

Elijah List

CMCN421

Mr. Andre Williams

April 17, 2020

Campus Cupboard Speech

Good afternoon! My name is Dr. Pearson Cross, and I am super excited to have each of you coming to campus in the fall! UL is such a special place to earn a degree, and also an even better place to become one with your community.

I currently serve as the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Committee Chair for UL's Campus Cupboard. Both of these positions have not only helped me learn more about myself, but they have also allowed me to learn more about our campus' culture.

At UL, students care about each other. Students like to see each other succeed and prosper while obtaining their education. I believe it is safe to say that the more you're involved, the more you will understand these ideals.

Speaking of being involved: I mentioned earlier that I was the committee chair for UL's Campus Cupboard.

Campus Cupboard is an on-campus food pantry available for students who are experiencing nutritional difficulties. The cupboard was opened during the spring semester of 2019, and it is currently operated by a small group of volunteers. Our volunteers are our heartbeat! They're the ones who allow us to provide this service to our diverse student body.

On the point of diversity, I would like to mention each of you! Another vital component of this beautiful university is our international population. It is our goal at UL to make each

student feel comfortable and like they're home! That is also the mission of the food pantry- to make our students feel comfortable and like they're home! No student should every have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, so we are here to alleviate that struggle.

As a tenured faculty member, I have had various opportunities to invoke change to this university, and Campus Cupboard has been my favorite project thus far. The best part is seeing how many students volunteer to work the pantry. To see individuals from all different paths of life, come together to help other students, it's absolutely unique and beautiful.

Volunteerism gives you a sense of pride. You are proud of yourself for contributing to your community. You are gaining the incomparable accomplishment of philanthropy. Campus Cupboard is the perfect place to give back to those around you, only a few steps away from your classroom.

If you ever find yourself wanting to extend a helpful hand to your peers, please feel free to contact my office, located in H.L. Griffin Hall, and request a volunteer application. It would be a joy to spend time with each of you as we show love to our fellow Ragin' Cajuns!

Again, it's an honor to be surrounded by all of you on campus. Words cannot explain how thankful I am to work for such a diverse university.

So, now is where the challenge begins. Here is where you begin to differentiate yourself from the crowd, not only academically, but also in your community. Dive in to all that UL has to offer and prosper while you do so!

Finally, welcome to the Ragin' Cajun family, and welcome to UL! GEAUX CAJUNS!

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