Life on a college campus is certainly a fascinating microcosm of society as a whole. Today I took a quick walk to the Mountainlair where I passed signs everywhere announcing the WVU Career Fair taking place next week on the 16th and 17th. (see “The Career Corner” below for more on this event and encourage your students to check it out!) In addition to career fair signs, I also passed students hosting info booths for co-ed service fraternities and religious organizations. I heard three different languages. I passed students with camera gear heading out to work on their movie as part of Campus Movie Fest, a group of women headed down to the Try It event chatting about trying Stand Up Paddle boarding for the first time, and students in line grabbing food commiserating about the upcoming test and their pending study session.

Today, our University Army and Air Force ROTC students have also been holding a 24-hour remembrance vigil for those who lost their lives during the 9/11 terrorist attacks: http://bit.ly/1QtJAsx. Most of our students were between the ages of four and eight when 9/11 happened. Opportunities to learn and grown happen every day, in so many places, and in so many ways – and we see your students doing just that each day here at WVU.

We hope that you are getting excited to come back to campus during Fall Family Weekend to join us in just a few short weeks! The schedule is now live along with the Parents Club Holiday Bus reservations. These and many other details follow so read on and we’ll see you soon. In this edition:

PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

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THE CAREER CORNER: Career Fair – Sept 16-17

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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Fall Family Weekend is almost here!

Kick-off your weekend at the Mountaineer Family Welcome Reception on Friday evening in the Mountainlair. Saturday, you won’t want to miss “Pancakes, Parents and the President,” so join us for breakfast with our favorite bow tie guy. Later that day, join us at “Fans & Franks - The Mountaineer Parents Club tailgate as part of Mountaineer Nation Day.” There will be lots of additional activities happening throughout the weekend so be sure to check out the complete schedule. Families can also enjoy WVUp All Night, the student recreation center and more! Don’t worry if you don’t make it into town on Friday night because you can check-in throughout the day on Saturday. On Sunday before you head out of town, be sure to have breakfast with your student in one of our dining halls across campus and meet with the residential education teams. Stay tuned to the Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page and check out the Fall Family Weekend website for the details: http://bit.ly/1C3wE6T. Safe travels and we look forward to seeing you on campus!

Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays – Reservations Now Open

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 King of Prussia, PA. We are also planning a bus to Ohio and Indiana. (PLEASE NOTE: We will need to have 30 riders for the Ohio/Indiana bus. If we do not have 30 riders by October 30, you will be notified via email that this route is no longer available.)

The Northern Virginia, Long Island, Southern New Jersey and Central Maryland Mountaineer Parents Club Chapters are also offering buses to their areas. Online reservations for all buses can be made through the Parents Club website. For information on making reservations or to review the complete schedule and details, please go to http://bit.ly/1vStQFj. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken.
THE CAREER CORNER: Career Fair – Sept 16-17

When your student started thinking about a University, he or she probably had a few specific features in mind like a great campus, high-profile sports teams and strong academic programs. Hopefully, when they chose WVU they also expected that their education would prepare them for a great job (or great future) after graduation.

While it is true that many WVU graduates find their dream career, there are several key attributes that your student will need to become successful. These skills and abilities require participation in activities that go well beyond the classroom and are as important as a good GPA. To build a strong competitive resume, your student needs to have meaningful work-related experience from part-time work or internships. They will also need to develop strong communication, networking, and leadership skills.

Along with a great resume, they will also need to know how to conduct an effective job search and get themselves in front of potential employers as often as possible. Attending campus career fairs provides students with the unique chance to practice their networking skills as they meet face-to-face with potential employers, distribute their resumes and gather information about which companies are hiring and interested in their specific set of skills.

Fortunately, our fall career fair is just around the corner. The West Virginia University Career & Internship Fair is being held Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. Over 100 nationwide employers from diverse industries, government, and non-profits will be recruiting for internships and full-time opportunities across all majors and ranks.

You (and your student) may wonder why they should attend a career fair in the fall when they may not be graduating until May or they won’t need an internship until summer. The truth is, many companies begin recruiting 6 to 9 months in advance of the end of the school year in May. Our statistics show that 50% of our grads that report having received at least one job offer prior to graduation started their job search between 9 and 12 months before graduation. So now is the perfect time to start job-searching!

So what can I do, you ask?

A. Encourage you student to attend the career fairs
B. Send them to Career Services to have their resume reviewed
C. Suggest that they read “Career Fairs/Events” under WORK IT on our website
D. Make sure they have at least one business-appropriate outfit at school

But my student is only a freshman, you say! What should they do?

Great question! We always encourage freshman to attend the career fairs. It is a great way to learn what it is all about, while practicing their networking and interviewing skills. But before they go, they need to know a few things. To help with that – we have developed a short but informative presentation: http://bit.ly/1vjUCa6
Parents Club and Athletics partner to offer discounted tickets

The Mountaineer Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for WVU’s Big 12 Conference matchup vs. Texas Tech on Saturday, November 7. By clicking on the link below and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS, Parents Club members will receive a $15 discount off of tickets and be able to get Texas Tech tickets for just $45 each. To order: http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx.

Student Tailgate Activities at the Student LOT – Sept 12

Again this weekend the Student LOT will welcome students prior to the WVU vs. Liberty football game on Saturday (September 12). The Student LOT is located at the new University Park Courtyard on the Evansdale campus, within easy walking distance of the stadium. Sponsored this week by the Office of Multicultural Programs, the LOT which is the official student pregame tailgating event, offers great fun, free food, music, giveaways and guest appearances. This is a great opportunity for your student to hang out with friends and meet other student fans in a safe, alcohol-free environment. The LOT will open at noon and festivities will wrap up by 2:30 p.m. for the 3:00 p.m. kickoff. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/VR5bUF.

#RespectfulMountaineer

A student-led social media campaign initiated last fall, #respectfulmountaineer, is stressing Mountaineer pride through service and respectful behavior. Check out their new video and encourage your student to tell about their respectful mountaineer moment or join in if you have a message to share as well: http://bit.ly/1KdpqxJ.

OTHER UPCOMING DATES

Mountaineer Idol kicks off tonight in the Mountainlair at 8 p.m.

The 12th season of Mountaineer Idol has selected this year’s superstars. The event will crown one of the 15 finalists as the 2015 Mountaineer Idol. This year the winner will receive $1,000 from Coca-Cola and the opportunity to have an EP Recording Contract with Mon Hills Records, the University’s record label. The first round will be today (Sept. 11) at 8 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. Admission is free and open to the public: http://bit.ly/1Nnd8s6.
Study Abroad Fair – Sept 23

The annual Study Abroad Fair at West Virginia University will take place September 23rd, from 10:00am – 4:00pm in the Mountainlair Ballrooms.

The Office of International Programs will providing free passport photos to all students who attend the event and every student attendee will be entered to win a Tortuga Travel Backpack: Encourage your student to drop by: http://bit.ly/1NndheT!

Final fall payment deadline – Sept 25

As a reminder, the remaining balance on any student accounts for the fall term is due on Friday, September 25. Students should be aware that changes to their student account can occur for a number of reasons ranging from changes in registration, adjustments to meal plans or room types, or a variety of other scenarios. Thus, please remind your student to log on and review their STAR account and contact the Office of Student Accounts with any questions. Payments can be made online via their STAR account or by contacting the Office of Student Accounts at 304-293-4006. For more on payment processes at WVU, please go to: http://bit.ly/1qgEfHA. NOTE: Spring charges will be assessed on November 15.

Looking for an exciting, paid summer job? Info Session – Sept 29

SHAPE YOUR WORLD. LEAD ADVENTURE. Looking for an exciting, paid summer job? Want to make a difference in the lives of first-year students? Enjoy spending time in the outdoors? Enjoy serving the local community? Want experience managing the logistics of an outdoor program? The Adventure WV Orientation Trips (AWOT) Program is now accepting applications (due by 4:00 p.m. on October 8th) for our 2016 pool of Orientation Trip Leaders and Logistics Specialists! We are looking for a diverse group of motivated, dynamic, and caring individuals to join our summer leadership team. For more information, come to the next AWOT Student Staff Info Session on Tuesday, September 29th, 7pm, Student Recreation Center, Room 102. Questions? Email Marion McClure at marion.mcclure@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-8503. http://bit.ly/1ggaK9g

Mountaineer Nation Day – Oct 3

Join Mountaineers around the world on October 3rd to cheer on the Mountaineers as we take on Oklahoma during Mountaineer Nation Day. #WVUMND is a 24-hour period dedicated to fans and their pride and passion for WVU. When you register your watch party for the game at http://bit.ly/1rjyS9b, you will be entered to win a WVU prize pack including an exclusive Mountaineer Nation Day shirt, headwear from Top of the World, and you will receive a 15% discount at ShopWVU.com. On Mountaineer Nation Day, be sure to follow @WestVirginiaU on Twitter for chance to win officially licensed prizes. The Mountaineer Parents Club will host a watch party during Fall Family Weekend, complete with special giveaways and prizes for the Mountaineer Parents Club. Stay tuned for more information once the game time is released!
2015-2016 Calendar:

As you plan ahead here are some dates and times for the upcoming year. During the fall break in October, residence halls will remain open, and students should use this time (just after midterms) to decompress, catch up, and refocus for the duration for the semester. Finals week will again run from Thursday to Wednesday. This means residence halls will close for winter break on a Thursday, so please plan accordingly. Here's to a great year!

2015

Labor Day Recess: Monday, September 7, 2015 (no classes; residence halls remain open)

40% payment deadline: Friday, September 25, 2015

Deadline to apply for December Graduation: Friday, October 2, 2015

Fall Family Weekend: October 2-4, 2015

Fall Break: October 12-13, 2015 (no classes; residence halls remain open)

Thanksgiving Recess: University housing closes Friday, November 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

at noon

Prep Day for Finals: University housing reopens Sunday, November 29, 2015, at noon

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 (no classes; residence halls remain open)

Finals Week: Thursday, December 10-Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Fall semester closing: University housing closes Thursday, December 17, 2015, at noon

December Commencement: Friday, December 18, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

2016

Spring semester opening: University housing opens Saturday, January 9, 2016, at noon

Spring classes begin: Monday, January 11, 2016
Martin Luther King Day Recess: Monday, January 18, 2016 (no classes; residence halls remain open)

Spring Break: University housing closes Friday, March 18, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

University housing reopens Sunday, March 27, 2016, at noon

Move-out/closing: University housing closes Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

The full year 2015-16 academic calendar can be found here: http://bit.ly/1ggaTK0.

The Residence Hall opening and closing dates (and times) can be found here: http://bit.ly/1L74eOY.


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