

Last Name Powell,

First Name Timothy A.

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

## 1999 SUMMER RESIDENT ADVISOR RECRUITMENT REACTION QUESTIONS

Please answer questions **COMPLETELY**. Please **TYPE** your responses to the following statements. If necessary, feel free to attach additional pages.

1. **To help us get to know more about you, what are your motivations for applying for this position?**

I am interested in applying for this position because it will allow me the opportunity to aid and assist students as well as allow me to further develop my leadership, planning, and organizational skills. I also believe that through the experience of being a Resident Advisor I will become more rounded and better developed, thus enhancing my overall life.

2. **What are two important issues about which you believe residents should be educated? (Examples: academics, relational issues, community service, leadership skills, multicultural issues.)**

- 1) The first issue that I believe that residents should be educated about is freedom and responsibility. By this, I believe that RA's should have seminars and workshops to talk with residents about what it means to be a legal adult away from home. Residents need to realize that with great freedom also comes great responsibility and that means that they must be prepared to accept both the benefits and consequences for the choices they make.
- 2) The second issue I believe that residents should be more educated about is that of multiculturalism. However, instead of just presenting facts to residents I believe that the art of educating residents about other cultures should take a more dynamic approach. I believe that one of the best ways for people to learn about other cultures is to be immersed in them. This would mean not only the social and historical aspects, but the culinary, artistic, and religious aspects as well. I believe that this could best be done by such activities as guest speakers, workshops, and potlucks.

**3. Please identify two of your personal qualities which you feel will lend themselves to the Resident Advisor position and staff. Identify two areas in which you feel more development is needed.**

The first of my personal qualities that I feel will lend itself to the position of RA are my organizational skills. Working as desk staff for the Housing office has taught me how to organize an area effectively, so that it will be both efficient and productive. The second of my personal qualities that I feel will lend itself to the position of RA are my time management skills. Being a full time science major and working part time has provided me with the experience needed to adjust and refine my time management skills. By this I know that I must be able to effectively plan my days so that I will be able to get the most out of my academics while still allowing ample time to work and incorporate other social and leisure activities.

The first area where I feel that I need more development are my group interaction skills. In the past I have often had difficulty working in groups where there was no defined leader simply because I felt that the group lacked the leadership necessary to be effective. The second area where I feel that I need more development are my socialization skills. Although I have lived in the dorms for some years now, I have had difficulty in relating to residents who are a great deal younger than I.

**4. Describe an experience when you needed to get along with someone who was different from you.**

In my past experiences in the dorms I have had roommates whose personalities and habits were in stark contrast to my own. One such roommate I had in the past was interning in a government office and thus had a sleep schedule that went from 10:00am to 6:00am. However, since I did not have classes until the afternoon, my sleep schedule went from 3:00am to 11:00am. Obviously, this became a source of conflict as I wanted to stay up late doing my homework and watching T.V. while my roommate wanted all the lights out in order for him to get the sleep he needed. Eventually, we decided that we both needed to compromise until one of us could find some other place to live. We sat down with the housing director and worked out a contract whereby we established a lights out policy at 12:00am Sun. - Thurs. Although it was hard for both of us we both decided to honor the contract in order to live together with some sense of harmony. It was only when we decided to work together to make the most out of our situation that we began to develop a real respect for one another.

**5. Describe your present or past role in your living group and in the residential community as a whole.**

Because of my older age (23) and years of experience here at Cal Poly, I have often found that my role in the residential community has shifted from that of "just on of the crowd" to that of a peer mentor. I have often found that in my discussions with other residents around me they clearly do not see me as just a student. Often times, they will ask me for advice on choosing classes, and my opinions of professors. At other times residents will ask me about ~~how~~ things were in the "old days" (back in 1993) when I first arrived here. Although at first I was un-prepared to accept my new role, I have eventually come to accept and even enjoy my role as an older student. I am able to give advice based on my own personal experience of being here at Cal Poly. But, more than that I am able to help guide those who are at a point in their lives where the wisdom and experience of others can help guide them into a better tomorrow.

**6. How would you handle the role of peer and community builder while maintaining the role of limit-setter?**

The best way to handle these two roles, I feel is to realize that as a RA I am called to be more than just a student. Not only am I a resource person and activity planner, but I am also perceived as the Housing Offices' version of student police. Although these roles might seem to be in conflict, I believe that they are complimentary to one another. In order to be an effective community builder, I must first and foremost exemplify the role of a model student resident. Without this I would not only lose the respect of my residents but also my self confidence. Although I know that balancing these two roles can at times seem like a real juggling act, I firmly believe that if you are willing to accept the responsibility of being a RA that you owe it to Cal Poly, your residents, and most of all yourself, to be the very best role model you can be.

7. *Project yourself into the future for a moment and assume you have just finished this summer as a Resident Advisor. Describe the community you have helped to create. Include comments on successful as well as not so successful aspects of the hall. (Potential problems, rewards, feedback.)*

Looking back at my summer as a RA in the dorms I believe that I have had a profound influence on my residents. I believe that I have helped to create a community that possesses a greater awareness of what it means to be a mature and responsible adult. Although I have tried my best to educate my residents on the real lessons of life, such as taking responsibilities for your actions and accepting people for who they are instead of what you want them to be, I know that some of messages have not been as well received as others. I also know that some of my resident have already begun to embark upon a path that will ultimately lead to more serious repercussions, as evidenced by repeated write-ups for things such as alcohol. However, even with all this I know that my many efforts to enlighten and enrich my residents lives has not been in vain. When just one students comes and tells me "Thank you" than I know that I have been able to have a positive effect on just one more person, and that to me is the real reward.

8. *Please list all outside obligations you anticipate for the Summer Quarter that might limit the amount of time you would spend with a living group or coworkers and the amount of time needed for each on a weekly basis. (Include research, field work, student teaching, athletics, lab classes, youth groups, etc.)*

In addition to my academic studies, my main extracurricular activity I am involved in is church. With respect to this activity I attend Sunday morning services from 10:00am until 2:00pm. I also attend weekly Bible studies lead by members of IVCF that are usually held in a students dorm room.

9. *How did you hear about the Summer Resident Advisor position?*

I saw a flyer in my dorm residence.

### **CREATIVE EXPRESSION PROJECT**

**Take an 8½- by 11-inch piece of paper and express yourself!  
Be creative and have fun with this!**