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g and Dining Services

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HSU RESIDENCE HALLS DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION / EDUCATION

PROGRAM BEGINS SECOND YEAR

The drug and alcohol education and intervention program, begun last year by HSU's Housing Department for its student residents, is up and running again this year according to John Capaccio, Assistant Director of HSU's Housing and Dining Department.

"Some of the alcohol and drug behaviors which lead to student referrals are simply isolated incidents which occur because students are away from home for the first time and get a little carried away and careless in their experimentation. Some students, however, are walking in our front doors with very well established drug and alcohol dependencies.

Telling them apart is sometimes the toughest part of the job. At first glance, it's often hard to differentiate between parties and problems. Certainly, if we just waited, the differences would become more obvious as a student's drug or alcohol problem worsened. We want to intervene effectively before then", Capaccio said.

"All students who are involved in a drug or alcohol incident must attend a mandatory four session drug and alcohol education program," Capaccio continues. "This is composed of lectures, films and group discussions and was developed and is led by our Residence Halls drug and alcohol Consultant, Maureen Welsh."

"Our primary program goal is to offer a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere in which drug and alcohol information can be disseminated and the student can examine the levels and implications of his or her own drug and alcohol use," said Welsh. "Obviously, although attendance is mandatory, the degree of student participation and involvement is very much an individual choice. We have also provided space for recovering residence hall students to hold A.A., Al Anon and Adult Children of Alcoholics meetings and will be reviewing our program closely throughout the year and revising and responding to needs as they become known," she said.

"HSU Housing and Dining is taking a very proactive stance regarding substance abuse and we are proud of it," Capaccio concluded.

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