Greetings from the Office of First Year Experience Programs

Time has flown by, and your student has already started his or her second semester at IU. The month of January is full of transitions as your student embraces a different schedule, faces new challenges, discovers new relationships, and is presented with exciting opportunities. Check out the information below for ways to support your student’s success in 2015.

Halfway into the Academic Year: Sound Familiar to You?

“Sending your first child off to college is seen as a start -- for them, for you. Sending the last is seen as a finish line. Beginnings. Endings. Words that should contradict each other, and yet I am feeling both at the same time. ‘Empty nester!’ friends exclaim. ‘How is it?’

"Just as I thought it would be. And completely the opposite.”

(Lisa Belkin, Senior columnist, The Huffington Post)

We are always interested in hearing the experiences of the parents and family members of college students. They are as varied as our students themselves. IU families include first time college students, alumni parents, single parent families, Indiana residents, out-of-staters and much more - - a wide variety of backgrounds, family dynamics, and traditions. We hear from IU faculty and staff who are parenting Hoosiers; we hear from family members attending New Student Orientation or Freshman Family Weekend; we hear from many of you. So when we stumbled upon this perspective, we thought we’d share it with you as one mother’s thoughts as her sons were away at college. With the reflection a new year brings, we offer this opportunity for you to reflect on YOUR Hoosier family experience. Read the full column here.
Encourage Your Student to Get Involved On Campus

Spring semester is a great time for students to start fresh with new resolutions for the semester. Encourage your Hoosier to set ambitious goals for the semester. These goals can include good grades, meeting new people, and participating in more/different campus involvement. Student involvement on campus can shape a student's perspective of the campus. Here are a few ways for your student to become more involved:

Join the Orientation Team (OTeam)
Would your student be interested in helping new IU students discover just how amazing it is to be a Hoosier? Orientation student staff gain valuable lifelong and transferrable skills: public speaking, management, team development, self-awareness, and much more. Watch this video to learn about how they can join the OTeam, and encourage them to apply.

Winter Involvement Fair
Students should connect with MyNvolvement online to view the many possibilities of involvement through student organizations. In addition, we've notified them of the Winter Involvement Fair, which takes place on January 15. This is a great way to check out some of the many student organizations on campus.

Winter Part-Time Jobs Fair
Is your student looking for a part-time job during spring semester? On-campus and local Bloomington employers will be looking for employees at the Winter Part-Time Jobs Fair on Wednesday, January 28th from 2-4pm in the Frangipani Room of the Indiana Memorial Union. This fair is open to all IUB students - including students with Federal Work Study Authorization and any student looking to make some extra money!

Complete the FAFSA
Did you know? Students must complete the FAFSA each year in order to be eligible for any kind of aid for the following academic year. The deadline for the 2015-2016 academic year is March 10. We have reminded students of this important deadline, as well as the opportunity to attend College Goal Sunday on February 22nd (details here). Student Central is your on-campus resource for FAFSA questions. You can find their contact information here.

IU Resource Guide
A reminder: the Online IU Resource Guide is full of helpful information related to academic life, campus involvement, housing, health and wellness, transportation, and more. We encourage frequent use of this resource, as well as other parent information resources. Two great places to start are the Parent Pages on the FYE website and the Parent Resources information provided by the Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President.
Campus News 24/7

If you are looking for the latest information about campus, visit the IU News Room, where you can search for news and press releases by topic, campus, or keyword. For additional information about the Bloomington campus, the Indiana Daily Student, our student newspaper, is a great resource.

IU Parents Association

The IU Parents Association is coordinated with the assistance of the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the Dean of Students. Have questions or want more information? Send them an email at mykids@indiana.edu.

What matters. Where it matters.