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Ed Rock's Top Ten Tips for F.I.R. Success (and your mileage may vary!)

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[Delivered at the CU Woman's Club lunch of 4/4/13]

1. Make sure it's the right time for you (and spouse or partner, pets, your entire household...) to make this commitment. It has been for me, you will be rewarded.
2. **Take Your Vitamins** (take them several times a day, in fact!)
3. Get away, from time to time, to whatever sanctuary is yours: to dear family, friends, your home or other hideaway. You will come back refreshed and recharged and ready to serve.
4. Be ready to get to know more about Clemson than you ever thought possible. As a librarian, I never realized how large and important our Housing & Dining division is and how much it really contributes to student success.
5. Partner with the Resident Assistants in your area, get to know them, and plan a program of interest to residents in your setting.
6. Invite your Graduate Community Directors, our graduate students also serving in residential leadership roles, often for coffee and get to know them.
7. Consult regularly with your Community Director. At Calhoun Courts and Thornhill Village, we are blessed with one of the best, a Clemson grad himself who has returned 'Home'.
8. Consult with our other Faculties-in-Residence. This has been immensely helpful to me in just feeling comfortable in this role and in exchanging possible programming ideas.

9. Invite residents and resident leaders to have their steering meetings in your apartment, which I have found they feel so flattered to be able to do. I love sitting in on these gatherings.
10. Use the resources that our Clemson Housing & Dining so generously provides to be successful, including designing survey instruments to collect feedback from our residents or supporting the hospitality I like to include in my work with them.

Above all, if there would be one overarching *Tip*, I would say to find the alchemy of your own success that will draw on individual strengths and successes. It will contribute in a positive way to this “Clemson Home” and engagement with your residents.