

AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES INC  
Form 10-K  
February 29, 2016

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K

ý Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

o Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the Transition Period From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission file number 001-32265 (American Campus Communities, Inc.)  
Commission file number 333-181102-01 (American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P.)

AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES, INC.  
AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES OPERATING PARTNERSHIP, L.P.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland (American Campus Communities, Inc.)  
Maryland (American Campus Communities Operating  
Partnership, L.P.)

(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200  
Austin, TX  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(512) 732-1000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

(Title of Each Class)

Common Stock, \$.01 par value

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  
American Campus Communities, Inc. Yes ý No o

76-0753089 (American Campus Communities,  
Inc.)

56-2473181 (American Campus Communities  
Operating  
Partnership, L.P.)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

78738  
(Zip Code)

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American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P.      Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

American Campus Communities, Inc.      Yes  No

American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P.      Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

American Campus Communities, Inc.      Yes  No

American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P.      Yes  No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

American Campus Communities, Inc. Yes  No   
 American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

American Campus Communities, Inc.   
 American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

American Campus Communities, Inc.  
 Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
 Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P.  
 Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
 Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

American Campus Communities, Inc. Yes  No   
 American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P. Yes  No

The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$3,633,281,174 based on the last sale price of the common equity on June 30, 2015 which is the last business day of the Company's most recently completed second quarter.

There were 130,301,032 shares of the Company's common stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share outstanding as of the close of business on February 19, 2016.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III of this report incorporates information by reference from the definitive Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This report combines the annual reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 of American Campus Communities, Inc. and American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P. Unless stated otherwise or the context otherwise requires, references to “ACC” mean American Campus Communities, Inc. a Maryland real estate investment trust (“REIT”), and references to “ACCOP” mean American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P., a Maryland limited partnership. References to the “Company,” “we,” “us” or “our” mean collectively ACC, ACCOP and those entities/subsidiaries owned or controlled by ACC and/or ACCOP. References to the “Operating Partnership” mean collectively ACCOP and those entities/subsidiaries owned or controlled by ACCOP. The following chart illustrates the Company’s and the Operating Partnership’s corporate structure:

The general partner of ACCOP is American Campus Communities Holdings, LLC (“ACC Holdings”), an entity that is wholly-owned by ACC. As of December 31, 2015, ACC Holdings held an ownership interest in ACCOP of less than 1%. The limited partners of ACCOP are ACC and other limited partners consisting of current and former members of management and nonaffiliated third parties. As of December 31, 2015, ACC owned an approximate 98.8% limited partnership interest in ACCOP. As the sole member of the general partner of ACCOP, ACC has exclusive control of ACCOP’s day-to-day management. Management operates the Company and the Operating Partnership as one business. The management of ACC consists of the same members as the management of ACCOP. The Company is structured as an umbrella partnership REIT (“UPREIT”) and ACC contributes all net proceeds from its various equity offerings to the Operating Partnership. In return for those contributions, ACC receives a number of units of ACCOP (“OP Units,” see definition below) equal to the number of common shares it has issued in the equity offering. Contributions of properties to the Company can be structured as tax-deferred transactions through the issuance of OP Units in ACCOP. Based on the terms of ACCOP’s partnership agreement, OP Units can be exchanged for ACC’s common shares on a one-for-one basis. The Company maintains a one-for-one relationship between the OP Units of ACCOP issued to ACC and ACC Holdings and the common shares issued to the public. The Company believes that combining the reports on Form 10-K of the Company and the Operating Partnership into this single report provides the following benefits:

- enhances investors’ understanding of the Company and the Operating Partnership by enabling investors to view the business as a whole in the same manner as management views and operates the business;
- eliminates duplicative disclosure and provides a more streamlined and readable presentation since a substantial portion of the disclosure applies to both the Company and the Operating Partnership; and
- creates time and cost efficiencies through the preparation of one combined report instead of two separate reports.

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ACC consolidates ACCOP for financial reporting purposes, and ACC essentially has no assets or liabilities other than its investment in ACCOP. Therefore, the assets and liabilities of the Company and the Operating Partnership are the same on their respective financial statements. However, the Company believes it is important to understand the few differences between the Company and the Operating Partnership in the context of how the entities operate as a consolidated company. All of the Company's property ownership, development and related business operations are conducted through the Operating Partnership. ACC also issues public equity from time to time and guarantees certain debt of ACCOP. ACC does not have any indebtedness, as all debt is incurred by the Operating Partnership. The Operating Partnership holds substantially all of the assets of the Company, including the Company's ownership interests in its joint ventures. The Operating Partnership conducts the operations of the business and is structured as a partnership with no publicly traded equity. Except for the net proceeds from ACC's equity offerings, which are contributed to the capital of ACCOP in exchange for OP Units on a one-for-one common share per OP Unit basis, the Operating Partnership generates all remaining capital required by the Company's business. These sources include, but are not limited to, the Operating Partnership's working capital, net cash provided by operating activities, borrowings under its credit facility and unsecured notes, and proceeds received from the disposition of certain properties. Noncontrolling interests, stockholders' equity, and partners' capital are the main areas of difference between the consolidated financial statements of the Company and those of the Operating Partnership. The noncontrolling interests in the Operating Partnership's financial statements consist of the interests of unaffiliated partners in various consolidated joint ventures. The noncontrolling interests in the Company's financial statements include the same noncontrolling interests at the Operating Partnership level and OP Unit holders of ACCOP. The differences between stockholders' equity and partners' capital result from differences in the type of equity issued at the Company and Operating Partnership levels.

To help investors understand the significant differences between the Company and the Operating Partnership, this report provides separate consolidated financial statements for the Company and the Operating Partnership. A single set of consolidated notes to such financial statements is presented that includes separate discussions for the Company and the Operating Partnership when applicable (for example, noncontrolling interests, stockholders' equity or partners' capital, earnings per share or unit, etc.). A combined Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section is also included that presents discrete information related to each entity, as applicable. This report also includes separate Part II, Item 9A Controls and Procedures sections and separate Exhibits 31 and 32 certifications for each of the Company and the Operating Partnership in order to establish that the requisite certifications have been made and that the Company and the Operating Partnership are compliant with Rule 13a-15 or Rule 15d-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. §1350.

In order to highlight the differences between the Company and the Operating Partnership, the separate sections in this report for the Company and the Operating Partnership specifically refer to the Company and the Operating Partnership. In the sections that combine disclosure of the Company and the Operating Partnership, this report refers to actions or holdings as being actions or holdings of the Company. Although the Operating Partnership is generally the entity that directly or indirectly enters into contracts and joint ventures and holds assets and debt, reference to the Company is appropriate because the Company operates its business through the Operating Partnership. The separate discussions of the Company and the Operating Partnership in this report should be read in conjunction with each other to understand the results of the Company on a consolidated basis and how management operates the Company.

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FORM 10-K  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

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## PART I

### Item 1. Business

#### Overview

American Campus Communities, Inc. (“ACC”) is a real estate investment trust (“REIT”) that commenced operations effective with the completion of an initial public offering (“IPO”) on August 17, 2004. Through ACC’s controlling interest in American Campus Communities Operating Partnership L.P. (“ACCOP”), ACC is one of the largest owners, managers and developers of high quality student housing properties in the United States in terms of beds owned and under management. ACC is a fully integrated, self-managed and self-administered equity REIT with expertise in the acquisition, design, financing, development, construction management, leasing and management of student housing properties. ACC’s common stock is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the ticker symbol “ACC.”

The general partner of ACCOP is American Campus Communities Holdings, LLC (“ACC Holdings”), an entity that is wholly-owned by ACC. As of December 31, 2015, ACC Holdings held an ownership interest in ACCOP of less than 1%. The limited partners of ACCOP are ACC and other limited partners consisting of current and former members of management and nonaffiliated third parties. As of December 31, 2015, ACC owned an approximate 98.8% limited partnership interest in ACCOP. As the sole member of the general partner of ACCOP, ACC has exclusive control of ACCOP’s day-to-day management. Management operates ACC and ACCOP as one business. The management of ACC consists of the same members as the management of ACCOP. ACC consolidates ACCOP for financial reporting purposes, and ACC does not have significant assets other than its investment in ACCOP. Therefore, the assets and liabilities of ACC and ACCOP are the same on their respective financial statements. References to the “Company,” “we,” “us” or “our” mean collectively ACC, ACCOP and those entities/subsidiaries owned or controlled by ACC and/or ACCOP. References to the “Operating Partnership” mean collectively ACCOP and those entities/subsidiaries owned or controlled by ACCOP.

As of December 31, 2015, our total owned and third-party managed portfolio included 201 properties with approximately 128,900 beds in approximately 43,400 units.

#### Business Objectives, Investment Strategies, and Operating Segments

##### Business Objectives

Our primary business objectives are to create long-term stockholder value by deploying capital to develop, redevelop, acquire and operate student housing communities, and to sell communities when they no longer meet our long-term investment strategy and when market conditions are favorable. We believe we can achieve these objectives by continuing to implement our investment strategies and successfully manage our operating segments, which are described in more detail below.

##### Investment Strategies

We seek to own high quality, well designed and well located student housing properties. We seek to acquire or develop properties in markets that have stable or increasing student populations, are in submarkets with barriers to entry and provide opportunities for economic growth as a result of their product position and/or differentiated design and close proximity to campuses, or through our superior operational capabilities. We believe that our reputation and established relationships with universities give us an advantage in sourcing acquisitions and developments and obtaining municipal approvals and community support for our development projects.

Acquisitions: As discussed in more detail in Note 5 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8, in 2015, we acquired eight wholly-owned properties containing 1,488 units and 4,061 beds for approximately \$378.3 million.

We believe our relationships with university systems and individual educational institutions, our knowledge of the student housing market and our prominence as the first publicly-traded REIT focused exclusively on student housing in the United States will afford us a competitive advantage in acquiring additional student housing properties.



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Development: In August and September 2015, the final stages of construction were completed on one on-campus ACE property and three owned off-campus properties. These properties are summarized in the following table:

Project	Project Type	Location	Primary University Served	Units	Beds	Total Project Cost	Opened for Occupancy
160 Ross	Off-campus	Auburn, AL	Auburn University	182	642	\$42,000	August 2015
U Club on Woodward Phase II	Off-campus	Tallahassee, FL	Florida State University	124	496	35,700	August 2015
The Summit at University City	ACE	Philadelphia, PA	Drexel University	351	1,315	155,600	September 2015
2125 Franklin	Off-campus	Eugene, OR	University of Oregon	192	734	64,300	September 2015
TOTAL – 2015 DELIVERIES				849	3,187	\$297,600	

At December 31, 2015, we were in the process of constructing three owned off-campus properties and five on-campus ACE properties. In addition, we have entered into a presale agreement to purchase one owned off-campus property which we are including in our consolidated financial statements. These properties are summarized in the table below:

Project	Project Type	Location	Primary University Served	Units	Beds	Estimated Project Cost	Total Costs Incurred	Scheduled to Open for Occupancy
The Court at Stadium Centre (1)	Off-campus	Tallahassee, FL	Florida State University	80	260	\$26,450	\$22,127	May 2016
Currie Hall	ACE	Los Angeles, CA	University of Southern California	178	456	52,200	29,344	August 2016
U Club on 28th	Off-campus	Boulder, CO	University of Colorado	100	400	52,200	30,309	August 2016
Fairview House	ACE	Indianapolis, IN	Butler University	107	633	39,600	23,063	August 2016
U Club Sunnyside	Off-campus	Morgantown, WV	West Virginia University	134	536	46,300	23,080	August 2016
University Pointe	ACE	Louisville, KY	University of Louisville	134	531	44,100	19,154	August 2016
Merwick Stanworth Phase II	ACE	Princeton, NJ	Princeton University	198	379	46,500	17,019	Fall 2016
SUBTOTAL – 2016 DELIVERIES				931	3,195	\$307,350	\$164,096	
Arizona State Univ. Res. Hall	ACE	Tempe, AZ	Arizona State University	429	1,594	107,800	9,001	August 2017
U Centre on Turner	Off-campus	Columbia, MO	University of Missouri	182	718	69,100	17,368	August 2017
SUBTOTAL – 2017 DELIVERIES				611	2,312	\$176,900	\$26,369	
TOTAL - ALL PROJECTS				1,542	5,507	\$484,250	\$190,465	

(1) In conjunction with the purchase of Stadium Centre in July 2015 (see Note 5 in the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained Item 8), we entered into a presale agreement to purchase an adjacent property which will be completed in May 2016. We are obligated to purchase the property as long as certain construction completion deadlines and other closing conditions are met.

Our experienced development staff intends to continue to identify and acquire land parcels in close proximity to colleges and universities that offer location advantages or that allow for the development of unique products that offer a competitive advantage. We expect to continue to benefit from opportunities derived from our extensive network with colleges and universities as well as our relationship with certain developers with whom we have previously developed student housing properties.

#### Operating Segments

We define business segments by their distinct customer base and service provided. We have identified four reportable segments: Wholly-Owned Properties, On-Campus Participating Properties, Development Services and Property Management Services. For a detailed financial analysis of our segments' results of operations and financial position, please refer to Note 18 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8.

#### Property Operations

**Unique Leasing Characteristics:** Student housing properties are typically leased by the bed on an individual lease liability basis, unlike multifamily housing where leasing is by the unit. Individual lease liability limits each resident's liability to his or her own rent without liability for a roommate's rent. A parent or guardian is generally required to execute each lease as a guarantor unless the resident provides adequate proof of income or financial aid. The number of lease contracts that we administer is therefore approximately equivalent to the number of beds occupied and not the number of units. Unlike traditional multifamily housing, most of our leases for an individual property commence and terminate on the same dates and typically have terms of 9 or 12 months. (Please refer to the property table contained in Item 2 – Properties for a listing of the typical lease terms at our properties.) As an example, in the case of our typical 12-month leases, the commencement date coincides with the commencement

of the respective university's Fall academic term and the termination date is the last day of the subsequent summer school session. As such, we must re-lease each property in its entirety each year.

Management Philosophy: Our management philosophy is based upon meeting the following objectives:

- Satisfying the specialized needs of residents by providing the highest levels of customer service;
- Developing and maintaining an academically oriented environment via a premier residence life/student development program;
- Maintaining each project's physical plant in top condition;
- Maximizing revenue through the development and implementation of a strategic annual marketing plan and leasing administration program; and
- Maximizing cash flow through maximizing revenue coupled with prudent control of expenses.

LAMS: We believe we have developed the industry's only specialized, fully integrated leasing administration and marketing software program, which we call LAMS. We utilize LAMS to maximize our revenue and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our marketing and lease administration process. Through LAMS, each of our properties' ongoing marketing and leasing efforts are supervised at the corporate office on a real time basis. Among other things, LAMS provides:

- a fully integrated prospect tracking and follow-up system;
- a built-in marketing effectiveness program to measure the success of our marketing efforts on a real time basis;
- a real-time monitor of lease closings and leasing terms;
- an automated lease generation system;
- the generation of future period rent rolls to aid in budgeting and forecasting; and
- a customized report writer.

Wholly-Owned Properties: Off-campus properties are generally located in close proximity to the school campus, generally with pedestrian, bicycle, or university shuttle access. Off-campus housing tends to offer more relaxed rules and regulations than on-campus housing, resulting in off-campus housing being generally more appealing to upper-classmen. We believe that the support of colleges and universities can be beneficial to the success of our wholly-owned properties. We actively seek to have these institutions recommend our facilities to their students or to provide us with mailing lists so that we may directly market to students and parents. In some cases, the institutions actually promote our off-campus facilities in their recruiting and admissions literature. In cases where the educational institutions do not provide mailing lists or recommendations for off-campus housing, most provide comprehensive lists of suitable properties to their students, and we continually work to ensure that our properties are on these lists in each of the markets that we serve.

Off-campus housing is subject to competition for tenants with on-campus housing owned by colleges and universities, and vice versa. Colleges and universities can generally avoid real estate taxes and borrow funds at lower interest rates than us (and other private sector operators), thereby decreasing their operating costs. Residence halls owned and operated by the primary colleges and universities in the markets of our off-campus properties may charge lower rental rates, but typically offer fewer amenities than we offer at our properties. Additionally, most universities are only able to house a small percentage of their overall enrollment, and are therefore highly dependent upon the off-campus market to provide housing for their students. High-quality, well run off-campus student housing can be a critical component to an institution's ability to attract and retain students. Therefore, developing and maintaining good relationships with educational institutions can result in a privately owned off-campus facility becoming, in effect, an extension of the institution's housing program, with the institution providing highly valued references and recommendations to students and parents.

This segment also competes with national and regional owner-operators of off-campus student housing in a number of markets as well as with smaller local owner-operators. Therefore, the performance of this segment could be affected by the construction of new on-campus or off-campus residences, increases or decreases in the general levels of rents for housing in competing communities, increases or decreases in the number of students enrolled at one or more of the colleges or universities in the market of a property, and other general economic conditions.

American Campus Equity (ACE): Included in our wholly-owned properties segment and branded and marketed to colleges and universities as the ACE program, this transaction structure provides us with what we believe is a lower-risk opportunity compared to other off-campus projects, as our ACE projects have premier on-campus locations with marketing and operational assistance from the university. The subject university substantially benefits by increasing its housing capacity with modern, well-amenitized student housing with no or minimal impacts to its own credit ratios, preserving the university's credit capacity to fund academic and research facilities.

**On-Campus Participating Properties:** Our On-Campus Participating Properties segment includes five on-campus properties that are operated under long-term ground/facility leases with three university systems. Under our ground/facility leases, we receive an annual distribution representing 50% of these properties' net cash flows, as defined in the ground/facility lease agreements. We also manage these properties under long-term management agreements and are paid management fees equal to a percentage of defined gross receipts. Refer to Note 8 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8 herein for a more detailed description of these properties.

Our on-campus participating properties are susceptible to some of the same risks as our wholly-owned properties, including: (i) seasonality in rents; (ii) annual re-leasing that is highly dependent on marketing and university admission policies; and (iii) competition for tenants from other on-campus housing operated by educational institutions or other off-campus properties.

### Third-Party Services

Our third-party services consist of development services and management services and are typically provided to university and college clients. Many of our third-party management services are provided to clients for whom we also provide development services. While management evaluates the operational performance of our third-party services based on the distinct segments identified below, at times we also evaluate these segments on a combined basis.

**Development Services:** Our Development Services segment consists of development and construction management services that we provide through one of our taxable REIT subsidiaries ("TRSs") for third-party owners. These services range from short-term consulting projects to long-term full-scale development and construction projects. We typically provide these services to colleges and universities seeking to modernize their on-campus student housing properties. They look to us to bring our student housing experience and expertise to ensure they develop marketable, functional and financially sustainable facilities. Educational institutions usually seek to build housing that will enhance their recruitment and retention of students while facilitating their academic objectives. Most of these development service contracts are awarded via a competitive request for proposal ("RFP") process that qualifies developers based on their overall capability to provide specialized student housing design, development, construction management, financial structuring and property management services. Our development services typically include pre-development, design and financial structuring services. Our pre-development services typically include feasibility studies for third-party owners and design services. Feasibility studies include an initial feasibility analysis, review of conceptual design and assistance with master planning. Some of the documents produced in this process include the conceptual design documents, preliminary development and operating budgets, cash flow projections and a preliminary market assessment. Our design services include coordination with the architect and other members of the design team, review of construction plans and assistance with project due diligence and project budgets.

Construction management services typically consist of hiring of project professionals and a general contractor, coordinating and supervising the construction, equipping and furnishing the property, site visits, and full coordination and administration of all activities necessary for project completion in accordance with plans and specifications and with verification of adequate insurance.

Our Development Services activities benefit our primary goal of owning and operating student housing properties in a number of ways. By providing these services to others, we are able to expand and refine our unit plan and community design, the operational efficiency of our material specifications and our ability to determine market acceptance of unit and community amenities. Our development and construction management personnel enable us to establish relationships with general contractors, architects and project professionals throughout the nation. Through these services, we gain experience and expertise in residential and commercial construction methodologies under various labor conditions, including right-to-work labor markets, markets subject to prevailing wage requirements and fully

unionized environments. This segment is subject to competition from other specialized student housing development companies as well as from national real estate development companies.

**Property Management Services:** Our Property Management Services segment, conducted by one of our TRSs, includes revenues generated from third-party management contracts in which we are typically responsible for all aspects of operations, including marketing, leasing administration, facilities maintenance, business administration, accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial reporting, capital projects and residence life student development. We provide these services pursuant to management agreements that have initial terms that range from one to five years.

There are several housing options that compete with our third-party managed properties including, but not limited to, multifamily housing, for-rent single family dwellings, other off-campus specialized student housing and the aforementioned on-campus participating properties.

#### Americans with Disabilities Act and Federal Fair Housing Act

Many laws and governmental regulations are applicable to our properties and changes in the laws and regulations, or their interpretation by agencies and the courts, occur frequently. Our properties must comply with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, to the extent that such properties are “public accommodations” as defined by the ADA. The ADA may require removal of structural barriers to access by persons with disabilities in certain public areas of our properties where such removal is readily achievable. We believe that the existing properties are in substantial compliance with the ADA and that we will not be required to make substantial capital expenditures to address the requirements of the ADA. However, noncompliance with the ADA could result in imposition of fines or an award of damages to private litigants. The obligation to make readily achievable accommodations is an ongoing one, and we intend to continue to assess our properties and to make alterations as appropriate in this respect.

Under the federal and state fair housing laws, discrimination on the basis of certain protected classes is prohibited. Violation of these laws can result in significant damage awards to victims.

#### Environmental Matters

Under various laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment, an owner of real estate may be held liable for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous or toxic substances located on or in its property. These laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner was responsible for, or even knew of, the presence of such substances. The presence of such substances may adversely affect the owner’s ability to rent or sell the property or use the property as collateral. Independent environmental consultants conducted environmental site assessments on all of the wholly-owned properties and on-campus participating properties in our existing portfolio. We are not aware of any environmental conditions that management believes would have a material adverse effect on the Company. There is no assurance, however, that environmental site assessments or other investigations would reveal all environmental conditions or that environmental conditions not known to us may exist now or in the future which would result in liability to the Company for remediation or fines, either under existing laws and regulations or future changes to such requirements.

From time to time, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, designates certain sites affected by hazardous substances as “Superfund” sites pursuant to CERCLA. Superfund sites can cover large areas, affecting many different parcels of land. Although CERCLA imposes joint and several liability for contamination on property owners and operators regardless of fault, the EPA may choose to pursue potentially responsible parties (“PRPs”) based on their actual contribution to the contamination. PRPs are liable for the costs of responding to the hazardous substances. Each of Villas on Apache (disposed of in April 2011), The Village on University (disposed of in December 2006) and University Village at San Bernardino (disposed of in January 2005) are located within federal Superfund sites. The EPA designated these areas as Superfund sites because groundwater underneath these areas is contaminated. We have not been named, and do not expect to be named, as a PRP with respect to these sites. However, there can be no assurance regarding potential future developments concerning such sites.

#### Insurance

We carry liability and property insurance on our properties, which we believe is of the type and amount customarily obtained on real property assets. We intend to obtain similar coverage for properties we acquire in the future. However, there are certain types of losses, generally of a catastrophic nature, such as losses from floods or earthquakes, which may be subject to limitations in certain areas. When not otherwise contractually stipulated, we exercise our judgment in determining amounts, coverage limits, and deductibles, in an effort to maintain appropriate levels of insurance on our investments. If we suffer a substantial loss, our insurance coverage may not be sufficient due to market conditions at the time or other unforeseen factors. Inflation, changes in building codes and ordinances,

environmental considerations and other factors also might make it infeasible to use insurance proceeds to replace a property after it has been damaged or destroyed.

## Employees

As of December 31, 2015, we had approximately 3,108 employees, consisting of:

- approximately 1,877 on-site employees in our wholly-owned properties segment, including 754 Resident Assistants;
- approximately 104 on-site employees in our on-campus participating properties segment, including 43 Resident Assistants;
- approximately 970 employees in our property management services segment, including 825 on-site employees and 145 corporate office employees;
- approximately 55 corporate office employees in our development services segment; and



approximately 102 executive, corporate administration and financial personnel.

Our employees are not currently represented by a labor union.

#### Offices and Website

Our principal executive offices are located at 12700 Hill Country Boulevard, Suite T-200 Austin, TX 78738. Our telephone number at that location is (512) 732-1000.

We file our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and other reports required by Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Our website is located at [www.americancampus.com](http://www.americancampus.com). We make available free of charge through our website our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Our website also contains copies of our Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Business Ethics as well as the charters of our Nominating and Corporate Governance, Audit, Compensation and Risk committees. The information on our website is not part of this filing.

#### Forward-looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. We caution investors that any forward-looking statements presented in this report, or which management may make orally or in writing from time to time, are based on management's beliefs and assumptions made by, and information currently available to, management. When used, the words "anticipate," "believe," "expect," "intend," "may," "might," "plan," "estimate," "project," "should," "will," "result" and similar expressions, do not relate solely to historical matters and are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions and may be affected by known and unknown risks, trends, uncertainties and factors that are beyond our control. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected. We caution you that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and will be impacted by actual events when they occur after we make such statements. We expressly disclaim any responsibility to update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Accordingly, investors should use caution in relying on past forward-looking statements, which are based on results and trends at the time they were made, to anticipate future results or trends.

Some of the risks and uncertainties that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements include, among others, the following: general risks affecting the real estate industry; risks associated with changes in University admission or housing policies; risks associated with the availability and terms of financing and the use of debt to fund acquisitions and developments; failure to manage effectively our growth and expansion into new markets or to integrate acquisitions successfully; risks and uncertainties affecting property development and construction; risks associated with downturns in the national and local economies, volatility in capital and credit markets, increases in interest rates, and volatility in the securities markets; costs of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other similar laws; potential liability for uninsured losses and environmental contamination; risks associated with our Company's potential failure

to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the “Code”), as amended, and possible adverse changes in tax and environmental laws; and the other factors discussed in the “Risk Factors” contained in Item 1A of this report.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following risk factors may contain defined terms that are different from those used in other sections of this report. Unless otherwise indicated, when used in this section, the terms “we” and “us” refer to American Campus Communities, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including American Campus Communities Operating Partnership, L.P., our Operating Partnership, and the term “securities” refers to shares of common stock of American Campus Communities, Inc. and units of limited partnership interest in our Operating Partnership.

The factors described below represent the Company’s principal risks. Other factors may exist that the Company does not consider being significant based on information that is currently available or that the Company is not currently able to anticipate.

## Risks Related to Our Properties, Our Markets and Our Business

Our results of operations are subject to an annual leasing cycle, short lease-up period, seasonal cash flows, changing university admission and housing policies and other risks inherent in the student housing industry.

We generally lease our owned properties under 12-month leases, and in certain cases, under nine-month or shorter-term semester leases. As a result, we may experience significantly reduced cash flows during the summer months at properties with lease terms shorter than 12 months. Furthermore, all of our properties must be entirely re-leased each year during a limited leasing season that usually begins in January and ends in August of each year. We are therefore highly dependent on the effectiveness of our marketing and leasing efforts and personnel during this season, exposing us to significant leasing risk. In addition, we are subject to increased leasing risk on our properties under construction and future acquired properties based on our lack of experience leasing those properties and unfamiliarity with their leasing cycles.

Changes in university admission policies could adversely affect us. For example, if a university reduces the number of student admissions or requires that a certain class of students, such as freshman, live in a university-owned facility, the demand for beds at our properties may be reduced and our occupancy rates may decline. While we may engage in marketing efforts to compensate for such change in admission policy, we may not be able to affect such marketing efforts prior to the commencement of the annual lease-up period or our additional marketing efforts may not be successful.

We rely on our relationships with colleges and universities for referrals of prospective student-tenants or for mailing lists of prospective student-tenants and their parents. Many of these colleges and universities own and operate their own competing on-campus facilities. Any failure to maintain good relationships with these colleges and universities could therefore have a material adverse effect on us. If colleges and universities refuse to make their lists of prospective student-tenants and their parents available to us or increase the costs of these lists, there could be a material adverse effect on us.

Federal and state laws require colleges to publish and distribute reports of on-campus crime statistics, which may result in negative publicity and media coverage associated with crimes occurring on or in the vicinity of our on-campus properties. Reports of crime or other negative publicity regarding the safety of the students residing on, or near, our properties may have an adverse effect on both our on-campus and off-campus business.

We face significant competition from university-owned on-campus student housing, from other off-campus student housing properties and from traditional multifamily housing located within close proximity to universities.

On-campus student housing has certain inherent advantages over off-campus student housing in terms of physical proximity to the university campus and integration of on-campus facilities into the academic community. Colleges and universities can generally avoid real estate taxes and borrow funds at lower interest rates than us and other private sector operators. We also compete with national and regional owner-operators of off-campus student housing in a number of markets as well as with smaller local owner-operators.

Currently, the industry is fragmented with no participant holding a significant market share. There are a number of student housing complexes that are located near or in the same general vicinity of many of our owned properties and that compete directly with us. Such competing student housing complexes may be newer than our properties, located closer to campus, charge less rent, possess more attractive amenities or offer more services or shorter term or more flexible leases.

Rental income at a particular property could also be affected by a number of other factors, including the construction of new on-campus and off-campus residences, increases or decreases in the general levels of rents for housing in competing communities, increases or decreases in the number of students enrolled at one or more of the colleges or universities in the market of the property and other general economic conditions.

We believe that a number of other large national companies with substantial financial and marketing resources may be potential entrants in the student housing business. The entry of one or more of these companies could increase competition for students and for the acquisition, development and management of other student housing properties.

We may be unable to successfully complete and operate our properties or our third-party developed properties.

We intend to continue to develop and construct student housing. These activities include a number of risks, which may include the following:

- we may be unable to obtain financing on favorable terms or at all;
- we may not complete development projects on schedule, within budgeted amounts or in conformity with building plans and specifications;
- we may encounter delays or refusals in obtaining all necessary zoning, land use, building, occupancy and other required governmental permits and authorizations;
- occupancy and rental rates at newly developed or renovated properties may fluctuate depending on a number of factors, including market and economic conditions, and may reduce or eliminate our return on investment;
- we may become liable for injuries and accidents occurring during the construction process and for environmental liabilities, including off-site disposal of construction materials;
- we may decide to abandon our development efforts if we determine that continuing the project would not be in our best interests; and
- we may encounter strikes, weather, government regulations and other conditions beyond our control.

Our newly developed properties will be subject to risks associated with managing new properties, including lease-up and integration risks. In addition, new development activities, regardless of whether or not they are ultimately successful, typically will require a substantial portion of the time and attention of our development and management personnel. Newly developed properties may not perform as expected.

We anticipate that we will, from time to time, elect not to proceed with ongoing development projects. If we elect not to proceed with a development project, the development costs associated therewith will ordinarily be charged against income for the then-current period. Any such charge could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in the period in which the charge is taken.

We may in the future develop properties nationally, internationally or in geographic regions other than those in which we currently operate. We do not possess the same level of familiarity with development and related regulations in these new markets, which could adversely affect our ability to develop such properties successfully or at all or to achieve expected performance. Future development opportunities may not be available to us on terms that meet our investment criteria or we may be unsuccessful in capitalizing on such opportunities.

We typically provide guarantees of timely completion of projects that we develop for third parties. In certain cases, our contingent liability under these guarantees may exceed our development fee from the project. Although we seek to mitigate this risk by, among other things, obtaining similar guarantees from the project contractor, we could sustain significant losses if development of a project were to be delayed or stopped and we were unable to cover our guarantee exposure with the guarantee received from the project contractor.

We may be unable to successfully acquire properties on favorable terms.

Our future growth will be in part dependent upon our ability to successfully acquire new properties on favorable terms. With respect to recently acquired properties, and as we acquire additional properties, we will continue to be subject to risks associated with managing new properties, including lease-up and integration risks. Acquired properties may not perform as expected and may have characteristics or deficiencies unknown to us at the time of acquisition. Future acquisition opportunities may not be available to us on terms that meet our investment criteria or we may be unsuccessful in capitalizing on such opportunities.

Our ability to acquire properties on favorable terms and successfully operate them involves the following significant risks:

- our potential inability to acquire a desired property may be caused by competition from other real estate investors;
- competition from other potential acquirers may significantly increase the purchase price and decrease expected yields;
- we may be unable to finance an acquisition on favorable terms or at all;
- we may have to incur significant unexpected capital expenditures to improve or renovate acquired properties;
- we may be unable to quickly and efficiently integrate new acquisitions, particularly acquisitions of portfolios of properties, into our existing operations;
- market conditions may result in higher than expected costs and vacancy rates and lower than expected rental rates;
- and
- we may acquire properties subject to liabilities but without any recourse, or with only limited recourse, to the sellers, or with liabilities that are unknown to us, such as liabilities for clean-up of undisclosed environmental contamination, claims

by tenants, vendors or other persons dealing with the former owners of our properties and claims for indemnification by members, directors, officers and others indemnified by the former owners of our properties.

Our failure to acquire or finance property acquisitions on favorable terms, or operate acquired properties to meet our financial expectations, could adversely affect us.

Difficulties of selling real estate could limit our flexibility.

We intend to evaluate the potential disposition of assets that may no longer help us meet our objectives. When we decide to sell an asset, we may encounter difficulty in finding buyers in a timely manner as real estate investments generally cannot be disposed of quickly, especially when market conditions are poor. This may limit our ability to vary our portfolio promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions. In addition, in order to maintain our status as a REIT, the Internal Revenue Code imposes restrictions on our ability to sell properties held fewer than two years, which may cause us to incur losses thereby reducing our cash flows and adversely impacting distributions to equity holders.

Disruptions in the financial markets could adversely affect our ability to obtain debt financing or to issue equity and impact our acquisitions and dispositions.

Dislocations and liquidity disruptions in capital and credit markets could impact liquidity in the debt markets, resulting in financing terms that are less attractive to us and/or the unavailability of certain types of debt financing. Should the capital and credit markets experience volatility and the availability of funds become limited, or be available only on unattractive terms, we will incur increased costs associated with issuing debt instruments. In addition, it is possible that our ability to access the capital and credit markets may be limited or precluded by these or other factors at a time when we would like, or need, to do so, which would adversely impact our ability to refinance maturing debt and/or react to changing economic and business conditions. Uncertainty in the capital and credit markets could negatively impact our ability to make acquisitions and make it more difficult or not possible for us to sell properties or may adversely affect the price we receive for properties that we do sell, as prospective buyers may experience increased costs of debt financing or difficulties in obtaining debt financing. Potential disruptions in the financial markets could also have other unknown adverse effects on us or the economy generally and may cause the price of our securities to fluctuate significantly and/or to decline.

Our debt level reduces cash available for distribution and could have other important adverse consequences.

As of December 31, 2015, our total consolidated indebtedness was approximately \$2,919.6 million (excluding unamortized mortgage debt premiums and discounts and original issue discounts). Our debt service obligations expose us to the risk of default and reduce or eliminate cash resources that are available to operate our business or pay distributions that are necessary to maintain our qualification as a REIT. There is no limit on the amount of indebtedness that we may incur except as provided by the covenants in our corporate-level debt. We may incur additional indebtedness to fund future property development, acquisitions and other working capital needs, which may include the payment of distributions to our security holders. The amount available to us and our ability to borrow from time to time under our corporate-level debt is subject to certain conditions and the satisfaction of specified financial and other covenants. Our level of debt and the limitations imposed on us by our debt agreements could have significant adverse consequences, including the following:

- We may default on our scheduled principal payments or other obligations as a result of insufficient cash flow or otherwise.

- With respect to debt secured by our properties, the lenders or mortgagees may foreclose on such properties and receive an assignment of rents and leases, and foreclosures could create taxable income without accompanying cash

proceeds, a circumstance that could hinder our ability to meet the REIT distribution requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.

Compliance with the provisions of our debt agreements, including the financial and other covenants, such as the maintenance of specified financial ratios, could limit our flexibility and a default in these requirements, if uncured, could result in a requirement that we repay indebtedness, which could severely affect our liquidity and increase our financing costs.



We may be unable to renew, repay or refinance our outstanding debt.

We are subject to the risk that our indebtedness will not be able to be renewed, repaid or refinanced when due or that the terms of any renewal or refinancing will not be as favorable as the existing terms of such indebtedness. If we were unable to refinance our indebtedness on acceptable terms, or at all, we might be forced to dispose of one or more of our properties on disadvantageous terms, which might result in losses to us. Such losses could have a material adverse effect on us and our ability to make distributions to our equity holders and pay amounts due on our debt.

Variable rate debt is subject to interest rate risk.

We have an unsecured revolving credit facility and a \$250 million unsecured term loan, each of which bears interest at a variable rate on all amounts borrowed and we may incur additional variable rate debt in the future. Increases in interest rates on variable rate debt would increase our interest expense, unless we make arrangements that hedge the risk of rising interest rates, which would adversely affect net income and cash available for payment of our debt obligations and distributions to equity holders.

Failure to maintain our current credit ratings could adversely affect our cost of funds, liquidity and access to capital markets.

Moody's and Standard & Poor's, the major debt rating agencies, have evaluated our debt and have given us ratings of Baa3 and BBB, respectively. These ratings are based on a number of factors, which include their assessment of our financial strength, liquidity, capital structure, asset quality and sustainability of cash flow and earnings. Due to changes in market conditions, we may not be able to maintain our current credit ratings, which will adversely affect the cost of funds under our credit facilities, and could also adversely affect our liquidity and access to capital markets.

We may incur losses on interest rate swap and hedging arrangements.

We may periodically enter into agreements to reduce the risks associated with increases in interest rates. Although these agreements may partially protect against rising interest rates, they also may reduce the benefits to us if interest rates decline. If an arrangement is not indexed to the same rate as the indebtedness that is hedged, we may be exposed to losses to the extent which the rate governing the indebtedness and the rate governing the hedging arrangement change independently of each other. Finally, nonperformance by the other party to the arrangement may subject us to increased credit risks.

Potential reforms to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could adversely affect our performance.

There is significant uncertainty surrounding the futures of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Through their lender originator networks, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are significant lenders to both us and to buyers of our properties. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have a mandate to support multifamily housing through their financing activities. Any changes to their mandates, further reductions in their size or the scale of their activities or loss of key personnel could have a significant impact on us and may, among other things, lead to lower values for our assets and higher interest rates on our borrowings. Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's regulator has set overall volume limits on most of Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's lending activities. The regulator could in the future require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to focus more of their lending activities on small borrowers or properties that the regulator deems affordable, which may or may not include our assets, which could also adversely impact us.

We face risks associated with land holdings.

We hold land for future development and may in the future acquire additional land holdings. The risks inherent in owning or purchasing and developing land increase as demand for student housing, or rental rates, decrease. As a result, we hold certain land and may in the future acquire additional land in our development pipeline at a cost we may not be able to recover fully or on which we cannot build and develop into a profitable student housing project. Also, real estate markets are highly uncertain and, as a result, the value of undeveloped land has fluctuated significantly and may continue to fluctuate as a result of changing market conditions. In addition, carrying costs can be significant and can result in losses or reduced margins in a poorly performing project. If there are subsequent changes in the fair value of our land holdings that we determine is less than the carrying basis of our land holdings reflected in our financial statements plus estimated costs to sell, we may be required to take future impairment charges, which would reduce our net income.

We may not be able to recover pre-development costs for third-party university developments.

University systems and educational institutions typically award us development services contracts on the basis of a competitive award process, but such contracts are typically executed following the formal approval of the transaction by the institution's governing body. In the intervening period, we may incur significant pre-development and other costs in the expectation that the development services contract will be executed. If an institution's governing body does not ultimately approve our selection and the terms of the pending development contract, we may not be able to recoup these costs from the institution and the resulting losses could be substantial.

Our awarded projects may not be successfully structured or financed and may delay our recognition of revenues.

The recognition and timing of revenues from our awarded development services projects will, among other things, be contingent upon successfully structuring and closing project financing as well as the timing of construction. The development projects that we have been awarded have at times been delayed beyond the originally scheduled construction commencement date. If such delays were to occur with our current awarded projects, our recognition of expected revenues and receipt of expected fees from these projects would be delayed.

We may encounter delays in completion or experience cost overruns with respect to our properties under construction.

As of December 31, 2015, we were in the process of constructing nine wholly-owned properties. These properties are subject to the various risks relating to properties that are under construction referred to elsewhere in these risk factors, including the risks that we may encounter delays in completion and that any such project may experience cost overruns or may not be completed on time. Additionally, if we do not complete the construction of properties on schedule, we may be required to provide alternative housing to the students with whom we have signed leases, which would result in our incurring significant expenses, and may result in students attempting to terminate their leases, which may adversely affect occupancy at such properties for the applicable academic year.

Our guarantees could result in liabilities in excess of our development fees.

In third-party developments, we typically provide guarantees of the obligations of the developer, including development budgets and timely project completion. These guarantees include, among other things, the cost of providing alternate housing for students in the event we do not timely complete a development project. These guarantees typically exclude delays resulting from force majeure and also, in third-party transactions, are typically limited in amount to the amount of our development fees from the project. In certain cases, however, our contingent liability under these guarantees has exceeded our development fee from the project and we may agree to such arrangements in the future. Our obligations under alternative housing guarantees typically expire five days after construction is complete. Project cost guarantees are normally satisfied within one year after completion of the project.

Universities generally have the right to terminate our participating ground leases.

The ground leases through which we own our on-campus participating properties generally provide that the university lessor may purchase our interest in and assume the management of the facility, with the purchase price calculated at the discounted present value of cash flows from our leasehold interest. The exercise of any such buyout would result in a reduction in our portfolio.

Changes in laws could affect our business.

We are generally not able to pass through to our residents under existing leases real estate taxes, income taxes or other taxes. Consequently, any such tax increases may adversely affect our financial condition and limit our ability to satisfy our financial obligations and make distributions to security holders. Changes that increase our potential liability under environmental laws or our expenditures on environmental compliance could have the same impact.

A cybersecurity incident and other technology disruptions could negatively impact our business, our relationships and our reputation.

We use computers in substantially all aspects of our business operations. We also use mobile devices, social networking and other online activities to connect with our employees, suppliers and our residents. Such uses give rise to cybersecurity risks, including security breach, espionage, system disruption, theft and inadvertent release of information. Our business involves the storage and transmission of numerous classes of sensitive and/or confidential information and intellectual property, including residents' and suppliers' personal information, private information about employees, and financial and strategic information about us. Further, as we pursue our strategy to grow through development and acquisitions and to pursue new initiatives to improve our operations, we are also expanding our information technologies, resulting in a larger technological presence and corresponding exposure to cybersecurity risk. As our reliance on technology has increased, so have the risks posed to our systems, both internal and those we have outsourced to third party service providers. In addition, information security risks have generally increased in recent years due to the rise in new technologies and the increased sophistication and activities of perpetrators of cyber attacks. The theft, destruction, loss, misappropriation or release of sensitive and/or confidential information or intellectual property, or interference with our information technology systems or the technology systems of third-parties on which we rely, could result in business disruption, negative publicity, brand damage, violation of privacy laws, loss of residents, potential liability and competitive disadvantage, any of which could result in a material adverse effect on financial condition or results of operations.

Joint venture investments could be adversely affected by our lack of sole decision-making authority, our reliance on co-venturers' financial condition and disputes between our co-venturers and us.

We have co-invested, and may continue in the future to co-invest, with third parties through partnerships, joint ventures or other entities, acquiring non-controlling interests in or sharing responsibility for managing the affairs of a property, partnership, joint venture or other entity. In connection with joint venture investments, we do not have sole decision-making control regarding the property, partnership, joint venture or other entity. Investments in partnerships, joint ventures or other entities may, under certain circumstances, involve risks not present were a third-party not involved, including the possibility that our partners or co-venturers might become bankrupt or fail to fund their share of required capital contributions. Our partners or co-venturers also may have economic or other business interests or goals that are inconsistent with our business interests or goals, and may be in a position to take actions contrary to our preferences, policies or objectives. Such investments also will have the potential risk of impasses on decisions, such as a sale, because neither we nor our partners or co-venturers would have full control over the partnership or joint venture. Disputes between us and our partners or co-venturers may result in litigation or arbitration that would increase our expenses and prevent our officers and/or directors from focusing their time and effort exclusively on our business. Consequently, actions by or disputes with our partners or co-venturers might result in subjecting properties owned by the partnership, joint venture or other entity to additional risk. In addition, we may in certain circumstances be liable for the actions of our partners or co-venturers.

Litigation risks could affect our business.

As a publicly traded owner of properties, we have become and in the future may become involved in legal proceedings, including consumer, employment, tort or commercial litigation, that if decided adversely to or settled by us, and not adequately covered by insurance, could result in liability that is material to our financial condition or results of operations.

#### Risks Related to the Real Estate Industry

Our performance and value are subject to risks associated with real estate assets and with the real estate industry.

Our ability to satisfy our financial obligations and make expected distributions to our security holders depends on our ability to generate cash revenues in excess of expenses and capital expenditure requirements. Events and conditions generally applicable to owners and operators of real property that are beyond our control may decrease cash available for distribution and the value of our properties. These events include:

- general economic conditions;
- rising level of interest rates;
- local oversupply, increased competition or reduction in demand for student housing;
- inability to collect rent from tenants;
- vacancies or our inability to rent beds on favorable terms;
- inability to finance property development and acquisitions on favorable terms;
- increased operating costs, including insurance premiums, utilities, and real estate taxes;
- costs of complying with changes in governmental regulations;

- the relative illiquidity of real estate investments;
- decreases in student enrollment at particular colleges and universities;
- changes in university policies related to admissions and housing; and
- changing student demographics.

In addition, periods of economic slowdown or recession, rising interest rates or declining demand for real estate, or the public perception that any of these events may occur, could result in a general decline in rents or an increased incidence of defaults under existing leases, which would adversely affect us.

Potential losses may not be covered by insurance.

We carry fire, earthquake, terrorism, business interruption, vandalism, malicious mischief, boiler and machinery, commercial general liability and workers' compensation insurance covering all of the properties in our portfolio under various policies. We believe the policy specifications and insured limits are appropriate and adequate given the relative risk of loss, the cost of the coverage and industry practice. There are, however, certain types of losses, such as property damage from generally unsecured losses such as riots, wars, punitive damage awards or acts of God that may be either uninsurable or not economically insurable. Some of our properties are insured subject to limitations involving large deductibles and policy limits that may not be sufficient to cover losses. In addition, we may discontinue earthquake, terrorism or other insurance on some or all of our properties in the future if the cost of premiums from any of these policies exceeds, in our judgment, the value of the coverage discounted for the risk of loss.

If we experience a loss that is uninsured or that exceeds policy limits, we could lose the capital invested in the damaged properties as well as the anticipated future cash flows from those properties. In addition, if the damaged properties are subject to recourse indebtedness, we would continue to be liable for the indebtedness, even if these properties were irreparably damaged and require substantial expenditures to rebuild or repair. In the event of a significant loss at one or more of our properties, the remaining insurance under our policies, if any, could be insufficient to adequately insure our other properties. In such event, securing additional insurance, if possible, could be significantly more expensive than our current policies.

Unionization or work stoppages could have an adverse effect on us.

We are at times required to use unionized construction workers or to pay the prevailing wage in a jurisdiction to such workers. Due to the highly labor intensive and price competitive nature of the construction business, the cost of unionization and/or prevailing wage requirements for new developments could be substantial. Unionization and prevailing wage requirements could adversely affect a new development's profitability. Union activity or a union workforce could increase the risk of a strike, which would adversely affect our ability to meet our construction timetables.

We could incur significant costs related to government regulation and private litigation over environmental matters.

Under various environmental laws, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), a current or previous owner or operator of real property may be liable for contamination resulting from the release or threatened release of hazardous or toxic substances or petroleum at that property, and an entity that arranges for the disposal or treatment of a hazardous or toxic substance or petroleum at another property may be held jointly and severally liable for the cost to investigate and clean up such property or other affected property. Such parties are known as potentially responsible parties ("PRPs"). Such environmental laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or operator knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of the contaminants, and the costs of any required investigation or cleanup of these substances can be substantial. PRPs are

liable to the government as well as to other PRPs who may have claims for contribution. The liability is generally not limited under such laws and could exceed the property's value and the aggregate assets of the liable party. The presence of contamination or the failure to remediate contamination at our properties may expose us to third-party liability for personal injury or property damage, or adversely affect our ability to sell, lease or develop the real property or to borrow using the real property as collateral.

Environmental laws also impose ongoing compliance requirements on owners and operators of real property. Environmental laws potentially affecting us address a wide variety of matters, including, but not limited to, asbestos-containing building materials ("ACBM"), storage tanks, storm water and wastewater discharges, lead-based paint, wetlands, and hazardous wastes. Failure to comply with these laws could result in fines and penalties or expose us to third-party liability. Some of our properties may have conditions that are subject to these requirements and we could be liable for such fines or penalties or liable to third parties.



Existing conditions at some of our properties may expose us to liability related to environmental matters.

Some of the properties in our portfolio may contain asbestos-containing building materials, or ACBMs. Environmental laws require that ACBMs be properly managed and maintained, and may impose fines and penalties on building owners or operators for failure to comply with these requirements. Also, some of the properties in our portfolio contain, or may have contained, or are adjacent to or near other properties that have contained or currently contain storage tanks for the storage of petroleum products or other hazardous or toxic substances. These operations create a potential for the release of petroleum products or other hazardous or toxic substances. Third parties may be permitted by law to seek recovery from owners or operators for personal injury associated with exposure to contaminants, including, but not limited to, petroleum products, hazardous or toxic substances, and asbestos fibers. Also, some of the properties may contain regulated wetlands that can delay or impede development or require costs to be incurred to mitigate the impact of any disturbance. Absent appropriate permits, we can be held responsible for restoring wetlands and be required to pay fines and penalties.

Insurance carriers have reacted to awards or settlements related to lawsuits against owners and managers of residential properties alleging personal injury and property damage caused by the presence of mold in residential real estate by excluding mold related programs designed to minimize the existence of mold in any of our properties as well as guidelines for promptly addressing and resolving reports of mold to minimize any impact mold might have on residents or the property.

Environmental liability at any of our properties, including those related to the existence of mold, may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, the trading price of our stock or our ability to satisfy our debt service obligations and pay dividends or distributions to our security holders.

We may incur significant costs complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar laws.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or the ADA, all public accommodations must meet federal requirements related to access and use by disabled persons. Additional federal, state and local laws also may require modifications to our properties, or restrict our ability to renovate our properties. For example, the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, or FHAA, requires apartment properties first occupied after March 13, 1990 to be accessible to the handicapped. We have not conducted an audit or investigation of all of our properties to determine our compliance with present requirements. Noncompliance with the ADA or FHAA could result in the imposition of fines or an award or damages to the government or private litigants and also could result in an order to correct any non-complying feature. Also, discrimination on the basis of certain protected classes can result in significant awards to victims. We cannot predict the ultimate amount of the cost of compliance with the ADA, FHAA or other legislation. If we incur substantial costs to comply with the ADA, FHAA or any other legislation, we could be materially and adversely affected.

We may incur significant costs complying with other regulations.

The properties in our portfolio are subject to various federal, state and local regulatory requirements, such as state and local fire and life safety requirements. If we fail to comply with these various requirements, we might incur governmental fines or private damage awards. Furthermore, existing requirements could change and require us to make significant unanticipated expenditures that would materially and adversely affect us.

The impact of climate change may adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations.

To the extent that climate change does occur, we may experience extreme weather and changes in precipitation and temperature, all of which may result in physical damage or a decrease in demand for properties located in these areas

or affected by these conditions. Should the impact of climate change be material in nature, including destruction of our properties, or occur for lengthy periods of time, our financial condition or results of operations may be adversely affected. In addition, changes in federal and state legislation and regulation on climate change could result in increased capital expenditures to improve the energy efficiency of our existing properties and could also require us to spend more on our new development properties without a corresponding increase in revenue.

#### Risks Related to Our Organization and Structure

Our stock price will fluctuate.

The market price and volume of our common stock will fluctuate due not only to general stock market conditions but also to the risk factors discussed above and below and the following:

- operating results that vary from the expectations of securities analysts and investors;
- investor interest in our property portfolio;
- the reputation and performance of REITs;
- the attractiveness of REITs as compared to other investment vehicles;
- our financial condition and the results of our operations;
- the perception of our growth and earnings potential;
- dividend payment rates and the form of the payment;
- increases in market rates, which may lead purchasers of our common stock to demand a higher yield; and
- changes in financial markets and national economic and general market conditions.

To qualify as a REIT, we may be forced to limit the activities of a TRS.

To qualify as a REIT, no more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries, or TRSs. Certain of our activities, such as our third-party development, management and leasing services, must be conducted through a TRS for us to qualify as a REIT. In addition, certain non-customary services must be provided by a TRS or an independent contractor. If the revenues from such activities create a risk that the value of our TRS entities, based on revenues or otherwise, approaches the 25% threshold, we will be forced to curtail such activities or take other steps to remain under the 25% threshold. Since the 25% threshold is based on value, it is possible that the IRS could successfully contend that the value of our TRS entities exceeds the 25% threshold even if the TRS accounts for less than 25% of our consolidated revenues, income or cash flow. Four of our five on-campus participating properties and our third-party services are held by a TRS. Consequently, income earned from four of our five on-campus participating properties and our third-party services will be subject to regular federal income taxation and state and local income taxation where applicable, thus reducing the amount of cash available for distribution to our security holders. Our TRS entities' income tax returns are subject to examination by federal, state and local tax jurisdictions, and the methodology used in determining taxable income or loss for those subsidiaries is therefore subject to challenge in any such examination.

A TRS is not permitted to directly or indirectly operate or manage a “hotel, motel or other establishment more than one-half of the dwelling units in which are used on a transient basis.” We believe that our method of operating our TRS entities will not be considered to constitute such an activity. Future Treasury Regulations or other guidance interpreting the applicable provisions might adopt a different approach, or the IRS might disagree with our conclusion. In such event we might be forced to change our method of operating our TRS entities, which could adversely affect us, or of one of our TRS entities could fail to qualify as a taxable REIT subsidiary, which would likely cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT.

Failure to qualify as a REIT would have significant adverse consequences to us and the value of our securities.

We intend to operate in a manner that will allow us to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code. If we lose our REIT status, we will face serious tax consequences that would substantially reduce or eliminate the funds available for investment and for distribution to security holders for each of the years involved, because:

- we would not be allowed a deduction for dividends to security holders in computing our taxable income and such amounts would be subject to federal income tax at regular corporate rates;
- we also could be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax and possibly increased state and local taxes; and
- unless we are entitled to relief under applicable statutory provisions, we could not elect to be taxed as a REIT for four taxable years following the year during which we were disqualified.

In addition, if we fail to qualify as a REIT, we will not be required to pay dividends to stockholders, and all dividends to stockholders will be subject to tax as ordinary income to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. As a result of all these factors, our failure to qualify as a REIT also could impair our ability to expand our business and raise capital, and would adversely affect the value of our common stock.

Qualification as a REIT involves the application of highly technical and complex Internal Revenue Code provisions for which there are only limited judicial and administrative interpretations. The complexity of these provisions and of the applicable Treasury Regulations that have been promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code is greater in the case of a REIT that, like us, holds its assets through a partnership or a limited liability company. The determination of various factual matters and circumstances not entirely within our control may affect our ability to qualify as a REIT. In order to qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy a number of requirements, including requirements regarding the composition of our assets and two “gross income tests”: (a) at least 75% of our gross income in any year must be derived from qualified sources, such as rents from real property, mortgage interest, dividends from other REITs and gains from sale of such assets, and (b) at least 95% of our gross income must be derived from sources meeting the 75% income test above, and other passive investment sources, such as other interest and dividends and gains from

sale of securities. Also, we must pay dividends to stockholders aggregating annually at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, excluding any net capital gains. In addition, legislation, new regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions may adversely affect our investors, our ability to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes or the desirability of an investment in a REIT relative to other investments.

Even if we qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we may be subject to some federal, state and local taxes on our income or property and, in certain cases, a 100% penalty tax, in the event we sell property as a dealer or if a TRS enters into agreements with us or our tenants on a basis that is determined to be other than an arm's length basis.

To qualify as a REIT, we may be forced to borrow funds on a short-term basis during unfavorable market conditions.

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required under the Internal Revenue Code to distribute annually at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, determined without regard to the dividends paid deduction and excluding any net capital gain. A TRS may, in its discretion, retain any income it generates net of any tax liability it incurs on that income without affecting the 90% distribution requirements to which we are subject as a REIT. Net income of our TRS entities is included in REIT taxable income and increases the amount required to be distributed, only if such amounts are paid out as a dividend by a TRS. If a TRS distributes any of its after-tax income to us, that distribution will be included in our REIT taxable income. In addition, we will be subject to income tax at regular corporate rates to the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our net taxable income, including any net capital gains. Because of these distribution requirements, we may not be able to fund future capital needs, including any necessary acquisition financing, from operating cash flow. Consequently, we will be compelled to rely on third-party sources to fund our capital needs. We may not be able to obtain this financing on favorable terms or at all. Any additional indebtedness that we incur will increase our leverage. Our access to third-party sources of capital depends, in part, on:

- general market conditions;
- our current debt levels and the number of properties subject to encumbrances;
- our current performance and the market's perception of our growth potential;
- our cash flow and cash dividends; and
- the market price per share of our stock.

If we cannot obtain capital from third-party sources, we may not be able to acquire or develop properties when strategic opportunities exist, satisfy our debt service obligations or make cash distributions to our security holders, including those necessary to qualify as a REIT.

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our stock.

Our charter provides that, subject to certain exceptions, no person or entity may beneficially own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% (by value or by number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our common stock or more than 9.8% by value of all our outstanding shares, including both common and preferred stock. We refer to this restriction as the "ownership limit." A person or entity that becomes subject to the ownership limit by virtue of a violative transfer that results in a transfer to a trust is referred to as a "purported beneficial transferee" if, had the violative transfer been effective, the person or entity would have been a record owner and beneficial owner or solely a beneficial owner of our stock, or is referred to as a "purported record transferee" if, had the violative transfer been effective, the person or entity would have been solely a record owner of our stock.

The constructive ownership rules under the Internal Revenue Code are complex and may cause stock owned actually or constructively by a group of related individuals and/or entities to be owned constructively by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 9.8% of our stock (or the acquisition of an interest in an entity that

owns, actually or constructively, our stock) by an individual or entity, could, nevertheless cause that individual or entity, or another individual or entity, to own constructively in excess of 9.8% of our outstanding stock and thereby subject the stock to the ownership limit. Our charter, however, requires exceptions to be made to this limitation if our board of directors determines that such exceptions will not jeopardize our tax status as a REIT. This ownership limit could delay, defer or prevent a change of control or other transaction that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our security holders.

Certain tax and anti-takeover provisions of our charter and bylaws may inhibit a change of our control.

Certain provisions contained in our charter and bylaws and the Maryland General Corporation Law may discourage a third-party from making a tender offer or acquisition proposal to us. If this were to happen, it could delay, deter or prevent a change in control or the removal of existing management. These provisions also may delay or prevent the security holders from receiving a premium for their securities over then-prevailing market prices. These provisions include:

- the REIT ownership limit described above;
- authorization of the issuance of our preferred shares with powers, preferences or rights to be determined by our board of directors;
- the right of our board of directors, without a stockholder vote, to increase our authorized shares and classify or reclassify unissued shares;
- advance-notice requirements for stockholder nomination of directors and for other proposals to be presented to stockholder meetings; and
- the requirement that a majority vote of the holders of common stock is needed to remove a member of our board of directors for “cause.”

The Maryland business statutes also impose potential restrictions on a change of control of our company.

Various Maryland laws may have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us, even if the acquisition would be advantageous to security holders. Our bylaws exempt us from some of those laws, such as the control share acquisition provisions, but our board of directors can change our bylaws at any time to make these provisions applicable to us.

Our rights and the rights of our security holders to take action against our directors and officers are limited.

Maryland law provides that a director or officer has no liability in that capacity if he or she performs his or her duties in good faith, in a manner he or she reasonably believe to be in our best interests and with the care that an ordinary prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. In addition, our charter eliminates our directors’ and officers’ liability to us and our stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from actual receipt of an improper benefit in money, property or services or active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment and which is material to the cause of action. Our bylaws require us to indemnify directors and officers for liability resulting from actions taken by them in those capacities to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. As a result, we and our security holders may have more limited rights against our directors and officers than might otherwise exist under common law. In addition, we may be obligated to fund the defense costs incurred by our directors and officers.

#### Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

There were no unresolved comments from the staff of the SEC at December 31, 2015.

## Item 2. Properties

The following table presents certain summary information about our properties. Our properties generally are modern facilities, and amenities at most of our properties include a swimming pool, basketball courts and a large community center featuring a fitness center, computer center, study areas, and a recreation room with billiards and other games. Some properties also have a jacuzzi/hot tub, volleyball courts, tennis courts, in-unit washers and dryers, and food service facilities. Lease terms are generally 12 months at our off-campus properties and 9 months at our on-campus participating properties and certain of our ACE properties.

These properties are included in the Wholly-Owned Properties and On-Campus Participating Properties segments discussed in Item 1 and Note 18 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8. We own fee title to all of these properties except for properties subject to ground/facility leases and our on-campus participating properties, as discussed more fully in Note 8 and Note 16 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8. All dollar amounts in this table and others herein, except share and per share amounts, are stated in thousands unless otherwise indicated.

Property	Year Built	Date Acquired/Developed	Primary University Served	Typical Lease Term (Mos)	Year Ended December 31, 2015 Revenue	Average Monthly Revenue/Bed <sup>(1)</sup>	2015 Average Occupancy	Occupancy as of 12/31/2015	# of Buildings	# of Units	# of Beds
<b>WHOLLY-OWNED PROPERTIES</b>											
Same Store Wholly-Owned Properties:											
The Callaway House	1999	Mar-01	Texas A&M University	9	\$8,726 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$1,481 <sup>(3)</sup>	98.3 %	92.8 %	1	173	53
The Village at Science Drive	2000	Nov-01	The University of Central Florida	12	5,472	592	99.5 %	99.5 %	17	192	73
University Village at Boulder Creek	2002	Aug-02	The University of Colorado at Boulder California State University - Fresno	12	3,431	886	98.7 %	98.7 %	4	82	30
University Village - Fresno	2004	Aug-04	State University - Fresno	12	2,789	514	98.6 %	99.0 %	9	105	40
University Village - Temple	2004	Aug-04	Temple University Florida	12	5,990	673	90.0 %	92.7 %	3	220	74
University Club Townhomes <sup>(4)</sup>	2000/2002	Feb-05	State University Florida	12	4,726	472	95.0 %	98.1 %	27	216	73
College Club Townhomes <sup>(4)</sup>	2001	Feb-05	A&M University	12	2,754	357	91.6 %	94.1 %	12	136	54



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University Club Apartments	1999	Feb-05	University of Florida	12	2,253	484	98.8 %	98.9 %	9	94	37
City Parc at Fry Street	2004	Mar-05	University of North Texas	12	3,341	638	98.5 %	98.8 %	8	136	41
Entrada Real	2000	Mar-05	University of Arizona State Univ.	12	2,485	532	98.0 %	98.3 %	8	98	36
University Village at Sweethome	2005	Aug-05	of New York at Buffalo Florida	12	6,921	674	99.3 %	99.9 %	11	269	82
University Village - Tallahassee <sup>(5)</sup>	1990/91/92	Mar-06	State University	12	4,339	507	93.5 %	90.2 %	12	217	71
Royal Village - Gainesville	1996	Mar-06	University of Florida	12	2,993	552	96.6 %	95.1 %	8	118	44
Royal Lexington	1994	Mar-06	The University of Kentucky	9/12	2,030	513	87.8 %	98.6 %	4	94	36
Raiders Pass	2002/03	Mar-06	Texas Tech University	12	4,765	456	99.3 %	99.8 %	12	264	82
Aggie Station	2003	Mar-06	Texas A&M University	12	3,157	572	99.6 %	99.6 %	5	156	45
The Outpost - San Antonio	2005	Mar-06	University of Texas – San Antonio	12	5,079	504	96.5 %	99.0 %	10	276	82
Callaway Villas	2006	Aug-06	Texas A&M University	9/12	6,086	742	90.5 %	97.6 %	20	236	70
The Village on Sixth Avenue	2000/06	Jan-07	Marshall University	12	4,441	477	98.2 %	98.5 %	14	248	75
Newtown Crossing	2005/07	Feb-07	University of Kentucky	12	6,631	587	96.8 %	96.5 %	7	356	94
Olde Towne University Square	2005	Feb-07	University of Toledo	12	4,068	609	98.3 %	97.1 %	4	224	55
Peninsular Place	2005	Feb-07	Eastern Michigan University	12	2,972	480	99.2 %	99.4 %	2	183	47
University Centre	2007	Aug-07	Rutgers University, NJIT	9/12	7,115	907	71.7 %	76.7 %	2	234	83
Pirates Place Townhomes	1996	Feb-08	East Carolina University	12	2,388	374	96.3 %	97.3 %	12	144	52
The Summit & Jacob Heights <sup>(5)</sup>	2003 - 2006	Jun-08	Minnesota State University	12	5,419	474	96.4 %	95.1 %	34	258	93

GrandMarc Seven Corners	2000	Jun-08	University of Minnesota	12	4,481	610	122.2%	125.5%	1	186	44
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Property	Year Built	Date Acquired/ Developed	Primary University Served	Typical Lease Term (Mos)	Year Ended December 31, 2015 Revenue	Average Month 2015 Revenue per Bed <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Occupancy	Occupancy as of 2/31/2015	# of Buildings	# of Units	# of Beds
University Village – Sacramento <sup>(6)</sup>	1979	Jun-08	California State Univ. - Sacramento	12	\$3,210	\$598	107.7%	108.6%	41	250	394
Aztec Corner	1995	Jun-08	San Diego State University	12	5,127	680	98.0%	98.2%	3	180	606
Campus Corner	1997	Jun-08	Indiana University	12	4,835	490	97.1%	99.2%	23	254	796
Tower at Third	1973	Jun-08	University of Illinois	12	3,537	740	97.7%	96.8%	1	188	375
University Manor	2002	Jun-08	East Carolina University	12	3,099	420	98.4%	99.0%	18	168	600
The Edge - Orlando <sup>(6)</sup>	1999	Jun-08	The University of Central Florida	12	6,961	583	99.6%	99.6%	21	306	930
Willowtree Apartments and Tower <sup>(4)</sup>	1968/ 1974	Jun-08	University of Michigan	12	5,657	537	99.5%	99.5%	16	473	851
Abbott Place	1999	Jun-08	Michigan State University	12	4,027	496	99.1%	99.2%	9	222	654
The Centre	2004	Jun-08	Western Michigan University	12	3,609	410	98.9%	98.9%	23	232	700
Campus Way	1993	Jun-08	University of Alabama	12	3,883	450	98.5%	98.8%	9	194	680
University Pointe	2004	Jun-08	Texas Tech University	12	4,761	561	98.7%	99.0%	11	204	682
University Trails	2003	Jun-08	Texas Tech University	12	4,606	540	98.7%	99.1%	20	240	684
Campus Trails	1991	Jun-08	Mississippi State University	12	2,565	429	98.6%	99.0%	14	156	480
Vista del Sol (ACE)	2008	Aug-08	Arizona State University	12	16,875	693	98.5%	100.0%	12	613	1,866
Villas at Chestnut Ridge	2008	Aug-08	State Univ. of New York at Buffalo	12	5,029	745	99.0%	98.9%	12	196	552
Barrett Honors College (ACE)	2009	Aug-09	Arizona State University	9	14,145	884	98.5%	99.4%	7	604	1,721
University Heights	2001	Mar-10	Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham	12	3,189	464	99.1%	99.4%	8	176	528
Sanctuary Lofts	2008	Jul-10	Texas State University	12	4,135	658	96.6%	98.2%	4	201	487

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Lions Crossing	1996	Sep-10	Penn State University	12	5,073	534	98.7 %	99.3 %	17	204	696
Nittany Crossing	1996/1997	Sep-10	Penn State University	12	4,927	551	99.1 %	99.4 %	11	204	684
University Oaks	2004	Sep-10	University of South Carolina	12	4,644	557	99.1 %	99.1 %	14	181	662
Blanton Common	2005/2007	Sep-10	Valdosta State University	12	3,985	389	89.0 %	84.1 %	21	276	860
Burbank Commons	1995	Sep-10	Louisiana State University	12	2,865	438	97.5 %	97.4 %	7	134	532
University Crescent	1999	Sep-10	Louisiana State University	12	4,331	573	96.7 %	93.3 %	15	192	612
The Edge – Charlotte	2000	Nov-10	UNC - Charlotte	12	4,441	490	99.4 %	99.4 %	15	180	720
University Walk	2002	Nov-10	UNC - Charlotte	12	3,001	499	99.2 %	99.2 %	12	120	480
Uptown Apartments	2004	Nov-10	University of North Texas	12	4,100	617	98.7 %	99.1 %	12	180	528
2nd Ave Centre	2008	Dec-10	University of Florida	12	6,537	614	99.4 %	99.4 %	7	274	868
Villas at Babcock	2011	Aug-11	University of Texas – San Antonio	12	4,721	495	94.5 %	100.0 %	16	204	792
Lobo Village (ACE)	2011	Aug-11	University of New Mexico	12	5,465	505	98.2 %	97.8 %	20	216	864
Villas on Sycamore	2011	Aug-11	Sam Houston State University	12	4,545	501	99.1 %	99.3 %	88	170	680
University Village Northwest (ACE)	2011	Aug-11	Prairie View A&M University	9	883	667	99.1 %	98.6 %	2	36	144
26 West	2008	Dec-11	University of Texas - Austin	12	12,326	887	99.6 %	99.8 %	3	367	1,026
The Varsity	2011	Dec-11	University of Maryland	12	12,281	975	99.3 %	99.2 %	1	258	901
Avalon Heights	2002	May-12	University of South Florida in Tampa	12	5,581	579	99.9 %	100.0 %	4	210	754
University Commons	2003	Jun-12	Univ. of Minnesota in Minneapolis	12	4,296	613	112.2 %	114.8 %	4	164	480
Casas del Rio (ACE)	2012	Aug-12	University of New Mexico	9	5,026	585	83.7 %	87.2 %	4	283	1,028
The Suites (ACE)	2012	Aug-12	Northern Arizona University	9	3,621	683	99.4 %	99.6 %	2	275	550
Hilltop Townhomes (ACE)	2012	Aug-12	Northern Arizona University	12	4,732	647	99.2 %	99.3 %	10	144	576
U Club on Frey	2012	Aug-12	Kennesaw State	12	3,587	630	99.0 %	99.1 %	7	114	456

University

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Property	Year Built	Date Acquired/ Developed	Primary University Served	Typical Lease Term (Mos)	Year Ended December 31, 2015 Revenue	Average Month 2015 Revenue per Bed <sup>(1)</sup>	Occupancy Average as of 12/31/2015	# of Buildings	# of Units	# of Beds
Campus Edge on UTA Boulevard	2012	Aug-12	University of Texas - Arlington	12	\$3,894	\$620	99.9 %	1	128	488
U Club Townhomes on Marion Pugh	2012	Aug-12	Texas A&M University	12	5,050	632	99.3 %	40	160	640
Villas on Rensch	2012	Aug-12	State Univ. of New York at Buffalo	12	5,672	756	98.9 %	39	153	610
The Village at Overton Park	2012	Aug-12	Texas Tech University	12	4,746	625	97.1 %	2	163	612
Casa de Oro (ACE)	2012	Aug-12	Arizona State University	9	1,580	651	69.6 %	1	109	365
The Villas at Vista del Sol (ACE)	2012	Aug-12	Arizona State University	12	3,670	733	100.0 %	12	104	400
The Block	2007/2008	Aug-12	The University of Texas at Austin	12	18,975	903	98.8 %	8	669	1,555
University Pointe at College Station (ACE)	2012	Sep-12	Portland State University	12	8,625	658	99.1 %	1	282	978
309 Green	2008	Sep-12	University of Illinois	12	4,225	807	95.6 %	1	110	416
The Retreat	2012	Sep-12	Texas State University	12	5,786	594	96.7 %	140	187	780
Lofts 54	2008	Sep-12	University of Illinois	12	1,542	670	98.6 %	1	43	172
Campustown Rentals	1920-1987	Sep-12	University of Illinois	12	4,520	490	95.1 %	22	264	746
Chauncey Square	2007/2012	Sep-12	Purdue University	12	4,242	832	95.2 %	2	158	386
Vintage & Texas West Campus <sup>(4)</sup>	2009	Sep-12	The University of Texas at Austin	12	3,661	863	99.5 %	2	124	311
The Castilian	1967	Sep-12	The University of Texas at Austin	9	7,254	1,264	90.7 %	1	371	623
Bishops Square	2002	Sep-12	Texas State University	12	2,412	580	98.3 %	13	134	315
Union	2007	Sep-12	Baylor University	12	897	600	98.1 %	1	54	120
922 Place	2009	Sep-12	Arizona State University	12	4,050	659	99.0 %	2	132	468

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Campustown	1910-2004	Sep-12	Iowa State University	12	8,543	522	99.6 %	99.9 %	34	452	1,217
River Mill	1972	Sep-12	University of Georgia	12	3,025	540	97.5 %	98.0 %	5	243	461
Garnet River Walk	2006	Sep-12	University of South Carolina	12	3,802	633	98.7 %	98.7 %	11	170	476
Landmark	2012	Sep-12	University of Michigan	12	9,912	1,178	99.1 %	99.3 %	1	173	606
Icon Plaza	2012	Sep-12	University of Southern California	12	4,562	1,364	96.8 %	93.7 %	1	56	253
The Province – Greensboro	2011	Nov-12	UNC - Greensboro	12	4,761	564	98.4 %	98.0 %	17	219	696
RAMZ Apts on Broad	2004	Nov-12	Virginia Commonwealth University	12	2,060	703	97.3 %	97.7 %	1	88	172
The Lofts of Capital Garage	2000	Nov-12	Virginia Commonwealth University	12	827	445	99.7 %	99.3 %	1	36	144
Forest Village and Woodlake	1982/1983	Nov-12	University of Missouri	12	2,840	312	98.9 %	98.9 %	14	352	704
25Twenty	2011	Nov-12	Texas Tech University	12	4,978	702	98.8 %	98.6 %	1	249	562
The Province - Louisville	2009	Nov-12	University of Louisville	12	6,523	619	97.8 %	96.2 %	9	366	858
West 27th Place	2011	Nov-12	University of Southern California	12	6,745	1,018	103.7%	104.0%	1	161	475
The Province - Rochester	2010	Nov-12	Rochester Institute of Technology	12	8,082	781	101.0%	101.2%	13	336	816
5 Twenty Four & 5 Twenty Five Angliana <sup>(4)</sup>	2009/2012	Nov-12	University of Kentucky	12	7,362	559	97.2 %	98.6 %	11	376	1,060
The Province -Tampa	2009	Nov-12	University of South Florida	12	7,542	624	99.9 %	100.0%	19	287	947
U Pointe Kennesaw	2012	Nov-12	Kennesaw State University	12	5,805	583	98.9 %	99.0 %	5	216	795
The Cottages of Columbia	2008	Nov-12	University of Missouri	12	3,475	545	88.2 %	86.5 %	84	145	513
Grindstone Canyon	2003	Nov-12	University of Missouri	12	3,022	556	98.8 %	97.7 %	8	201	384
The Cottages of Durham	2012	Nov-12	University of New Hampshire	12	5,864	735	99.5 %	99.5 %	96	141	619
The Province – Dayton	2009	Nov-12	Wright State University	12	4,029	482	93.0 %	92.2 %	13	200	657
The Cottages of Baton Rouge	2011	Nov-12	Louisiana State University	12	10,587	666	92.5 %	85.2 %	187	382	1,290
U Club Cottages	2011	Nov-12	Louisiana State University	12	2,724	714	98.7 %	98.7 %	61	105	308





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Property	Year Built	Date Acquired/ Developed	Primary University Served	Typical Lease Term (Mos)	Year Ended December 31, 2015 Revenue	Average Monthly Revenue/Bed (1)	2015 Average Occupancy	Occupancy as of 12/31/2015	# of Buildings	# of Units	# of Beds
University Edge	2012	Dec-12	Kent State University	12	\$4,673	\$614	98.8 %	99.2 %	3	201	608
The Lodges of East Lansing Phase I & II	2013	Jul-13	Michigan State University	12	8,624	659	98.8 %	99.4 %	59	364	1,040
7th Street Station	2012	Jul-13	Oregon State University	12	2,686	679	98.2 %	98.7 %	16	82	309
U Club on Woodward	2013	Aug-13	Florida State University	12	3,597	653	99.0 %	98.7 %	8	112	448
The Callaway House Austin	2013	Aug-13	The University of Texas at Austin	9	12,223	1,503 <sup>(3)</sup>	99.3 %	99.1 %	1	219	753
Manzanita (ACE)	2013	Aug-13	Arizona State University	9	6,164	841	96.6 %	97.5 %	1	241	816
University View (ACE)	2013	Aug-13	Prairie View A&M University	9	2,090	651	99.6 %	99.4 %	2	96	336
U Club Townhomes at Overton Park	2013	Aug-13	Texas Tech University	12	3,664	664	98.5 %	99.1 %	16	112	448
601 Copeland	2013	Aug-13	Florida State University	12	2,611	714	99.4 %	98.9 %	2	81	283
The Townhomes at Newtown Crossing	2013	Sep-13	University of Kentucky	12	4,319	593	97.3 %	98.4 %	13	152	608
Chestnut Square (ACE)	2013	Sep-13	Drexel University	12	11,065	962	98.9 %	98.6 %	1	220	861
Park Point	2008	Oct-13	Rochester Institute of Technology	12	10,527	787	102.1 %	102.2 %	31	300	924
U Centre at Fry Street	2012	Nov-13	University of North Texas	12	5,864	709	98.0 %	98.9 %	2	194	614
Cardinal Towne	2010/2011	Nov-13	University of Louisville	12	5,478	710	96.4 %	93.8 %	5	255	545
Subtotal - Same Store Wholly-Owned Properties <sup>(7)</sup>					\$616,526	\$640	97.6 %	97.8 %	1,842	25,086	76,800
New Wholly-Owned Properties: 2014 Acquisitions and Completed Development Projects											
	2014	Oct-14		12	\$5,759	\$704	99.6 %	99.7 %	2	190	610

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The Standard Stanworth Commons Phase I (ACE)	2014	Jul-14	University of Georgia Princeton University	9/12	2,709	1,126	93.0 %	98.6 %	11	127	214
Plaza on University U Club on Frey Phase II	2014	Aug-14	University of Central Florida Kennesaw State University	12	11,972	663	99.7 %	99.7 %	5	364	1,311
The Suites Phase II (ACE)	2014	Aug-14	Northern Arizona University	9	2,148	680	99.8 %	100.6 %	2	164	328
U Centre at Northgate (ACE)	2014	Aug-14	Texas A&M University	12	5,733	588	99.5 %	99.5 %	11	196	784
University Walk	2014	Aug-14	University of Tennessee	12	3,669	562	99.2 %	99.0 %	3	177	526
2015 Acquisitions											
Park Point	2010	Feb-15	Syracuse University	12	2,832	990	99.6 %	100.0 %	1	66	226
1200 West Marshall	2013	Mar-15	Virginia Commonwealth University	12	2,798	699	98.9 %	99.0 %	1	136	406
8 1/2 Canal Street	2011	Mar-15	Virginia Commonwealth University	12	3,488	652	98.8 %	98.9 %	1	160	540
Vistas San Marcos	2013	Mar-15	Texas State University	12	3,885	657	93.4 %	93.2 %	2	255	600
Crest at Pearl	2014	Jun-15	University of Texas	12	2,150	657	98.0 %	99.4 %	1	141	343
U Club Binghamton	2005	Jun-15	Binghamton University - SUNY	12	3,255	574	97.6 %	97.9 %	4	186	710
Stadium Centre	2014	Jul-15	Florida State University	12	3,013	552	97.0 %	98.3 %	4	367	710
Recently Completed Development Projects											
160 Ross	2015	Aug-15	Auburn University	12	1,858	611	98.5 %	98.6 %	1	182	642
U Club on Woodward Phase II	2015	Aug-15	Florida State University	12	1,584	526	100.0 %	100.0 %	11	124	496
The Summit at University City (ACE)	2015	Sep-15	Drexel University	12	4,542	957	92.8 %	92.9 %	1	351	1,311
2125 Franklin	2015	Sep-15	University of Oregon	12	1,380	489	75.2 %	81.5 %	2	192	734
Projects Under Development											

The Court at Stadium Centre <sup>(8)</sup>	2016	May-16	Florida State University	12	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	80	260
U Club on 28th	2016	Aug-16	University of Colorado	12	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	100	400

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Property	Year Built	Date Acquired/Developed	Primary University Served	Typical Lease Term (Mos)	Year Ended December 31, 2015 Revenue	Average Monthly Revenue (1)	2015 Average Occupancy	Occupancy as of 9/31/2015	# of Buildings	# of Units	# of Beds
Currie Hall (ACE)	2016	Aug-16	University of Southern California	12	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	178	456
University Pointe (ACE)	2016	Aug-16	University of Louisville	12	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	134	531
Fairview House (ACE)	2016	Aug-16	Butler University	12	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	107	633
U Club Sunnyside	2016	Aug-16	West Virginia University	12	312	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	134	536
Merwick Stanworth Phase II (ACE)	2016	Aug-16	Princeton University	12	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	198	379
Arizona State Univ. Residence Hall (ACE)	2017	Aug-17	Arizona State University	12	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	429	1,594
U Centre on Turner Projects Under Redevelopment	2017	Aug-17	University of Missouri	12	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	182	718
University Crossings (ACE)	1926/2003	Jun-08	Drexel University	9	7,219	747	82.0%	63.3%	1	260	1,016
Subtotal – New Wholly-Owned Properties					\$73,453	\$670	96.1%	94.1%	106	5,282	17,428
TOTAL – WHOLLY-OWNED PROPERTIES					\$689,979	\$643	97.4%	97.3%	1,948	30,368	94,302

ON-CAMPUS PARTICIPATING PROPERTIES

University Village – PVAMU	1996/97/98	Aug-96 Aug-98	Prairie View A&M University	9	\$10,647	\$584	97.1%	98.2%	30	612	1,920
University College – PVAMU	2000/2003	Aug-00 Aug-03	Prairie View A&M University	9	7,968	587	95.7%	99.7%	14	756	1,470
University Village – TAMIU	1997	Aug-97	Texas A&M International University	9	1,445	596	94.6%	85.2%	4	84	250
Cullen Oaks	2001/2005	Aug-01 Aug-05	The University of Houston	9	7,407	844	99.5%	99.4%	4	411	879

College Park	2014	Aug-14	West Virginia University	12	4,119	640	90.6%	95.8%	11	224	567
TOTAL - ON-CAMPUS PARTICIPATING PROPERTIES					\$31,586	\$638	95.9%	97.9%	63	2,087	5,086
GRAND TOTAL- ALL PROPERTIES					\$721,565	\$643	97.4%	97.3%	2,011	32,455	99,388

- (1) Average monthly revenue per bed is calculated based upon our base rental revenue earned during typical lease terms for the year ended December 31, 2015 divided by average occupied beds over the typical lease term. Average occupancy is calculated based on the average number of occupied beds during typical lease terms for the year ended December 31, 2015 divided by total beds. For properties with 9-month leases, average occupancy is calculated based on the nine month academic year (excluding the summer months). Average occupancy for acquired properties and properties which commenced operations during 2015 is calculated based on the period these properties were owned by us and/or operational during 2015.
- (2) As rent at this property includes food services, revenue is not comparable to the other properties in this table. University Club Townhomes, College Club Townhomes, Willowtree Apartments and Towers, Vintage & Texan West Campus, and 5 Twenty Four & 5 Twenty Five Angliana each consist of two phases that are counted separately in the property portfolio numbers contained in Note 1 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8.
- (3) University Village Tallahassee and Jacob Heights/The Summit each consist of three phases that are counted separately in the property portfolio numbers contained in Note 1 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 8.
- (4) These properties are classified as held for sale as of December 31, 2015 and are classified as such on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets contained in Item 8.
- (5) Our same store wholly-owned portfolio represents properties that were owned or operated by us for the full years ended December 31, 2014 and 2015.
- (6) In conjunction with the purchase of Stadium Centre in July 2015 (see Note 5 in the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained Item 8), we entered into a presale agreement to purchase an adjacent property which will be completed in May 2016. We are obligated to purchase the property as long as certain construction completion deadlines and other closing conditions are met.

## Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to various claims, lawsuits and legal proceedings that have not been fully resolved and that have arisen in the ordinary course of business. While it is not possible to ascertain the ultimate outcome of such matters, management believes that the aggregate amount of such liabilities, if any, in excess of amounts provided or covered by insurance, will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations. However, the outcome of claims, lawsuits and legal proceedings brought against us are subject to significant uncertainty. Therefore, although management considers the likelihood of such an outcome to be remote, the ultimate results of these matters cannot be predicted with certainty.

## Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

## PART II

## Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters

## Market Information

The Company's common stock has been listed and is traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol "ACC". The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sale prices in dollars on the NYSE for our common stock and the distributions we declared with respect to the periods indicated.

	High	Low	Distributions Declared
Quarter ended March 31, 2014	\$37.80	\$32.10	\$0.3600
Quarter ended June 30, 2014	\$39.68	\$36.86	\$0.3800
Quarter ended September 30, 2014	\$40.74	\$35.69	\$0.3800
Quarter ended December 31, 2014	\$42.19	\$35.96	\$0.3800
Quarter ended March 31, 2015	\$45.38	\$39.61	\$0.3800
Quarter ended June 30, 2015	\$43.80	\$37.59	\$0.4000
Quarter ended September 30, 2015	\$39.67	\$32.12	\$0.4000
Quarter ended December 31, 2015	\$41.99	\$35.66	\$0.4000

## Holders

As of February 19, 2016, there were approximately 37,500 holders of record of the Company's common stock and 130,301,032 shares of common stock outstanding.

## Distributions

We intend to continue to declare quarterly distributions on our common stock. The actual amount, timing and form of payment of distributions, however, will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon our financial condition in addition to the requirements of the Code, and no assurance can be given as to the amounts, timing or form of payment of future distributions. The payment of distributions is subject to restrictions under the Company's corporate-level debt described in Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 and discussed in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 under Liquidity and Capital Resources.

See Part III, Item 12, for a description of securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The following table sets forth selected financial and operating data on a consolidated historical basis for the Company.

The following data should be read in conjunction with the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in Item 7.

	As of and for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Statements of Operations Information:</b>					
Revenues	\$753,381	\$733,915	\$657,462	\$465,655	\$361,910
Income from continuing operations	118,061	61,384	47,436	48,789	34,011
Discontinued operations:					
(Loss) income attributable to discontinued operations	—	(123 )	4,824	8,728	9,155
Loss from early extinguishment of debt	—	—	(332 )	(1,591 )	—
Gain from disposition of real estate	—	2,843	55,263	4,312	14,806
Net income	118,061	64,104	107,191	60,238	57,972
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(2,070 )	(1,265 )	(2,547 )	(3,602 )	(1,343 )
Net income attributable to ACC, Inc. and Subsidiaries common stockholders	115,991	62,839	104,644	56,636	56,629
<b>Per Share and Distribution Data:</b>					
Earnings per diluted share:					
Income from continuing operations	\$1.02	\$0.56	\$0.42	\$0.52	\$0.46
Discontinued operations	—	0.02	0.56	0.13	0.34
Net income	1.02	0.58	0.98	0.65	0.80
Cash distributions declared per share / unit	1.58	1.50	1.42	1.35	1.35
Cash distributions declared	178,506	158,487	149,461	117,592	93,813
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Total assets	\$6,025,947	\$5,834,748	\$5,598,040	\$5,118,962	\$3,008,582
Secured mortgage, construction and bond debt	1,101,325	1,331,914	1,507,216	1,509,105	858,530
Term loans and revolving credit facilities	668,900	842,500	838,450	712,000	589,000
Unsecured notes	1,197,755	798,305	398,721	—	—
Capital lease obligations	—	—	—	149	450
Stockholders' equity	2,770,196	2,609,554	2,624,901	2,648,381	1,375,216
<b>Selected Owned Property Information:</b>					
Owned properties	162	169	167	160	116
Units	32,455	33,661	33,434	31,854	22,947
Beds	99,388	103,661	102,400	98,840	71,801
Occupancy as of December 31,	97.3 %	97.7 %	96.8 %	95.7 %	97.8 %
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$260,986	\$259,898	\$246,678	\$195,131	\$126,744
Net cash used in investing activities	(239,455 )	(429,235 )	(509,999 )	(1,447,562 )	(423,584 )
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(29,934 )	155,648	280,618	1,251,486	205,732
<b>Funds From Operations ("FFO"):</b>					
Net income attributable to ACC, Inc. and	\$115,991	\$62,839	\$104,644	\$56,636	\$56,629



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Subsidiaries common stockholders					
Noncontrolling interests	2,070	1,265	1,756	1,205	1,343
Gain from disposition of real estate	(52,699 )	(2,475 )	(55,263 )	(4,312 )	(14,806 )
(Income) loss from unconsolidated joint ventures	—	—	—	(444 )	641
FFO from unconsolidated joint ventures	—	—	—	429	(576 )
Elimination of provision for real estate impairment	—	2,443	—	—	1,105
Real estate related depreciation and amortization	206,019	195,158	185,640	114,841	87,951
FFO	\$271,381	\$259,230	\$236,777	\$168,355	\$132,287

## Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

### Our Company and Our Business

#### Overview

We are one of the largest owners, managers and developers of high quality student housing properties in the United States in terms of beds owned and under management. We are a fully integrated, self-managed and self-administered equity REIT with expertise in the acquisition, design, financing, development, construction management, leasing and management of student housing properties. Refer to Item 1 contained herein for additional information regarding our business objectives, investment strategies, and operating segments.

#### Property Portfolio

As of December 31, 2015, our property portfolio contained 162 properties with approximately 99,400 beds in approximately 32,500 apartment units. Our property portfolio consisted of 134 owned off-campus student housing properties that are in close proximity to colleges and universities, 23 ACE properties operated under ground/facility leases with eleven university systems and five on-campus participating properties operated under ground/facility leases with the related university systems. Of the 162 properties, nine were under development as of December 31, 2015, and when completed will consist of a total of approximately 5,500 beds in approximately 1,500 units. Our communities contain modern housing units and are supported by a resident assistant system and other student-oriented programming, with many offering resort-style amenities.

We believe that the ownership and operation of student housing communities in close proximity to selected colleges and universities presents an attractive long-term investment opportunity for our investors. We intend to continue to execute our strategy of identifying existing differentiated, typically highly amenitized, student housing communities or development opportunities in close proximity to university campuses with high barriers to entry which are projected to experience substantial increases in enrollment and/or are under-serviced in terms of existing on and/or off-campus student housing.

#### Third-Party Development and Management Services

We provide development and construction management services for student housing properties owned by universities, 501(c) 3 foundations and others. Our clients have included some of the nation's most prominent systems of higher education. We develop student housing properties for these clients and we are sometimes retained to manage these properties following their opening. As of December 31, 2015, we were under contract on two third-party development projects that are currently in progress and whose fees range from \$1.9 million to \$2.1 million. As of December 31, 2015, fees of approximately \$2.0 million remained to be earned by us with respect to these projects, as well as a predevelopment consulting arrangement, during 2016.

As of December 31, 2015, we also provided third-party management and leasing services for 39 properties that represented approximately 29,500 beds in approximately 10,900 units. Our third-party management and leasing services are typically provided pursuant to management contracts that have initial terms that range from one to five years.

While fee revenue from our third-party development, construction management and property management services allows us to develop strong and key relationships with colleges and universities, this area has over time become a

smaller portion of our operations due to the continued focus on and growth of our wholly-owned property portfolio. Nevertheless, we believe these services continue to provide synergies with respect to our ability to identify, close, and successfully operate student housing properties.

#### Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions in certain circumstances that affect amounts reported in our consolidated and combined financial statements and related notes. In preparing these financial statements, management has utilized all available information, including its past history, industry standards and the current economic environment, among other factors, in forming its estimates and judgments of certain amounts included in the consolidated financial statements, giving due consideration to materiality. It is possible that the ultimate outcome anticipated by management in formulating its estimates may not be realized. Application of the critical accounting policies below involves the exercise of judgment and use of assumptions as to future uncertainties and, as a result, actual results could differ from these estimates. In addition, other companies in similar businesses

may utilize different estimation policies and methodologies, which may impact the comparability of our results of operations and financial condition to those companies.

#### Revenue and Cost Recognition of Third-Party Development and Management Services

Development revenues are generally recognized based on a proportional performance method based on contract deliverables, while construction revenues are recognized using the percentage of completion method, as determined by construction costs incurred relative to total estimated construction costs. For projects where our fee is based on a fixed price, any cost overruns incurred during construction, as compared to the original budget, will reduce the net fee generated on those projects. Incentive fees are generally recognized when the project is complete and performance has been agreed upon by all parties, or when performance has been verified by an independent third-party.

We also evaluate the collectability of fee income and expense reimbursements generated through the provision of development and construction management services based upon the individual facts and circumstances, including the contractual right to receive such amounts in accordance with the terms of the various projects, and reserve any amounts that are deemed to be uncollectible.

Pre-development expenditures such as architectural fees, permits and deposits associated with the pursuit of third-party and owned development projects are expensed as incurred, until such time that management believes it is probable that the contract will be executed and/or construction will commence. Because we frequently incur these pre-development expenditures before a financing commitment and/or required permits and authorizations have been obtained, we bear the risk of loss of these pre-development expenditures if financing cannot ultimately be arranged on acceptable terms or we are unable to successfully obtain the required permits and authorizations. As such, management evaluates the status of third-party and owned projects that have not yet commenced construction on a periodic basis and expenses any deferred costs related to projects whose current status indicates the commencement of construction is unlikely and/or the costs may not provide future value to us in the form of revenues. Such write-offs are included in third-party development and management services expenses (in the case of third-party development projects) or general and administrative expenses (in the case of owned development projects) on the accompanying consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

Third-party management fees are generally received and recognized on a monthly basis and are computed as a percentage of property receipts, revenues or a fixed monthly amount, in accordance with the applicable management contract. Incentive management fees are recognized when the contractual criteria have been met.

#### Student Housing Rental Revenue Recognition and Accounts Receivable

Student housing rental revenue is recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the contract. Ancillary and other property related income is recognized in the period earned. In estimating the collectability of our accounts receivable, we analyze the aging of resident receivables, historical bad debts, and current economic trends. These estimates have a direct impact on our net income, as an increase in our allowance for doubtful accounts reduces our net income.

#### Allocation of Fair Value to Acquired Properties

The price that we pay to acquire a property is impacted by many factors, including the condition of the buildings and improvements, the occupancy of the building, favorable or unfavorable financing, and numerous other factors. Accordingly, we are required to make subjective assessments to allocate the purchase price paid to acquire investments in real estate among the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on our estimate of the fair values of such assets and liabilities. This includes, among other items, determining the value of the buildings and improvements, land, in-place tenant leases, tax incentive arrangements, and any debt assumed from the seller. Each of

these estimates requires a great deal of judgment and some of the estimates involve complex calculations. Our calculation methodology is summarized in Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements contained in Item 8. These allocation assessments have a direct impact on our results of operations because if we were to allocate more value to land there would be no depreciation with respect to such amount or if we were to allocate more value to the buildings as opposed to allocating to the value of in-place tenant leases, this amount would be recognized as an expense over a much longer period of time, since the amounts allocated to buildings are depreciated over the estimated lives of the buildings whereas amounts allocated to in-place tenant leases are amortized over the remaining terms of the leases (generally less than one year).

#### Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

On a periodic basis, management is required to assess whether there are any indicators that the value of our real estate properties may be impaired. A property's value is considered impaired if management's estimate of the aggregate future undiscounted cash flows to be generated by the property is less than the carrying value of the property. These estimates of cash flows consider factors

such as expected future operating income, trends and prospects, as well as the effects of demand, competition and other factors. To the extent impairment has occurred, the loss will be measured as the excess of the carrying amount of the property over the fair value of the property, thereby reducing our net income. Management also performs a periodic assessment to determine which of our properties are likely to be sold prior to the end of their estimated useful lives. For those probable sales, an impairment charge is recorded for any excess of the carrying amount of the property over the expected net proceeds from disposal, thereby reducing our net income.

#### Capital Expenditures

We distinguish between capital expenditures necessary for the ongoing operations of our properties and acquisition-related improvements incurred within one to two years of acquisition of the related property. (Acquisition-related improvements are expenditures that have been identified at the time the property is acquired, and which we intended to incur in order to position the property to be consistent with our physical standards). We capitalize non-recurring expenditures for additions and betterments to buildings and land improvements. In addition, we generally capitalize expenditures for exterior painting, roofing, and other major maintenance projects that substantially extend the useful life of the existing assets. The cost of ordinary repairs and maintenance that do not improve the value of an asset or extend its useful life are charged to expense when incurred. Planned major repair, maintenance and improvement projects are capitalized when performed. In some circumstances, lenders require us to maintain a reserve account for future repairs and capital expenditures. These amounts are classified as restricted cash on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets, as the funds are not available to us for current use.

For our properties under development, capitalized interest is generally based on the weighted average interest rate of our total debt. Upon substantial completion of the properties, cost capitalization ceases. The total capitalized development costs are then transferred to the applicable asset category and depreciation commences. These estimates used by management require judgment, and accordingly we believe cost capitalization to be a critical accounting estimate.

## Results of Operations

## Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

The following table presents our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, including the amount and percentage change in these results between the two periods.

	Year Ended December 31,		Change (\$)	Change (%)	
	2015	2014			
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Wholly-owned properties	\$704,909	\$690,582	\$14,327	2.1	%
On-campus participating properties	31,586	28,534	3,052	10.7	%
Third-party development services	4,964	4,018	946	23.5	%
Third-party management services	8,813	7,669	1,144	14.9	%
Resident services	3,109	3,112	(3)	(0.1)	)%
Total revenues	753,381	733,915	19,466	2.7	%
<b>Operating expenses:</b>					
Wholly-owned properties	331,836	329,615	2,221	0.7	%
On-campus participating properties	12,437	11,290	1,147	10.2	%
Third-party development and management services	14,346	12,008	2,338	19.5	%
General and administrative	20,838	18,681	2,157	11.5	%
Depreciation and amortization	208,788	197,495	11,293	5.7	%
Ground/facility leases	8,232	7,397	835	11.3	%
Provision for real estate impairment	—	2,443	(2,443)	(100.0)	)%
Total operating expenses	596,477	578,929	17,548	3.0	%
Operating income	156,904	154,986	1,918	1.2	%
<b>Nonoperating income and (expenses):</b>					
Interest income	4,421	4,168	253	6.1	%
Interest expense	(87,789)	(90,362)	2,573	(2.8)	)%
Amortization of deferred financing costs	(5,550)	(5,918)	368	(6.2)	)%
Gain (loss) from disposition of real estate	52,699	(368)	53,067	(14,420.4)	)%
Loss from early extinguishment of debt	(1,770)	—	(1,770)	100.0	%
Other nonoperating income	388	186	202	108.6	%
Total nonoperating expenses	(37,601)	(92,294)	54,693	(59.3)	)%
Income before income taxes and discontinued operations	119,303	62,692	56,611	90.3	%
Income tax provision	(1,242)	(1,308)	66	(5.0)	)%
Income from continuing operations	118,061	61,384	56,677	92.3	%
<b>Discontinued operations:</b>					
Loss attributable to discontinued operations	—	(123)	123	(100.0)	)%
Gain from disposition of real estate	—	2,843	(2,843)	(100.0)	)%
Total discontinued operations	—	2,720	(2,720)	(100.0)	)%