

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
January 13, 2017

With 2017 now underway, here is a look back at 2016 and with the help of all in our WVU community we look to continue making last impacts in this our 150th year: <http://bit.ly/2ioUPHi>! As we get off to a strong start, President Gee recently issued his first Gee-Mail of the new year from the Rec Center where he found students starting strong on their New Year's resolutions: <http://bit.ly/2jswokj>. Campus Recreation has recently launched a new resource called the *WVUGo App* to help students stay on track with their health and exercise goals: <http://bit.ly/2ipatsj> and *Intramurals* are now taking sign-ups.

Academically-speaking, with the first week of classes wrapping up today, this is the perfect opportunity to remind your students get off on the right foot academically and establishing some good study habits (our *Academic Resource Centers open Tuesday!*) Maybe they want to plan ahead and schedule to attend a *Career Fair or Career Prep event*? Whatever the resolution, remind them there are support structures for these and many other areas here to help them reach their goals. You will find a host of these highlighted under the topic '*Opportunities to get off on the right foot*' so read on and be sure to share with your student!

Below we have also note timely *Tax Time* updates including 1098-T and other 2016 year-end tax details, an important date correction for the start of *2017-18 calendar*, information on the newly launched *Mountaineer Parents Club Website*, and some timely reminders on *Housing* in advance of the January 21 Off-Campus Housing Fair in this edition, so read on! In this edition:

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TAX TIME

2016 Year-End Tax Information

2016 W-2 forms will be available online for all current employees, including students, by January 31, 2017. They can be accessed through eNODS on the “myApps” link at the West Virginia State Auditor’s website at <http://bit.ly/2itwrHH>. Former employees do not have access to the eNODS system and must wait for their mailed original paper W-2 form. Original paper W-2 forms are projected to be mailed on January 25 and 26, 2017. Current employees, including student employees, should update their mailing addresses as soon as possible through the MyAccess portal at <http://bit.ly/2ip1gdr> to ensure that their W-2 form is mailed to the correct address. Ex-employees should update their mailing address by sending an e-mail directly to tax@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU Student 1098-T Tax Forms Available

WVU Tax Services will again be working with the business processing vendor ACS in preparing the 2016 Form 1098-T Tuition Statement for use by either students or parents in the filing of their 1040 personal tax return. The 2016 Form 1098-T will be available online starting mid- to

late January through ACS at <http://bit.ly/1BFmyJr>. Hard copies will be mailed by February 1, 2017, to the student's permanent mailing address listed in STAR.

As a note to new students, if this is the first year you will receive a Form 1098-T from WVU, you will be unable to register with the ACS website until we have completed the upload of the data file to ACS. Please continue to check back with the ACS website, and once the information is available it will allow you to register and download your 2016 Form 1098-T. WVU encourages all students to register to receive their Form 1098-T electronically. This can be done by going to the ACS website at <http://bit.ly/1BFmyJr> and registering.

Form 1098-T will not be issued to international students, unless requested by the student. An international student considered a nonresident alien for income tax purposes is not eligible for various educational tax credits and/or deductions. The IRS therefore does not require WVU to issue Form 1098-T to international students. If you are an international student and have questions, please contact WVU Tax Services at tax@mail.wvu.edu or at 304-293-3379, extension 3.

Forms 1098-T for the calendar years 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 are available online through ACS at <http://bit.ly/1BFmyJr>. Feel free to contact ACS with questions at tcrs@xerox.com or at 877-467-3821. If you need Form 1098-T for the calendar year 2009 or prior, please contact the WVU Tax Services unit directly at tax@mail.wvu.edu.

File your 2017-18 FAFSA now

If you have not already, as a reminder, you can file your 2017-18 FAFSA now with your previously filed 2015 taxes. So log on today and get it done and assure your student will have their 2017-18 Financial Aid offer as early as possible! <http://bit.ly/2j94h3b>

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

Now that your students are back on campus, this is a great time to get involved and off to a smart start. Here are some activities to consider:

Check out the new **Weekly Student Life Events**: <http://bit.ly/2jNtALo>

MLK Day of Service Opportunities for this weekend: <http://bit.ly/2j8VtKT>

Intramurals basketball, volleyball or racquetball sound fun? Rosters are due on Jan. 20, so sign up, get in shape and make new connections: <http://bit.ly/2bZYX1L>

Schedule in Exercise and Recreation with the WVUGo app: Intended to provide individuals with easy access to all Campus Recreation and Adventure WV information, the new WVUGo app guarantees individuals a spot in fitness classes, features room and field reservations, fitness

class and trip reservations, a master calendar of all programs and events, class and building announcements, the ability to favorite classes and set up push notifications.

Apply for a **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience programs:** Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, held May 30-July 28, is now accepting applications from undergraduates who are interested in graduate school and research/creative work within their discipline as well as their faculty research mentors. Review of completed applications will begin March 1: <http://bit.ly/2ip2oxu>.

Make plans to check out the **Study Abroad Fair**, February 22 in the Mountainlair Commons: <http://bit.ly/2jNB6WF>.

Academic Resource Centers open Tuesday! NEW this term: One-on-one appointments available: As your students start off the new semester, encourage them to start reaching out to faculty members early, going to office hours for follow up, or seek tutoring if needed. New this semester, the Academic Resource Centers that will open for Spring 2017 next Tuesday, January 17 will now be offering one-on-one 'Tutoring by Appointment' from 12-6pm Monday through Friday, in addition to the regular 'Drop-In' evening hours seven days a week from 6-9:30pm. Tutoring is free of charge and lists of currently available courses can be found online, though these will continue to change and adjust so encourage students to check back often. Tutoring takes place in the Downtown and Evansdale Libraries, in Brooke Tower and at WVUp All Night. Note that WVU also houses a variety of other tutoring hubs and learning centers specific to certain subjects and disciplines such as the Chemistry and Math Learning Centers and Writing Studio among others. For more on all academic support options, go to: <http://bit.ly/1Gn6MnW>.

Spring Career Services Events: New Year's resolutions can be tricky and often come and go without much success – But if your resolution is to help your student land a great internship or job, there's hope! The Career Services Center has the tools to make your goal stick. In addition to programs and services designed for students at all levels of the career development process <http://bit.ly/2ilAxTH>, we have a Parent Resource Guide just for you <http://bit.ly/1J5gKQ1>.

It may only be the middle of January, but our career fairs and events are a few of weeks away. So, please remind your student to add these important events to his or her calendar.

Career Fairs: <http://bit.ly/1rrd7Gr>

- Statler College: Engineering Career Fair Series: *January 25; February 2 and 28*
- WVU Career & Internship Fair: *February 15 & 16*
- College of Business and Economics Career Fair and Networking Reception: *February 22*
- Professional Education Career Program: *April 5*

Professional Development Events: <http://bit.ly/2hbJtr0>

- Statler College of Engineering & Mineral Resources Resume Review + Career Fair
PREP Events: *January 18 and 31; February 27, 2017*

- College of Business and Economics Resumania: *January 18; February 14; March 16*
- College of Business and Economics Mock Interview Week: *January 23-26*
- Career Fair PREP Week: *February 6-9*
- Professional Head Shot Booths: *February 6, 7, 15, 16, and 27*
- Professional Development Conference: *March 22*
- Professional Etiquette Dinner: *March 22*

If your student needs help jumpstarting his or her “career resolutions,” encourage a visit to Career Services in the Mountainlair Monday–Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Contact Information: 304-293-2221 | careerservices@mail.wvu.edu | <http://bit.ly/1oGa9zh>

HOUSING CONVERSATIONS

Housing Tips and Final Off Campus Housing Fair, January 21

With students now back from winter break with at least a semester’s worth of grades this is a good time to consider where they are planning to live next year. As a reminder from the fall term, here again, are some helpful reminders from the staff members from Student Legal Services and the Off-Campus Housing Office. These offices remind students and parents to look at all the details and consider individual circumstances before signing a lease. Leases are legally binding contracts, and after signing a lease – no matter what happens to your status as a student, even if they are looking at University Apartments – students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period. While many landlords and property managers will tell students that they must sign early, in reality there is a healthy supply of housing. Many leases in the Morgantown area are joint leases so a potential pitfall is signing a lease with another student who will not return for next year. Consider waiting to avoid the risks of signing a lease many months prior to moving into an apartment. Here are other thoughts for consideration:

Lease Start and End Dates matter: Is your student graduating next year? 2018 Graduation Weekend Dates are listed as May 11-13, 2018. Students should be sure to read the fine print and consider their personal situation in regards to the lease. Questions to consider are what is the last day on the lease regarding graduation for those graduating in May or is there an option for early termination or subletting for those graduating in December? For those staying on in town who might simply be moving out from the residence halls or on to a new apartment, be sure the lease start and end dates match up or consider storage options now.

Only in Morgantown half the year? If your student is graduating mid-year, or leaving the area for study abroad, co-ops, internships, student teaching, National Student Exchange or other similar programs next year, residence hall housing options could make sense because of their added flexibility. Students in these circumstances may be released from a WVU Residence Hall Room and Meal Plan contract for that period, with proper documentation. A limited number of upperclassmen spaces are held for returning students. If interested, students can apply, pay their deposit and choose their room/roommate online now: <http://bit.ly/1xW0Z4v>.

Free Lease Reviews: It's a great idea for students to have a lease review performed by Student Legal Services prior to signing. Services are free for students, and it is important for them to understand the legal document they are about to sign. Call 304-293-4897 for an appointment: <http://bit.ly/1DUWwCr>.

Residence Hall Options: Limited spaces do exist for upperclassmen who wish to remain in the residence halls next year and are available now. If interested, students should log on now to apply, pay their deposit and choose their room/roommate online: <http://bit.ly/1xW0Z4v>.

Consider University Apartments: With four properties managed and operated by WVU (University Place, University Park, College Park and Vandalia) these properties offer a convenient, secure and independent living environment with the freedom of 24-hour access all year long: <http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f>.

Off-Campus Housing Fair: Please encourage your students to attend the final Off-Campus Housing Fair located on the Evansdale campus to educate themselves about the process and explore all housing options: *Saturday, January 21, noon to 3 p.m., Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold Rooms*: <http://bit.ly/1xKgZYV>.

PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

New MPC Website

Same address, new look -- The Mountaineer Parents Club has a new website! Visit <http://bit.ly/1oDaO75> and check it out. As always, if you have any feedback regarding the site, let us know!

Question of the month results!

In December we asked how many of you had filed the 2017-18 FAFSA since it came out early this year in October. While nearly 60% indicated they had already filed, another 10% indicated that they were planning to do so over Winter Break. This is great as plans are to have your students packaged for 2017-18 Financial Aid in the next few months so you can begin planning ahead for next year. So for the 17% who said they hadn't thought about it yet -- now is the time! The remaining 13% who noted that you don't file the FAFSA, we always suggest that you file (especially this year since it is much easier with the new IRS Data Retrieval Tool and use of 2015 taxes that are already complete!) as having a FAFSA on file can cover you if you have sudden, unexpected changes in earning, or it may even be required to be on file for your student to be eligible for certain scholarships. So take the time to log on and complete this today if you have not already: <http://bit.ly/2j94h3b>

Also -- check out the January Question of the Month. We want to know what social media tool you use most! Please let us know: <http://bit.ly/2jFCGWG>.

OTHER NEWS AND UPDATES

2017-18 Calendar UPDATED

Please note that the 2017-18 Academic Calendar for NEXT year was recently updated. This reflects a new start to the fall 2017 term of **August 16, 2017** rather than August 23, 2017. The previously-published start date meant that Commencement would have been held on December 22, a university holiday, and also created complications for offices across campus as well as students and families. In case you had referenced the calendar for start dates for fall 2017 before, please note that these dates have changed and can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2hz8zmi>. No changes have been made to the Spring 2018 term.

The 2016-17 Academic Calendar for this year can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2e69da7>.

Transcripts, enrollment and degree verification requests

This time of the year, we often get questions about how to verify grades, enrollment or degrees for various insurance purposes. Depending on what is needed exactly, students can print a copy of their “unofficial” transcript from their STAR account that they can get to through the WVU Portal: <http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH>. If an “official” transcript is needed, students can follow the directions here: <http://bit.ly/2jFHSfF>. If you need official Enrollment or Degree Verification, students can go through this link: <http://bit.ly/2jsCBGx>.

A note on Honoraries

We often get questions from parents and students regarding invitations to join national honoraries they get in the mail. Here are a few helpful notes when considering what to join and how students might best spend their time and resources.

- Is there an active chapter of the national honorary on our campus? Students can check our Student Engagement and Life website and look under "Honorary" or their particular school or college to see if a local chapter exists and determine if it is active: <http://bit.ly/1OJzmSO>.
- There are many honor societies and honoraries available ranging from the more general Golden Key National Honor Society to major-specific honor societies such as Psi Chi (Psychology Honorary.) Perhaps one makes more sense than another to join depending on your student’s area of emphasis or interests.
- Students should join organizations they plan to participate in. Putting something on a resume means they may be asked about it in an interview and they need to be able to speak about their involvement.

Our Office of Student Engagement and Leadership oversees all student organizations and can help guide students with additional questions: 304-293-4397.

December Graduation –

From a race car driver to a puppeteer, the latest batch of West Virginia University Mountaineers crossed the threshold from student to college and graduated on December 16 at the close of another academic semester. Likening the new graduates to superheroes, President E. Gordon Gee

encouraged them to use their “special talents” to do good in the world, but, above all, to be true to themselves. <http://bit.ly/2jgdM3l>

Article of Interest

We often try to send along articles that might be of interest to you as parents. This recent release from the AP speaks about the how the “Pay Gap Between College Grads and Everyone Else Increases,” noting how college graduates, on average, earned 56% more than high school grads in 2015, according to data compiled by the Economic Policy Institute. That was up from 51% in 1999 and is the largest such gap in EPI's figures dating to 1973. <http://apne.ws/2jgNj58>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations