



RESIDENTS' INTERHALL CONGRESS
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Housing Building Room 126 ♦ Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 718-2384
<http://ric.uark.edu>

State of the On-Campus Student Address Spring 2016

Good evening ladies and gentleman! It is the duty and honor of the presiding officer of the Residents' Interhall Congress to update the on-campus student body on the progress of RIC at the fourth house meeting of the semester. The purpose of the speech is to celebrate the accomplishments RIC has achieved so far this year and to challenge the representatives in the audience to act in the best interest of the on-campus student population.

This body of students represents the eighteen campus communities at the University of Arkansas where approximately 5,600 students call home. Being a member of this body is a privilege and a responsibility because you have been chosen to represent the interests of your peers and to be the bridge between housing administration and the general on-campus student population.

Every year, the Residents' Interhall Congress strives to improve the quality of life for its constituents. This year RIC has voiced its opinion on several issues concerning the on-campus students.



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Towards the beginning of last semester, we broke down the wall of hate that divides the community at the Writing on the Wall Project ceremony. We committed ourselves to take a stand against sexual assault by supporting the It's On Us campaign. We walked across the entire campus checking the lighting in order to make the campus safer for its students at the Campus Lighting Tour. We created a campus creed that establishes the values that we want to uphold. We passed a resolution to establish a testing policy for midterm exams. We helped bring the wonderful Carlotta Walls LaNier, the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, to the University of Arkansas, for the first time, to talk about race relations and gender equality. We are working with Transit and Parking to reduce the cost of resident reserved parking for resident assistants. And we continue to educate students on the issues that our society is facing through our Year in Review program.

Looking back, it would seem that we've had a rather successful year so far. However, our work is not done. In order for us to continue



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moving forward, we have to be bold enough to take the next step.

Therefore, I challenge the members of this organization to be proactive in our efforts to make living on-campus at the University of Arkansas the utmost memorable and enjoyable experience for our fellow on-campus students. Let us actively pursue the interests of our peers. Let us have the difficult conversations that bring about change rather than hate. Let us stand for what we believe in, and be the ambassadors of change that we have been called to be. Together, we can accomplish more than you think.

Thank you all for continuing to make a difference on this campus. I am proud of how this House of Representatives and executive team has developed this year. RIC has come a long way from years past. I hope that tonight has inspired you and encouraged you to be bold and take the next step. Thank you.