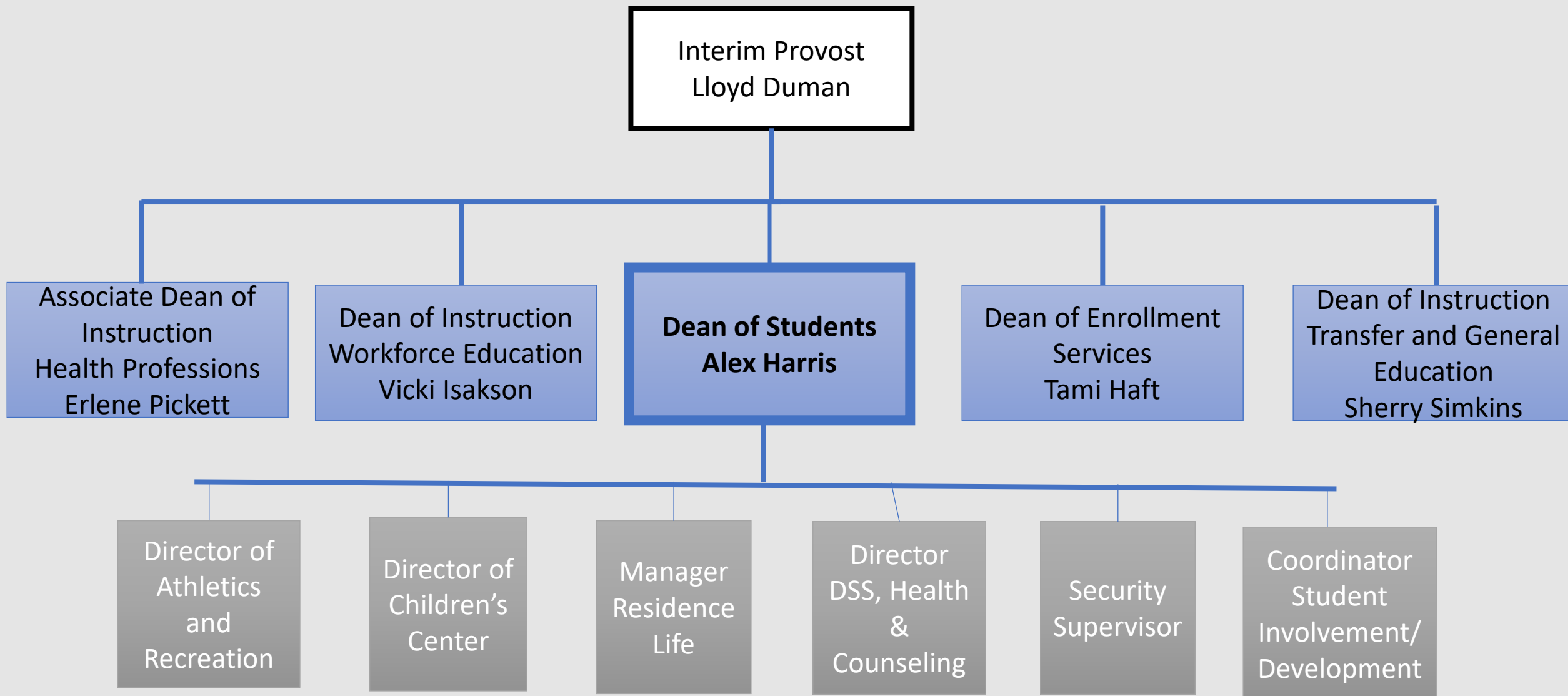# Trending NIC Student Needs

Dean of Students Office

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

North Idaho College

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# Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a basic need, and its absence can significantly impact students' overall well-being, and negatively impact their ability to fully engage in and succeed in the college experience.

**Financial Strain:**

Students may be forced take out additional loans, work longer hours, and/or take on additional jobs to afford housing, leading to time constraints and potential academic performance decline.

**Academic Performance:**

Instability in housing can disrupt students' focus on academics, affecting their ability to study and perform well in classes and non-academic obligations.

**Mental Health Impact:**

The constant worry about housing stability can lead to decreased well-being, affecting students' emotional and psychological resilience.

**Retention and Graduation Rates:**

Housing instability may result in students dropping out or taking breaks from their studies, impacting retention rates or extending anticipated graduation dates.

Compared to the rest of Idaho, the Coeur d'Alene area Fair Market Rate is more expensive than 94% of the state.

The average age of an NIC student is **26**, living with parents is often not a viable option.

2024 Median Rental Prices:

|  | Per Month | Per Academic Year (10 months) |
|---|---|---|
| Studio | $928 | $9,280 |
| 1 – Bedroom | $1,134 | $11,340 |
| 2 – Bedroom | $1,369 | $13,690 |
| 3 – Bedroom | $1,929 | $19,929 |

NIC's Food Pantry offers dry goods, frozen goods, and hygiene products all provided through donations. The Dean of Students office also has a limited budget for emergency aid and grocery/gas gift cards through donations.

- Food Pantry Visitors 22-23 School Year: 55
- Food Pantry Visitors Fall 23: 40
- Emergency Aid, Grocery/Gas Gift Cards and Book Vouchers 22-23 School Year: 32
- Emergency Aid, Grocery/Gift Cards and Book Vouchers Fall 23: 16

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- Faculty and Staff report a lack of student engagement at higher levels than ever.

- Procrastination, mental health, motivation, and an overall lack of ability to cope—students need coping skills, mental health support and help becoming more resilient to be successful students.

# Health and Mental Health

- Students often report lack of access to resources for mental health services in our community. We currently have one full time counselor for all NIC students.

- Students also report barriers to accessing medical care providers for disability diagnosis needed for accommodations.

# What are we doing? What do we need?

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- Bringing together previously disconnected services to provide more opportunities for access.
- Connecting with community partners for referrals.
- Beginning work with Idaho higher education institutions to address mental health issues statewide.
- Expand mental health services for students.
- Explore new ways to build student's resiliency.
- Explore student housing options.