint program between the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Panhellenic Council (PHC) and Interfraternity Council (IFC) governing councils, the program covers leadership topics of situational leadership, effective communication, leading by example and leaving a legacy, all of which were tailored specifically to the FSL community. The program was built around servant leadership, group development theory, and transformational leadership. This was a bi-weekly program and seven workshops were held during this semester. The program was facilitated by four student facilitators and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life Staff.

- The Greek Honoraries held Honorary Inductions on April 23. Order of Omega inducted seven, Rho Lambda inducted eight, and Gamma Sigma Alpha inducted five new members. There were 33 attendees at this event.
- The University of Akron Alumni Association sponsored a Greek Night for graduating seniors at Musica. In its first year, the event was well-received by all the students that attended. There were students from three fraternities and three sororities in attendance.

- Interfraternity Council (IFC)
  - IFC fraternities completed recruitment for the semester. In April, three potential new members were registered in Campus Director and 10 bids were given out.
  - Phi Sigma Kappa received their chapter charter from their grand council on Saturday, April 28. The Chartering Banquet was held in the Student Union Ballrooms with Dr. Messina, Anne Bruno, Thad Doyle, Katelin Brendel and Tori Strobel attending the event as University representatives. The Interfraternity Council and several chapters also supported the event.

- Panhellenic Council (PHC)
  - PHC held a PHC Pride Week the last week of April. During this week they provided Popsicles from Panhellenic, held a "Bee Her Hero" Spelling Bee to benefit Circle of Sisterhood, and a Sorority Recruitment Panel.
  - Throughout the semester, PHC also collected “Change for Change” at Panhellenic Council Meetings to benefit Circle of Sisterhood (COS). As a result, they raised a total of $161.95 for COS this semester. The women are working towards raising $10,000 this year, which is the amount it costs to sponsor a partial school build.

- National Panhellenic Council (NPHC)
  - At the end of spring 2018 semester, there are four recognized NPHC organizations on campus for a total of 22 members.
  - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will be returning to campus in the fall.

- Student Union Facility Management
  - Many significant events took place in The Jean Hower Taber Student Union at the end of the semester:
    - The Black Male Summit was a two-day event using a majority of the building and included the full Grand Ballroom for their opening speaker.
    - Career Services’ Spring Etiquette Dinner was held in the Ballrooms.
    - The College of Business Administration and the Office of Alumni's Simonetti Breakfast had over 380 faculty, students and community members in attendance. Other notable events included: Admission’s Spring Visit Day, College of Engineering Design Day, College of Engineering Honors and Awards Banquet. The month ended with a new, creative and challenging event, E-Sports Tryouts with approximately 200 new and incoming students attending.
Student Recreation and Wellness Services (SRWS)

- **SRWS hosted the Dru Joyce Shooting Stars Classic Basketball Tournament** Friday, April 27 thru Sunday, April 29. Games were continuously played on three courts from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. SRWC location hosted boy’s teams from second through fifth grade, with teams participating from all over the country. Total attendance for the weekend was 4,406.

- **Club Sports Go to National Tournaments!**
  - For the second year in a row, the Zips Rifle Club won the **NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship** held on March 23-25 at Fort Benning, GA. Coached by April Engle, this was also their second championship win in club history!
  - Out of 10 teams, Akron finished in first place with a combined score of 4494 (136 points more than runner-up University of Michigan), sweeping both the **Air Rifle Team Championship** with a score of 2294 (team members were: Caleb Moxley, Liz Bark, Christiana Holden, Lauren Kadooka, and Quinn Combs) and the **Smallbore Rifle Team Championship** with a score of 2200 (team members were: Quinn Combs, Caleb Moxley, Liz Bark, Joe Hendricks, and Colton Peters).
  - Two Akron shooters (Caleb Moxley-1,134 and Liz Bark-1,131) finished second and third, respectively, in the individual aggregate championship. The air rifle individual aggregate went to Caleb Moxley, scoring 580. Akron teammate Liz Bark finished second, only one point behind. Quinn Combs finished second in the Smallbore individual aggregate with a score of 559, only four points shy of first.
  - On Saturday, May 5, UA’s Men’s Lacrosse Club took its 15-0 record on the road to Annapolis, MD for the 2018 DII National College Lacrosse League Championships. This is the **first time in UA history that the club has advanced to the Elite 8.**
  - Akron faced the 10-2 Stevens Club Ducks from New Jersey. After leading 11 – 6 at the start of the third quarter, Akron fought hard to sustain the lead but couldn’t hold on, losing to the Stevens 16 – 13. The Ducks went on to with the NCLL DII championship defeating Rochester Institute of Technology on Sunday in the championship game. This was by far the Akron Men’s Lacrosse Club’s best season to date ... 15 – 1.
• **SRWS awards and recognition picnic** was held on Sunday May 6 celebrating the hard work and accomplishments of **230 student employees**. The event had a great student turnout at Firestone Park. There are **24 graduating** seniors and **five graduating** graduate assistants.

**SRWS Awards and Recognition Picnic**

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**Zip Assist (ZIP)**

• The Student Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) program, supported by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates – Dash Emergency Grant, has provided **$140,113 to 186 students** so far this academic year. **One-hundred and eighteen students** have received assistance since **January 1**, **totaling $87,367.22** in additional assistance provided to student for emergency aid. Continual outreach and marketing efforts help to educate campus colleagues and students about the emergency aid program. Information about eligibility for this program is available at uakron.edu/referral/emergency-financial-assistance.

  o Student Testimonial: “I have nothing but good things to say about this program. I am very thankful that I got an email about ZipAssist at the University of Akron, and that I took a leap of faith to try to get a little bit of help. I am so thankful for the assistance that I received, and I know that so many more students could benefit from this service if they just know about it. On another positive note, the meeting that I had for this program was wonderful. I completed an activity that helped me put things in perspective. It’s very easy to become overwhelmed and consumed in temporary problems like financial situations, but this activity helped me to realize all the good things I have in life, too, and that this is temporary, and I have a lot to look forward to in my future. Thank you the University of Akron’s Emergency Financial Assistance program for your help to me and every other student receiving this assistance.”

  o Student Testimonial: “Two women reached out to me as soon as I submitted my application. I am a full time mom and college student at UA and to have had immediate help just when I was losing hope brought my spirits back up so I can finish getting through the semester. I thank UA for the help and support!”

• Beginning fall 2018, ZipAssist will serve as the primary educational resource on campus for financial responsibility/literacy programming. With assistance from Student Financial Aid, various faculty, and campus departments, ZipAssist will provide outcome-based webinars, workshops, in-classroom trainings, and innovative/interactive programs to engage students in conversations about budgeting, financial wellbeing, and tuition/fee gaps. Additionally, ZipAssist has forged intentional partnerships with community agencies to aid in providing additional resources, training, and one-on-one financial coaching.

• ZipAssist organized and led 12 unique campus-wide programs in an effort to encourage **enrollment/registration** for summer and fall courses. Lead by ZipAssist staff, a collaborative group of colleagues from across campus worked together to identify messaging strategies, marketing techniques, and outreach programming to encourage class registration and assist students in addressing any barriers. Successful initiatives included incentivizing advising appointments at “drop-in” programs, a celebratory program for sophomore students, and the creation of a comprehensive Registration Toolkit.

• ZipAssist has continued to forge intentional community partnerships with local agencies and organizations in order to best meet the needs of students served by the office.
In May, ZipAssist was approved as an Ohio Benefits Bank (OBB) location. This resource, a program of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, will provide students with access to trained ZipAssist staff who can assist with acquiring information/aid from a variety of community agencies, including food, housing, medical, WIC, SNAP, HEAP, and youth/family assistance.

In May, ZipAssist began working with 2-1-1 InfoLine, Inc. to provide a more streamlined approach to community resources and referrals. With the assistance of 2-1-1, a unique web link will be provided from the uakron.edu/zipassist page (beginning June 2018) to allow students immediate access to hundreds of Summit County resources including food, housing, legal aid, and more.

In April, ZipAssist signed a MOU with the United Way of Summit County to begin offering one-on-one financial counseling to students. The program, known as BankOn Rubber City, will provide free financial empowerment counseling to Summit County residents, and through this partnership, a unique opportunity for UA students. Students receiving emergency aid and/or those who indicate interest will be referred to the United Way for counseling and financial guidance. Beginning in August 2018, a staff member from United Way will host office hours on campus within the ZipAssist suite.

Additional formal partnerships within the community include: Rubber City McDonald’s and The Salvation Army of Summit County.