STUDENT ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

ZipAssist
The University of Akron

Alison E. Doehring
Director, ZipAssist
REALITY....
HOW WE CAN SUPPORT STUDENTS...

• Help-A-Zip Referral Form
• Emergency aid and support programs
• Off-Campus Living & Commuter Resources
• Balance on a Budget Series [financial wellness]
• Parents & Family Association [PFA]
• Campus and community resources
HOW TO CONTACT US...

WWW.UAKRON.EDU/ZIPASSIST
UAZIPASSIST@UAKRON.EDU
330-972-7272
SIMMONS HALL – FIRST FLOOR

Refer a student: www.uakron.edu/referral
Supporting Students... Mental Bandwidth

- Paying tuition
- Depression
- Cost of textbooks
- Cultural differences
- Safe housing
- Family support
- Food insecurity
- Sense of belonging
- Financial stability
- Mental health
- Academic success
- Social anxiety
- Title IX concerns
- Health concerns
HELP-A ZIP
REFERRAL FORM

uakron.edu/referral
GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

• Support, mentorship, and connections

• Common questions
  • Academic
  • Personal/Social
  • Tuition/Fees
  • Emergency Assistance
  • Textbook Assistance
  • ZipsTech
  • Other

www.uakron.edu/referral
EMERGENCY AID & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

uakron.edu/zipsassist/resources
SEFA

• Student Emergency Financial Assistance [SEFA] Program
  • One-time emergency aid – non-tuition expenses [ex: rent, food, utilities]
  • Paid to a third-party vendor by ZipAssist staff
  • Over 550 recipients totaling over $390,000 in support since August 2017

RETENTION GRANTS

• Advocating for additional grants and scholarships based on need
  • Oversee emergency tuition assistance fund
  • Work closely with campus colleagues to provide additional resources
ZIPSTECH

• In light of COVID-19 a *new* program
  • Loaned technology
  • Able to utilize for a semester
  • Chromebooks, webcams/mic, and hot spots
  • Request: www.uakron.edu/referral [ZipsTech]

TEXTBOOKS

• Support by the Salvation Army of Summit County
  • Loaned textbook program
  • Pell-eligible students in good academic standing
  • Request: www.uakron.edu/referral [Textbooks]
GRAB-AND-GO LOCATIONS

- Jean Hower Taber Student Union
- Polsky Building
- Simmons Hall
- Bierce
- Wayne

WALK-IN PANTRY

- Simmons Hall – Room 102C  
  - Open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm
  - Providing full-size food and hygiene products
  - Cooking equipment and bedding available by request/need

- Zips Care Packages
  - Student completes an online request form
  - Items are picked-up at Simmons Hall [front desk or curbside]
CAMPUS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES
UNITED WAY OF SUMMIT & MEDINA CO.

- Financial Empowerment Center
  - Free, on-campus financial coaching
  - Community resources and referral

SALVATION ARMY OF SUMMIT COUNTY

- Licensed Social Worker assigned to UA Main Campus
  - Providing direct community support and advocacy
  - Directly sponsor a textbook assistance program
  - Connection to the Akron-Canton Regional Food
JUGGLING FINANCES IN COLLEGE

• Series of programs: Balancing on a Budget [BOB]
  • Webinars
  • Workshops
  • Monthly challenges

• Financial coaching
  • Partnership with the United Way of Summit County
  • FREE and confidential

• Tools and Resources
• Incentives!