

Student Health Services • 211 Hagestad Hall • (715) 425-3572/3884 • Fax (715) 425-3573 • www.uwrf.edu/studenthealth

Dear UW-River Falls (UWRF) Campus Neighbors:

Effective July 1, 2013, UWRF took a proactive step in maintaining a safe and healthy environment by adopting a tobacco-free campus policy for our campus. This policy prohibits the smoking and use of any tobacco products in all buildings, parking areas, and campus grounds and applies to all students, faculty, staff, and others who visit campus.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease in the United States. A recent survey showed that the number one location where UWRF students, faculty, and staff were exposed to second-hand smoke was on the UWRF campus. The only way to prevent exposure to secondhand smoke is to prohibit its use on campus. As an institute of higher learning, it is our obligation to provide a healthy environment for students, faculty, and staff to live, learn, and work. Several campuses in the region have taken similar action and have adopted smokefree or tobacco-free policies.

Please be aware that there is a UWRF committee whose role is to implement the policy effectively and efficiently and to review issues as they arise and work with others to help resolve them. Though we do not endorse it, some members of the UWRF community have chosen to leave our property to smoke. We are aware of the concerns of some campus neighbors and are discussing and working on ways to help minimize the negative impact of the policy on campus neighbors. University officials worked with city administration as this policy was being developed. However, please remember that you do not have to allow people to smoke on your property and litter. If you would like a sign for your yard encouraging persons not to smoke or litter on your property, please contact *Student Health and Counseling Services* (see below). We appreciate your help and support as we implement this important policy.

To learn more about the policy, please visit the Tobacco-Free Campus website at http://www.uwrf.edu/tobaccofreecampus/, which has information on the policy, boundaries, resources, and frequently asked questions. For more information or questions about the policy, please contact Implementation Committee members, Dr. Alice Reilly-Myklebust (alice.m.reilly-myklebust@uwrf.edu; 715-425-3293), Director of Student Health and Counseling Services, or Dr. Keven Syverson (keven.syverson@uwrf.edu; 715-425-3293), Health Education Coordinator, Student Health and Counseling Services.

Sincerely,

Gregg Heinselman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs