Letter From Michele Whaley, Parents Council President:

As the Fall semester begins, and my Junior dives into classes and extracurricular activities, I’m reminded again of how ECU continues to provide amazing resources for not only our students, but parents and families as well.

The Division of Student Affairs has set aside resources to support our Pirate Parents and Families through the Office of Parent and Family Programs. While we continue to encourage our students to jump in and get involved on campus, I encourage our parents to do the same.

Connect with the office on social media, attend family events on campus, or host Pirate families in your region.

I’ve enjoyed my work with the ECU Parents Advisory Council, as it has allowed me to connect with ECU in a way that does not compete with my student’s experience. My daughter is able to be involved, as am I. I’m connected, informed, and able to provide council when (and if) she seeks my advice.

As we approach Family Weekend there are many events and activities planned for the whole family. Enjoy a taste of the student experience, and the special time with your student.

I invite all interested in learning more about the ECU Parents Advisory Council to attend our first meeting of the year, held on Friday, September 15 at 5:00pm. The council will be discussing current issues in the East Carolina University community and how parents can get involved. Families in attendance will also be eligible to WIN one semester of free in-state tuition! This is your opportunity to experience first-hand the impact Proud Pirate Parents make on ECU students. A complete list of all Fall Family Weekend events can be found at www.ecu.edu/familyweekend.

I hope that all of our Pirate Families will take time to get connected to the University.

Michele Whaley
2017-2018 Parents Council President
Ayden, NC
Pirate Parents Live—Money Matters

What is FAFSA? How do I navigate the Financial Aid process? How can my student apply for Scholarships?

Parents and families are invited to join us on Facebook Live for an interactive presentation on September 20 at noon (ET). This is your opportunity to ask questions and hear from staff in the Financial Aid and University Scholarships offices. The Office of Parent and Family Programs has gathered a panel of representatives to help answer your questions as we approach a new financial aid season.

Register here for a friendly reminder before we go LIVE!

View archived recordings of Pirate Parents Live at www.facebook.com/ECUParents/videos. You do not need a Facebook account to view these videos.

Parent Tip of the Month

Classes are in full swing, and encouraging strong study skills is important. Encourage your student to utilize the Pirate Academic Success Center. The Center provides learning strategies, study skills assistance, and several other tools for academic improvement.

www.ecu.edu/pasc
2300 Old Cafeteria Complex
252-737-3009

Also, remind your students to visit professors early in the semester during the provided office hours. Open communication is important, and it will create a smoother transition for more intense coursework.

Family Weekend 2017

Family Weekend is a long honored tradition on ECU’s Campus. Sponsored by the Office of Parent and Family Programs, Family Weekend aims to connect and reconnect families with campus, bringing together faculty, staff, students, and families for activities that represent life at ECU. This weekend serves as an opportunity for family members to experience ECU from their student’s perspective, highlighting why they are so proud to be a Pirate!

Find our table in Mendenhall Student Center on Friday, September 15th to check in for the weekend! See you soon!

The Office of Parent and Family Programs extends our deepest thanks to our Program Sponsors!

The Davis
Pirates Place Townhomes
The Landing
Captain’s Quarters
33 East
The Bellamy
University Suites

Coming Soon...
ECU Career Fairs 2017 ECU Fall Career Fairs

ECU career fairs serve as the university’s primary point of connection for students with potential employers and allow students to explore job opportunities and discover how their academic majors relate to career options. All current students and alumni are welcome to attend!

ECU Career Services will be hosting two career fairs this fall and a graduate school expo. The Health Careers Fair will be on Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the East Carolina Heart Institute. The Fall Career Fair will be on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Greenville Convention Center. Finally, the Graduate School Expo will be hosted on October 25, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Mendenhall Student Center.

The Fall Career Fair will have over 180 employers from across the country recruiting for internships, part-time and full-time career opportunities for all majors. The Health Careers Fair will feature over 40 employers that focus on recruiting students in the fields of human services and healthcare. During both events a photographer will be available to take professional headshots for students and alumni which can then be used on social media profiles.

The companies that have attended past career fairs include: Vidant Health, Glaxo Smith Kline, Hospira, Hyster-Yale (formerly NAACO), Patheon, TQL (Total Quality Logistics), CVS Pharmacy, Lenovo, and Red Ventures.

Last year, 53% of students attending the career fairs were hired for full-time positions and more than two-thirds of attendees garnered at least one internship, part-time job or created a professional business relationship with an employer.

Students should dress in business professional attire and bring their ECU OneCard. Below is information regarding the Fall 2017 ECU career fairs. Please encourage students to save these dates and attend the events.

A full list of attending employers and additional career fair information is available on the Career Services website at www.ecu.edu/career.
News from the Dean of Students Office

Welcome to all of our new and returning ECU Pirates and their families! We are so excited for the 2017-2018 academic year, and our hope is that we can serve as a support, resource and advocate for your student.

Please visit our website at www.ecu.edu/dos to review recent changes to university policies, as well as our new office location. We recently moved during the summer and are now located on the first floor of Umstead Hall directly off of 10th Street! We have also included information about university excused absences, extenuating circumstances withdrawals, and ECU Cares, our phone/web hotline that allows fellow students, family members, and faculty/staff to share concerns or information with the university.

We are encouraging students and families to follow us on social media, where we will be sharing more information about upcoming programs and events. This fall, the Dean of Students office will be offering Creed Connections, focusing on an individual pillar of the ECU Creed each month. We will also continue our support of Cupola Conversations, a program that is helping our students practice civility on campus with their peers. Finally, we will be recruiting students interested in peer education and further developing our resiliency curriculum that will promote healthy stress management and coping skills.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns, and we look forward to working with your students in the coming year. We leave you with our most recent project, completed by our fabulous Student Affairs Marketing and Communications Team featuring the ECU Creed, the students of Pirate Nation, and our beautiful campus. Enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdhYqCw1jyY

Students’ Treasure Chest

If you are looking for a good cause - check out the Students’ Treasure Chest. This is a student led philanthropy group that raises money to help our students.

The group has open membership and takes funding requests to help students in need and students with opportunities. Fundraising events are held throughout the year and donations are welcomed.

Visit the organization’s website for more information: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/dos/stc-home.cfm
The Importance of the First Year
From the Office of Student Transitions
www.ecu.edu/studenttransitions

Connect, Invest, Motivate, Finish Strong
While you were at orientation you may have heard the words, “Connect”, “Invest”, “Motivate”, and “Finish Strong” or seen them on banners. Based on theories, the Division of Student Affairs has developed a Student Success Continuum. This intentional and proactive “continuum” is used to structure experiential learning activities and support services in anticipation of the developmental needs and challenges that students will likely encounter throughout their first year and throughout their college experience.

At the beginning of the school year we want students to CONNECT with ECU, organizations, and resources. Once they have connected, we want students to purposefully INVEST both academically and socially. Returning after the holiday break is sometimes difficult for students so when they return we want them to re-energize and MOTIVATE for the spring semester. Finally, we want students to FINISH STRONG and complete their academic year. We will explore each of these in more detail throughout the school year.

Connect
You have successfully gotten your student moved into his or her new residence hall room. He or she has made it through the first weeks of school. What can you expect from your student now?

Typically colleges plan a lot of events the first few weeks of school to help students CONNECT. These events help students find ways to get involved, make new friends, and ease the transition. East Carolina University is no exception! Between residence hall meetings, Plunge Into Purple (PIP) events, the start of classes, and making new friends, your student is pretty busy! The newness makes everything exciting. So during the first few weeks of school, you may not hear a lot from your student, and what you do hear is likely to be excitement!

Our experience with first-year students teaches us that students need to get involved early, build habits for success, and learn to make wise decisions about their time. The following suggestions address typical early transition issues for first-year students during the first few weeks of college.

Make Connections
Experience with successful college students reveals that their college success is influenced by the quality and quantity of their interactions outside of class. The “big three” connections that help students succeed at ECU are with supportive faculty, staff, and peers. Here are some suggestions for encouraging social interactions for your student.

Student-to-Faculty: Encourage interaction outside of class, immediately after class, or during office hours.
Student-to-Staff: Encourage your student to maintain regular contact with his or her advisor – not just during registration periods. Also encourage them to get to know their residence hall coordinator and other support staff they may encounter.
Student-to-Student: Encourage your student to seek peer relationships with others who are success-seeking and success-achieving students.

Connect with Campus Resources
Encourage your student to become involved by using the many resources that ECU has at his or her disposal. Studies show that students who use campus resources report higher levels of satisfaction with, and get more out of, the college experience. This involvement is not only valuable, but also FREE (because it is covered as part of tuition and fees). The Pirate Academic Success Center and the Writing Center can assist students with course work. Other resources include the Student Recreation Center, Mendenhall Student Center, Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, Student Organizations, Career Services, Counseling Center, and Student Health Services.

Making the Transition
As students transition to life in college and away from home, many will experience difficulty in similar adjustments. Each month, we’ll focus on adjustment issues that students commonly experience during that month.
The Importance of the First Year (continued)
From the Office of Student Transitions
www.ecu.edu/studenttransitions

September Adjustments

Homesickness: They may not tell you, but chances are your student misses you and being at home. It's not just about having someone to cook and do laundry for them though. Students miss the comfort that comes from a familiar environment with established routines.

Roommate conflicts: Students are often sharing a room with someone else for the first time. This can create conflict, especially if they are not comfortable confronting someone they do not know. You can encourage your student to make the first step in creating a positive relationship with his or her roommate by opening the lines of communication. Roommates should establish boundaries about borrowing clothes, eating food, and when to have friends in the room. Resident Advisors (RAs) and professional residence hall staff are available to assist if needed.

Freedom: During this time, students are busy testing their newfound freedom. There is no longer anyone enforcing a curfew or getting them up in the morning for class. This increased responsibility can be exhilarating but also overwhelming.

New study habits: What do professors expect? What are the tests like? Students may experience anxiety because of new academic challenges.

Dissatisfaction with school: Once the newness of college wears off, students realize that college is not perfect and takes work.

Time Management: During your student's first semester of college, he or she will be amazed at the amount of time that is available outside of class. Students are trying to balance academic and social activities without assistance from parents. Although there is plenty of time to do out-of-class activities, advise your student not to overdo it.

Finding a job: According to leading researchers on college students (and our campus observations), part-time work should not exceed more than 15 hours per week. Interestingly enough, students involved in co-curricular experiences (e.g., volunteer, part-time work) actually earn higher grades than students not involved, and 15 hours or less of involvement tends to be a high success formula. To help your student seek employment on-campus, encourage him or her to go to the Student Employment Office located in G337 Old Cafeteria Complex or visit http://www.ecu.edu/hireapirate.

Dating anxiety: Students may be struggling to maintain a relationship with someone back home or at another school. Anxiety may also occur for students who haven't been asked out or can't find dates.

Student organizations: Students may be overwhelmed at the number of choices or have difficulty finding an organization that fits them. Encourage students to try out multiple options by attending meetings, visiting the OrgSync website, or talk to Student Activities and Organizations office in Mendenhall.

Values: When attending college, students may be confronted by challenges to their values. Exposure to alcohol and sex are among the challenges to values they face. They are now on their own to make decisions about values and safe choices.

Some Questions to Ask Your New Student

How are your classes? When is your first test/paper due?
Have you noticed a difference in college from high school?
What are you doing in your free time?
What two or three resources do you think will be most helpful to you? Why?
Who has impressed you as being approachable, personable, or helpful?
How many hours do you plan to work? Where do you plan to work? How will this impact your academics?
How many new friendships have you formed?
Have you become involved in intramurals, clubs/organizations, residence hall programming, campus activities, or cultural events?
Have you identified a key resource person on campus to turn to if you have questions?
Intercultural Affairs at ECU

LGBT
LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER
RESOURCE OFFICE
Brewster B-103
252-737-2514
ecu.edu/lgbt
The LGBT Resource Office offers a safe and welcoming environment that promotes understanding, acceptance, and visibility of the LGBT community through a comprehensive range of educational programming and advocacy services.

Intercultural Affairs at ECU
The Department of Intercultural Affairs, composed of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the LGBT Resource Office, develops programs and services that engage the community in experiences which challenge bias and encourage understanding and self-exploration. East Carolina University.

LWCC
LEDONIA WRIGHT CULTURAL CENTER
Bloxton House
252-328-6495
ecu.edu/lwcc
The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) provides specialized diversity and social justice experiences so all students can become confident, culturally aware, global citizens.
Pirate Alumni Legacy Tailgate September 30

The third annual Pirate Alumni Legacy Picnic will be held September 30, hosted by the ECU Alumni Association. Families with two or more generations of Pirates including a current student are invited to this annual event recognizing tradition and loyalty to ECU. Enjoy a variety of food from local restaurants, beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more. Legacies will participate in a pinning ceremony, where students will take the legacy oath. The event starts three and a half hours prior to the football kickoff, and will be held at the ECU Alumni Pirate Game Day Tailgate in the Soccer Stadium breezeway.

Registration deadline is September 26. Plan to register in advance as this popular event is expected to sell out.

For more information or to register, call 252-ECU-GRAD (4723) or visit www.PirateAlumni.com/Legacy.

Congratulations, Class of Fall 2017/Spring 2018

It's your year – Capture the moment!
Senior Portraits for the 2018 Buccaneer Yearbook

When: Monday - Friday, October 23rd – 27th
Where: Mendenhall Student Center –Room 14

Schedule your appointment at www.ouryear.com, entering school code 453 or by calling 1-800-OUR-YEAR™ (687-9327), during normal business hours.

When you schedule your appointment, you will receive complete information on how to prepare for your portrait sitting. Don't forget that you can use these portraits for your Professional Networking and Job Search sites.

Don't miss out on capturing this once-in-a-lifetime achievement!

For more information, please contact Buccaneer adviser Terrence Dove at dovet@ecu.edu