You will be meeting with the Peer Ambassador (David Denison), whose role is to:

- Help familiarize you with the different resources offered on campus, with the goal of assisting you in developing a community of friends, role models and mentors as support systems to encourage personal growth.

- Talk to you about your interests and help you find meaningful outlets for those interests.

- Assist you in researching opportunities available to you at the University—opportunities that can help to heighten your sense of engagement, connection and community.

- Follow up with you after the meeting by phone or e-mail to determine whether referrals have been beneficial, provide more information about resources when applicable, and schedule one additional follow-up meeting if necessary.

The Peer Ambassador is an undergraduate senior majoring in psychology who is completing an internship in the Counseling Center. The ambassador has been provided with thorough orientation to the Center, has been familiarized with Center policies and procedures, and has weekly meetings arranged with a supervising psychologist in the Center to discuss internship matters. The ambassador is intended to be a resource to students who specializes in helping students find belonging, create community and actively explore as well as pursue their interests. The ambassador’s role involves meeting with students within the Counseling Center in a one-to-one capacity only after receiving a referral form from one of the staff counselors. The Peer Ambassador’s role is not that of a counselor or therapist.

The Peer Ambassador’s role is to connect students to opportunities: Through meetings, e-mails, and other follow-up communication, the ambassador strives to suggest to students: activities to attend, leaders with whom they might wish to connect, student organizations to check out and tips on how to fill their college career with intentional, purpose-filled time.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

As a Counseling Center intern, the Peer Ambassador will not have any access to your counseling records and will not be informed of private matters that you have discussed with your counselor. He will only have information about you that has been provided by your referring counselor on the Peer Ambassador Referral Form which you and the referring counselor completed together and signed; this includes the reason for the referral and any other information you wanted your counselor to share with him.

If you were to share information with the Peer Ambassador that had him concerned about your safety or wellbeing, he would communicate these concerns back to appropriate Counseling Center staff. This conversation would be a one-way disclosure such that your counselor would not communicate information of a personal, private nature back with the Peer Ambassador. The Peer Ambassador will
share general information with his supervisor and the referring counselor about how your meeting went. He is required to share information with your counselor (or an available staff member in your counselor’s absence) if you were to disclose matters that had him concerned about your immediate safety or wellbeing.

Any information that the Peer Ambassador should obtain about you (from the Peer Ambassador Referral Form or from subsequent communications) will not be shared outside of the Center. The sole exceptions are (1) emergency cases where Counseling Center staff has determined immediate action is required and the Peer Ambassador’s involvement is deemed necessary; and (2) situations in which you have provided the Peer Ambassador with written permission to disclose very limited information to another party.

CONTACTING THE PEER AMBASSADOR

The best way to reach the Peer Ambassador is through e-mail; he will generally attempt to respond to all e-mails within 24 to 48 hours. The e-mail address for the Peer Ambassador is: peerambassador@bgsu.edu. If you are interested in scheduling an additional follow-up meeting after your initial consultation, please feel free to contact him via e-mail. Alternatively, if you uncomfortable with corresponding via e-mail, you may contact the Counseling Center at 419-372-2081 to schedule a meeting.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

During regular office hours, one of the counselors is available for consultation should a crisis arise. Outside of office hours, students in crisis may call the Link Crisis Hotline (419-352-1545) and speak with a trained volunteer about their concerns.

CONSENT FOR SERVICES

Name:(please print)____________________________

By signing below, you indicate that you have read, understand and agree to the stipulations outlined above and that you are requesting Peer Ambassador services at the Counseling Center.

Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________

Witness: _________________________________ Date: _______________

CONSENT TO USE E-MAIL FOR SCHEDULING, CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS, AND SHARING OR CONFERRING ABOUT RESOURCES WITH THE PEER AMBASSADOR

Since the confidentiality of e-mail correspondence cannot be guaranteed, the Peer Ambassador will use this form of communication only if you provide written consent. By signing below, you authorize the Peer Ambassador to contact you via e-mail for the purposes noted above (i.e., scheduling, confirming appointments, and sharing or conferring about resources).

Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________

Witness: _________________________________ Date: _______________