

West Virginia University
Parent Electronic News
January 16, 2008

Happy 2008! With the third week of January under way and resolutions beginning to wane, this is the perfect opportunity to remind your students to renew or set resolutions for a successful 2008. Perhaps they will resolve to start off the semester by establishing good study habits or by resolving to plan ahead and study in advance for tests rather than cramming, or even by hitting the Rec Center more this year. Whatever the resolution, remind them there are support structures here to help them reach their goal. Check out the Tips from the Trenches for ten quick resolutions to a successful New Year!

We have included important and timely updates, including graduation schedules, password resets for security, and an important date correction for spring break in this edition, so read on! Also as a quick reminder, with the Martin Luther King holiday upon us, students will enjoy a long weekend with Monday off. For a complete semester schedule go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=838> Also in this edition:

- POTENTIAL INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES
- SECURITY FEATURE: PASSWORDS TO BE RESET
- 2008-09 ON-CAMPUS HOUSING APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING
- FAFSA DEADLINE APPROACHING - FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS WEEK HERE TO HELP
- SPRING 2008 COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE RELEASED
- ATTEND UPCOMING CONFERENCE AND RECEIVE CLASS CREDIT
- DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
- ENERGY EXPRESS SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES
- TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES: RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENT TO RING IN A SUCCESSFUL 2008

POTENTIAL INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Yesterday's snowy weather in Morgantown leads me to the following brief public service announcement. Those of us in town awoke yesterday to snow flurries in the air and some slick roadways and slow-going traffic on our morning commute. Thus I will take this chance to reiterate procedures for days with inclement weather and invite you to pass these on to your students as this will likely not be the last snowfall we experience this semester.

Students should note that it is quite a rare occasion when a university will close entirely. If a closing or delays do occur at WVU, a weather alert will be sent to those who have subscribed to this alert type through the text alert system. It will also be posted on MIX and broadcast through local media venues.

It is important to remind your students that they should treat classes as they would a job. If they feel it is unsafe, they should be proactive and try to contact the instructor to let them

know why they will be missing or running late. Also remind your student to plan ahead. If inclement weather is in the forecast, they should get started earlier. It is likely there will be delays, so students should plan to leave early to allow extra time to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances. The beginning of the semester is also a good time to remind students that there are absences built into nearly every syllabus. However, they should remember that these absences are there as a courtesy and should be used sparingly so they are around, if or when needed. We encourage students to be safe as they are out and about; safety should come first. Just as in any other situation, if they feel unsafe, they should use their best judgment and follow up as needed concerning the circumstances.

SECURITY FEATURE: PASSWORDS TO BE RESET

On Feb. 4th 2008, a new security feature will be implemented for STAR, MIX, and eCampus. The student's account PIN (password) will expire every 90 days. Notification detailing the security enhancement will be sent to your son/daughter later this week. The enhancements will provide greater security for these systems.

2008-09 ON-CAMPUS HOUSING APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline for current WVU students to submit a 2008-09 on-campus housing application and \$200 deposit is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. After this deadline passes, housing applications from current WVU students will no longer be accepted.

Please note that there will be a limited number of applications for the 2008-09 year. Once this number is reached, applications and deposits from current students will not be accepted and will be returned via mail to the student.

WVU offers current students many housing options and meal plans ranging from traditional residence hall rooms to apartments. Students will enjoy trips, programs, and support from Resident Faculty Leaders. Go to the Website below to get information on applying for University housing: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=839>.

Please contact the Housing Assignments Office at 304-293-2811 if you have any questions.

DATE CORRECTION - SPRING BREAK RESIDENCE HALL CLOSING

This year, spring break coincides with a University holiday (Friday before Easter). Since there will be no classes on Friday, March 21, the residence halls will close on Thursday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. instead of Friday as advertised in *Eyes and Ears* and *Transitions*. This change will be sent via e-mail to all residence hall students, and students will be notified through MIX. Flyers will also be posted in the residence halls. If a student has a problem with this changed time line (i.e., already booked a flight) they should immediately contact Trish Cendana, Director of the Office of Residential Education at tlcendana@mail.wvu.edu, 304-293-4686 to work out an appropriate accommodation.

FAFSA DEADLINE APPROACHING - FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS WEEK HERE TO HELP

With the March 1 deadline just around the corner, the Financial Aid Office will be hosting its annual Financial Aid Awareness Week from January 28-February 1. As part of this week, they will be hosting an information booth on the first floor of the Mountainlair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. It is imperative that students file their FAFSA by no later than the March 1 deadline to be eligible for as much aid as possible for the upcoming school year.

SPRING 2008 COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE RELEASED

The spring 2008 Commencement schedule has been released and can be found online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=840>. For those expecting to join us in Morgantown for Commencement weekend, please refer to the schedule of events for planning purposes and be sure to bookmark it and continue to check back as our event staff will continually be adding information to the website as the time approaches. Please note that following overwhelming positive feedback from spring 2007, the format will follow the format introduced last year with individual ceremonies for each school and college.

A Graduation One-Stop Shop will be held on March 3, 4 and 5 where students can purchase invitations, graduation robes, and all the necessary items needed for commencement. For more on this and other pertinent information, you can visit the Senior Year Experience website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=841> Additional graduation updates will follow in future Parent E-Newsletters!

ATTEND UPCOMING CONFERENCE AND RECEIVE CLASS CREDIT

The Third Annual Student Service and Civic Engagement Conference will be held February 22-24, 2008, at Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa in Morgantown. The conference is open to all WVU students, faculty, and staff members interested in community service or civic engagement.

WVU students are eligible to register for one hour SRVL course credit with their participation in the conference. The registration fee is \$155 without lodging or \$230 with lodging, and WVU students are eligible for a \$50 academic grant off of their registration fee. So, for as little as \$105 students can attend the conference, gain valuable experience, and receive a one-hour course credit! Encourage your student to register today. For more information, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=842> or contact Brett White in the Center for Civic Engagement at 304-293-8761 or e-mail brett.white@mail.wvu.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The federal government will once again be sending a representative to our campus on Monday, January 28 to interview students with disabilities for internship opportunities and full-time employment. In addition to being great interview experience, this opportunity allows

students who have a disability to be part of a nationwide database of employers. It is a great way to find internships or even get a job with the federal government.

To be eligible, students must be either full-time graduate/undergraduate students who have a disability or alums who graduated in May 2007 or later. Students registered in their last semester prior to graduation may have less than full-time status. If your student might be eligible for this program, they should contact either Derek Fincham in the Office of Disability Services at Derek.Fincham@mail.wvu.edu or Susan Lantz in the Student Employment Center at Susan.Lantz@mail.wvu.edu for more information and to sign up for an interview. The last day to sign up for an interview is Thursday, January 24.

ENERGY EXPRESS SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Does your son or daughter have plans for this summer? If not, Energy Express is a great opportunity to gain valuable experience, earn money, and help the community. It's a great resume builder, too.

One of the top-fifty AmeriCorps programs in the country, Energy Express is a summer reading and nutrition program targeting low-income and rural West Virginia children. Currently, Energy Express is recruiting more than 500 AmeriCorps members to serve as mentors and volunteer coordinators from June 10 through August 1, 2008. Energy Express AmeriCorps members receive a \$1,600 living allowance and a \$1,000 educational award that can be used to help pay off student loans or to finance college, graduate school, or vocational training.

Mentors work with a small group of children to make reading meaningful in their lives by creating an enriching environment. Volunteer coordinators connect parents and community members to the site. They recruit, train, and supervise community and teen volunteers who help with various site activities. Energy Express AmeriCorps mentors must be full-time college students (undergraduate, graduate or post-secondary education) or college-bound graduating high school seniors who are 18 years of age by June 10, 2008. Energy Express AmeriCorps volunteer coordinators must be 18 years of age by June 10, 2008 and hold at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

To find out more, visit the Energy Express Website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=843> or call 304-293-3855. Applications are now available for download online. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2008. For other AmeriCorps and national service opportunities visit www.americorps.org.

**Energy Express is under the leadership of the WVU Extension Service 4-H Youth Development Program, and is funded in part by grants from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts and the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service. The Commission encourages West Virginians of all ages to be involved in service to their community.*

TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES: RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENT TO RING IN A SUCCESSFUL 2008

As parents you want to help your students be successful. Here is a quick list of tips to pass along as they start out this semester.

1. Read ahead for classes. This can really help make lectures much more interesting and relevant.
2. Visit professors during office hours. Establishing a relationship from the beginning of the term can be invaluable.
3. Form study groups. Often classmates can help to decipher information that you may not understand.
4. Don't wait until you get behind to ask for assistance. If you anticipate that you will have issues in a class, head to the learning centers now.
5. Take care of yourself. Make it a priority to get enough sleep, eat healthy, and work out.
6. Work on time management. By planning ahead and budgeting time for all aspects of a well-balanced life, a lot of stress and anxiety can be avoided.
7. Be prepared. Look ahead so you know what needs to be accomplished ahead of time. Outline your 2008 planner with test, quiz and other important dates and review it frequently.
8. Get involved in University and community life. Engage in activities that interest you. This is a great opportunity to give back and meet others with similar interests.
9. Broaden your horizons. Take advantage of all the opportunities available to you as a University student from cultural or athletic events to adventure or study abroad trips, the choices are endless!
10. And of course the cardinal rule: don't miss class! I always hear students say, I will just read the book or get the notes. I invite them to think of this as job training. That is, after all, why most people come to college - to obtain the training needed for a good career. So foster good habits now and get to class!

Parent Advocate Office
West Virginia University

WVU Parents Club Helpline
1-800-WVU-0096