Dear Mountaineer Parents Club families,

As we celebrate WVU’s 150th birthday, it’s a perfect time to reflect on the history of the Mountaineer Parents Club.

The Club began in 1995 as a vision of then-President David C. Hardesty, Jr. He wanted families to be connected to the WVU experience, and he knew that they were critical to student success. When we began, WVU was only one of nine higher education institutions that had parent organizations. We were a leader in connecting parents to their students’ college experience. President Hardesty’s wife, Susan B. Hardesty, became the chair and founder of the Parents Club. It started with her asking a few parents of friends who had children at WVU to become inaugural members. The following summer she had an idea for parents to sign up at New Student Orientation, and we still do that today.

To represent us, the heart with the Flying WV logo was developed. When asked why that design became our logo, Mrs. Hardesty recalls a parent telling her that it was perfect because when they left their child at WVU, they left their heart. All parents who sign up to be members still receive a Parents Club logo pin to proudly wear so that others will recognize their connection to WVU.

Susan Hardesty’s vision included having local clubs worldwide, much like WVU Alumni Association chapters. Parents of WVU students would meet in their hometowns and communities to discuss topics related to their students. She visited every county in West Virginia and many other states to build this network, eventually resulting in over 65 local clubs.

Families enjoyed getting to know other Mountaineers in their own communities – they shared ideas, tips, travel routes and even discussed carpooling. Clubs still meet today and host Summer Send-offs, Winterfests and other events.

Clear and frequent communication between the University and student families has always been one of our goals. When the Club began, newsletters were mailed twice a year. Hard-copy mail was about the only option at the time when the club began, 22 years ago!

While communication methods may have changed dramatically thanks to technology, what has stayed the same is our partnership with you. We’ve come a long way, with membership growing from 300 families in 1995 to over 20,000 today. And we will continue to work together to create the best possible experience for both WVU students and those who support them at home.

Please join us as WVU continues to celebrate its 150th birthday over the next year. You can view a historical timeline, see old photos from campus, discover 150 reasons you should love WVU and more, at birthday.wvu.edu.

Let’s Go!

Sabrina M. Cave
Assistant Vice President, Parent Program

WVU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution – Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran. (357842)
Snap shot

WVU CELEBRATES 150TH BIRTHDAY

One hundred and fifty years — and what a ride it’s been. From humble beginnings as an agricultural college in 1867, West Virginia University has become a premier research institution with a focus on world-changing innovations that are making a lasting impact in the fields that matter most.

WVU kicked off an 11-month celebration of its 150th year in February. The University was officially founded on February 7, 1867.

To view our historical timeline, see old photos from campus, view 150 reasons you should love WVU and more, head to birthday.wvu.edu.

Photo by M.G. Ellis
Cover photo by Jennifer Shephard
Did You Know?

**Five-Time Champions**

The West Virginia University rifle team claimed its fifth-straight and nation-best 19th title at the NCAA Championships on March 11 at The Ohio State University’s French Field House in Columbus, Ohio. The 2017 title win was the team’s sixth in 11 years under coach Jon Hammond.

**New Faces**

Meet new Student Body President Blake Humphrey, a senior from Wheeling, WV, studying economics and political science, and Vice President Shannon Smith, a junior from Pittsburgh, PA, studying strategic communications with an emphasis in public relations.

**Summer Send-Off**

This summer be sure to see if there is a Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-Off in your hometown and make plans to attend! These are great events designed for all WVU students and their families! A $200 textbook gift card is given away at each one, and a WVU representative will be in attendance to answer any questions you might have about WVU.

To find one in your area, check the Mountaineer Parents Club calendar at parentsclub.wvu.edu.

**Grad Photos**

Free graduation photos will be taken in Woodburn Circle on May 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Your student can sign up at go.wvu.edu/gradphotos. For more information, visit WVU’s Twitter account @WestVirginiaU.

**Honor in Service**

One thing is certain — WVU students aren’t afraid to challenge assumptions and inspire real change. And our WVU College of Law students are participating in some of the most inspiring work on campus and in the community. For that, the National Jurist magazine has given special recognition to the WVU College of Law for its work in public service. WVU Law received second place on a national honor roll of law schools with the greatest community impact.

Last year alone, WVU law students provided 40,200 hours of pro bono legal services for more than 500 clients throughout the state through the school’s nine clinics, from winning asylum for three immigration clients to reversing a murder conviction for a client serving a 40-year sentence to helping veterans, domestic violence victims, the elderly and children.

Read more online by visiting law.wvu.edu/clinical-law.
Ready to Launch

At WVU, we know the path to greatness isn’t always a straight line. Many students find they need to adjust course to stay on track to get their degree. If your student received information about the 2017 Summer Boost program in the mail, most likely they:

- Have a cumulative GPA below a 2.0
- Are eligible to D/F repeat coursework
- Or are a PROMISE scholar who needs to reach the renewal scholarship requirements.

Summer Boost students can improve their GPAs; get credits in summer while taking smaller, more intensive classes; receive individual support from success coaches and academic seminars; and qualify for up to 30 percent off tuition.

If your student receives a Summer Boost invitation, they can take these easy steps to enroll in a program that will help them launch a bright future.

- Students must register for a select Summer BOOST course on STAR.
- After registering, students should submit their application online at undergraduate.wvu.edu/student-success/summer-boost-program.
- Someone from the Summer BOOST program office will email your student after submission.
- Registration is currently under way. The last dates to apply for programs are:
  - June 9 for classes that start on June 26.

Visit undergraduate.wvu.edu/student-success/summer-boost-program for more details, or contact Niara Campbell, director, Summer BOOST program, at 304-293-5804 or niara.campbell@mail.wvu.edu.

Blue & Gold Mine Sale

The 13th annual Blue & Gold Mine Sale is set for Saturday, May 13 from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Milan Puskar Stadium. As your student prepares to leave for the summer, any unwanted items can be donated to the sale. This is a great place for students to get items for their new off-campus apartment, while supporting the United Way. Donations can be dropped off at all University residence halls or one of the other drop-off locations around Morgantown. Visit bluegoldmine.wvu.edu for more information.

Honoring A Hidden Figure

The story of Katherine Johnson, an African American woman, West Virginia native, NASA mathematician and physicist who was vital to mid-century space missions, has finally come to light with the new book and film “Hidden Figures.” But few know her history and importance to WVU. That’s why civil engineering major Morgan King and exercise physiology major Savannah Lusk decided it was time to remedy that situation.

Both young women know first-hand how difficult it can be for women to succeed in male-dominated fields. That’s why they were so inspired by Johnson’s legacy as not only a groundbreaking figure at NASA, but also the first African American to desegregate WVU’s graduate school.

Together, the two Honors College students contacted officials at WVU in an effort to create a lasting tribute to Johnson. While she studied mathematics at WVU, the NASA connections in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources made it an ideal fit for the tribute. As part of its National Engineers Week events, the College unveiled a plaque in Johnson’s honor on February 21, 2017.

In addition, Johnson’s story has inspired the University to name “Hidden Figures” the official Campus Read for 2017-18. Learn more about the current Campus Read at undergraduate.wvu.edu/campus-read — and pick up a copy in the WVU Bookstore to read along.

Greek Day of Service

In 2016, over 800 members of the on-campus Greek community participated in a day of service that involved 29 service projects in Monongalia, Preston and Marion counties. April 1, 2017, marked the second annual day of service for the Greek community at WVU.
Despite threats to funding, attacks on the merit of a college degree and free speech concerns on the nation's campuses, West Virginia University is primed to persevere as the guiding star of the state and its citizens, WVU President Gordon Gee said during his State of the University address in March.

Downward economic shifts and a difficult political climate cannot stop the power of higher education, Gee told a crowd of about 300 faculty, staff, students and community members at the Erickson Alumni Center.

Gee pointed at WVU's beginnings and resolve through its 150-year existence as proof that the University will march through an uncertain future.

"Ours is a storied history — rich with groundbreaking discoveries, academic achievements, athletic pride and a love for the gold and blue that beats strong around the world," he said.

"We have always held the mission as a land-grant institution close to our hearts. It is the driving force for everything we do under our three pillars of education, healthcare and prosperity," he said. "And those pillars have never been more important to West Virginia than they are today."

As the state of West Virginia faces a half-billion-dollar budget deficit, Gee encouraged the Mountaineer community to view it as an opportunity rather than a crisis. In the past three years, WVU has dealt with a nearly $30 million reduction in State funding. And it's prepared to deal with more cutbacks proposed by the Senate.

Gee emphasized one statistic from the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University: Since 2008, 11.8 million jobs have emerged in the country. Of those, 80,000 required only a high school education. That means 99 percent of jobs created since 2008 have required college or post-secondary training.

To further enhance the value of a modern-day WVU education, Gee proposed nixing the "strategic plans" of yesteryear. Instead, universities must be nimble and inclusive — not only within campus boundaries but out in the real world.

In order to meet these needs, WVU will embody five core Mountaineer values: service, curiosity, respect, accountability and appreciation.

"Now is the time to stand up against those who discredit higher education — those who claim we work and study in an idealistic world. Actually, the world in which we live is one that believes in the free expression and exchange of ideas and knowledge. The world in which we live is one that is developing the leaders of tomorrow.

"So with our good hearts, let us defend higher education. Let us defend the advancement of the arts, the humanities and the sciences. Let us defend all of which this University stands to improve the lives of our students, our faculty and staff, and 1.8 million West Virginians.

"And let us do so with the same fervor . . . in which West Virginia University was founded 150 years ago."
MULTIPLE CAMPUSES, ONE MISSION

Did you know West Virginia University is actually a family of distinctive campuses across the state? United by a single mission, these diverse settings offer every student the chance to find their niche and launch their future. From our flagship in Morgantown to the liberal arts hub of WVU Keyser to the technology-intensive programs at WVU Beckley — as well as our medical campuses in Charleston and Martinsburg — we are leveraging our talents and resources to create a better, healthier and more prosperous future for West Virginia and the world. Current and potential WVU students can take classes on any campus (or online in some cases) and easily transfer those credits from one campus to another.

WVU KEYSER

Founded in 1901, WVU Potomac State College in Keyser is a residential college offering around 50 two-year degrees that easily transfer into bachelor’s degree programs on the WVU Morgantown campus, as well as four-year degrees in areas like business management, computer information systems and criminal justice. potomacstatecollege.edu

WVU BECKLEY

What began as Montgomery Preparatory School in 1895 has become the WVU Institute of Technology. Now located in Beckley, this residential college offers nine ABET-accredited engineering degrees and a variety of other programs. WVU Tech attracts bright students who want the challenge of a high-tech degree with the advantage of individual attention and one-on-one mentoring. wvutech.edu

MORGANTOWN

28,488 students and 340+ majors

BECKLEY

WVU Institute of Technology
1,347 students and 40+ majors

KEYSER

WVU Potomac State College
1,452 students and 50+ majors

CHARLESTON

WVU Medicine Charleston Division

MARTINSBURG

WVU Medicine Martinsburg Division

SPRING 2017 5
Ask the Experts: Career Search Process

If your student is within a year of graduation, now is the time for them to get the ball rolling on the career search process. It takes time and commitment, but students who are proactive — who start on the process six to 12 months before donning the cap and gown — can get a head start on the competition. According to the WVU Career Services Center, students should plan to set aside about three hours a week.

To help your student get started, share these 12 steps with them to help increase their chances of a successful job search.

- Get your head in the game and stay positive. Finding a job can be a challenge, but know it’s worth it in the end.
- Develop a base resume and cover letter and have them reviewed by the Career Services Center.
- Upload your documents to MountaineerTRAK and begin searching job postings.
- Use social media to your advantage. Make sure every public account and post with your name is appropriate for a hiring manager to see. And stay active — many employers like to get in touch via social media sites. You can also sign up for online resources like CareerShift (access code: wvsenior) and LinkedIn. Individual company social media pages can be great resources, too.
- Stay organized. Keep track of the jobs you’ve applied to on your computer by making folders with each tailored resume and cover letter, plus job details and deadlines.
- Put deadlines and dates, as well as follow-up details and contacts, on your smartphone or device calendar and set reminders to keep you on track.
- Join professional associations. To find groups in your field, visit whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major, select your major of interest and scroll to the bottom for a listing.
- Leverage your network — talk about careers with classmates, friends, alumni, professors, family and friends to learn about potential opportunities.
- Sign up for a mock interview with a career counselor — practice makes perfect!
- Go to every career fair or professional development event you can.
- Follow up with employers after every interview. Make sure to get emails or business cards from all those who interview you so you can send thank you notes and ask follow-up questions.
- Do your homework on each company and make sure you know the pros and cons of accepting any potential offer.

Keep in mind: A student’s first offer may not be for their dream job. But with determination and a good career plan, young professionals can often leverage the accomplishments of their first job to prepare them for bigger and better opportunities down the road.

Conversations: Collegiate Recovery Program

Just over a year after the Collegiate Recovery program came into being, it’s already providing a safe space and support to students seeking to recover from addiction while learning and living life to the fullest.

Collegiate Recovery welcomes students from multiple pathways of recovery. These programs have existed since the late 1970s and have recently become more prominent as more young people enter recovery.

As part of this innovative program, Serenity Place, a townhouse located at 369 Oakland Street behind the Evansdale Residential Complex, opened in October 2016 to provide a safe space for students in recovery to gather, find support and engage with other students seeking recovery, seven days a week.

The program offers a comfortable, homelike environment and may be the only one of its kind in the country with a therapy dog. Students can always find healthy food choices and are welcome to stop in between classes to have a snack and a quick conversation or have a full meal and stay for the afternoon.

WVU has held a number of related events, including sober tailgate parties, a sober superbowl party, movie and game night, art journaling, a sober St. Patrick’s Day open house and more. The program is student-driven, with members meeting twice a month to plan events and set goals.

An additional unique feature is the family support meetings. These are open to parents who have students in recovery and to those who are concerned about their children. The program has two Parent Ambassador Families, Stephanie Solomon and Kevin Blankenship, who attend meetings to share their recovery journeys. The program also works with local peer recovery coaches.

Learn more about helping your student live a life in recovery by visiting recovery.wvu.edu.
Home Away from Home

**A New Community**

Is your student seeking the independence and lifestyle of apartment living? Upperclassmen have even more options with WVU Housing than freshmen, including four University Apartment complexes with endless opportunities to study, chill and connect with new friends — all with the convenience and safety of a University-managed community. Browse options, see photos and layouts, compare prices and learn how to apply for 2017-2018 leases at universityapartments.wvu.edu.

**COLLEGE PARK**
This complex is a short walk to High Street, the Downtown Library and academic buildings, the Mountainlair and the PRT. These furnished apartments have granite kitchen countertops, hardwood-style floors, in-room washers and dryers, private balconies and available parking. Residents even have access to a 24-hour fitness center, iMac computer lab, coffee bar, TV lounge with billiards and games and an outdoor kitchen perfect for get-togethers.

**UNIVERSITY PARK**
West Virginia University’s newest apartment complex is an all-inclusive student living experience in the heart of Mountaineer sports. With fully-furnished one-, two- and four-bedroom apartments boasting granite kitchen countertops, stainless steel appliances, a private 24-hour gym, onsite laundry, private balconies, available parking and utilities included, you’ll find it all — and a lot more — all a short distance to Health Sciences, the Stadium and the Coliseum.

**UNIVERSITY PLACE**
Students looking for the best in modern, independent apartment living will find their niche at University Place. Nestled in the heart of downtown, residents enjoy a short walk to academic buildings, the Mountainlair and the bustle of High Street. These fully-furnished apartments have flat-screen TVs, granite kitchen countertops, hardwood-style floors as well as onsite retail and restaurants. Students can work out and connect with friends in the onsite fitness center, outdoor spaces, courtyards and study lounges.

**VANDALIA**
Convenience is king at Vandalia, one of our closest apartment communities to all the downtown necessities, from restaurants and shopping on High Street to relaxing and studying in Woodburn Circle and the Downtown Library. Students here have the easiest access to the College of Business and Economics and the Life Sciences Building. They enjoy fully-furnished one- and two-bedroom apartments with private bathrooms, onsite laundry facilities, available parking and all utilities included in rent.
Funding The Future

**Reynolds’ $10 Million Gift**

Bob and Laura Reynolds have a history of giving back and making a difference through their philanthropy.

The Boston couple is giving $10 million to the WVU College of Business and Economics. The gift will provide initial funding for a building in their names at a new business school complex on Morgantown’s waterfront, as well as propel other academic components of business education at B&E. The new B&E complex will be located on the site of the current Stansbury Hall.

Bob, a 1974 finance graduate of the WVU College of Business and Economics and a member of the WVU Foundation board of directors, is president and CEO of three multinational companies.

"About five years ago, we began talking with folks at the College of Business and Economics and the Foundation about B&E’s vision for the future — and how we might be a part of that," Bob Reynolds said. "Now we’ve come together on a vibrant plan for a new business school building and other amenities that will revitalize and transform Morgantown’s waterfront. This is a plan we’re proud to support."

The leadership gift is part of the highly successful “A State of Minds” comprehensive private fundraising campaign for WVU, of which Bob Reynolds serves as co-chairman.

"I am a firm believer that you cannot have a great university without a great business school," said WVU President E. Gordon Gee. "This generous gift by Bob and Laura will not only help construct a new building in their name, but will also help launch our plans to build a new College of Business and Economics complex."

Reynolds, a native of Clarksburg, WV, attributed his successes to the University that molded him.

"At a time when State support is declining, we need private support more than ever. And WVU has earned that support," he said. "I have said it many times before, and I’ll say it again. Whatever success I’ve had in my life and career began right here — in the four years I spent as a student at West Virginia University. I love this place. And I want my alma mater to nurture and challenge future generations of Mountaineers."

B&E Dean Javier Reyes said a newly constructed business school will open even more doors of opportunity for students and provide more space and resources for faculty.

"We believe that the true differentiator for B&E will be that of experiential learning and the overall role it plays in the student experience," Reyes said. "Our model of education reflects a blend of classroom learning with experiences outside the classroom, ranging from learning labs to events, and from group participation-based projects to training designed to ready students for their careers.

"The generosity of Bob and Laura Reynolds will initiate the design and construction of a superior facility and academic investment. Students will have unique, experiential learning opportunities that will help make them business leaders anywhere in the world. Increased and innovative faculty resources at these new facilities will be designed with the student in mind."

**Bernard Osher Foundation Endowment**

Nontraditional, undergraduate WVU students have the opportunity to receive scholarship funding through the Osher Reentry Scholarship program, supported by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

In 2011, the Bernard Osher Foundation began supporting the scholarship program with grants of $50,000 annually. Three years later, WVU received a $1 million grant from the foundation, creating an endowed scholarship program.

Students seeking to resume their studies and complete a baccalaureate degree after a cumulative interruption in their education of five or more years, may receive funding through the scholarship. Individuals may use the scholarship for tuition and fees at WVU Morgantown, WVU Tech or Potomac State College. Recipients may receive a scholarship of up to $5,000 and are required to maintain a 2.5 grade point average in order to apply for a scholarship renewal.

"As a program of the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is pleased to be able to encourage and support older undergraduate students in their pursuit of higher education with the help of this unique scholarship," said Jascenna Haislet, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU.

Seven WVU students received scholarships in 2016, and 30 scholarships have been awarded since the program began at WVU in 2011.

Students interested in applying can visit the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU website by going to [oliatwvu.org](http://oliatwvu.org) and selecting the scholarships tab. Or by visiting the WVU Financial Aid website at [financialaid.wvu.edu/aid-and-scholarships/scholarships](http://financialaid.wvu.edu/aid-and-scholarships/scholarships) and selecting the Osher Reentry Scholarship tab.

The Bernard Osher Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco, was founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected businessman and community leader. The foundation seeks to improve the quality of life through support for lifelong learning, higher education, integrative medicine and the arts. Through post-secondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, the foundation focuses special attention on reentry students, typically aged 25-50.
The Last Word with Corey Farris

We recently had the opportunity to sit down with the Dean of Students, Corey Farris, for a lighter take on his life at WVU and some advice for parents.

Q: What is your best WVU memory as an undergraduate student?
A: Organizing the last student pep rally at the old Mountaineer Field on the downtown campus where Life Sciences and Business and Economics building now stands. Pretty special moment!

Q: What is your favorite comfort food you crave after a long day?
A: Who doesn’t love a good meat loaf, brussel sprouts and mashed potatoes? Yum!

Q: What is your favorite vacation spot?
A: Morgantown, WV. Kidding of course. Any beach or body of water. I find, being near the water relaxes me.

Q: What is the coolest place on campus that all students must visit?
A: Two spots: The PRT control room is something to see. Also, the bench by the Blaney House that overlooks Morgantown. It’s one of the best views around!

Q: What is your favorite thing to do on campus?
A: This is an easy one. It has to be talking and listening to our students.

Q: Do you think parents are important to a students’ success?
A: Of course! Yes! Students need good support systems.

Q: How often should parents call their college kids?
A: Once a week.

Q: How much money should parents send their students? Did your parents send you money when you were a student at WVU?
A: Enough to get by but also enough for them to understand the value of money. (My parents) never sent me money but occasionally would slip me twenty bucks as I was leaving after visiting them in Charleston, WV.

Follow him on Twitter @CoreyFarrisWVU.

Since joining WVU in 1991, Corey Farris has served in various leadership roles within Student Life, including new student services, residential education, housing and university apartments and student conduct. He has served in the role of dean of students since 2010.

Farris received a bachelor’s degree from WVU in business administration in 1981. Three years later, he graduated with a master’s degree in student personnel from The Ohio State University. ✭
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 - 5: Final Exam Week
May 6: Residence Halls Close at 5:00 p.m.
May 12 - 14: Commencement
May 15: First Summer Session Begins

August 12: Move-in Day
August 16: First Day of Classes
September 4: Labor Day Recess
September 22 - 24: Fall Family Weekend
September 23: Fall Ring Day Ceremony

For more information on residence hall closings, please visit the housing website at housing.wvu.edu.
And for a full list of events, go to parentsclub.wvu.edu.