Why are we doing the Active Citizen program?

West Campus House System: A community of students and faculty gathered in a spirit of inquiry and active citizenship.

The Active Citizen program is intended to further the mission and primary goal of the House System at Cornell University - the creation of an environment that closely links the residential life of the students to the intellectual mission of the university. In an attempt to achieve this goal, Becker House emphasizes informal interaction with faculty members, self-governance, and social and cultural programming. Through these efforts, Becker House is building an actively engaged community for upper class students – one that fosters personal discovery and growth, civic engagement, and nurtures scholarship and creativity in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. Therefore, Becker House has a vested interest in celebrating and retaining those residents who are currently active House members. This program replaces some of the randomness of the in-house lottery, which relied exclusively on a random number generator, with an intentional effort at retaining the most active members of Becker House.

What does it mean to be a Becker House Active Citizen?

Being selected as a Becker House Active Citizen carries two distinctions. First, you are being formally recognized by the selection committee as a resident who has demonstrated a discernibly high level of current participation and/or who holds tremendous potential for future participation in Becker House. Second, those chosen as Becker House Active Citizens will be guaranteed housing in Becker House for 2017-18.

What is the commitment if I become an Active Citizen?

Each Active Citizen is required to register and participate fully in one of the core House initiatives (see below) for the next three semesters (Spring 2017, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018). You may choose the same initiative for multiple semesters or you may register for a different initiative each semester.

You will be expected to remain active in Becker House. In addition to the core House initiative, your involvement will include the ways you outline on your application and organizing and hosting (or co-hosting) one floor social each semester. Also, the House leadership may consult you informally in order to gain additional perspectives on ideas, issues, and programs.

*Core House Initiatives include the following:

- Stand in Solidarity – an initiative that will challenge people to think critically about issues of diversity in an environment open to all perspectives. Meets roughly every other week.
- Cornell University Becker in Service (CUBS) – 1 credit course in Fall, 4 credit course in Spring (incl Spring Break trip to Jamaica)
- Becker House Café – 1 credit course, offered in the Fall and Spring.
- House Council – meets weekly, requirements will include leading programs and assisting others in running programs, offered in the Fall and Spring.
• Becker Resilience Initiative (BRI) – weekly meditation sessions, monthly programs related to building resilience, wellness and mental health. Offered in the Fall and Spring.
• Becker Ultimate Fitness (BUF) - wellness initiative intended to promote a healthy lifestyle, exercise classes, nutrition, etc.

*Note: House Initiatives are subject to change.

### What information will I need in order to complete the Active Citizen application?

Besides the usual demographic information (e.g., name, net ID, etc.), you will need to know the following:

1. Which core initiative you want to be involved in during Spring 2017, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.
2. What ways you’ve been active in Becker House.
3. What you will do to live up to your Active Citizen status.
4. A clear jpg photo of yourself in a location that is meaningful to you and why it’s meaningful.
5. Your first choice of housing in Becker, your second choice (must be on a different floor), and your third choice (must be in the other wing of Becker House).
6. If you are blocking, with whom you are blocking.
7. If you have a 5-person block, the names of the two people who will be living in the double room.

### How many residents will be chosen to be Becker House Active Citizens?

The Active Citizen program will allow up to 100 current residents of Becker House to sign a contract for a room in Becker for 2017-18 Academic Year prior to the General University housing Lottery process. This year we expect all 100 beds available for continuing residents to be assigned to the Active Citizens and the people with whom they block. The specific number of Active Citizens selected will depend on blocking groups (i.e., the number of people Active Citizens pull in).

### What is the application process? Who selects the Active Citizens? When will I find out whether I’ve been selected?

The application is available on the Becker House website (carlbeckerhouse.cornell.edu). Applications are due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016. A selection committee will review all applications and make final decisions. The committee will be chaired by House Professor, Ed Baptist and include Assistant Dean, Amanda Carreiro, members of the Becker House staff (GRFs, SAs) and up to three non-returning Becker House residents. Those selected as Becker House Active Citizens will be notified in December.

### Is there an advantage for second year Becker House members?

Yes and no. While it is true that second year members of the House will have had a much longer period of time to have been involved in Becker House, the selection committee will be aware of this fact, and will expect greater levels of participation from second year House members.

### Does being selected limit what rooms/suites in Becker House I can choose to live in for 2017-18?

**Yes.** We will be assigning Active Citizens to live throughout the House; intentionally distributing them as evenly as possibly on each floor throughout Becker. **You do NOT get to choose your room/suite.**
On the application, you will be asked to list preferred locations within Becker to live for 2017-18 year, but you are NOT guaranteed to get one of your choices.

**Does being selected as an Active Citizen affect blocking?**

**YES.**

Active Citizen applicants MUST indicate on their application with whom they plan to block (or indicate that they do not plan to block).

**NO CHANGES to your block will be permitted after your application is submitted.**

You may block with **current Becker House residents only**.

**What are the rules about blocking?**

**BLOCKING**

You and up to four other **current** Becker House residents will be able to block a suite or adjacent rooms on a corridor.

**Blocking adjacent rooms on a corridor**

- Up to 5 students total may block adjacent rooms on a corridor.
- If 5 students block together on a corridor, they MUST fill at least one double room.
- Your block may include different genders.

**Blocking in a suite**

- If you are blocking in a suite, we STRONGLY encourage you to fill the suite. We will allow a LIMITED number of Active Citizens to block in a suite and NOT fill the entire suite. If you do not fill the suite and we have reached our limit, you will be assigned rooms on the corridor. If you fill the suite you have a significantly better chance of being assigned to a suite.
- Your block may include different genders.

You MUST identify who is in your block when you apply to be an Active Citizen.

**You may NOT change your block after your application is submitted.**

**When is the application due?**

**Active Citizen Applications are due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016.**

Active Citizens applicants will be notified in December regarding the status of their application.

**FYI - Student Assistant Applications are due 11:59pm on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016.**

NOTE: The Student Assistant application and selection process is completely separate from the Active Citizen application and selection process. We just want you to be aware of these dates in the event you choose to apply for both.