

Campus Update 9-24-20

Dear Residents of Buckley Hall,

On Wednesday, September 23, 2020 there was a bias-related incident where a verbal comment was overhead in the parking lot outside of Buckley Hall. The phrase contained language that targets an individual's sexual orientation. At the University of Connecticut, we strive to create a safe and inclusive community for all students.

A bias-related incident is an incident that negatively targets, intimidates or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as past/present history of mental disorders. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti or images that harass or intimidate individuals or groups due to the above characteristics.

While free expression is important, the University acts when harm occurs to members of our community. In January 2015, the University developed its Bias Response Protocol to support students who experience an incident that either is or appears to be bias-related. Such incidents are addressed through UConn's Student Code of Conduct, UConn Police, or restorative conversations within the impacted community.

You are part of this residential community. As such, we ask that you assist us in preventing further incidents of this nature by following these steps:

- 1) Hold your peers accountable for the decisions they choose to make.
- 2) Maintain responsibility for your actions and the actions of any guests that you choose to bring into the community as per our guest policy.
- 3) Be an active bystander. If you see something like this happening, please let a staff member know. This can be your RA, Hall Director, UConn Police, the Dean of Students Office, the Office of Institutional Equity, the Office of Community Standards or the Office of Residential Life.

We hope that the person/persons responsible for this behavior will choose to make a different decision in the future. If there is anything our staff can do to assist you, please feel free to contact us. You can always reach someone by calling the RA on-duty at 860-933-5831 or calling the Shippee Office at 860-486-3709.

I will be holding open office hours via WebEx on Friday, September 25th from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM and from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM if anyone wants to come and discuss the incident and/or would like to process the event. You can join my office hours by clicking on this link: <https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/jen15102>.

Thank you for your help in creating a positive and inclusive environment in our community. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Jen

Jen Napiorski

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Residence Hall Director, Buckley and Shippee Hall