

## **Alfred University**

### Philosophy of Parents as Partners

At Alfred University we value a community environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and growth, promotes and models good citizenship, encourages enlightened leadership and respects each individual. Your children are learning to become independent thinkers and self-advocates; we will educate them to explore the opportunities available to them, make decisions and learn from them, and take responsibility for their own learning. We ask that you support your student's developmental process by encouraging his or her dialogue with us in solving problems and expressing ideas.

It is normal and natural to advocate for your child, and we welcome questions from parents; however, we will work directly with your child in exploring situations of concern and developing solutions. While it may seem easier in the short run to "solve the problem" for your student when asked for help, the student doesn't always learn from that how to manage conflict or advocate for himself or herself. We ask that before you contact us, you ask your son or daughter to get in touch with the appropriate faculty or staff member to start the discussion. If he or she doesn't know where to begin, the Dean of Students, Dr. Norm Pollard, in the Student Affairs office in Carnegie Hall (871-2132) is always a good starting point

In most cases, you will learn about your students' accomplishments, grades, judicial violations, physical health or mental health concerns from them, or from a faculty or staff member only with the student's knowledge and consent. We encourage you to discuss with your student your expectations for sharing that information with you. Please feel free to review and ask about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, available online at [www.alfred.edu/policies](http://www.alfred.edu/policies) (see the Academic Regulations section).

Family connections are critical to today's college students. With our shared goals of student success, Alfred University faculty and staff view parents as partners in preparing students for life after college.