



# The College of New Jersey

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for Student Affairs**

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations on the acceptance of your daughter or son into The College of New Jersey's (TCNJ's) class of 2012! We join you in celebrating this accomplishment and look forward to welcoming our newest students to the TCNJ community.

While this time period can be quite exciting, we recognize that the transition into college can also be challenging for students and their families. At the collegiate level, first-year students will be faced with many choices and their decision-making skills will be tested in both academic and social settings. As you know, the choices they make can have serious and significant physical, emotional, legal, and academic consequences.

To assist your daughter or son in making the most of the college experience, we provide educational programs on pertinent issues during Welcome Week and throughout her or his time at TCNJ. We also inform students about the College's behavioral expectations through the Student Code of Conduct ([www.tcnj.edu/~studlife/handbook](http://www.tcnj.edu/~studlife/handbook)), *A Guide to Residence Living* and discussions on pertinent New Jersey laws.

We recognize that our programming will be most beneficial when we can build on conversations you have already had with your daughter or son. Toward that end, we ask that you consider sharing some of the information below during your pre-college discussions over the next few weeks.

## **Alcohol and Drug Education Program (ADEP)**

One of the major issues facing college campuses is underage and dangerous drinking. TCNJ's ADEP provides the campus community with resources, education, training, and counseling regarding alcohol and other drug-related issues. Please encourage your daughter or son use these resources so that they can make healthy and informed choices. For more information on ADEP, please visit [www.tcnj.edu/~sa/adep](http://www.tcnj.edu/~sa/adep) or call 609-771-2571.

- According to research, there is less frequent alcohol use among young people who feel highly connected to their parents and family members.
- In New Jersey, the legal drinking age is 21. The possession of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21 is a violation of college policy and a criminal offense which may result in fines, a criminal record, and/or additional penalties.
- A significant number of first-year students arrive on college campuses with identification which misrepresents their age. Possession of a fake I.D. is a violation of college policy and a criminal offense which may result in loss of one's driver's license, fines, and additional penalties.
- There is a common misperception about the amount of drinking that occurs on college campuses. Contrary to popular belief, recent national and TCNJ studies indicate that college students drink *less* and engage in *fewer* dangerous activities than most students think.

## **Office of Anti-Violence Initiatives (OAVI)**

Research indicates that young women and men between the ages of 16 and 24 are at the highest risk for experiencing intimate partner violence. To address the needs of the campus community, TCNJ's OAVI provides resources and services on issues of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. While all of these issues are of concern to us, research shows that first year students are more likely to be sexually assaulted than

upper class students, and are particularly vulnerable early in their academic careers. For more information on OAVI, please visit [www.tcnj.edu/~sa/antiviolence](http://www.tcnj.edu/~sa/antiviolence) or call 609-771-2272.

- Nationally, nearly 90% of sexual assaults on college campuses are committed by persons known to the victim (i.e. friends, current or ex-boyfriends/girlfriends, classmates) rather than by strangers.
- While people can make choices that may make them vulnerable to sexual assault, the *only* person responsible for the assault is the perpetrator.
- Alcohol and other drug use are frequently associated with sexual assault, increasing the risk of becoming an offender or a victim.
- New Jersey sexual assault law states that any sexual interaction without consent constitutes sexual assault. It further states that persons who are “mentally incapacitated by intoxication” are not legally able to give consent.
- “Predatory drugs” can be easily slipped into alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks without being detected. These drugs are used all over the nation to incapacitate individuals in order to facilitate sexual assault and are often administered by people who seem nice or strangers who volunteer to help dosed individuals get home safely.

### **Making Healthy Choices**

At TCNJ, we strive to provide an environment that fosters student health and safety, wellness, and **sound** decision-making. Please talk with your daughter or son about peer pressure and pressure that she or he may feel to fit in. Although some believe that the use of alcohol or other drugs, “hooking up,” or participating in dangerous behaviors are integral parts of college life, surveys of current TCNJ students indicate that the majority make healthy choices. In order to make healthier decisions, our students require education, awareness, support, and encouragement from parents and family members, as well as their college community.

If your daughter or son needs assistance adjusting to college life or achieving personal and academic goals, there are many resources on campus to serve her or him. We ask that you encourage your daughter or son to attend our educational programs and seek out campus resources through the web, campus directory, or by asking campus staff. You can find information about our services through the “Parent & Family Programs” website at: [www.tcnj.edu/~sa/parents](http://www.tcnj.edu/~sa/parents). Our staff values opportunities to discuss concerns with students and direct them to appropriate resources. We appreciate your support in guiding your daughter or son to utilize our services during her or his time of need.

Thank you for taking the time to help us support TCNJ students in being responsible, healthy and productive citizens of the TCNJ community.

Best Regards,

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Encl: *Parents, You're Not Done Yet* brochure