

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
January 18, 2019

****University Offices will be closed Monday, January 21 for the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday****

We hope your students are off to a great start to the spring term and ready to brace for single degree temps this long weekend. We have many activities planned around campus for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and encourage students to take part. In addition to the standard *Upcoming Events* noted below, I have also included some other tips and suggestions to help students *Get off to a Great Start!*

Some timely reminders also follow on spring billing (important to make sure there have not been any new charges and students' accounts are at zero by February 1 to avoid removal from classes), 2019-20 FAFSAs and important tax prep details about 1098-Ts and W-2 forms for students who worked in 2018. We have also included some notes for those who may be impacted by the government shutdown. For *Parents of May 2019 Graduates*, commencement is just around the corner and the application for graduation is now open. Details on this and a Graduation One-Stop Shop follow. Also, we also want to highlight some frequently asked questions this time of year for *Parents of our Incoming Mountaineers*.

To address a few questions I have received recently here (always feel free to hit reply as I am happy address your questions!) and to the 1-800-988-0096 Parent Helpline, the Fall 2018 Dean's and President's Lists are not out yet. As we said, typically these post in late January to early February and we again expect this will be the case. I will be sure to push these out to you in an upcoming Parent E-News once they go live – again, congrats to all! Also Parents Club Spring Break Bus info will be included in the next Parent E-News, so stay tuned. As winter weather approaches this weekend, stay warm and safe everyone! In this edition:

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GET OFF TO A GREAT START

New semester = 10+ great opportunities to get involved!!

As students settle into their new routines, we have a host of ways for them to make this semester the best ever! WVUp All Night has recently undergone some changes so encourage student to stop by on Friday or Saturday nights to check these out! The Campus Cup competition invites students to participate in a semester-long team competition in events ranging from dodgeball to Team Trivia. Adventure and Outdoor Rec offer students a chance get outdoors with gear rentals and ski shuttles! Career Fairs and prep sessions, Study Abroad opportunities and events in the Arts abound. And if your student is just not sure what clubs are available, have them drop by the Student Organization Fair this coming Wednesday, January 23 to meet with students from over 75 organizations! Here's to a great start to the new year!

1. Student Organization Fair – Jan. 23: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudentOrgFair>
2. Adventure Ski Trips, Shuttles and Gear Rental: <http://bit.ly/WVUSkiTripsShuttle> and <http://bit.ly/WVUWinterGear>
3. Campus Cup: <http://bit.ly/WVUCampusCup>
4. Intramurals: <http://bit.ly/WVUIntramuralReg>
5. Certified Student Leader Program: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudentLeaders>
6. Career Fairs and prep sessions: <http://bit.ly/WVUCareerServices>
7. The Arts: <http://bit.ly/WVUArts> or <http://bit.ly/WVUAandE> or <http://bit.ly/WVUCraftCtr> or <http://bit.ly/WVUArtMuseum>
8. Study Abroad: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudyAbroad>
9. WVUpAllNight: <http://bit.ly/WVUpAllNights>
10. Festival of Ideas: <http://bit.ly/WVUFOI>

Getting off to a good start academically

With the new semester now two weeks in, remind your students to seek out ways to be successful starting now! The academic resources centers and various learning centers across campus are now open and can help with free tutoring. In addition to tutoring, Student Success Coaches are also available to help with tasks such as time management, study skills, test taking and note taking skills and other items to help students be successful. More on these and other resources can be found here: <http://bit.ly/WVUSuccessServices>.

Also, students should utilize instructors' office hours to meet one-on-one with their faculty members. These are listed on every course syllabus that they receive day one. In the residence halls, students have a wealth of resources including residence hall coordinators and resident assistants (RAs). [WellWVU](#) has several resources to help students with stress, time management and better sleep habits. Not sure they are in the right major? In advance of fall advising appointments with their academic advisor (also a great resource!), [Career Services](#) has career counselors who can help students explore other majors or build a four-year plan to launch a successful career. The [Carruth Center for Counseling](#) offers individual and group counseling and specialized workshops. And [Accessibility Services](#) enhances the educational opportunities for students with disabilities. We are here to help. Encourage your student to reach out early and often!

PARENTS OF MAY 2019 GRADUATES

Graduation Spring 2019 One-Stop Shop – Feb. 12-13

Is your student planning to graduate in May 2019? Have them mark the date to join us for our Spring 2019 Graduation One-Stop Shop, scheduled for February 12 (Mountainlair Commons Area) and February 13 (Evansdale Crossing, fifth floor lobby), 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Students will have the chance to purchase regalia, graduation announcements, class rings and much more. For more on Commencement Weekend, May 10-12, 2019: <http://bit.ly/WVUMayGrad>.

Graduation Application Deadline

Students must apply to graduate in the semester in which they intend to complete their studies and graduate. The application for graduation is now open and will close March 1. Details can be found here: <http://bit.ly/WVUGraduationApp>. Encourage your soon-to-be-graduate to complete this application today.

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS

Helpful Resources for Common Questions

The Families of the Class of 2023 Facebook page provides a resource for you to virtually meet other families with students looking to enter WVU this fall. If you have not already joined, feel free to search for the page and join today. Below are the top topics and some quick resources on each that we are seeing being discussed on the page currently. Also please know that Financial Aid Award Letters have started to process and are being mailed to students now – so be sure to watch the mail:

2. **Planning a visit to WVU/Attending Decide WVU** – Lots of options exist as noted here: <http://bit.ly/WVUVisit>. WVU will also be on the road heading to some of your communities soon with our “Ask us Anything” events February 4, 5 and 6 in the New York and New Jersey areas: <http://bit.ly/WVuAskUs>

3. **Honors College benefits** – Is your student considering the Honors College at WVU? There are many benefits and options available to Honors College students: <http://bit.ly/WVUHonors>
4. **WVU Marching Band** – WVU actually has many bands that our students enjoy. The premier band that you hear the most about is The Pride of West Virginia, the WVU Marching Band. More on all bands here: <http://bit.ly/WVUBands>
5. **Housing Options** – As students decide where they want to live next year, this page provides a good overview of options in residence halls: <http://bit.ly/WVUHousingOptions>
6. **Deposits** – Once accepted to WVU, students need to pay their Academic Deposit to keep the ball rolling and receive details on Housing, Orientation, etc. Details on how to do this are included in the student's admission letter. Housing Deposits are also required for a student to select their housing assignment and can be paid online: <http://bit.ly/WVUDeposits>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MLK Breakfast and Day of Service – Jan. 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principles of nonviolence. MLK Day of Service is a way to transform his life and teachings into community action that continues to solve social problems. MLK Day was designated by Congress as a nationwide day of service in 1994, with the goal of empowering individuals, strengthening communities, bridging barriers, creating solutions to social problems, and moving us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

Meshea Poore, vice president for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will be the 2019 MLK, Jr. breakfast speaker. Encourage your students to attend! More information can be found here <http://bit.ly/WVUMLKBreakfast>

At WVU, students, faculty, staff, and other community members are warmly invited to join us for an invigorating day of service. Volunteers will begin the day by attending the Center for Black Culture and Research's annual MLK Day Breakfast at 8 AM, taking time to learn and reflect on Dr. King's vision before embarking on our day of action. After breakfast, volunteers will travel to complete a variety of meaningful service projects in Morgantown and other West Virginia communities.

Projects include working with the Appalachian Prison Book Project to send requested reading materials to incarcerated individuals, participating in discussions of diversity with various community groups, serving meals at the Rosenbaum Family House and more. Students can register on iServe by going to: <http://bit.ly/WVUMLKDayofService>

Ultimate Mountaineer – Enter before Jan. 23

Are you the Ultimate Mountaineer Fan? Is your son or daughter the Ultimate Mountaineer Fan? Now you have the chance to tell us why you or your student are the Ultimate Mountaineer Fan and enter to win a trip for two to the men's Big 12 basketball tournament. We want to know when your passion for West Virginia University began, how you showcase your spirit today and anything else that might help us choose you or your student as a finalist. Three finalists will be chosen to develop their own unique 2019 Official WVU Fan T-Shirt with Top of the World. WVU fans will vote on the shirt designs to determine this year's 2019 Ultimate Mountaineer Fan. This year's winner will have their 2019 WVU Fan Shirt design sold at WVU retailers. Enter through January 23 at <http://bit.ly/WVUUltimateMtneer>.

Student Organizations Fair – Jan. 23

As the new semester kicks off, maybe your student is looking for a way to get involved, meet new people or enhance his or her resume. Students should consider dropping by the Student Organization Fair on Wednesday, January 23 from 3-6 p.m. at the Student Rec Center. Here they can visit with members of 75 organizations to learn more and how they might get involved. We offer over 475 clubs ranging from service to cultural and everything in between. To view a complete list: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudentOrgs>. There truly is something for everyone!

BILLING, AID, TAXES and GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Does Your Student Have New Charges? January 12 eBills sent, Due February 1

Does your student have an outstanding bill or a new charge since you paid the initial spring charges? If so, they were sent a monthly e-bill January 12 to their MIX account, and payment is due in full by February 1. Students with a balance of \$1000 or greater will be dropped from classes if they do not pay by Feb. 1. It is not too late to sign-up for a three-month payment plan. These are available through January 31 to help manage outstanding charges, if needed.

Adjustments or new charges could result if your student has made recent changes to their class registration, major, meal plan, room location, received library or other fines, had new charges added due to WELLWVU copays, etc. Students receive eBills to their MIX accounts in the middle of the month, with a due date of the first of the following month. Be sure to check with your student to address any outstanding balances to avoid late fees, holds, removal from classes, or denied access to transcripts or diploma. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>.

Students can log on at any time to review their account, ensure they are at a zero balance, or make payments through STAR accounts. Questions? Students can stop by or call the Mountaineer Hub (304-293-1988). If granted access by your student, you can also review and pay any outstanding charges via the Parent/Guest Portal. <http://bit.ly/WVUPGPortal>

March 1 2019-20 FAFSA priority deadline approaching

Have you filed the 2019-20 FAFSA yet? It is not too late but March 1 is quickly approaching. Log on and complete this form before March 1 to be considered on time for consideration for maximum aid: <http://bit.ly/WVUFAFSA1920>.

2018 Year-End W-2 Tax Information

WVU Tax Services will be issuing the 2018 Form W-2 to all WVU employees, including student employees on or before January 31, 2019. Forms will be available online through the MyHR tab at portal.wvu.edu and a paper copy of all W-2 forms will be mailed to the employee's home address.

To protect personal information, employees should not access either their pay stub or W-2 from a public computer. For your security, when accessing either the paystub or W-2 form from an off-campus computer, please use WVU's Master Apps (Citrix) at <http://bit.ly/WVUCitrix>. Once logged into Master Apps, select the Internet Explorer icon and then access the MyHR tab at portal.wvu.edu.

Questions and requests for prior-year W-2 forms should be directed to WVU Tax Services at 304-293-3379 extension 3 or tax@mail.wvu.edu. Please do not provide your Social Security number via e-mail when requesting W-2 info. Provide your name, contact telephone number, month and year of birth and either your WVU ID or your employee number for verification purposes.

WVU Student 1098-T Tax Forms Available

WVU Tax Services has partnered with a ECSI Heartland in preparation of Form 1098-T Tuition Statement for use by either the students or their parents in the filing of their 1040 personal tax return. Each year Form 1098-T for the recently completed calendar tax year will be available on-line starting mid to late January through ECSI Heartland at <http://bit.ly/WVU1098T>. Hard copies will be mailed by January 31st to the student's permanent mailing address as listed in the student's Star account.

As a note to students, you will be unable to access your Form 1098-T on the ECSI Heartland website until we have completed the upload of the data file for the current year. Please continue to check back with the ECSI Heartland website. Once the information is available the system will allow you to view and download your information at that time.

Prior year Form 1098-T for the calendar years 2016 and 2017 are also available on-line through ECSI Heartland at <http://bit.ly/WVU1098T>. If you need a Form 1098-T for the calendar year 2015 or prior, please contact the WVU Tax Services unit directly at tax@mail.wvu.edu or at (304) 293-3379 extension 3.

Form 1098-T will not be issued to our International students unless requested by the student. An International student considered a Non-Resident Alien (NRA) for income tax purposes generally is not eligible for the various educational tax credits and/or deductions. The IRS therefore does not require WVU to issue Form 1098-T to International students. If you are an International student and have questions concerning this situation, please contact WVU Tax Services. Feel free to contact ECSI Heartland with questions concerning your Form 1098-T through on-line chat at <http://bit.ly/WVU1098T> or at 866-428-1098

Government Shutdown Update

West Virginia University realizes some students and families of our WVU community are being impacted financially by the current shutdown of parts of the federal government. As always, we want to provide support and resources for our Mountaineer family. If your family is experiencing financial hardship directly due to the shutdown, such that the ability to make tuition payments, etc. is affected, please contact the WVU Hub at 304-293-1988 or via <http://bit.ly/WVUHubForm>. If your graduate student is experiencing financial hardship directly due to the shutdown, such that the ability to make tuition payments, etc. is affected, please refer that student to the Office of Graduate Education and Life at 304-293-7173 or katherine.karraker@mail.wvu.edu. If there are other situations not addressed in this email, please send an email directly to provost@mail.wvu.edu.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations