

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
September 12, 2016

Hello from Morgantown! The fall weather has begun to settle in with cooler evenings and beautiful sunny days. We hope that you are getting excited to come back to campus during Fall Family Weekend, October 7-9. It is just a few short weeks away, and the weekend schedule is now live – please see below for details. Some events require reservations or tickets so check it out and sign up today. Also, the Parents Club Holiday Bus reservations for Thanksgiving Break are now posted online and available for reservation.

Our national TV spot points to the journey of self-discovery that our students are embarking on – learning both in and outside the classroom: <http://bit.ly/2cAB4KY>. If your students are still looking for ways to get involved or find their community, check out the Upcoming Events section below. This week we will host our two-day WVU Career Fair, wellness workshops and Campus Read discussions, and the Study Abroad Fair is just around the corner. It will be a busy few weeks ahead.

Some of our engineering students recently showed how they go first by winning a NASA competition and a \$750,000 prize: <http://bit.ly/2bYxybR>! Provost McConnell also recently shared that this year's incoming class, in addition to being our largest, also boasts the highest high school GPA ever. And the Honors College also has its largest freshmen class ever: <http://go.wvu.edu/2bYjeAf>.

It is also just about time (October 1) to start completing the 2017-18 FAFSA. Info follows on this as well as important safety reminders and answers to some common questions. We look forward to seeing you all soon on campus for Fall Family Weekend! In this edition:

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MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB NEWS

Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays – Reservations Begin September 12

The Parents Club offers holiday buses home during the breaks when WVU residence halls close: Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Currently buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA. This year we will offer a bus to Highland, NY to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey and Central Maryland Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas. Please Note: The Long Island Mountaineer Parents Club chapter will begin taking reservations for their bus on Oct. 1.

Online reservations can be made beginning today, Sept. 12, through the Parents Club website. For info on making reservations or to review the schedule and details, please go to <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken.

While we do our best to accommodate viable departure and safe arrival times for all students and parents, we realize that some students may have classes that meet after the scheduled departure time. All professors give students a syllabus at the beginning of the semester that details their attendance policy and how many days the student can miss. Ultimately, it is a student's responsibility to discuss missing class with their professors. The holiday buses are provided as a service for those able to work within these time constraints. Also, no tickets are issued. Students' names are simply added to a boarding list.

Mountain Line Holiday Send-Off Bus Service to Pittsburgh

On WVU holiday breaks, the regional Mountain Line bus service runs additional buses to and from the Pittsburgh Greyhound/Amtrak Station and Airport. If you are looking for flights or trains home for the holiday, these additional connecting bus routes are now posted: <http://bit.ly/1FkaooK>.

Fall Family Weekend Just Weeks Away – October 7-9!

Kick off your weekend at the Mountaineer Family Welcome Reception and then head to the "Bow Tie Bistro" with President Gee on Friday evening in the Mountainlair. If you don't make it to town on Friday night you can check in throughout the day on Saturday before going to our "Picnic with Parents." On Sunday please join us for "Pancakes, Parents and the President" with our favorite bow tie guy. There are lots of additional activities taking place, from ziplining, "Legends in Concert" at the Creative Arts Center, WVUp All Night, hiking, to sporting events and more. Stay tuned to the Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page and check out the Fall Family Weekend website for details: <http://fallfamilyweekend.wvu.edu/schedule-of-events>. Safe travels and we look forward to seeing you on campus October 7-9!

Letters from Home

For parents who attended New Student Orientation and have students living on campus, the letters you wrote this summer will arrive in their mailboxes this week! We apologize for the slight delay but wanted to be sure students were all here and settled with their final housing assignments before mailing these. Encourage your students to check their mailboxes in their residence halls this week. I'm sure that your letters will be special to them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Campus Read Panel Discussion – September 12

The Campus Read Committee has organized events around "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption:" <http://bit.ly/2cx2bYN>. Parents, students and the WVU community are encouraged to read the book join in the discussions. Encourage your students to attend a panel discussion, "Justice and Punishment," today, Sept. 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. Panelists will each give a 15-minute presentation surrounding themes from the book "Just Mercy." The panel will conclude with question and answer. All are welcome. If you have not read the book yet, you can still participate. The first 25 people to come get a free copy of *Just Mercy* at the door! Check out other upcoming Campus Read events. <http://bit.ly/2c6tpZo>

Wellness Workshop: Adjusting to College – September 13

Our psychologists at the Carruth Center for Counseling will be offering a series of Wellness Workshops this year: <http://bit.ly/2cQXqZ9>. With the first tests of the semester quickly approaching or just over, students have had a few weeks to meet new friends and find their routines. Some may have more difficulty than expected settling in. These drop-in workshops are casual events focusing on topics relevant to college populations at key times in the semester. The first will be held next Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 101 of CPASS. Its topic is Adjusting to College. All students are welcome, so encourage yours to attend.

CAREER FAIR – September 14 and 15

If your student is in the market for a summer internship or full-time job after graduation, they need to start looking now! The WVU Career and Internship Fair will be held Wednesday, Sept. 14 and Thursday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. National employers from diverse industries, government agencies and nonprofits will be recruiting for internships and full-time opportunities for all majors and ranks. Attending campus career fairs provides a unique chance to practice networking skills as students meet face-to-face with potential employers, distribute their resumes and gather info about which companies are hiring and interested in their specific set of skills. <http://bit.ly/2cTzhhC>

Preparation is key – so what can you do?

- Encourage your student to attend.
- Send them to Career Services to have their resume reviewed.
- Suggest they check out the “How to Work a Career Fair” button on our home page.
- Research participating employers in MountaineerTRAK: <http://bit.ly/1wnxeL3>.
- Make sure they have at least one business-appropriate outfit at school.

You may wonder if this event is appropriate for a freshman – we encourage freshmen to stop by because it is a great way for your student to practice networking and interviewing skills. Before they go, they need to know a few things. Click the link below to discover what freshmen can expect and how to get ready for their first career fair. <http://bit.ly/1vwzstq>

Calling all Entrepreneurs – September 14

The BrickStreet Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is teaming up with the WVU LaunchLab to help students launch their business ideas. Students who are interested in participating in the 11th Annual Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition should come to the LaunchLab at Evansdale Crossing on Sept. 14 at 5 p.m. to hear more about it and team with other students. Encourage your students to attend! <http://bit.ly/2cduYiV> Questions should be directed to Julia Bolt at jbolt1@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-7221.

Veterinary Career Day – September 17

Is your student interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine? If so, join the WVU Davis-Michael Scholars program and the West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association for the Seventh Annual Veterinary Career Day. This event will be held Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center. <http://bit.ly/2ccvsr6>

Study Abroad Fair – September 21

If your student is considering studying abroad, encourage them to stop by the annual Study Abroad Fair, which will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. This is a great way to discover the opportunities available, ask questions and become informed about the process. <http://bit.ly/2cJwF9b>

Project 168 – What Is There to Do Outside the Classroom?

There are dozens of activities going on across campus on any given day. How can your student learn about what's going on? A first-stop should be the Current Students site: <http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR>. Project 168 reminds students that there is a lot of learning to be done outside the classroom. How students spend those roughly 150 hours each week beyond class is crucial. Here are a few quick tips and easy places students can look to stay in touch and involved:

- WVUP All Night: Offers a new theme and activities each weekend; this free, fun and alcohol-free program offers movies, comedy clubs, bowling and much more. <http://bit.ly/VjtlHv>
- Check out the student organizations calendar and get involved. <http://bit.ly/2bYw0ym>
- Get involved in intramurals (kickball, flag football, dodgeball, softball, tennis, basketball or soccer). <http://bit.ly/2bZYX1L>

- Club sports are another way to stay active and meet others. Sports range from basic basketball and volleyball to roller derby, Quidditch, hip hop and many more. <http://bit.ly/1FspC0r>
- Speakers, lectures and more. <http://bit.ly/2cx2bYN>
- Theater and the arts events. <http://bit.ly/2cJwElC>, <http://bit.ly/2c6wqcr>, <http://bit.ly/2c6viFs>
- Beyond just football and basketball, WVU Athletics offer many D1 sports that students can take in for free. <http://bit.ly/2cqfo8k>
- Adventures can be found anywhere. Check out upcoming trips from the Outdoor Rec Center. <http://bit.ly/2ckdgNO>

IMPORTANT FAFSA CHANGE FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

We are pleased to announce that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for fall 2017 **will be available on Oct. 1, 2016** – three months earlier than usual! Also new this year, the 2017-18 FAFSA will use your 2015 tax information (taxes filed between January and October of 2016), so you won't have to estimate or miss important deadlines while waiting for your taxes.

Why should you file in October? Simple! Less pressure and additional time. It gives you time to correct any possible issues or provide necessary documentation for the financial aid process. It also gives you time to explore and understand your options to better plan and prepare for the 2017-18 school year. Don't let this opportunity go to waste! File EARLY to receive the best financial aid package available for your student.

What should you do?

1. If you have not already done so, use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on your 2016-17 FAFSA (if you filed 2015 taxes) to ensure your tax information is accurate in preparation for the 2017-18 FAFSA.
2. File the 2017-18 FAFSA at <http://1.usa.gov/146X9ep> starting Oct. 1. If you filed taxes for 2015, use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the 2017-18 FAFSA to accurately and quickly pull tax information.
3. Receive your financial aid package months earlier than ever before – February 2017!

We hope you take advantage of this opportunity and are here to answer any questions. Please contact us at finaid@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-1988.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES

Safety Reminders and Updates

Our University Police Department works tirelessly to help keep our students and campus safe. Below are some reminders and updates.

- Renters Insurance: You might check into renters insurance to see if your student's belongings are covered. Whether students reside off campus or in a residence hall, a parent's homeowners insurance policy often may cover a student's belongings. A quick call to your insurance company can provide guidance or advice. Renters insurance is inexpensive and invaluable in case of fire, loss or damage. The Office of Campus and Community Life also provides a list of agencies in the Morgantown area that offer this coverage: <http://bit.ly/1CHdeZi>.
- Operation ID: Students should consider completing the Operation ID form for items of value and give it to you. This is helpful to aid police in recovering property if it is ever stolen: <http://bit.ly/1ILivft>.
- Safety alerts: The following releases were issued by University Police on Friday, Sept. 9. Please follow up with your student to remind them to be alert and safe.
 - o Read the Safe drinking press release at <http://bit.ly/2c02htN>

o "We would like to let the community know about a new heroin that is being circulated in this area. Local first responders have been overwhelmed with overdoses from this heroin. The drug does not have to be taken; it absorbs through the skin, and a very small amount has proven to be deadly. If you happen to come upon a package marked with the words "Jungle Killer" do not touch it. Call law enforcement immediately: 304-293-2677."
- Safety: University Police remind students to be safe and to download the LiveSafe app, where they can report suspicious activity. The app also includes the SafeWalk feature where students can have someone (this could even be you!) virtually walk with them for safety. For LiveSafe for iPhone download go to <http://apple.co/1h3FcVE> or LiveSafe for Android download: <http://bit.ly/1ILh14O>.

Student Health

As fall colds start to occur, I have had some questions about where our student health clinic is located. WVU Medicine Student Health <http://bit.ly/1I3YUHe> is located on the Evansdale campus adjacent to the Rec Center on the ground floor of the Health Education Building.

Students can take the PRT to the Towers stop and walk to Student Health easily. This is an urgent care, drop-in style clinic, but students can also schedule appointments for primary care or a variety of other needs by calling 304-285-7200. Student Health is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays. Students should take their insurance card with them. The Mountaineer Pharmacy is also located on the same floor for convenience and ease.

If a student needs healthcare at other times, the WVU Medicine Suncrest Urgent Care is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily <http://bit.ly/2cAzIjk> and the WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial Emergency Room, a level-one trauma center, is located on the Health Sciences campus (Health Sciences PRT stop): <http://bit.ly/2c6xmNJ>. Both are a short ride across town via cab or UBER.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University