

Matthew Hall, a mathematics and religious studies junior, is involved in many activities at the University of Arizona and holds several positions on campus, including Arizona Ambassador and resident assistant. As an Arizona Ambassador, Matthew works to provide prospective UA students with the opportunity to visit campus and become familiar with various aspects of college life. In the past two semesters he has given campus tours to hundreds of potential students and their families. Matthew has given specialized tours to students from high schools with large minority populations, as well as tours tailored for younger children, such as the Girl Scouts, which focus on the importance of higher education and staying in school. Furthermore, as a National Merit Scholar, Matthew was recruited by many of the top colleges throughout the country; consequently, when academically excelling students ask him why they should choose UA over other outstanding universities, he is able to share his own experience of why he chose UA and how glad he is that he did so. Matthew demonstrates how students from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds all have an equal opportunity to be successful at UA.

As a resident assistant, Matthew works with students living in Apache-Santa Cruz Residence Hall and is focused on ensuring that they are successful personally and academically. Over the past year, he has provided free, individual tutoring for many residents in the areas of mathematics, computer science, physics, and chemistry, as well as helped put on hall-wide programs to review for the common math finals. For the past two years, Matthew also has participated in SafeZONE, which certified him as an ally for members of the lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate, transgender, and questioning communities. Last year, Matthew participated in and raised money for Relay for Life with his hall and actively participated in the diversity awareness programs Tunnel of Oppression and Put Yourself in Her Shoes, in which he walked around campus in heels to raise awareness of sexual assault. As an RA, Matthew works diligently to create a caring and inclusive learning community. From the very first day, he lets residents know that his door will be open whenever he is in his room, allowing them the chance to come talk or get help. He is equally able and ready to assist students in the Honors College and students registered with the Disability Resource Center; in fact, he has done both in the past year. Matthew strives to meet and connect with as many residents as possible so they may feel comfortable coming to ask for help when needed. In an environment where much of the freshman-to-sophomore dropout rate is attributed to social and personal reasons, Matthew does an excellent job of helping students connect and succeed in college.

Matthew's important work of recruiting new students, his desire to help current students remain and thrive at the University of Arizona, his commitment to educate about and support diversity on campus, and his constant availability and openness to others make him not only a leader, but an example for other students.