



July 2021

Dear Esther's Dream Participant,

I'd like to begin by congratulating you on your decision to join us for the Esther's Dream Summer Bridge Program. You've already made the decision to attend college and receive all the benefits from the value of a college education, and now you've strengthened your resolve by committing to this program. Although it is only a week long, the positive impact of a summer bridge program is extremely significant. Nationally, students who attend programs such as this stay in college and graduate at a higher rate than students who do not. At Anna Maria, we see that program participants receive grades a full grade higher than non-participants during their freshman year. Basically, it's the difference between a "C+" student and a "B" student. We have been holding this program for over ten years and have seen these results with our students consistently!

We have a very busy week planned, and you'll leave with a lot of information. You will take part in a week-long writing seminar designed to expose you to the level of writing expected of a college student. You'll have many opportunities to interact with faculty and get feedback on your own writing skills. You will also have the opportunity to earn your first college credit, on your path to the 120 credits required for Graduation. Instructions on the paper you need to submit before August 17, 2021, to be eligible for that credit are included.

You will also be meeting with a staff member such as myself to review the results of your own personal Noel-Levitz College Student Inventory. You received the information on how to complete this on-line survey when you made your admissions deposit. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to complete that before you arrive.

<https://studentsurvey.ruffalonl.com/AnnaMariaC/AnnaMariaCollegeFall2021>

Equally as important is the time that you will spend with your fellow classmates and the upper-class peer mentors. There will be a social activity each night, and we'll even make sure you have time to get some sleep.

Be sure to log on to your Anna Maria email regularly for any updates.

There are a few regulations that I want you to be aware of before the start of the program:

1. All students are required to show proof of COVID vaccination or submit a medical or religious exemption waiver. Contact japingitore@annamaria.edu for details, you can email a picture of your vaccination card directly to her. If you've received your first dose, please let her know that and you'll be cleared to attend. Anyone who has submitted a waiver and is not vaccinated will be asked to wear a mask during any indoor sessions, per state guidance.

2. All regulations contained in the Student Handbook are in effect during the time you are on campus. The Handbook can be found on-line (<http://www.annamaria.edu/student-experience>) and I encourage you to review it before you come to campus.
3. Any students found using alcohol or illegal drugs (including marijuana) will be asked to leave the program and their names will be forwarded to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs for possible judicial sanctions.
4. The program is designed as a residential program and all students are expected to remain on campus. Anyone who leaves campus during the program for any reason may be asked to leave the program at that time.

Important Schedule Notes:

1. Check-in will be on Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in The Information Commons. You will be greeted by the program staff and have time to get situated in your room and meet your roommate for the week.
2. Opening Comments will be on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Information Commons and we encourage family members to stay for those comments.
3. You will receive your full detailed schedules when you check in, be prepared for a busy week.
4. **Parents/Families/Guests have the option to attend a Parent Orientation Program on Sunday, August 1st, from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. This program will have key information regarding Academics, Housing and Life on Campus, and the Joys and Challenges of parenting a college student.**
5. The program ends at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 5th

Most importantly, show up prepared to have fun and to meet a lot of fun and wonderful people. If you're anything like the participants of past programs, you'll be glad you made the decision to attend. I can't wait to see you on campus and I'm looking forward to spending some time getting to know you.

Until then, have a safe and productive summer,

Sincerely,



Andrew O. Klein
Vice President for Student Affairs
aklein@annamaria.edu