

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2025-2026 HOUSING

Recontracting (the process where you submit your housing application and complete room selection for next year) for 2025-2026 will begin next week. All students wishing to live on campus must participate in this process, regardless of whether they are applying for individual or group housing. Group housing is anything in Willow, townhouses, or CPA. Group housing is also available in lodges. Individual housing (with a roommate) is considered anything in the LLC or lodges.

The University is in the process of converting to a new housing system, which will be in place for recontracting. Although the new system (Star Rez) significantly changes the way you apply for housing, we think you will find it much more user-friendly than the current system (Mercury). We are currently testing and putting the final touches on StarRez and will launch the system no later than Wednesday, February 26. Please keep an eye on your emails in the coming days, as we will be providing you the official launch date for StarRez along with instructions on how to use it. We are excited for you to use this new system.

Here's where it can get a little confusing. The only things you will be doing in the NEW system (StarRez) for now are housing applications for next year or this summer and room selection. You will be provided with a link that will take you directly to the new housing portal in StarRez. Although you will still be required to enter your University credentials you will no longer need to navigate the task centers on Pitt Passport (that, alone, makes the process easier!).

Our current system, Mercury, will continue to be used for all processes relating to the **current term**, including (but not limited to): room change requests, lost room keys reports, private room requests, late-stay and early-arrival requests, and additional dining dollar purchases. Mercury, which will exist until the end of this term, will continue to be available in the Johnstown Campus Housing & Dining Service task center on Pitt Passport.

Given the complexity of the system, we started working with the StarRez team back in September to build the platform and plan for the conversion. As you can imagine, this was a time-consuming and complex effort...almost Herculean. Although we are optimistic that the launch will go flawlessly, we ask for your patience and understanding in the event we encounter a few glitches along the way.

Again, remember to check your email message this week!

Thank you.