With the numerous positions available to you in residence life and housing, I am so happy you are considering the University of Wyoming (UW)! UW is a wonderful university and it is an exciting time to be here.

Residence Life & Dining Services (RLDS) just completed a Housing Master Plan which calls for both new construction and renovations of existing spaces. In the near future we hope to begin phase one of the plan which is new construction. Our new buildings will be true living learning communities where classroom space, faculty and staff offices, and student success spaces will be incorporated into the design. We are looking forward to working with students, staff, and university and state stakeholders on creating communities that benefit students in and out of the classroom.

Our current president, Dr. Laurie Nichols, is finishing third year at the university and I cannot say enough good things about her steadfast leadership. She is a true champion of land grant institutions, student success, and has created an institutional culture where feedback is welcomed and appreciated. Dr. Nichols has a rich history of working at and attending land grant institutions and had made it a priority that UW serve Wyoming and beyond.

Under President Nichol’s leadership, UW opened the Native American Education Research and Cultural Center, which optimizes the college experience for our American Indian students. Additionally, Dr. Nichols has charged our colleagues across campus to re-imagine new student orientation, the first year experience, and various student services. These and many other initiatives are outlined in Breaking Through: 2017-2020 - A Strategic Plan for the University of Wyoming.

Like many Residence Life and Dining programs we continue to reevaluate the ways we do things to ensure we are creating communities that meet the needs of our residents, give students opportunities to learn about difference, and ensure students have access to healthy and delicious food.

RLDS is excited about the direction of UW and the university has many exciting things happening. I hope you take time to look closely at the resources available to you about our wonderful university and department. Please don’t hesitate to contact me or any other members of our staff with questions!
As we mentioned in our first RC Chronicle, we take pride in the opportunities we are able to provide our Residence Coordinators to develop as professionals. Below are some opportunities current RCs have been given to become involved in the Division of Student Affairs.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Days of Dialogue.** MLK DOD (for short) is a week long campus event series that focuses on encouraging students to have conversations regarding social justice (particularly race). This year two of our RCs were on the committee and planned a dialogue dinner in our campus dining hall. It was well-attended and had great conversation!

**Shepard Symposium on Social Justice.** Shepard Symposium is an annual conference that draws the State of Wyoming together around topics of diversity and social justice. The Symposium began in 1997 and was renamed in 2002 to honor Matthew Shepard and the work of the Shepard family. One unique feature of the Symposium is the annual “GSA Day,” in which gay-straight alliances from Wyoming high schools are invited to campus to learn how to further develop their organizations and connect with one another in solidarity.

**Daniels Scholars.** At UW we are proud to host several Daniels Fund Scholars. One of our RCs works with these scholars and the Daniels Fund as their liaison to the university – helping provide academic and social development to this talented group of students.

**No More Campaign.** UW has adopted the national No More Campaign, which seeks to end domestic violence and sexual assault on college campuses. Several of our RCs are part of No More sub-committees, which focus on prevention and education, policy, and response.

**Sustainability Committee.** Each year we have an RC sit on the Campus Sustainability Committee, which coordinates sustainability efforts on campus. The on-campus population is such an important component of resource usage on campus, so we are grateful to have representation in this body from one of our team members.

**A-Team.** RCs also represent Residence Life on the “A-Team,” which is a campus-community coalition that works to reduce the negative impacts of alcohol use within our shared community. The A-Team is frequently consulted for policy decisions and prevention efforts.

**Lifesavers.** The Lifesavers Coalition is a cross-campus partnership aimed at preventing deaths by suicide among our campus community. Residence Life is a key partner in this group as we collaboratively work together to keep our community safe and healthy.

**Impact Retreat for Fraternity and Sorority Life.** Last year we had an RC invited to serve as a facilitator for the nationally-recognized Impact Retreat – a program sponsored by the North-American Interfraternity Conference. Our FSL Coordinator intentionally invited Residence Life staff to further develop the relationship between our FSL and on-campus populations.

**Student Success Tool.** We currently have an RC who is representing Residence Life on a small task force that is looking at implementing a student success tool for the University. This tool would use predictive analytics to help the university identify students who might be at risk and need additional support.

**Search Committees.** Our RCs often are asked to serve on Divisional search committees. Our campus partners truly value the RC perspective as they look to hire future team members.
Ask Our Staff: What do you like most about living in Laramie?

Griffen Farrar
Residence Coordinator

“Having lived in bigger places, I love that there is no traffic! I enjoy being so close to outdoor recreation, and I love how much there is to do in Laramie and how affordable everything is.”

Rian Rabideau
Associate Director

“I enjoy the way the University and city work together through key partnerships and programs. I also love all the parks in Laramie and the easy access to miles and miles of hiking trails.”

Melissa Nelson
Residence Coordinator

“I really appreciate the strong sense of community, particularly in the downtown area. There is always something going on downtown, from art walks to farmer’s markets to live music!”

Corey Peacock
Assistant Director

“I love the outdoors, and Laramie is a wonderful place for outdoor recreation. I love how I can drive 15 minutes in any direction and find good hiking trails to help me recharge and relax.”

Sarah Vilardo
Residence Coordinator

“I really like that people in Wyoming are down-to-earth and friendly. People are very welcoming wherever you go. I also enjoy all the food offerings Laramie provides – I am a girl who likes to eat.”

Diana Wilson
Assistant Director

“I enjoy the small town feel but enough of a city feel to have a lot of amenities. My favorite part of Laramie is that most of the restaurants are locally-owned, and you won’t find them anywhere but Laramie.”

Taryn Wright
Residence Coordinator

“My favorite thing is the small town feel and how friendly everyone is. Our downtown area has delicious food, cute shops, and fun events throughout the year (especially the Farmers Market during the summer)!”

Saverio Zappacosta
Graduate Residence Coordinator

“As an international student, I love all the events that happen on campus. Within the Laramie area, I love the vegetarian food at Sweet Melissa’s. I also enjoy exploring the national parks in the area!”