



WINTER 2022

Letter from the Dean

It's been a beautiful fall on the Widener campus with so much excitement and activity. I am especially pleased to announce we have developed a new website space dedicated to you—the families of Widener students. We are proud to launch this online information hub, [found at pridefamilies.widener.edu](https://foundatpridefamilies.widener.edu), where you'll find news, contacts, FAQs and even advice from Widener employees who have a student in college—either at Widener or elsewhere. We

hope you'll let us know what you think about this unique new resource and what information you'd like to see there.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, I am especially thankful for our students. The energy and life they bring to campus is the very heart of what makes Widener a vibrant place. As they return home to join your holiday table, I'm sure you'll be asking about their classes. Take time, too, to ask about their involvement with friends, athletics, and student life, and all the parts of their Widener experience that are preparing them for post-graduation independence and success.

Happy reading, and Happy Thanksgiving!

John P. Downey, PhD
Dean of Students, Widener University



Student Profile: Taylor Easter '25

Using Her Voice to Encourage Student Political Engagement

Taylor Easter '25, a double major in [political science](#) and [sociology](#), currently serves as the political engagement coordinator for Widener's [Center for Civic and Global Engagement](#). After joining the center her freshman year, she hit the ground running to boost voting interest across campus. She has made a huge impact on the university – most recently as Widener was named among the best colleges in the country for voting!

[Meet Taylor.](#)



Helping Your Student Apply Classroom Knowledge to Real-World Experience

Whether your student is pursuing engineering, finance, nursing, or any other major, opportunity awaits for them to get real, hands-on experience through the Summer Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (SURCA) program. This incredible program helps students take what they have already learned in the classroom or in a lab, and transform it into

something that truly interests them in the real world. This summer program is perfect for students who want an experience that will help them shape their contribution to their future fields and careers.

“Faculty and students benefit from the one-on-one mentoring relationship that develops

during SURCA. And there is a relaxed and vibrant energy on campus during the summer months,” said program co-director, [Angie Corbo](#), chair of [communication studies](#).

Applications are being accepted until late March or early April for the summer 2023 experience. Encourage your student to learn more about [research and innovation at Widener](#).

Encourage Your Student to get Involved!

There are hundreds of opportunities for your student to gain new and exciting experiences at Widener. While you have time together during the Thanksgiving or winter break, talk with them about things they might want to try! Whether it's studying abroad in places like Italy and Spain, volunteering on a local community project, or joining in campus festivities like homecoming or the Strut Your Mutt contest in fall, or Founders Day this spring—there is something fun for everyone!

See what Widener students have been up to!





Awards & Recognitions

Widener University recently received the 2022 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, known as the HEED Award. It recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. Widener is featured in the November 2022 issue of [INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine](#). [Read more about it here!](#)

Preparing future generations of leaders means encouraging students to understand and express their values through voting! This fall, Widener was named among the best colleges in the country for student voting! This honor really lights up our #WidenerPride because it

the country for student voting. This honor truly lights up our #WidenerPride because it reflects the way our students, as engaged citizens, contribute to a thriving democracy. [Read more here.](#)

Welcome Home!

As college students arrive home for semester breaks, families gathering for the holidays will often notice some changing dynamics around the dinner table. There can be some tip-toeing around conversations, or students pushing the boundaries of independence – while everyone tries to re-establish their roles and be mindful of house rules. It can be challenging! Here are a few tips from our teams to help families be prepared to open the door with welcoming arms.

DO recognize that your student has changed and acknowledge they just spent the last few months developing a new independence. Have reasonable expectations that you both can agree on without disturbing the whole house.

DO encourage your student to enjoy some down time as they finish large end-of-semester projects and exams. It will help them recharge!

DO encourage conversations about academic enrichment and activities they may want to try in the next few months. Some activities take several months of planning, such as study abroad, volunteer, or work programs.

DON'T overwhelm them with the need to make several decisions at once about their future. Pushing them to make decisions they are not ready for can add stress, particularly if they are still trying to close out fall-semester academics.

DO ask about their mental well-being. College can be stressful and there are many [helpful supports on and off campus.](#)



REMINDER: Talk to Your Student about Emergency Contacts

Widener asks students to let us know who they want contacted in case of an emergency. The information must be filled out by the student.

Please remind your student to fill out the [EMERGENCY CONTACT information](#) located on the student portal, so we have these important preferences on file.

Mark Your Calendar — helpful dates to keep you and your student informed

Nov. 24–25 • THANKSGIVING/FALL BREAK (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)

Nov. 27 • Residence halls resume normal operations (9:00 a.m.)

Dec. 2 • LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Dec. 2 • Campus tradition: Late night breakfast, 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 5 • Campus tradition: Stress busters with therapy dogs, 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 5–9 • FINAL EXAMS

Dec. 9 • WINTER BREAK BEGINS, 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 23 • WINTER BREAK—UNIVERSITY CLOSED (12/23/22–1/2/23)

Jan. 3 • Winter holiday ends; campus employees return to work, 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 6 • Pride Experience 3: Spring orientation, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Jan. 8 • New student move-in; Residence halls resume normal operations, 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 9 • FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Your feedback is so important to creating a healthy and supportive environment for your student's learning experience at Widener University. Please contact us with any questions about the articles we shared at studentaffairs@widener.edu

Division of Student Affairs

Call 610-499-4385, email studentaffairs@widener.edu.
Office located on first floor of University Center.

Office of Residence Life

Call 610-499-4390, email residencelife@widener.edu.
Offices located in Cann Hall.

Widener Dining

Email campusdining@widener.edu.

Student Health Services

Call 610-499-1183, email studenthealth@widener.edu.
Located in Metropolitan Hall on campus.

Counseling and Psychological Center (CAPS)

To make an appointment, call 610-499-1261.
Located at 522 E. 14th Street on campus.

Financial Aid Services

Call 610-499-4161, email finaidmc@widener.edu or
visit Lipka Hall on the corner of 14th and Potter Streets.



Widener University

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