At the end of the academic year, there is often much to celebrate, and this year is no exception! Today grades came out (let’s hope that is cause for celebration!). I have included some steps for students to take whether they did well or need some help to get back on track, so read on. Nationally, we have had a record-breaking year, with WVU students being awarded the prestigious Fulbright scholarship and NSF Research Fellowships, among others. Read on to learn how our ASPIRE Program works with these scholars and other aspirational WVU students.

To the parents of our incoming students, I have included a summer to-do list with some last-minute reminders as you begin to celebrate high school graduations and look ahead to college. WVU Commencement is also finally here as we kick off the first of 15 ceremonies tomorrow. Congrats to all the grads (and their families)! And we would be remiss if we didn’t also wish a Happy early Mother’s Day to all the moms and those who serve in that capacity to our students. I was talking with a mom and son this week on campus and wished her this same greeting. Her son quickly informed her that he has been working on this year’s Mother’s Day gift for four years, as he will graduate Sunday. There is a chance he hadn’t remembered or bought a card yet (surely not), but that was some quick thinking, and mom seemed quite pleased with her gift! So to those celebrating everywhere – congratulations!

And finally, as all of our students move (many literally) forward to their next chapter, please remind them (rising sophomores, juniors, seniors and gradates alike) to update their new addresses in the STAR system so we can keep in touch. In this edition:

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HONORS AND ACCOLADES

ASPIRE Program Helps Students Go Beyond

Many of our students go on to do great things and are often recognized on the national and international stage for their accomplishments and achievements. Our ASPIRE Program works with many high-achieving and aspirational students to pursue prestigious awards, scholarships and opportunities. [http://bit.ly/2I9ebC1](http://bit.ly/2I9ebC1)


TEDxWVU

On March 2, 2018, WVU hosted its first-ever TEDx event at the Media Innovation Center. The event was organized by students from across campus and faculty chair Gina Dahlia, journalism chair at the Reed College of Media. Titled “Leading with Hope in a Changing World,” TEDxWVU featured WVU graduates and faculty and students including Emily Calandrelli, Daniel Brewster, Dr. Judith Feinberg, Sara Berzingi and Ginny Thrasher. [http://bit.ly/2I5C2SV](http://bit.ly/2I5C2SV)

Is your student interested in helping to organize our next great TEDxWVU event? Applications are due by June 1 for leadership positions and August 1 for volunteer positions for TEDxWVU 2019. [http://bit.ly/2IgbnH](http://bit.ly/2IgbnH)

GRADES

Good Grades and Goals!

As of noon today, final spring grades are officially posted online for students in their MIX/STAR Accounts and parents who have been granted the access by their student via the Parent/Guest Portal. For those who did well, here are some continued goals to shoot for!
**Dean’s and President’s Lists** – The online Spring 2018 Dean’s and President’s lists will post in June. The Dean’s List highlights undergraduates who earned a 3.5 GPA or higher, and the President’s List recognizes undergraduates who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA. To be recognized, students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours or more of graded courses with no grades of I (incomplete), NR (not reported) or W (withdrawal). Only the highest honor is awarded, and it will be noted on the transcript as well as on the online searchable listing: [http://bit.ly/29wxWRp](http://bit.ly/29wxWRp).

**Latin Honors** – As students’ progress toward graduation, Latin Honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude) are another recognition they could receive. These graduation honors are based on cumulative GPA requirements of a 3.4 and higher: [http://bit.ly/2BqR0zm](http://bit.ly/2BqR0zm). These can be good goals for students to work toward to help them stay focused and on track – and a nice addition to a transcript and diploma.

**Good Grades: Now What?** – There are a number of resources students can explore from home as they make plans for upcoming semesters:

- Summer classes are posted and still available. These can often help students get ahead, complete a minor, graduate early or provide time to focus on a challenging class: [http://bit.ly/2zMSDFH](http://bit.ly/2zMSDFH).
- Education/Study Abroad options might be worth considering. Did you know that exchange programs allow students to study abroad at certain institutions for the same cost as their WVU experience? WVU offers opportunities over spring break, in the summer or over a fall or spring term: [http://bit.ly/2jNB6WF](http://bit.ly/2jNB6WF).
- Encourage them to use their summer wisely. Perhaps they can still find a summer internship, or career-related volunteer or shadow experience: [http://bit.ly/2BTwFCu](http://bit.ly/2BTwFCu).
- Check out DegreeWorks. The end of the semester is a good time to log on to their DegreeWorks account to check on their progress. DegreeWorks helps students keep track of academic progress and hopefully speeds time to graduation. It provides real-time advice and counsel by having all academic information in one convenient place and allows students to review plan B majors through the “what-if” feature, calculate what GPA they need to achieve an overall goal, and plan classes for upcoming terms, among other features. Students are able to easily see which classes and requirements have been completed and which still need to be filled. Encourage them to check it out today: [http://bit.ly/2ipMGYA](http://bit.ly/2ipMGYA).
Considerations for Those Struggling Academically

If spring grades were less than stellar, we encourage you to talk with your student about their academic performance and plans for the upcoming semesters. If students were below a cumulative 2.0 GPA, here is information about academic suspension, summer school and the contractual readmission program.

**Academic Suspension** – The standards used to determine a student’s eligibility for suspension are based on an overall GPA below a 2.0. If placed on suspension, students are required to sit out for a semester or more, depending on the suspension terms, unless they successfully appeal. Summer school can be used to help avoid suspension. Students whose GPAs fall below a 2.0 GPA are eligible for suspension from the University in May and will be notified officially.

**Contractual Readmission** – If placed on suspension, students are required to sit out for a semester or more, depending on the suspension terms. Students whose GPAs fall below a 2.0 GPA will also face possible suspension of their financial aid. As a new streamlined online process, students will have the opportunity to apply for contractual readmission to appeal both academic and financial aid suspensions. **Contractual readmission applications open May 11 and must be filed by June 1.** For more information about the process and next steps, review [http://bit.ly/2Bw6O2K](http://bit.ly/2Bw6O2K).

**Summer Boost Program**

Students who may have hit an academic road bump this year can still apply for this special program designed to get them back on track. Students can review the PowerPoint online and have access to the program agreement that is due by May 15 for students taking classes in the first half of the summer term and June 26 for students taking classes in the second half of the summer term. By enrolling in on-campus courses this summer as part of Summer Boost, participants will have access to dedicated tutors, success coaches and academic skills workshops. Those who successfully complete their courses will be eligible for a summer stipend valued up to the 30 percent of University tuition. For eligibility and program details, visit [http://bit.ly/2I0TSCU](http://bit.ly/2I0TSCU).

**What Can They Do Now?** – Encourage your student to have an honest look at why they didn’t have a good semester/year. Mistakes happen, but it is important to know how you got somewhere to avoid stumbles the next time. There are resources students can explore from home to help them plan for their particular circumstance:

- Summer school – often summer school classes can be used to help get a GPA higher than a 2.0 before the fall term suspension sets in. Many options and start dates exist. [http://bit.ly/1yHNGnI](http://bit.ly/1yHNGnI)
- Summer Boost Program – designed for student who need to repeat classes, this may be a great fit for your student to retake a class for reduced tuition [http://bit.ly/2I0TSCU](http://bit.ly/2I0TSCU) (Also, see above for more on Summer Boost).
- Check out the WVU Catalog – It offers guidance on grades, GPA calculation and D/F repeat policies that are often helpful in raising a GPA quickly: [http://bit.ly/1GBp3jz](http://bit.ly/1GBp3jz).
• Major Change – If they are considering a change of major, they can review DegreeWorks to use the “what-if” feature. It allows students to explore how changing a major might affect their path to graduation and what course work it might require in relation to what they have already completed. http://bit.ly/2ipMGYA

• GPA Calculation Planning – DegreeWorks offers help projecting what students need to meet a certain GPA with various GPA calculation tools: http://bit.ly/2ipMGYA. If a student needs to have a cumulative 3.0 GPA at the end of summer to maintain a scholarship or avoid suspension, these tools can help determine how many hours and what GPA they need in an upcoming semester to reach that goal.

• Before adding classes or making changes to schedules, students should consult an academic adviser to make sure they remain on track. (Note: many staff and advisers are involved with commencement this weekend, so please understand that response times may be slightly slower than normal.) Keep in mind that summer classes start at various points throughout the summer term.

• Is there a chance your student is struggling with an undiagnosed learning disability? Check out the resources offered by the Office of Accessibility Services: http://bit.ly/2p4vNWz.

GRADUATION

Final Commencement Details

Caps and gowns are the key attire on campus this week as mostly seniors remain and are rushing around with friends to grab those last photos! As we head toward commencement weekend, be sure to check out the website for details on parking, accessibility, attire, professional photography options, program length, etc.: http://bit.ly/2gUpka6. Remember to share the webcast link with family and friends who cannot attend: http://bit.ly/2rxkYeg. If you need directions to any of the locations, please use the online campus map: http://bit.ly/2KSRzTF. And, finally, if your student hasn’t yet learned the words to our Alma Mater (we sing it before each home football game, so they most likely know it), now is the time to learn it: http://bit.ly/2ryalqM. “Hail, all hail! Our Alma Mater, West Virginia U!”

Gee-Mail: A Top 10 for the Class of 2018

President Gordon Gee has a few parting words — a top 10 list, to be precise — for the more than 4,450 soon-to-be graduates of WVU. Before many of them walk the stage to partake in commencement ceremonies this weekend, he wants to dispense “10 Things to Remember as you Embark on a New Journey.” http://bit.ly/21bjMU7
PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS

Summer To-Do List

With high school graduations just around the corner, we wanted to send congratulations to your students! We also want to help you look ahead with a checklist to help your student stay on track to start at WVU this fall. Here are a few items that might need to be completed this summer.

- Be sure that your student is checking their MIX e-mail account regularly. This is how we communicate with them about all things WVU so be sure they are logging on daily so they don’t miss anything!
- Attend New Student Orientation (NSO) – Students, parents and guests are invited to campus in June to attend NSO, where students register for fall classes, among other things: [http://bit.ly/2IZRqND](http://bit.ly/2IZRqND).
- Any placement exams needed? – They are offered the night before New Student Orientation sessions, and there is a very helpful site that will let students know if it is in their best interest (depending on their major and ACT or SAT Math score) to take the Math and Chemistry Placement exam, ALEKS. There are also helpful prep tests students can take from home to prepare: [http://bit.ly/2rwRuJi](http://bit.ly/2rwRuJi).
- Submit final transcript(s) – Once students complete high school, they should ensure that a final transcript has been sent to WVU. Also, if your student has taken college course work prior to coming to WVU, they must submit an official final college transcript(s) from that school or college to the WVU Office of Admissions so this course work can transfer to WVU. Questions regarding how your courses will transfer? Email [transfercredit@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:transfercredit@mail.wvu.edu).
- Submit AP/CLEP/IB scores – If your student is testing for advanced placement credit of any kind, they should let their adviser know this at New Student Orientation and make sure these scores are submitted to the Office of Admissions when they come in (typically in July).
- Complete the Student Insurance Waiver form – Once the waiver site goes live June 4, if your student is already covered under your insurance, complete this annual form to avoid charges [http://bit.ly/2HxMQgm](http://bit.ly/2HxMQgm). This is also when you will confirm that your student has the immunizations needed to enter WVU this fall: [http://bit.ly/2rz2IRF](http://bit.ly/2rz2IRF).
- Have your student grant you Parent/Guest Portal Access – The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents WVU from providing anyone with information about students’ educational records without their permission. To allow a parent, guardian or other guest access to certain parts of the college process, including financial aid, bill payment and grades, students need to grant Parent/Guest Proxy access (make sure they do all three steps): [http://bit.ly/2BA3Cjii](http://bit.ly/2BA3Cjii)
- Pay that bill – After your student is registered for classes, the fall bill will post to their STAR Account on July 6. It can be paid online either via the students’ STAR account or the Parent/Guest Portal [http://bit.ly/2BA3Cjii](http://bit.ly/2BA3Cjii) if your student grants you this access.
Payments are due by August 1. Payment plans are available now if you wish to estimate and spread out the anticipated payments: http://bit.ly/2kQPrQh.

- Plan to get involved with your local Parents Club? – Chapters often hold summer send-offs in June, July or August! Don’t see a club in your area? Contact the Mountaineer Parents Club: http://bit.ly/1oDaO75

UPCOMING EVENTS and SUMMER REMINDERS

Blue and Gold Mine Sale, Saturday, May 12

The annual Blue and Gold Mine Sale (a rummage sale held every spring to keep roughly 30 tons of material out of local landfills) will be held at Milan Puskar Stadium on Saturday, May 17, from 7:00 a.m. to noon. For the past few weeks, students have been dropping off unwanted items in collection areas around town. Furniture, clothing, appliances, décor, sporting equipment, and electronics and more are available. All proceeds benefit WVU’s annual campaign for the United Way of Monongalia and Preston counties. Remind your students to drop by for great buys to outfit their new place. http://bit.ly/2Ifkw3

Textbook Rental Returns – WVU Bookstore

Did your student accidentally bring rental books home? No problem. Please send the books to the bookstore they were originally rented from, and have your student include a note with their name, email and phone # (please include all possible phone #s). Send books via UPS or US Postal Service to:

- WVU Bookstore - ATTN: RENTAL DEPT. - 1550 University Ave. - Mountainlair Bldg. - Morgantown, WV 26506

- WVU Bookstore at Evansdale Crossing - ATTN: RENTAL DEPT. - 62 Morrill Way - Morgantown, WV 26506

We will check the books in upon receipt. Questions? http://bit.ly/2I6tjQz

Exit Counseling Required for Those with Loans

Students who are graduating, transferring or no longer enrolled at least half-time who have borrowed federal student loans must complete the loan exit counseling process online. Exit counseling helps students through the important transition to loan repayment and options. http://bit.ly/2pL4z52
Annual Student Insurance Waiver Form to Open June 4

All WVU students are required to meet minimum standards of health insurance coverage. If your student is covered under your insurance, you can complete the online waiver starting June 4. This must be completed by August 1. [http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm](http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm)

Looking for a Good Summer Read?

Every year West Virginia University chooses a book to engage everyone (parents, students, faculty and staff alike) in a common reading experience. “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel has been chosen as the 2018-19 Campus Read: [http://bit.ly/2wBFi2S](http://bit.ly/2wBFi2S). This novel imagines the impact of a flu pandemic on our world — but this is no post-apocalyptic thriller. Rather it is a story about friendship, memory, community, celebrity and the many lives that each of us touch. One of the best-reviewed books of 2014, ”Station 11” was the winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and a finalist for a National Book Award and PEN/Faulkner Award. This fall there will be many campus events surrounding the themes of the book, including a lecture by the author, who will visit campus September 19. This event will be webcast, so grab this as a summer read for you and your students and watch for details in the coming months!

Fall Nonresident (Off-Campus) Dining Plans – Choose by June 30

If your student will be living off campus or in a University Apartment next year, they can choose the convenience of a WVU Dining Plan. It’s convenient, since they will probably still spend most of the day on campus. Students can check out and purchase our nonresident (off-campus) student dining plans here: [http://bit.ly/2hkYaJ6](http://bit.ly/2hkYaJ6). We suggest adding these plans by the end of June to ensure these charges are included on their initial fall bill scheduled to come out in July. Nonresident (off-campus) student dining plans must be added each semester.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University