

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE SIGNING ON

### WHAT IS THE LARIVIERE CENTER PROGRAM?

The LaRiviere Center program offers residents one of the most unique opportunities available to them at Western New England University: living and learning in the same building. LaRiviere residents have the opportunity to live with friends as well as educate others on their interests in a productive and collaborative environment. This cooperative experience allows students the ability to develop and flourish as individuals, academic scholars, and student leaders. By applying to live in the LaRiviere Center and participate in this program, residents are committing to exploring a specific area of interest and to providing educational and social programs, as well as experiential learning and interactions of various topics and initiatives.

### WHY ARE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM?

The program provides a number of benefits for students, including:

- Leadership experience
- Event planning experience
- LBC opportunity
- Suite-style living
- Opportunity to work with a faculty/staff member
- Ability to explore and share a personal interest with their community

### DURING YOUR INITIAL MEETING WITH STUDENTS, THEY SHOULD:

- Describe their topic to you and explain why they chose it.
- Provide you with a copy of their application.
- Ask you for feedback and suggestions regarding their topic and any ideas they have for programs.
  - Introduce you to all group members.
- Provide you with a copy the Faculty/Staff sponsor form to complete. The completed form should be given back to the students for final submission.
- Discuss their vision and/or expectations of how you will be involved in their community and experience.

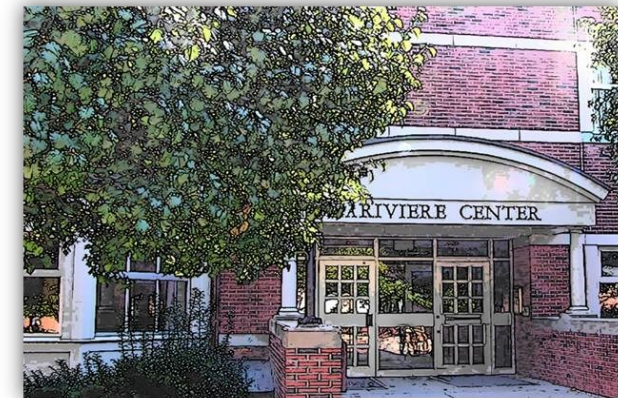


**For information about the LaRiviere Center:**

**Office of Residence Life  
St. Germain Campus Center  
residencelife@wne.edu  
413-782-1317**

# LaRiviere *Living & Learning* Center Program

## Faculty/ Staff Sponsor Guide



**WNE**  
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND  
UNIVERSITY

# BEING A LARIV SUITE SPONSOR

Congratulations on being asked to be a LaRiviere Center suite sponsor! We are thrilled you are interested in being a part of what we hope to be an evolving and growing community that incorporates student-driven learning and exploration with their residential experience. The assistance of you as a faculty/staff sponsor will further enhance the experience and quality of the LaRiviere Center program and community.

## WHAT DOES BEING A SPONSOR MEAN?

Being a LaRiviere Center suite sponsor signifies recognition as an elite educator and advisor from our students. As a sponsor, students are acknowledging you as a meaningful supporter and advocate for their efforts to reside, develop, and complete the LaRiviere Center program.

Ultimately, we hope this experience gives you the opportunity to develop a rapport and mentoring relationship with students that is mutually rewarding and enjoyable.



## SPONSOR EXPECTATIONS

- Take time to meet with the students from their sponsored group(s) when the students request to meet.
- Provide resources and guidance in regards to the students learning community. (Even if you are not familiar with the topic, your knowledge of where and how to obtain information will be very useful to the students).
- Offer suggestions on how to make programs and other endeavors more content rich and in-depth.
- Keep up to date on the efforts of the group. This includes reading their monthly blog posts and commenting as you see fit, attending programs when possible, and maintaining contact with the group.
- Drawing from your own experience in researching, programming, teaching, life, or just exploring a topic of interest, to provide students with strategies and techniques to make their own pursuits successful.

## SUITE EXPECTATIONS

By applying to be part of the LaRiviere Living & Learning Center Program, suites commit to exploring a specific area of interest throughout their year in LaRiviere and to sharing those interests with other students. Each suite is expected to complete the following guidelines:

- One program per semester which incorporates both educational and social components.
- Writing a monthly blog post on the LaRiv Blog.
- Interaction and support with other suites via attending programs and responding to other suites blog posts.
- Interacting and participating in Residence Life programs and initiatives.
- At least 1-2 meetings per semester with their sponsor to discuss what they have learned, ideas for programs, and blog posts.

### CHECK OUT THE LARIV BLOG!

#### Blog Features:

- Suite Monthly Blog Posts
- Programming Information
- Sponsor Information
- Pictures & Media from Programs

larivblog.wordpress.com

Twitter: @larivhall