



The Bark | September 11, 2023

Tips for Creating Community

Guest Columnist: Joann Zhang



Cheers to the new academic year, everyone!

My name is Joann (she/her), I am the Director of the [Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement](#) (IME) office! The suite life of IME centers all students through creating community, identity exploration and development, and learning together; all while putting extra love and care towards our students of color, first-generation students, and students who identify as LGBTQIA+. We offer many ways to get involved, to learn, and to be in community through our heritage month celebrations, educational WOKEshops, and more. Be sure to follow us on Instagram ([@ime_lc](#)) or subscribe to our [weekly newsletter to stay updated!](#)

In the spirit of the new academic year, I hope to share some of my favorite tips around creating community, being kind, and taking care of each other throughout the year!

Tip #1: Get involved! Make the most out of your L&C experience by joining a club, attending sporting events, and visiting all the various campus resources. This time is all about you, so make time to have fun while you're here!

Tip #2: It's normal to feel alone from time to time. If you're wanting company, don't be afraid to reach out and invite someone to join you. "Does anyone want to work on this assignment together? Let's swap numbers and connect later!"

Tip #3: Learn about your peers! Ask questions, check your assumptions, stay open-minded to new friendships, new experiences, and new possibilities.

Visit me in IME, 3rd floor of Fowler Student Center by the spiral staircase.

In community,

Joann Zhang ([she/hers](#))
Director of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement