Hey, Clarkies — we can’t wait to see you on campus next week! Here are a few reminders and upcoming events you may want to check out as you prepare for Orientation. If you have any questions, please email the Dean of Students office.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Did You Miss A Webinar?

Recordings of each webinar in this summer’s Incoming Student and Family Webinar Series are available for viewing on demand here.

Move-In Day and Orientation Dates

- **Move-In Day** for incoming first-year students is Thursday, August 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In the coming days, Residential Life and Housing will provide more details regarding Move-In Day logistics, including where to check in on campus to get tested and pick up your Clark OneCard and room key, as well as where to unload your vehicle for move-in. Have you started packing? Check out our list of what to bring and get a handy checklist app.
- **First-Year Orientation** begins on the campus green at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, for all residential and commuter incoming first-year students and transfer students with first-year academic standing (including all students taking a First-Year Intensive seminar). Learn more about the Orientation schedule here.
• The first day of classes is Monday, August 23.

Let’s Have a Healthy and Safe Fall Semester

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Healthy Clark Plan for the start of the fall semester, which includes risk-reduction measures, such as the vaccine requirement, mask-wearing, testing, and guidelines about visitors, isolation, and quarantine.

Please remember that on Move-In Day, we ask all move-in helpers, including families and friends, to wear masks while they are inside any Clark buildings or when they are unable to physically distance outside. We also remind visitors not to eat in any of our campus dining facilities.

Preparing for Orientation: Welcome to the Hive!

First-year student orientation will prepare you for your time at Clark — but your experience will actually begin before you come to campus. Please complete these three modules before moving in. And while you are at it, follow @ClarkUOrientation on Instagram to learn more about the Orientation team!

Voices for Change: Consent Inclusion
As part of Orientation at Clark, all students are required to complete Voices for Change training on the topics of identity and inclusion, substance abuse, hazing, sexual harassment, consent, sexual violence, and bystander intervention.

The training is delivered online, takes approximately one hour, and must be completed by August 24. This is mandatory for all students, even if you have completed a similar course at another institution. If you encounter any technical issues while accessing the course, please send an email to support@getinclusive.com. If you have questions or wish to discuss issues pertaining to Title IX, including gender discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence, or Clark’s policies and how the university responds to such incidents, please feel free to email title ix@clarku.edu.

Access the training by clicking the link in the email you received in your Clark inbox from Get Inclusive. You may complete the training all at once or in stages.

Common Academic Experience: Coded Bias
As part of Orientation at Clark, all incoming students engage in a shared academic experience. This year, we ask you to view the documentary “Coded Bias” before you arrive on campus, as you will discuss it
with your peers during Orientation. A special link to watch the film will be provided soon, but if you have access to Netflix, we encourage you to stream it now.

About “Coded Bias”: Modern society sits at the intersection of two crucial questions: What does it mean when artificial intelligence increasingly governs our liberties? And what are the consequences for the people AI is biased against? When MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini discovers that many facial recognition technologies do not accurately detect darker-skinned faces or classify the faces of women, she delves into an investigation of widespread bias in algorithms. As it turns out, artificial intelligence is not neutral, and women are leading the charge to ensure our civil rights are protected. “Coded Bias” explores the fallout of Buolamwini’s discovery and her journey to push for the first-ever legislation in the U.S. to govern against bias in the algorithms that impact us all.

Fostering Inclusive Communities: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Clark
Clark is an extraordinary learning community characterized not only by a commitment to discovery, understanding, and knowledge, but also by deep appreciation for its importance to individual lives and to change in our society. We are a community that prides itself on fostering a sense of belonging and care for one another. You will receive an email from EverFi with a link to a 30–60-minute module introducing you to our community’s values of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion for all.

The key topics covered will be processed in your orientation groups. We invite each of you to engage in this critical conversation at Clark and beyond. Log in here using your Clark credentials.

Office Spotlight: Engagement and Orientation

During your time at Clark, we hope that you will gain a sense of belonging and community, make new friends, celebrate identities, learn a lot about yourself and the world, identify the areas about which you are passionate, and become an active and healthy member of our diverse community. We believe this all begins the moment you arrive on campus for Orientation. The Office of Student Leadership and Programming has been busy getting ready for your arrival on campus next week, and together with the Orientation Coordinators, Peer Mentors, and countless staff and student leaders, we are eager to welcome you to your new home!

Dr. Danielle Morgan Acosta is the Associate Dean of Students for Student Engagement (and also coordinated these newsletters you’ve been receiving all summer!), and she’s looking forward to getting to know you and seeing how you make your mark at Clark. Danielle is a two-time, first-generation Clark alum (B.A. 2005, MAT 2006) who supports and creates a vibrant and engaging student experience at Clark. She is also an active leader and current president of the American College Personnel Association, which is committed to racial justice, decolonization, and boldly transforming higher education. Danielle enjoys cooking, coffee, the ocean, exploring new places, eating local, and walking her dog around Worcester (and sometimes on campus!).
Allison Shilling is the Director of Campus Life for Student Leadership and Programming. Allie oversees programming and support for student clubs, University Center operations, Events Planning, and the Craft Studio. She enjoys meeting students to brainstorm how they can get more involved on campus and make the best of their college experience. Allie received her bachelor’s in graphic design from the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and earned a master’s in educational leadership from the University of Nevada. In her spare time, she enjoys camping, making art, finding new places to explore in New England, and, of course, cheering on the Green Bay Packers!

Danielle Morgan Acosta
Associate Dean – Student Engagement
dacosta@clarku.edu

Allison Shilling
Director of Campus Life for SL&P
ashilling@clarku.edu

Stay engaged and connected to your fellow Clarkies.