I followed two students through the Mountainlair yesterday on my way to a meeting talking about their Spring Break plans and found myself yearning for those carefree days of making memories with friends and looking forward to a full week off! Spring Break starts this weekend with residence halls closing Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. and reopening Sunday, March 18 at noon. Details on the Parents Club Spring Break Buses (limited seats remain) as well as spring break parking storage options follow. Before they head out for break though, now is the time to ask about midterm updates – any grades of D or F posted online last week. If your student is struggling, read the section on Midterm Help and remind them they can get back on track. Fall course registration dates start March 26; current students should have met with their academic adviser and cleared any financial holds prior to their registration date: http://bit.ly/2FOlACk.

This is also the time for students to think ahead to summer – meaning summer term as well as new student orientation! Be sure to see the full Think Summer section below on all things Summer Term if your students is considering summer classes. For parents of our incoming students, we have just opened registration for June New Student Orientation when your students will meet with advisors and schedule their fall classes, so read on and sign up today: http://bit.ly/2FfFjge. So, though the countdowns are on for sun and fun read on and share these reminders with your students! In this edition:

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Student Employment Job Fair – March 7

Student Employment will be hosting the annual Part-Time and Summer Student Employment Jobs Fair on March 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. The event will provide an opportunity for on- and off-campus employers to hire students for spring, summer and fall part-time and seasonal jobs: http://bit.ly/2tiSXur.

LaunchLab’s March Idea Challenge – Submit by March 16


Festival of Ideas Lectures – March 21 and April 10

Festival of Ideas lectures allow students to meet and engage with national speakers and thought leaders. Encourage your students to check out the upcoming lectures: http://bit.ly/2F89nqB.

Health Professions Fair – March 28

The Health Professions Fair is March 28, 2-6 p.m. in the Mountainlair. Students can network with representatives from all types of health professional programs. To pre-register: http://bit.ly/2GYkeUB.

Spring 2018 Calendar

As a reminder: there are no classes the Friday before Easter, but yes, there are classes the Monday after Easter (April 1). Residence halls remain open that entire weekend. Here are some important reminders and key dates for the rest of the spring school year:

Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. – Residence halls close for Spring Break.

Sunday, March 18 at noon – Residence halls reopen.
Friday, March 23 – Last day to drop individual classes; consult adviser first.

March 26-April 9 – Online fall class registration dates according to class rank. http://bit.ly/2FOlACk

*Friday, March 30 – University Holiday – Friday before Easter – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

*Thursday, April 26 – Last day to withdraw from the University; consult adviser first.

*Monday, April 30-Friday, May 4 – Finals Week.

*Saturday, May 5 at noon – Residence halls close (students must vacate rooms 24 hours after last final).

Tuesday, May 8 – University Holiday – Election Day – offices closed


**MIDTERM HELP**

Last week we passed the eight-week point in the 16-week semester, meaning faculty have reported grades of D or F. The good news is there is still time to get back on track! Students, as well as parents with Parent/Guest Portal access http://bit.ly/1l9XiAm, can view midterm grades online. If your student is struggling, please encourage them to explore the resources listed below. This is a critical point for student success.

- Instructors’ office hours are listed on every course syllabus. Encourage students to meet and talk with their instructor about their progress.
- If living in the residence halls, students have a wealth of resources including residence hall coordinators and resident assistants (RAs).
- WellWVU (http://bit.ly/1prNoiE) has several resources to help students with stress, time management and better sleep habits.
- Career Services http://bit.ly/1oGa9zh can help students with a four-year plan to launch a successful career or when considering changing their major.
- Academic advisers can assist with options for adding and dropping courses, changing majors. Note the last day to drop a course is March 23. Advisors can also help explore summer school or other options to help get back on track.
• The Carruth Center for Counseling offers individual and group counseling. 
  http://bit.ly/2y1Pv64
• Accessibility Services enhances educational opportunities for students with disabilities. 
  http://bit.ly/1oG8jhA

It is important to remain a full-time student in good academic standing (at least a 2.0 GPA) to graduate in a timely manner and maintain scholarships and financial aid. Students receiving scholarships have higher GPA requirements. Students with below a 2.0 GPA at the end of the spring 2018 semester could be suspended as well as lose their financial aid due to not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), which is evaluated on the attempted versus earned credit hours and overall grade point average. More info about financial aid SAP can be found at http://bit.ly/2Aw0Rip. Students worried about their academic progress should consult with their adviser as well as the Mountaineer Hub about their aid status.

SPRING BREAK REMINDERS

Spring Break Parents Club Buses

Still looking for transportation home for your student? There’s still time and limited seats available. The Mountaineer Parents Club offers spring break buses to a variety of locations: Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA, and Highland, NY (which serves Connecticut, New York and New England): http://bit.ly/2FLkIhF.


Limited Spring Break Car Storage Parking

Parking Management is offering students leaving campus for spring break the option to store their vehicle on campus. Temporary student permits can be purchased for $10, which covers March 9-18. To receive this rate, students can download the Parkmobile app and enter the appropriate zone number: http://bit.ly/2CVPIIE. The zone number for the Mountainlair garage (upper level) is 52004 and Mountaineer Station (area 81) is 52003. Questions? 304-293-5502.

FALL CLASS REGISTRATION

Parents of Incoming Students: June New Student Orientation Registration Open

If your student will be entering WVU this fall, New Student Orientation (NSO) is one of the final steps. Registration opened March 1 for these daily sessions that run the entire month of June. Students will meet with academic advisors, take any needed assessment exams and leave
with their fall schedules. They will also learn about financial aid and housing, get their student ID and find answers to any questions. There is a parallel parent program that we welcome and encourage parents and family members to attend. http://bit.ly/2FfFjge

Pay Bills and Resolve Financial Holds

To help prevent system slowness during the fall pre-registration period that begins March 26, students should pay all outstanding bills as soon as possible and ensure that financial holds have been lifted before attempting to register for classes on their priority registration dates: http://bit.ly/2FOlACk.

Please be aware that holds WON’T be lifted during the first hour of each day that students are pre-registering to keep the system moving as quickly as possible. Students with outstanding debts could be delayed in registering and may miss getting the classes they want.

If there is a hold on your student’s account, your student will be able to see it at their WVU Portal. Please do NOT use your student’s password to check the portal yourself, as that is a violation of WVU policy and could lock the account, causing further delay.

Students are required to meet each term with their academic adviser to discuss progress and courses needed for upcoming terms and to have their term advising hold removed. Students should log on and review DegreeWorks to track their progress to degree prior to their advising appointments: http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO.

FINANCES AND AID

Academic Progress Can Affect Financial Aid

As your students reach the midterm portion of the semester, it is important to remind them that academics can affect their access to financial aid, not just scholarships. Students should review the renewal criteria for all scholarships http://bit.ly/2m4S5Dl and requirements to meet satisfactory academic progress to maintain all forms of federal aid: http://bit.ly/2Aw0Rip.

Undergraduates must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at the end of the spring term to continue receiving aid. They must also successfully complete at least 67% of the classes they attempt. There is still time to impact their financial future! If students are struggling academically they should contact the Office of Student Success for assistance and guidance at 304-293-5804.

Scholarships and Funding 102

Whether you are the parent of an incoming or current student, there are always questions about scholarships and funding. Below are a few tips that can help your students be savvy when it comes to funding their education.


3. **Parental connections:** Check with your place of work to see if they offer funding opportunities for students attending college. Were you in the military? Your military educational benefits might be transferrable to your student as a dependent: [http://bit.ly/2Fk0L3F](http://bit.ly/2Fk0L3F). WVU is also a Yellow-Ribbon School, providing discounts: [http://bit.ly/2Fk0L3F](http://bit.ly/2Fk0L3F). Philanthropic or service organizations often sponsor student scholarships. If you are a WVU grad, the WVU Alumni Association provides a limited number of legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren or siblings of alumni: [http://bit.ly/2FeZZVL](http://bit.ly/2FeZZVL). WVU alumni chapters often provide scholarships: [http://bit.ly/2oCEWTs](http://bit.ly/2oCEWTs).

4. **External searches:** A lot of money is given away by organizations across the country and globe. Perhaps a business or corporation affiliated with the field of study your student has chosen has a scholarship. Perhaps a national branch of a student organization they are involved in provides funding. A list of free search sites for external scholarships can be found here: [http://bit.ly/2I1Fr1y](http://bit.ly/2I1Fr1y).

**THINK SUMMER!**

**Summer Term Registration Open**

Students may register up through the first day of classes, as long as space remains. WVU Summer Term is ideal for students who want to focus on challenging courses, get caught up or get ahead in their major, or who want to add a minor or take General Education Foundation (GEF) courses. The summer course schedule is flexible, with classes offered in 3, 6, 9 and 12-week increments. Students should talk to their advisers and use DegreeWorks to see how they can benefit from summer courses. Please note that students who register for summer classes but later decide not to attend need to drop the courses by the first day of each class to avoid charges. [http://bit.ly/2zMSDFH](http://bit.ly/2zMSDFH)
**Summer BOOST Program**

Students who may have hit an academic road bump this year can apply for this special program designed to get them back on track. By enrolling in on-campus courses this summer, participants will have access to dedicated tutors, success coaches and advising. Those who successfully complete their courses will be eligible for a summer stipend valued up to the 30 percent of WVU tuition: [http://bit.ly/2I0TSCU](http://bit.ly/2I0TSCU).

**Summer School Housing**

WVU’s residence halls will offer space to students attending summer school on the Morgantown campus. Housing will be available in Oakland Hall. [http://bit.ly/2HXEt6g](http://bit.ly/2HXEt6g).

University Apartments [http://bit.ly/2yPoXbU](http://bit.ly/2yPoXbU) also have some limited summer leases available. Students should e-mail UniversityApartments@mail.wvu.edu with the dates they will need summer housing to receive a list of available properties, options and details.

**Student Parking Summer Permits Available**

Beginning Wednesday, February 14, WVU Parking Management began selling student parking permits for summer semester 2018. Summer permits will be valid from May 14 - August 3, 2018. Permits are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The student must be registered for classes and have all citations paid. Students should visit Mountaineer Station located on 1112 Van Voorhis Road to purchase permits. 304-293-5502 [http://bit.ly/2HYwKEV](http://bit.ly/2HYwKEV)

**Summer Internships or Full-Time Jobs**

If you are waiting for your student to lock in their summer internship or first full-time job after graduation, WVU Career Services is here to help. It’s not too late, but time is of the essence. Help them get started by sharing this “top-five” list.

Top-Five Steps to Land a Job by June:

2. Schedule a practice interview and job search strategy session with a career development specialist.
5. Leverage your personal network — ask your friends, family and faculty if they are aware of job openings that align with your skills and interests.
6. Check out the annual Part-Time and Summer Student Employment Jobs Fair on March 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. The event will provide an
opportunity for on- and off-campus employers to hire students for spring, summer and fall part-time and seasonal jobs: http://bit.ly/2tiSXur.

For more information on launching a successful internship or job search, contact the WVU Career Services Center: 304-293-2221 careerservices@mail.wvu.edu | http://bit.ly/2CTXpze | Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Maybe do Summer Abroad?

Summer is also a great opportunity to also enhance a resume and transcript with study abroad opportunities. Many options still exist, so encourage your student to check these out: http://bit.ly/2F8Wdh8.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University