

# James L. Kohl Ph.D. '97

## 2015 Lafayette Leadership Institute Keynote Speaker

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James L. Kohl Ph.D. '97 currently serves as the Dean of Student Affairs and Enrichment at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. In this role he works to envision, create and drive a holistic university experience for over 14,000 graduate and undergraduate students. This is achieved through his partnership with students and colleagues across the university and his leadership of a team of over 200 employees in the areas of residence life, housing, career services, cooperative education, student conduct, compliance and violence prevention, health services, counseling services, disability services, wellness education, campus ministries, first year experience, parent programs and veterans services.

James' student affairs experience began in 1994, before he realized that student affairs existed, when he became the Social Chair of Delta Upsilon fraternity. Over the next three years he served in various leadership roles on campus including as Pledge Educator and Secretary of DU, as a Farinon Center Night Manager, a Resident Advisor and Head Resident Advisor of South College and as the first Lafayette Leadership Intern. With the guidance of his Lafayette mentors, James realized that a career in student affairs would give him the opportunity to contribute to the successful work and lives of others. With that understanding, and all he had learned from his leadership experiences at Lafayette, he began a career in student affairs.

After graduating with honors from Lafayette in 1997 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology, James earned a master of arts in college student personnel services from The University of Maryland College Park in 1999, followed by a Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership from the same institution in 2009.

James quickly rose through various positions at Northeastern University in Boston and The George Washington University in Washington, DC before returning to New England after the birth of his first son, Jack. James' career trajectory continued at UMass Lowell where he began as the director of residence life but was quickly promoted to associate dean and then dean. James is also an adjunct professor in UMass Lowell's Higher Education Administration graduate program where he teaches courses in student development theory and diversity in higher education. James has been recognized at the national level for his work in residence life, and has been active in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators where he has held volunteer leadership positions, and presented at national conferences.

James, his wife Sarah and his three sons, Jack, George and Sam, currently live in New Hampshire. He loves to spend his free time hiking, camping, skiing, reading, woodworking and cheering on his kids at their games and events.