Ready or not, here you come! With classes resuming on Monday, August 17, campus is abuzz with last-minute preparations. We already can hear the rumble of the cars, buses, planes and moving vans as families gear up to head down those country roads – the fall semester is upon us. As you hit the road, I welcome you to check in and help us ‘Count the Miles – Count the Ways.’ Reply to this e-mail to let us know: 1) Where you are traveling from (city, state or country), 2) How many miles you and/or your student will be traveling round trip and 3) How you are making your way to Morgantown (car, plane, U-Haul, etc.). You can even send along a family selfie of you and your packed car! I will let you know the total miles in our next Parent E-News – last year we logged over 70,000.

In Morgantown this week, we’ll watch as just over 30,000 full-time residents welcome nearly 30,000 students (most under the age of 25) back to campus – refreshed, ready for the upcoming year and full of enthusiasm. Each night, sounds from The Pride of West Virginia band camp can be heard in town…the energy and excitement during move-in week truly is palpable!

In this edition, timely details follow on our reimagined Welcome Week that starts Friday as part of President Gee’s initiative to change student culture (the full schedule is at http://bit.ly/1f8jGNn). Also included are final move-in details from WVU and the City of Morgantown, info on renters insurance and enrollment verifications for insurances, as well as notes on getting around campus and exciting parents perks, among others! So read on. We look forward to your students joining us soon – safe travels everyone!

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**Welcome Week – Reimagined**

To shake up the start of the new year, students will be met with a reimagined Welcome Week set to launch Friday. As part of President Gee’s initiative to change student culture, this will offer more activities for new and returning students including new FoodFest, Saturday Night Lights and the Mountaineer Midway. Students can play bubble soccer, try out SUPing (stand up paddle boarding) or connect with friends at one of the many other events: [http://bit.ly/1f8jIVJ](http://bit.ly/1f8jIVJ). We have been listening to and working with students to plan these events. President Gee said, “As I have talked with students and families, I have stressed that at West Virginia University, we ‘work smart and play smart.’ The events we have planned for our students during Welcome Week will help foster that sense of having fun while making a strong academic and cultural connection to campus and a new home here in Morgantown.” Please encourage your students to check them out and celebrate the start of the new term.

And Parents, if you aren’t too exhausted and are still in town Friday evening, the Mountaineer Parents Club will be hosting a **Parent “I Survived Move-in” Reception** at the Erickson Alumni Center on Friday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. All parents are welcome to stop by: [http://bit.ly/1f8jGNn](http://bit.ly/1f8jGNn)!

**You’ve Got This, Mom and Dad!**

For many of you, this week marks a pivotal moment. For parents of the class of 2019, your students will step off on their own. I have talked with many of you who are fighting the tug of tears and pride – that challenge of holding on and letting go. Parents of our upperclassmen have no doubt seen change and growth during the past year(s) away at college. Now your students advance yet another year – perhaps moving out on their own for the first time and setting up their first apartment or preparing for graduation. As with any period of change we have the opportunity to look at things through a new lens – to reimagine. To dream. To set new goals. Perhaps you will be seeing your child for the first time as an adult in the rearview mirror as you drive away.

Your students also will likely begin seeing themselves through a new adult lens. They are making their own choices. Meeting new friends. Learning new things. Taking responsibility for their own bills and hitting deadlines. This article shares a great perspective on some of those familiar feelings and emotions: [http://huff.to/1JU9iWA](http://huff.to/1JU9iWA). As the author says, “Just as college is an experiment in independence for our children, so it is for us as well.” Know that we are here and happy to help as you and your students settle in. Do not hesitate to reach out by e-mail [ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu) or calling the Parent Helpline at 1-800-988-0096. You’ve got this, Mom and Dad!
Loading and Unloading at Residence Halls

On Friday, August 14, students who will be living in the residence halls will move into their new homes. Move-in can cause traffic delays and congestion around Morgantown. To alleviate some of that congestion, students were provided with different arrival time blocks during their June or July New Student Orientation session (8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) or (12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.). We ask that you do your best to accommodate the assigned time blocks, but we also understand that traffic and travel situations may cause a need for flexibility. Students attending the August Orientation will receive info in the mail about their residence hall move-in process.

All residence hall students should have received information in the mail from the Housing Office with specific directions and parking info. When your family arrives near the residence hall, University police officers will be directing traffic and can answer questions about where to park (and for how long). Additional Parents Club parking passes will be available in the residence halls and at the Mountainlair info desk and WVU Visitors Center; you can pick one up if you do not have one, forgot yours or need an additional permit.

Be prepared to unload your car quickly adjacent to the residence hall, and leave one member of your family there with the belongings while someone parks the car. Returning students, known as Hot Shots, will be available to help. If you own a moving cart or a dolly and can fit it in the car, bring it. You'll be glad you did! For more information, go to: http://bit.ly/1k5A21E.

Volunteers from our Information Technology Services will be on hand in the residence halls Friday to help students get set up and answer any tech questions. If your son or daughter is living in the residence halls for the first time and has questions about what to bring (and what not to bring), check out http://bit.ly/VjsZjZ.

Some Helpful Reminders

- University Police remind students to be safe as they return to town and be sure to download the LiveSafe app to report any suspicious activity. The app includes the SafeWalk feature where students can have someone virtually walk with them for safety. For LiveSafe for iPhone download: http://apple.co/1h3FcVE or LiveSafe for Android download: http://bit.ly/1ILh14O.

- This Friday, August 14, is the deadline to complete part one of AlcoholEDU for incoming students: http://bit.ly/1nYf791.

- The first week of the fall semester is Add/Drop Week meaning students can adjust schedules freely until Friday, August 21. Before dropping a class, students should be sure to consult with his or her academic advisor. They can find contact information for advisors in DegreeWorks: http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO.

- Student MIX e-mail accounts are Gmail-based accounts. For details on setting this up on their mobile devices, follow the directions found here: http://bit.ly/1J4Gwlg. The Information Technology Service Helpdesk can assist: 304-293-4444.
- Over 1,000 students have chosen to take their first steps in Morgantown in the spirit of service: [http://bit.ly/1L6pXVF](http://bit.ly/1L6pXVF). Students are reminded to be good citizens and know their responsibilities. Remind your students to be respectful of their new campus and community as they explore all that WVU and the City of Morgantown have to offer. This is their home for the next four years, and behavior reflects not only them, but on their new WVU community.

- Republic Services has worked with the WVU Office of Off Campus Housing to remind students living off campus in the City of Morgantown that unless their landlords are paying for trash service, they MUST sign up for trash service themselves or they will be cited: [http://bit.ly/1PllEHh](http://bit.ly/1PllEHh).

- The City has asked us to pass along the following to students residing in the Sunnyside area. Sunnyside is now a permitted parking area, meaning only those who obtain passes from their landlords will be able to park in areas with blue curbs. Landlords must purchase passes from the Morgantown Parking Authority, and students must obtain permits from their landlord. Students cannot get them from the Parking Authority directly. It is up to the landlord whether they charge students for the passes; however, they are not allowed to charge more than they paid for them. Passes are not for resale in any situation. There are also new restrictions in the Wiles-Hill neighborhood located adjacent to Sunnyside: [http://bit.ly/1EnykqU](http://bit.ly/1EnykqU).

**Renters Insurance/Operation ID**

As students head off to college, you might wish to check into renters insurance to see if their belongings are covered, whether students reside off campus or in a residence hall. Often a parents’ home insurance policy 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 to inquire for this coverage: [http://bit.ly/1CHdeZi](http://bit.ly/1CHdeZi).

Students should consider completing the Operation ID form for items of value and giving to you to hold. This is helpful to aid police in recovering property if it is ever stolen: [http://bit.ly/1ILivft](http://bit.ly/1ILivft).

**Getting Around Campus the First Week – Allow Extra Time**

One of the biggest tips you can pass along to your students is to allow for extra time to get between campuses and classes the first week or two of classes. Everyone is trying to get used to a new schedule and find the easiest way to and from classes and work. As schedules settle in and people get used to new systems, it will take varying amounts of time. New this year, our PRT and Bus Brigade will be stationed at five locations across campus starting Monday, August 17 and continuing until Thursday, August 20, from 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. The goal of this group is to help students learn to navigate campus and our modes of transportation. Staff members and volunteers will be located at the Mountainlair, Life Sciences (near bus pull-off), Towers PRT station, Beechurst PRT Station and Engineering PRT Station armed with campus maps and other
information. If your son or daughter is feeling lost or confused about getting around campus, our staff is here to help!

Upperclassmen can volunteer to help with this program through iServe to earn up to $20 in coupons redeemable on any parking ticket. Sign up here: http://bit.ly/1JdcnSK.

Get Your Fan Shirt Now!

West Virginia University fans voted and selected the second blue WVU Fan Shirt for 2015: http://bit.ly/1JUaEjY. The Official WVU Fan Shirt features “Let’s go” inside the outline of the state of West Virginia as the front and the Flying WV logo as the back. Shirts are available at http://bit.ly/1L6rBX3 or your local WVU/Nike retailer. Last spring over 18,000 votes were cast to select the Official WVU Fan Shirt. The shirts are available in men’s, women’s, youth and long sleeve. Let’s Go!

We’re Looking for the Next Ultimate Mountaineer

Do you finish every tweet with #HailWV on a Mountaineer game day? Is it a must for you to take a selfie in the stands of Milan Puskar Stadium this season? Well, you might be just what the University is looking for in its next Ultimate Mountaineer Fan. Through August 20, fans can enter the Ultimate Mountaineer Fan competition through one of three different social media challenges: http://bit.ly/1NaHz4Z.

Mountie Bounty Heads off Campus

Mountie Bounty has been extended to off-campus locations, increasing flexibility and variety for students. One of our goals is to give more options to students who do a lot of their spending in the community, while still giving parents the ability to ensure that spending is going toward educational expenses like books and food. The plan can be used only for essential purchases. Items prohibited for sale with Mountie Bounty include alcohol, tobacco products, firearms, adult magazines and lottery tickets. Off-campus merchants ready to go online as part of the Mountie Bounty plan August 12 and 13 include Panera Bread on Patteson Drive and Willey Street; CVS locations on Earl Core Road, High Street, Pineview Drive and Star City; Burger King on Patteson Drive; The Greeks on Beechurst Avenue; and Campus Canteen on High Street. The Mountaineer Card Office is continuing to work to create more partnerships with local merchants. Parents and students can add funds to the Mountie Bounty plan by visiting http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R. For more info: http://bit.ly/1NaHGxt.

Parents Club News: We’ve Moved!

As students and families return to campus, some may notice new locations for several Student Life units and offices – including the Mountaineer Parents Club. The Mountaineer Parents Club Office moved from One Waterfront Place to the Downtown campus. We are now located in 111 Elizabeth Moore Hall (E. Moore Hall.) If you are on campus, feel free to drop by and say hello: http://bit.ly/1oDaO75! Please note that all staff phone numbers and email addresses remain the same. Other moves include:
- Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, Corey Farris has relocated to the first floor of E. Moore Hall

- The Commuter Lounge has moved from Purinton House to G11 E. Moore Hall

- The Office of International Students and Scholars is now located on the first floor of Purinton House

- Student Family Resources is now located on the sixth floor of One Waterfront Place

**Parent Perks**

Don't forget that Mountaineer Parents Club members receive discounts from a variety of restaurants, shops and hotels around Morgantown through our Parent Perks program. A list of participating businesses for the 2015-16 school year can be found here: [http://bit.ly/1DKRBrF](http://bit.ly/1DKRBrF).

**Enrollment Verifications Available Online**

It is the time of year when many families need to obtain proof of enrollment for a myriad of reasons, including insurance or loans. Because WVU is a participant in the National Student Clearinghouse, this process can be handled online by your student. If your student's verification is for Direct Loans, they subscribe to the National Student Clearinghouse and will receive this information electronically. Any student who needs to verify that he or she is enrolled can log in to their MIX account and print a verification of enrollment by following the steps outlined on the Office of the University Registrar website: [http://bit.ly/XhtxIW](http://bit.ly/XhtxIW).

**$10,000 Optional Aetna Life Insurance for $15/Year**

Did you know that your student has access to $10,000 of life insurance coverage for $15 per year through Aetna, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan? This coverage is available for purchase during the Open Enrollment period only, ending August 21st. Students enrolled in the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan also have an additional $10,000 of life insurance integrated into their health insurance policy at no additional cost. For additional information on student life insurance, or to purchase the coverage, visit the WVU Student Insurance Office website: [http://bit.ly/1DKRRXD](http://bit.ly/1DKRRXD).

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations