



**PRESS RELEASE: Student Conduct and Residence Life Collaborate for Safe St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

**Sandy C Gholston** to: Archive

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Included below is a press release on collaborative activities being sponsored by the Office of Student Conduct and Housing and Residence Life to promote fun and safe St. Patrick's Day activities inside of Ferris State University residence halls. The contact information is contained in the press release. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.

To read the online version of this story, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2013/march/patrick.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Student Conduct and Residence Life Collaborate for Safe St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

BIG RAPIDS – With St. Patrick's Day coming up on Sunday, March 17, the offices of Student Conduct and Housing and Residence Life are collaborating to promote safe, substance-free activities for Ferris State University students.

The Office of Student Conduct provided funding to host fun and responsible programming in the residence hall facilities on Ferris' Big Rapids campus on St. Patrick's Day. Nicholas Campau, interim director of Student Conduct, envisions a fun, positive and safe on-campus atmosphere for students.

“We want students to have fun, but to also do so safely,” he said. “This collaboration will provide funding for our halls to provide that safe and fun environment for those students who want to participate.”

Campau noted that a perception exists that drinking must be a part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Through this collaborative effort, the university is eager to promote alternative ways to celebrate in a safer way. Campau noted a 2011 study at Ferris conducted by the National College Health Assessment.

The study showed, which can be found here, <http://ferris.edu/goodchoices/drugs.html>, notes:

- 64 percent of students choose to not drink at all at parties;
- 99 percent of students engage in “safe” drinking behaviors when they do choose to consume, and;
- 94 percent of students have four or fewer drinks while partying

Lisa Ortiz, assistant director of Residential Programs and Services, said that a number of university residence halls will be conducting a variety of St. Patrick’s Day-oriented activities, including: casino night, gaming night, making green milk shakes and more.

“Through this collaborative effort, our goal was to promote that we have programming through which our students can have fun in our residence halls, be creative, and do so in a fun and safe atmosphere,” Ortiz said.

Campau explained that the \$2,000 of funding for this project was generated through drug and alcohol awareness classes completed by students.

“We are always encouraging students to make healthy choices and by providing funding for programming in our halls, we are allowing them to still enjoy themselves while being responsible,” he said.

To learn more about the Office of Student Conduct, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/studentaffairs/judicial/homepage.htm>

For more information about Housing and Residence Life, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/housing/>

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