



Dear Residents,

Over 20 years ago, I stepped on the campus of West Virginia State University for the first time (Actually West Virginia State College at that time). As a young student from Washington D.C., I didn't know what to expect. However, I knew it would be much different than what I was used to. I wondered who would help me when I needed assistance, how many friends would I make and if State was the right place for me, among other things. But, those questions were answered quickly as I encountered a family-like atmosphere on the campus of West Virginia State and why it is "a place we love so dear." People such as Joey Oden, Sheilah Payne, Sally Marcus, and Patricia King ensured that West Virginia State was my home away from home and continues to be my home to this day. While some of those individuals are no longer with us, there are many more staff members, professors, and administrators who have stepped in their footsteps.

As the Director of Housing and Residence Life, my hope is that you have the same life-changing experiences that I had. I developed life-long relationships as a result of residing in the residence halls at State. Not only does research show that students who live on campus often enjoy a greater sense of community and have more opportunities to socialize with individuals of diverse backgrounds and interests, but students who live on campus are more likely to remain enrolled and graduate on time.

Our office, as all others, strives to make your experience on campus an enjoyable one assisting you however we can. Whether it's letting you in your room because you are locked out, directing you to where your class is or giving you directions to the local Walmart. Our goal is to serve you. Feel free to stop by whenever you need anything. My office is located to the right when you enter Keith Hall.

I look forward to meeting you!

Derrien Williams

Director of Housing and Residence Life