Welcome to Roo Town – Residence Hall Move-In

Residence Life and Housing welcomed resident students to campus on four move-in days. The work of moving in over 2,500 resident students in four days is no small task and it’s Residence Life and Housing’s vision that the process be as seamless as possible for students and their families. As such, there were more than 400 student volunteers as well as assistance from each of the following campus partners:

- Physical Facilities Operations Center
- University of Akron Police Department
- Parking Services
- Information Technology
- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Admissions
- Rape Crisis Center
- Division of Student Affairs

Volunteers lending a hand during Residence Hall Move-In 2018
On Friday, August 24, the freshmen class, along with faculty and staff, attended New Student Convocation held at First Energy Stadium-Cub Cadet Field. Immediately following, attendees made their way to a welcome reception on Coleman Common where they had the opportunity to mingle with faculty, staff and peers. The afternoon was spent participating in college welcomes.
NEW ROO WEEKEND

FRIDAY – AUGUST 24

GLOW PARTY – Fraternity and Sorority Life and the governing councils cosponsored the Glow Party with Campus Programs. Students were given a t-shirt and glow items while enjoying music provided by a DJ, a photo booth, fresh pizza and cookies while meeting other Zips. Over 760 students kicked off the school year with this popular social event.

Common, featuring chapter tabling and yard games, popcorn and inflatables provided by Super Games.

IFC SEMESTER KICKOFF – Interfraternity Council (IFC) recruitment commenced on August 24 with IFC holding their Semester Kickoff event on Coleman

Members of Theta Chi at the IFC Semester Kickoff.

PINK GLOVES BOXING – The Department of Student Life collaborated with Student Recreation and Wellness Services to hold three different exercise programs between August 22 and August 24. These programs included two days of Yoga and one day of Pink Gloves Boxing on Coleman Common with great student turnout. Pink Gloves is a female-focused fitness program that delivers an amazing workout and an emotionally rewarding experience to small communities of powerful women. Pink Gloves also puts a great deal of focus on social and emotional growth. Using the core movements of competitive boxing, Pink Gloves is a non-contact program for women who want to live a healthy lifestyle.

SATURDAY – AUGUST 25

Over 850 new students reported to troop meetings to kick off New Roo Weekend, led by current UA students serving as New Roo Weekend Leaders. Following troop meetings, 825 students participated in one of the 20 breakout sessions available. After the breakout sessions, over 1,000 students made their way to E.J. Thomas for the first-year speaker, Jon Vroman. Prior to the speaker, students were welcomed with a Coke Toast from Interim President Green which included a class selfie.

First-Year Speaker Jon Vroman at EJ
After the speaker, students marched together to Coleman Common for the Fall in Love with Akron event, which promotes community agencies and involvement opportunities in the greater Akron area. New Zips were exposed to some of the opportunities that exist beyond our University and encouraged to become more involved in the community broadly. Many presenters from the earlier breakout sessions were also present, giving students an opportunity to learn more about campus engagement.

Students could get lunch from City Barbeque, Swensons or Barrio food trucks with a voucher provided through their attendance at New Roo Weekend. WZIP was also present. Downtown Akron tours were also available. Approximately 1,200 students participated in the Fall in Love with Akron event.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – The governing councils of Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhellenic Council (PHC), and National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) gathered for the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Ice Cream Social. Up to 20 members from each chapter were permitted to attend, and recruitment staff/guides from IFC and PHC volunteered for the event. There were 477 non-affiliated students in attendance, eager to learn more about the opportunities presented by FSL, along with 271 current members of the fraternity and sorority community.

**LATE NIGHT AT THE REC** – The Late Night at the Rec event, sponsored by Campus Focus, included zorb soccer, dodgeball and futsal and free pizza.

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE** staff set up a “tenting” on the main concourse of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center during Late Night, with a tent, paddleboard, backpack and climbing gear on display to highlight programs and activities.

**RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING** sponsored the annual RA Lip Sync performance filling E.J. Thomas!
CASINO NIGHT, which is sponsored by the Residence Hall Program Board, Residence Hall Council and E.J. Thomas, had more than 1,180 students participating in the annual program.

Students enjoying Casino Night

TACO ‘BOUT CAREERS AND MAJORS – During New Roo Weekend, students were able to enjoy a free taco or other items from the food trucks as they met the Career Services team and had an opportunity to “taco ‘bout” majors and careers, with 275 students receiving a Taco ‘bout Careers t-shirt.

SUNDAY – AUGUST 26

ROOFEST – The annual RooFest sponsored by the SOuRCe allows students valuable exposure to over 170 student organizations and opportunities to become more engaged in the UA community. Approximately 3,700 students were in attendance at this year’s event.

CLASS SCHEDULE TOUR – More than 500 students participated in class-schedule tours, which were facilitated by New Roo Weekend Leaders to assist new Zips in locating their classrooms for the first week of classes.
WEEK OF WELCOME – WOW

WELCOME TEAM

During the first two days of the fall semester, tables were set up on Buchtel Common, the Polymer Circle turnaround, and at the JAR/Rec Center turnaround to assist students find their classes. Welcome Team tables were also in place with the ZipAssist Information Desk in Simmons Hall and the Student Union Information Desk, branding the locations as “official” Welcome Team areas to provide additional assistance.

‘DONUT’ MISS GETTING INVOLVED

The Department of Student Life hosted “Donut Miss Getting Involved” to welcome students to campus and provide them with information on ways to get involved in the UA community. Over 90 students were able to meet the full-time staff and student employees of Student Life while enjoying a free donut, giveaways and information about six different areas within the Center for Service and Leadership.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

USG welcomed new students throughout New Roo Weekend, including during RooFest where members of the Class of 2022 signed a banner provided by USG which is now hanging in the Student Union.

Welcome Class of 2022!

ZIPS PROGRAMMING NETWORK BINGO NIGHT

ZPN planned and implemented five events during Week of Welcome which attracted a total of 2,142 students. ZPN collaborated with Campus Programs to host Bingo on Thursday, August 23. This event had a successful turnout with over 415 attendees.
THURSDAY – AUGUST 30

ZPN FESTIVAL – The annual ZPN (Zips Programming Network) Festival aims to promote a sense of community. Over 980 students enjoyed free food, inflatables and the company of fellow students at this year’s festival which was held on Thursday, August 30. ZPN’s movie series showcased three films, including Avengers Infinity War, Black Panther and Ocean’s 8, offering a total of six showings. Total attendance for all showings was 550 students. ZPN hosted one of the Black Panther showings on Coleman Common to provide an outdoor movie experience.

STUDENT RECREATION AND WELLNESS SERVICES (SRWS) WOW EVENTS

Crate stacking, open kayaking and the Mile High Challenge kicked off with all three activities seeing reasonable participation, and interest seems strong for semester trips and opportunities with more than 400 students participating.

Crate Stacking – Students test their balance as they stack as many upside-down plastic milk crates as possible and then stand on top. Stackers rest their feet in the handle holes of the crate with the challenge being to place the next crate and transfer footing without losing balance, all the while under the safety of a security rope above.

Competitive Sports Showcase offering five different contests for students to participate in showcasing multiple aspects of the Intramural Sports Program.

Personal Training outreach to promote personal training for students and members. Student trainers also circulated the fitness floor offering tips and pointers to new members/students, which helps them improve their communication, marketing and sales skills.

Wellness Services held an open house with a push-up contest, tour of the suite, more information about the fitness tests and services offered. There was lots of interest in personal training.

Club Sports Teams participated in the Intramural Sports/Club Sports table and demo night at the SRWC, with seven clubs participating.

Pink Gloves Boxing + Zip Hop offered free demo classes giving the student instructors an opportunity to promote their programs and the student participants an opportunity to try our programs free of cost.

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY (OA)

During the first week of classes for the fall 2018 semester, the Office of Accessibility participated in The University of Akron’s Week of Welcome. OA provided activities, snacks and raffles for the entire student population. Prizes included Starbucks gift cards, Rubber Ducks tickets, and other prizes to educate about the services offered by Accessibility. Students not already registered with OA were encouraged to request accommodations, with 324 students participating in the raffles.

COUNSELING AND TESTING CENTER
Counseling and Testing Center hosted their annual **Party in the Penthouse** during WOW in the Counseling Center suite. Students interacted with CTC counselors as they toured the center, played games, used biofeedback to relax, gathered mental health and testing services information and spun a wheel for giveaways. This event helps to decrease the stigma associated with seeking mental health services and several students did make appointments to see a CTC psychologist.

**ZIPASSIST**

ZipAssist provided several programs during Welcome Weekend and Week of Welcome, including a commuter social, financial coaching workshop, and FERPA. There was also extended office hours through the weekend of August 25. The office conducted more than 10 outreach sessions to provide information to new students and student leaders about ZipAssist support and advocacy. The office also supported campus offices in their welcoming efforts, including move-in, New Roo Weekend, and SC9 (Safety, Conduct and Title 9) workshops. Combined, the office interacted with **over 600 students** over the Week of Welcome programming.

**ZIPASSIST ACKNOWLEDGED BY GREAT LAKES**

The **Student Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA)** program, supported by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates – **Dash Emergency Grant** – provided **over $192,000 to 252 students in FY18**. The following are excerpts from a letter received from Kristin Yeado, Program Officer at the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation, who is the “very proud funder” of the Dash Emergency Grant program (a.k.a. Student Emergency Financial Assistance/SEFA).

“As we enter the second year of the grant, I have been impressed with the great work that your team … specifically the ZipAssist team … is doing to implement this program at Akron.”

In 2017, Grate Lakes awarded 32 four-year colleges – including The University of Akron – with the 2017-2019 Dash Emergency Grant to help low-income students overcome unexpected financial emergencies so they can remain enrolled in school and, ultimately, graduate. Across all grantee colleges, 93 percent of the students who benefitted from emergency aid in fall 2017 either graduated or re-enrolled for the spring 2018 semester. At The University of Akron, 98 percent of students graduated or re-enrolled!

Ms. Yeado goes on to say: “Great Lakes makes grants to learn what works and, in the first year of implementation, The University of Akron has stood out as an institution that is shifting institutional processes and implementing best practices that support student success. Upon implementing the Dash Emergency Grant, The ZipAssist team quickly recognized the complex challenges students encounter, as well as the university and community partnerships needed to effectively address them.”

UA has leveraged the partnership of several key organizations, including the United Way of Summit County, Rubber Arches, LLC, Salvation Army of Akron and Summit County, and the Ohio Benefits Bank. These partnerships … and several others … have resulted in ZipAssist becoming a safe and trusted resource on campus where students have access to support, guidance, and most importantly, a caring team of individuals.

Finally, Ms. Yeado continues: “At the foundation of the ZipAssist team’s work is a student-centered approach that recognizes the resilience and strength of individual students, as well as a process that quickly connects students to the resources needed for success. … The work of the ZipAssist team is a clear example of how a combination of meaningful partnerships, student-centered processes, and a dedicated ‘central point’ of contact can ensure students have the support needed to remain enrolled in school.”

**FIVE-STAR FRIDAYS**
CAREER SERVICES
Student appointments in Career Services were up 56 percent for the first two Fridays of the school year as compared to the same weeks last year.

COUNSELING AND TESTING CENTER
The number of counseling appointments on Fridays for the first two weeks of the semester was up 42 percent as compared to 2017 with the number of overall appointments for those two weeks up 15 percent.

RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING
On Friday, September 7 the LEAP Mentors (Leading Entrepreneurial Academics into Practice) sponsored the first in a series of four Five-Star Friday educational sessions for the Emerging Leaders. The topic for this first session was Time Management with 76 attendees.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
Student Health Services will be open every Friday for walk-in patients as well as clinical experiential learning. Also being offered is peer educator training.

STUDENT RECREATION AND WELLNESS SERVICES
Five-Star Friday kicked off with a "Deadlifting 101" presentation led by our student personal trainer with four students being led through the training and providing student development skills in presentation, training technique and customer service.

Rock Wall hosted the first Climbing Works! Clinic. A top rope belay skills class was also held in an effort to support Five-Star Fridays.

The first Friday Outdoor Adventure trip filled quickly for the weekend of September 14.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT
The University of Akron has received a $300,000 grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) of the United States Department of Justice. The University is one of only four schools in Ohio to have qualified for the grant through the rigorous application process. The $300,000 will be available for three years during which funds will support a Coordinated Community Response and Support (CCR) group. This newly established team will work hand in hand with the Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) team and the Title IX Response Team to increase capacity to provide stalking, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault prevention programs to campus.

The University of Akron has made steady progress toward the end of all forms of sexual harassment and sexual violence. Still, any one instance is one too many. The OVW grant will allow our dedicated staff to reach farther into our community educating students as well as University faculty and staff. Every student at the University of Akron deserves the best possible support following an instance of sexual harassment or violence and every member of the faculty and staff should know where to turn for support and assistance on behalf of their students.

Initial steps are being taken now to accept and implement the grant. The grant applications identifies four areas of initial focus:

- Implementation of universal prevention strategies, including training for faculty and staff;
• Training for campus law enforcements, other first responders and student conduct hearing boards;
• Building upon a coordinated community response to violation including internal and external partners; and,
• Mandatory prevention and education programming for all new University students.

Dr. John A. Messina will serve as the primary investigator of the grant and will be assisted by Dean of Students Michael Strong and Director of Labor and Employee Relations Michelle Smith.

MICHAEL JAMES AND THOMAS EDWARD FLANNERY SCHOLARSHIP

The Office of Accessibility (OA) invited registered students to apply to the Michael James and Thomas Edward Flannery Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year. This scholarship was established in 2013 through a gift from the estate of the late Sally Flannery Orrok. It was Mrs. Orrok’s wish to establish this scholarship in her sons’ memories. Michael and Thomas both lived with muscular dystrophy. They both attended The University of Akron in the late 1970’s before passing away from complications related to their illness. Mrs. Orrok was grateful to the faculty, staff and students who assisted her sons during their time at UA. This year’s scholarship monies were awarded to Ava Jakab and Jonathan Henry. The scholarship monies are $900 per student, with $450 being dispersed during the fall 2018 semester and $450 being dispersed for spring 2019 semester.

CAREER SERVICES

CAREER CLOSET

The Career Closet is now open! Through the generosity of JCPenney, we obtained 116+ new, professional jackets to stock a Career Closet located in Career Services in the Student Union. Students are able to borrow these jackets and feel confident they are dressed professionally for career fairs, interviews, networking events, professional headshots, presentations and job shadowing.

CAREER SERVICES STAFF EXPANSION

Eight new Career Services Coordinators/Career Advisors were hired in August and are completing their training. To build on the success of the Career Services offices in CAS, we will now have two Career Advisors in new office space within Polsky to service students in Health Professions and CAST. The College of Business will receive the support of one new full-time and one part-time Career Advisors. The CAS Career Services office will benefit from the support of a full-time Career Advisor as well as a GA and Career Advisor stationed part-time in the college. Two of the new coordinators will be primarily dedicated to employer relations to help expand the employer connections for internships, co-ops and full-time placement for all students.
CAREER SERVICES BRANDING CAMPAIGN

New decals provide branding in the Career Services windows in the Student Union and depict the services offered to students to encourage them to stop in. These decals will be featured in the Career Services offices in BCAS soon as well as in the Polsky Career Services office that will open later in the semester to serve students in the College of Health Professions and CAST.

EXPLORATORY ADVISING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT (EAAS)

EAAS INAUGURAL EXPLORE LEARNING COMMUNITY KICK-OFF

The establishment of the office of Exploratory Advising and Academic Support has led to the rebranding and expansion of the Explore Learning Community, known previously as “Career Exploration.” This fall, the office is operating five Explore Learning Communities with over 100 students, focusing on major exploration and academic and career success. Total participation in the learning community has increased 159 percent compared to the previous academic year.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION SUMMER 2018 PROGRAM RECAP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th># Offered</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th># of Guests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen (NSOP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer (NSOT)</td>
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<td>465</td>
<td>164</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Evening (NSOE)</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors (NSOH)*</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADVANCE (NSOA)*</td>
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<td>152</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Credit Plus (CCP)</td>
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<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Accommodations**</td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Veteran/Adult, Honors and ADVANCE programs run concurrently with freshmen programs; therefore, the show rate and guest count is a part of the NSOP total.

**Special accommodations are available for students that live out of state, work full-time and cannot attend a traditional program, or have other extenuating circumstances that prevent them from attending a traditional orientation program. Students complete a phone or in-person appointment with their academic advisors and then connect with the office of New Student Orientation prior to the start of classes for additional information.

SAFETY, CONDUCT AND TITLE IX (SC9) WORKSHOPS

A total of 2,227 students participated in one of four available workshops, which is a requirement workshop for all new freshmen. Students received specific communication as to which workshop to attend based upon their move-in date or being a commuter student. The workshops cover topics surrounding campus safety, Code of Student Conduct, Parking Services, and sexual respect.

FUTURE ZIPS CONFIRMATION FEE AWARD & WORKSHOP

There were 29 Future Zips Confirmation Fee Awards awarded for the summer/fall orientation cycle for students with financial need as determined by the Financial Aid office. As a condition of this award, students are expected to attend a Future Zips Financial Workshop which is designed to help address some of the financial barriers that students typically encounter when starting college. During the workshop, students explore MyAkron, speak with Financial Aid and Student Accounts, learn about student employment opportunities, and find out more about commuting and living on campus.

Of the 29 awards granted, 24 students attended a workshop. An overwhelming 95.8 percent of students and families who attended noted the workshop met and exceeded their initial expectations.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

There are 881 new students enrolled in one of the 49 learning community experiences.
EMERGING LEADERS TRAINING

Emerging Leader (EL) students participated in the following programs:

- Professional leadership speaker Tracy Knofla presented "True Colors"
- Professional leadership speaker Michael Miller presented on the value of diversity
- Professional leadership presenters SwiftKick presented "Dance Floor Theory of Leadership"
- The program “Head Phone Disco” presented a special show for EL students and Residence Life and Housing
- EL students volunteered to assist with the remainder of residence hall move-in

RESIDENCE HALL PROGRAM BOARD / RESIDENCE HALL COUNCIL FALL SEMESTER EVENTS

August 28 – Psychic Magician Craig Karges at E.J. Thomas, co-sponsored by Residence Hall Program Board (RHPB) and Residence Hall Council (RHC) – 710 attendees.

September 5 – Leadership Speaker Tom Varano was featured in the Emerging Leader Akron Experience class. His session was titled “Emotion Into Art” which featured four paintings (Walt Disney, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Statue of Liberty), all painted by Tom – 127 attendees.

Also on September 5 – RHPB and RHC co-sponsored the a cappella group The Filharmonic at 9:09pm in E.J. Thomas – 510 attendees.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 12 – Hypnotist Michael C. Anthony at 9:09pm at E.J. Thomas
- September 25 – Singer Will Champlin at 7:17pm in the Student Union Starbucks
- October 17 – Singercil Selkii at 7:17pm in Student Union Starbucks
- October 30 – Comedian Samuel J. Comroe at 9:09pm in Student Union Starbucks

STUDENT LIFE GIVES BACK – OPERATION ORANGE

On September 10, staff members from the Department of Student Life participated in Operation Orange, the Akron-Canton Food Bank’s annual 24-hour volunteer event. Students and staff had a blast bagging and weighing thousands of pounds of apples to benefit the Greater Akron community.

Pictured left to right: Nick Harvathm, Ashton Hawkins, Lexi Gore, Abbi Kuykendall, Sierra Clark, Daniel Nahra, Joe Gimmaro, Nicole Rauli, and Jonathan Giaquinto
STUDENT RECREATION & WELLNESS SERVICES

AKRON ADVENTURES

Two outdoor adventure freshman orientation trips took place this summer providing students the opportunity to meet other classmates and participate in a unique experiential learning opportunity. This collaborative program with New Student Orientation and SRWS has created lasting friendships and connections to campus facilities and administrators for over ten years. The first trip was whitewater rafting down the Class III Lower Youghiogheny River, exploring the natural rock waterslide, hiking, and visiting Cucumber Falls. For most of the participants this was their first time rafting, and for some it was their first time camping. The second trip to Hocking Hills, Ohio included rock climbing and 110-ft rappel beside a waterfall, hiking from Cedar Falls to Old Man’s Cave, and then back to the Ash Cave lookout tower. The group attended “Ash Cave by Lantern” tour and went ziplining through Valley Zipline Tours.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING

Over 100 freshmen from the Early College High School participated in the American Red Cross Hands Only CPR/AED training taught by SRWS staff. All students participated in a class, demonstrated skills on mannequins, and practiced with an AED.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS – TUTORING SERVICES

SUMMER TUTORING

Summer Tutoring opened on June 11, 2018 using nine peer tutors and three part-time faculty tutors and continued through August 17, 2018. Tutors were available in Math, Writing and other general education courses with 139 students attending and 827 visitors.

ZIPASSIST

STUDENT PERSISTENCE AND RETENTION

ZipAssist continues to find creative means to support student persistence and retention. Through support of campus offices and direct outreach to students, the office continues to offer mentoring appointments, financial coaching, and seeks to gain insight into the reason why a student would wish to discontinue enrollment at UA. ZipAssist has created a quick survey to administer with students who have outreached
and shared a desire to discontinue enrollment – the goal is to begin analyzing reasons for drop out and see if any barriers to persistence can be avoided/overcome with ZipAssist support.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

ZipAssist has continued to forge intentional community partnerships with local agencies and organizations in order to best meet the needs of students served by the office.

The partnership with the United Way of Summit County launched on September 5 and students are beginning to take advantage of free, one-on-one financial counseling with a staff member from the Financial Empowerment Center. This partnership is part of a city-wide program, known as BankOn Rubber City, which provides free financial empowerment counseling to Summit County residents.

Rubber City Arches, LLC continues their support of ZipAssist by providing hot-meal gift cards ($2,000 each semester) to be given to students who are food insecure. The organization provided a donation in August and has committed to additional support as needed.

The Salvation Army of Summit County continues their support of UA students through their textbook assistance program, discounted childcare, providing pre-packaged meals to be distributed through the Campus Cupboard and offices on campus, and by providing a representative in the ZipAssist office who can offer social services assistance. The textbook assistance program concluded in early September, with more than $10,000 distributed in aid to 36 students via textbooks for the semester. All students receiving aid met with a member of the ZipAssist staff and the Salvation Army to discuss financial need, academic goal-setting, and future budgeting.