

Mountaineers Go First: More Than A New Campaign



The first thing your student will learn here is that impossible is just a challenge.

Did you know the first person to develop the modern high-speed cable modem was a Mountaineer? (Rouzbeh Yassini-Fard, '81) Or that WVU was the first university named as the FBI's lead academic partner in biometrics research? Or that we were the first university to build and operate a canopy tour in the United States?

Our new Mountaineers Go First campaign celebrates not only these literal firsts but the unique spirit of our institution. Mountaineers Go First is our rallying cry. It reminds us of the University's history and traditions — and the rugged determination progress requires. It's more than just flashy words and fancy advertising: It's a living, breathing mantra that embodies the boldness of the Mountaineer spirit.

Check out mountaineersgofirst.wvu.edu or the [#GoFirst](https://twitter.com/GoFirst) hashtag to see how Mountaineers are dreaming big and forging opportunities every day. 💙

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MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB



Calendar of Events

October 2-4
Fall Family Weekend

October 4
Fall Ring Day Ceremony

October 12-13
Fall Break
(Residence Halls Remain Open)

November 20
Residence Halls Close at 7 p.m.
for Thanksgiving Break

November 23-27
Thanksgiving Break

November 29
Residence Halls Reopen at Noon

December 10-16
Final Exam Week

December 17
Residence Halls Close at Noon

December 18
December Graduation

Dear Mountaineer Parents Club members,

By now you are probably settling into a new routine at your home with one less person. Whether this is the first student you are sending off to college, or your last, everyone goes through an adjustment period.

The good news is, you are not alone! All parents want to know how they can provide support to their students.

There are many things that you can do to make the transition seamless. Below are a few tips from some of our more “seasoned” parents.

Stay in touch with your student. Keeping connected is important. Stay in touch with your child, but not too much. Establish a few rules/guidelines that will make everyone happy and comfortable. At West Virginia University there are lots of things for them to do; with that in mind, perhaps ask your child to text you at least once a day to check in, or even every other day. You don’t want to smother them, or you will push them away.

Mail your student something from home. There is nothing more exciting than going to your mailbox to find a card or care package from home. It will remind your students that they are loved and missed. Offer words of encouragement or send a funny photo. All will put a smile on their face! If they live on campus, visit this site for mailing details: housing.wvu.edu/residence_halls/sending_mail_to_students.

Remember the 24-hour rule! If your student calls you in a panic because they have had a quarrel with their roommate, perhaps didn’t do well on their first college quiz, or broke up with a girlfriend or boyfriend, resist the urge to get in the car and drive to WVU. Check back with them in 24 hours and see how they are doing.

More than likely, they are just fine. If not, if they live in a residence hall. Remember the available resources, such as their resident faculty leader, resident assistants and resident hall coordinators. Also, remember that all students can reach out to our Carruth Center. We have licensed psychologists available to meet with students confidentially. Visit their website at well.wvu.edu/ccpps.

Come to Fall Family Weekend. Plan to visit us October 2-4. I always say it is the cool time for parents to be on campus. Your student will want you here! The Mountaineer Parents Club has planned many activities for both parents and students to enjoy together. Go on a canopy tour and zip line through the trees! Take some time to listen to a presentation from Career Services or Study Abroad. Hang out at the game-watching party together. There are lots of fun things to do together on and off campus. Check out the schedule at fallfamilyweekend.wvu.edu.

Remember, we are in this together. Parents are our partners at West Virginia University. Through the Mountaineer Parents Club you will know what is happening on campus and how you can be part of your student’s journey. Stay up-to-date by checking our website at parentsclub.wvu.edu. And don’t forget to like us on Facebook!

I look forward to meeting you on campus during Fall Family Weekend.

Let’s Go.



Sabrina M. Cave, Executive Director, Mountaineer Parents Club



Dear Mountaineer Parents,

A new academic year has arrived, and it is a magical time when Mountaineers come together as one in these hills we call home.

If your child is a freshman, you are probably experiencing many emotions right now. You may feel a mixture of anxiety, excitement and even a little sadness.

This is perfectly OK. And I will tell you a secret: Your sons and daughters probably had similar feelings when you drove away from their residence halls. New adventures make us all nervous, but I can promise you that your child has made the best possible decision in coming to West Virginia University.

In the years ahead, you will see how much our campus and community have to offer — the scenic beauty, the vast academic offerings, the student life opportunities, the athletic and recreational programs, the friendly people, the traditions and the pioneering spirit.

Our fall semester kicked off with new Welcome Week events that oriented students, energized them and helped them bring academic and social life into a proper balance.

During Saturday Night Lights, Mountaineer spirit and tradition came alive for students at Milan Puskar Stadium. The next morning, the Mountaineer Welcome introduced them to academic expectations and opportunities. And on Sunday afternoon, students mingled, munched and enjoyed great music at FoodFest and FallFest. The festivities ended early enough that students were well rested for their real introduction to college life — their first classes on Monday morning.

I am sure that you have told your sons and daughters that they need to go to class, to study and to complete their work on time. However, the time they spend outside the classrooms and libraries is just as critical to their development as young adults. That is why I preach the mantra of “work smart and play smart.” So remind them to also laugh with friends over ice cream, exercise 20 minutes a day, get involved with campus activities and take an occasional road trip to explore somewhere new.

Above all, remind them to ask for help whenever they need it. Everyone on our campus is eager to help students succeed.

As I told your children during Welcome Week, “We are one Mountaineer nation. We take care of one another. We inspire one another. And we cherish one another. We welcome you with open arms, and we will help give you wings to your triumphs.”

I am thrilled to welcome all of our students, and you — their parents — to our Mountaineer family. 🇺🇸

E. Gordon Gee, President

University Apartments

You have enough to worry about with a busy work schedule and family commitments. Something you don't have to worry about is finding the perfect place for your son or daughter to live while he or she is at college. We've made the search for an apartment easy!

WVU currently has four great places to call home — all of which are located on the Downtown or Evansdale campuses. In a University Apartment, your son or daughter will be living as close to campus as possible, making commuting easy. Choosing to live in a University Apartment has lots of great benefits:

- Individual leases
- Roommate matching available
- Independent living
- Option to pay rent through their student account, which allows financial aid to be applied
- Open year-round, so your son or daughter can come and go as they please
- On-site property management and security

Studies show that students who live in University-owned housing are happier, have higher retention rates and graduate faster! Please visit our website at universityapartments.wvu.edu to learn more about our properties. 🇺🇸



WVU Farmers Market

The West Virginia University downtown farmers market has returned. The market is a collaborative effort between WELLWVU and WVU Dining Services and is held across from the Mountainlair each Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from August 28 through October 29.

Local farm vendors sell seasonal produce including apples, peaches, corn, peppers and much more. WVU Dining Services also will be on hand

to offer students samples of dishes featuring locally sourced vegetables and fruits, along with recipes and nutritional information.

The WVU Organic Farm will join the market this year, as well as Mountain People's Co-Op, Garcia's Latin Market and Fair Trade 2.0 of WVU.

Please visit wvutoday.wvu.edu to learn more. 🇺🇸



Emergency Fund Established for International Students

An anonymous gift has enabled WVU to create the Barbara Alvis International Student Emergency Fund to assist international students who encounter an unforeseen financial emergency or catastrophic event that could prevent them from continuing their education or otherwise affect their success.

The Fund will provide immediate financial assistance to currently enrolled WVU international students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses such as books, temporary housing, medical, travel and other unforeseen, non-tuition-related needs.

“One of the things I appreciate the most about our community

is the way we care for each other,” President E. Gordon Gee said. “This anonymous gift is an excellent demonstration of Mountaineers reaching out to help others, with no desire to receive credit or recognition.”

The Fund is named for Barbara Alvis, who served as assistant dean of student life for international students from 1972-1988.

Any international student enrolled at WVU who encounters an emergency is eligible to apply for assistance. Students seeking assistance can contact the WVU Office of International Students and Scholars at oiss@mail.wvu.edu or **304-293-3519**. 🇺🇸



BANDAID UNIFORM DRIVE



WVU Foundation Launches Band Aid Uniform Drive for ‘The Pride’

Alumni and friends of West Virginia University are being asked to support the Mountaineer Marching Band this year by helping purchase new uniforms.

The WVU Foundation has launched its Band Aid Uniform Drive to help buy 500 new uniforms for the “Pride of West Virginia,” as the band is affectionately known.

It’s been nine years since the last Band Aid Uniform Drive, and Mountaineer Marching Band Director Jay Drury said the current uniforms have served the band well.

“These uniforms literally have been all over the country in all types of weather, from rainstorms to snowstorms,” said Drury. “The generosity shown by alumni and friends back in 2006 to help us pay for our current uniforms was outstanding. Now that we’re ready for new uniforms, we’re confident that support will be there once again.”

Drury noted the uniform is an important part of the special pride and pageantry that is the Mountaineer Marching Band.

“Wherever we perform, whether it’s at Mountaineer Field, in a parade, or at an away football game, we are not only representing West Virginia University but our great state and its people,” Drury said. “So it’s important we look our very best.”

Drury said the new uniform will look quite similar to the current uniform, featuring the Flying WV logo on the front, reversible capes and helmets with interchangeable gold, blue and white plumes.

Mary Esposito, assistant director of the WVU Foundation’s University Fund, is coordinating the Band Aid Uniform Drive. She said donors have several options.

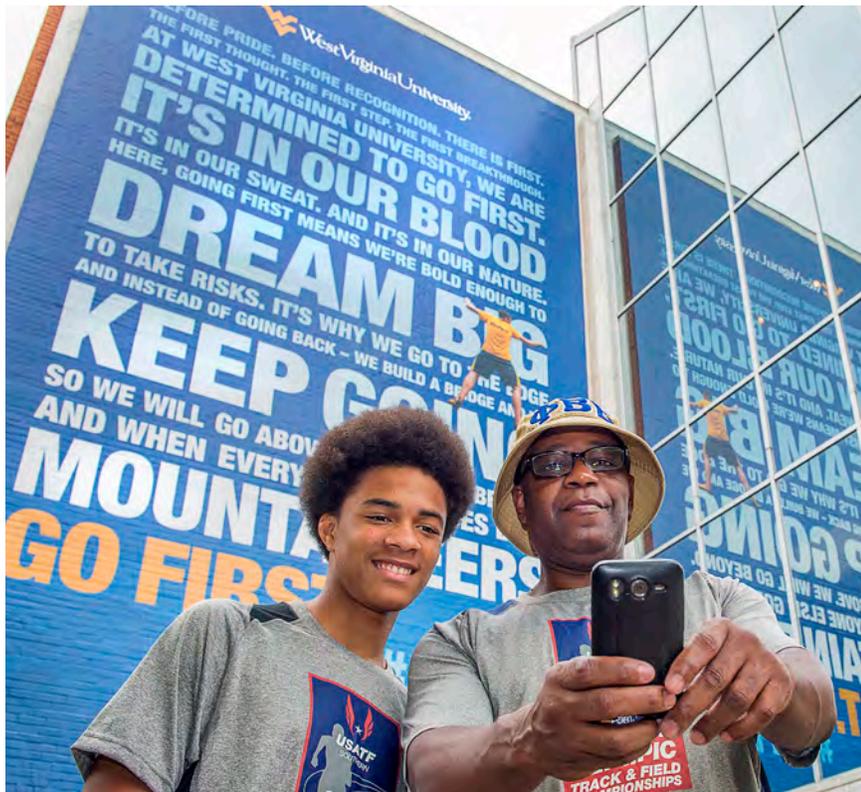
“Those interested in making gifts to the uniform drive can donate a whole uniform or purchase pieces such as coats, pants or helmets separately. Full \$700 donations will feature the donor’s name inside of the uniform,” Esposito said.

The University has agreed to match each full uniform donation of \$700 with another additional uniform.

Esposito believes the new uniforms will see another nine to ten years of use after their planned debut at this fall’s Homecoming football game, October 10, when WVU hosts Oklahoma State.

Those wishing to give to the Band Aid Uniform Drive can do so online at wvubandaid.com or contact the WVU Foundation, **304-284-4000** or **800-847-3856**. 🇺🇸

Did You Know?



Mountaineers Go First

At West Virginia University, “Mountaineers Go First.” Your students are probably seeing different banners all around campus like this one on the front of the Mountainlair. Visit mountaineersgofirst.wvu.edu to learn more. If your son or daughter is doing something special at WVU — whether it’s researching to find a cure for cancer or developing a new product — we’d love to know about it, so tell us by using #GoFirst on Twitter.

MPC Buses

The Mountaineer Parents Club provides buses to help bring students home during Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks. The MPC offers buses to 16 different destinations in eight states across the Northeast. Destinations include Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, New York, Delaware and Virginia. Go to parentsclub.wvu.edu/schedules to find reservation information.

Mountaineer Pharmacy

The full-service pharmacy is conveniently located on the ground floor of the Health and Education Building and is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Most insurances are accepted, and on-site parking is available. Students get a 10% discount on over-the-counter items. To fill a prescription students should call **304-285-7348**. Visit mountaineerpharmacy.com for more information.

Gold Rush

The 2015 Gold Rush game has been designated for the Maryland game on September 26. Fans are encouraged to wear as much gold as possible. Students help raise money each year for the United Way campaign by selling “Gold Rush” T-shirts. T-shirts are \$10 each, and information on where to purchase them can be found by visiting unitedway.wvu.edu/goldrush.



Mountaineer Dress Code

There’s a dress code this fall for three Mountaineer home football games. The September 26 Maryland game is a Gold Rush; the October 10 Oklahoma State game is Stripe the Stadium; and the November 14 Texas game will be the second True Blue game. For a list of all the promotions, visit wvusports.com/promotions.cfm. And visit wvusports.com/page.cfm?section=28225 for a “Stripe the Stadium” map.

Student LOT

Saturday, September 5, marked the sixth year of the Student LOT, the official alcohol-free student pregame tailgating event. The LOT is located at the University Park Courtyard on the Evansdale campus. All students (who can bring one guest) are welcome to stop by for food and fun as they make their way to the stadium to cheer on the Mountaineers at the home football games. For more information, visit studentlot.wvu.edu.



WVU Golf Team

For the first time in 30 years, West Virginia University will have a golf team! The newly formed team will hit the links as an official varsity sport, competing in 13 tournaments. Learn more about the team at wvusports.com/teams.cfm?sport=mgolf.



Summer Send-off

Students from Mercer County, West Virginia, along with WVU recruiter Christina Maier, enjoyed the Mercer County Summer Send-off. Many Mountaineer Parents Clubs held Summer Send-offs from June through August before sending their students back to campus.

Mountie Bounty

In addition to the numerous on-campus uses and locations that accept Mountie Bounty, now including the new on-campus WVU Mountaineer Pharmacy, Mountaineer Card Services recently announced that Mountie Bounty has been expanded to off-campus locations beginning this fall semester.

The list continues to grow daily, but the off-campus merchants that are now online to accept the Mountie Bounty plan include:

- /// Panera Bread locations on Patteson Drive and Willey Street
- /// CVS locations on Earl Core Road, High Street, Pineview Drive and Star City
- /// Sheetz at University Place on University Avenue
- /// Burger King on Patteson Drive
- /// The Greeks on Beechurst Avenue
- /// Campus Canteen on High Street
- /// Frank Anthony's Pizza on Beechurst Avenue
- /// Little General Stores locations on Van Voorhis Road and Willey Street

Mountie Bounty was expanded to off-campus locations to increase flexibility and variety for students. The Mountaineer Card Office is continuing to work to create more partnerships with local merchants.

Mountie Bounty is a prepaid account that works like a debit card. The plan allows parents and students to add money to a Mountaineer Card to be used for services at dining hall facilities, campus restaurants, the WVU Bookstores, campus coffee shops and cafes, printing at WVU computer labs, WVU pharmacy purchases and residence hall laundry facilities. Items prohibited for sale with the Mountie Bounty plan include alcohol, tobacco products, firearms, adult magazines, lottery tickets and gift cards.

For more on the program, parents and students can go to: wvucard.wvu.edu/debit_plans.

For online 24/7 convenience of deposit, students and parents can add funds by visiting mymountaineercard.wvu.edu.

For questions, contact Mountaineer Card Services at WVUCard@mail.wvu.edu or at **304-293-CARD**.

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations and Mountaineer Parents Club. Funding for this newsletter is provided in part by the Susan B. Hardesty Parents Club Endowment. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Send mail to: **Editor, Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter, PO Box 6240, Morgantown, WV 26506 or parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.**

West Virginia University is governed by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the WVU Board of Governors. West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution. (123683)

‘Dream First’ Scholarship Initiative Launched

West Virginia University and the WVU Foundation are partnering to raise \$50 million for student scholarships. The campaign called “Dream First” will urge alumni and friends to support students as they “dream big” and pursue their passions.

The campaign is being launched in response to what WVU President E. Gordon Gee says is a “difficult, but necessary” increase in tuition.

“West Virginia University remains extremely cognizant of our students and their families as they face the financial aspects of obtaining a college education — and we want to do right by them,” President Gee said.

Foundation Board of Directors Chairman Gary Pell said, “The WVU Foundation is fully supportive of this initiative. Helping students achieve their higher education dreams by enabling greater access and making it

more affordable is, and will continue to be, one the Foundation’s top priorities. It’s extremely important to our University and our donors.”

If you are interested in helping students by supporting the “Dream First” initiative, contact the WVU Foundation at **800-847-3856** or visit **wvuf.org**. 

