



To: Residence Hall and Honors House Residents
From: Sean S. Blackburn – Vice President for Student Affairs
Date: September 19, 2018
Subject: Incident Outside of Orr Hall

Dear Residents,

The University of Wyoming is dedicated to excellence, personal responsibility, and to creating an inclusive climate for all. On the evening of Thursday, September 14th, two residents of the White Hall community participated in an incident that does not reflect these values, according to early results of a police investigation.

At around 10:30PM Residence Life and University Police responded to a report of a noise disturbance in the area west of Orr Hall. A verbal dispute between two students escalated to the use of racial slurs and insults targeting African Americans and White working-class individuals. The two students involved engaged in threats of physical violence. Both students are residents of White Hall and were cited for disorderly conduct. The threatening of violence and use of racial slurs and insults is unacceptable.

The residence halls must be a place where all students value diversity. The residence halls and campus community are places to learn, grow, and rest in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Racial slurs and insults of any kind make these environments unwelcoming and target and exclude valued members of our communities.

We are grateful to the students who intervened by contacting staff and police to prevent an actual physical altercation. They are examples of how students similar to you can maintain our community and uphold UW values.

We ask all students to be aware of their language use. Challenge your peers by stating, “Please don’t use that language” when you hear or observe racial slurs or stereotypes being used. You may learn how to STEP UP safely by participating in our Bystander Intervention Training.

It is critical for all community members to "say something when you see something." Learn how to do so now, so that you are prepared. To learn how to report suspected crimes, [click here](#). Reports of civil rights discrimination may be made to the REPORT IT website. If you believe a student may be in distress, learn how to make a report to UWYO Cares [here](#).

It is everyone’s responsibility to uphold community values for diversity, equity, and inclusion and to treat one another with civility and respect in the place where you live and learn. If you have questions about resources on campus, please speak with your Resident Assistant.

Sincerely,

Sean S. Blackburn

Vice President for Student Affairs