



# BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Bridgewater, Virginia

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 28, 2007

Students and Employees  
Bridgewater College

### Re: Drug Free Schools and Workplace

Dear Bridgewater College Students and Employees:

The “Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act of 1986” and the “Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988” (the “Acts”) require colleges to publish their policies regarding the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students or employees on campus. Bridgewater College’s policies regarding these matters are published annually in the *Eagle* (see pages 11-16) and in the Employee Handbook (see Section 2.9). This letter supplements those policies. To the extent other policy statements are more restrictive than the statements in this letter, the more restrictive policies apply.

The health risks associated with use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol are well documented. Publications by Dr. W. R. Spencer of HEALTH EDCO state:

- **Alcohol.** Abuse of alcohol may lead to gastrointestinal disease, liver damage, cardiovascular disease, malnutrition, fetal alcohol syndrome, brain damage and cancer. When used with other drugs, alcohol becomes an even more dangerous, and sometimes deadly, drug. Alcohol contributes to the incidents of automobile collisions and fatalities, and murder, rape and other violent crimes. (*The Medical Consequences of Alcoholism*. Pamphlet 40023. Texas: WRS Group, Inc., 1996.)
- **Marijuana.** Use of marijuana is damaging to one’s lungs and brain, causes heart and blood pressure changes, changes hormonal balances (which can lead to impotence in men and infertility in both men and women), and is damaging to fetuses and nursing infants. (*Marijuana: How Much of a Gamble?* Pamphlet 40021. Texas: WRS Group, Inc., 1992.)

- **Stimulants, including cocaine.** Long term, heavy use of amphetamines can lead to malnutrition, skin disorders, ulcers, and various vitamin-deficiency diseases. Dangers associated with non-sterilized needles include AIDS, hepatitis, and infections of the lungs and heart. Aggressive and violent behavior, mental illness and suicide sometimes result from long-term use of amphetamines. (*Stimulants: Running on Borrowed Time*. Pamphlet 40029. Texas: WRS Group, Inc., 1991.)

Bridgewater College prohibits (a) the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, and (b) the possession, whether lawful or unlawful, of alcohol, by students and employees on its property or as part of any of its activities. Violations of this policy can result in expulsion from College, termination of employment, and referral for prosecution. Legal sanctions under Virginia law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Underage purchase or possession of alcohol is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of at least \$500 or order to perform a minimum of 50 hours of community service and suspension of motor vehicle license up to one year.
- Possession of an illegal drug will be classified as either a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the drug involved, and may be punishable by imprisonment ranging from 30 days to 10 years and a fine ranging from \$250 to \$2,500, depending on the drug.
- Possession of an illegal drug with intent to distribute will be classified as either a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the drug involved, and may be punishable by imprisonment ranging from 30 days to 40 years and a fine ranging from \$500 to \$500,000, depending on the drug.

Underage drinking, alcohol abuse, and illicit drug use are serious societal problems. Please help Bridgewater College live by a higher standard for the benefit of ourselves and the society we influence.

Sincerely,



Phillip C. Stone  
President