Greetings from the Office of First Year Experience Programs

We hope you enjoyed time with your student over break! We want to wish a special welcome to our new Hoosier families this semester! January is a great time for students to start fresh with a few new resolutions for the semester ahead. Challenge your student to try new tasks, open up to new relationships, and be excited by new opportunities that may lie ahead. Check out the information below for ways your student can embrace success in 2016:

- Creating Financially Responsible Student
- Student Central
- Apply for the OTeam
- FYEssentials
- Student Involvement Fair
- Part-Time Jobs Fair

Creating Financially Responsible Students

IU MoneySmarts was established as part of an overall program to assist students to make informed financial management decisions and decrease overall student debt. The goal of the MoneySmarts program is to address the holistic needs of our students and connect financial literacy messaging with learning opportunities that meet your wellness needs in ways that are relevant to you. Encourage your student to explore the MoneySmarts website for resources, such as student blogs and podcasts, and to complete the online Financial Literacy component (international students can access this component through their iStart page).

We are happy to support the upcoming IU MoneySmarts WinterFest on January 25 from 6-8pm in the Indiana Memorial Union Alumni Hall. All students are welcome to participate. There will be free food, games, and entertainment to help teach students the do's and don'ts of financial
management in college. Students interested in attending can RSVP here for a chance to win big prizes.

**Student Central – Get Answers. Fast.**

For questions about financial aid, student accounts, or class schedules, Student Central is excited to announce:

- Extended telephone hours. Call (812) 855-6500. Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-6:45pm; Friday: 9am – 6:45pm (EST).
- A new self-service feature, available 24/7. At studentcentral.indiana.edu, look for the “Question? Ask Student Central” textbox, and type in your question for a “best answer,” links that are relevant to your question, and other topics that relate to your question. Also look for the 10 most frequently asked questions and their answers on the right-hand side of the screen.

Student Central is dedicated to making sure you and your student are well-informed and can get answers to your questions at any time of day.

**Apply for the OTeam**

Working with New Student Orientation is a fantastic way for students to get involved on campus, develop leadership skills, and serve new students and their families in a unique and important way. OTeam members leave this experience with vast IU knowledge and with public speaking, facilitation, management, and other skills. Some students are even able to earn internship credit.

Recruitment for the 2016 OTeam is underway, and we are looking for students ready to learn, share, and be a part of something really special. Do you think your Hoosier might be interested? Urge him or her to check it out as an option by exploring the positions available and the opportunities to learn more. It’s all posted on the FYE website.

**FYEssentials**

We have worked with offices and departments across campus to compile a list of programs and events for first year students (First Year Essentials). By attending and exploring these events, students will discover a variety of resources and venues for a complete First Year Experience. We do not want students to leave campus with “I wish I would have…” as part of their vocabulary. We encourage students to explore, belong, and succeed by taking advantage of these identified programs. FYEssentials spring events have been posted online here.
Getting Involved
Check out these great events to help students reconnect with IU and Bloomington:

**Student Involvement Fair:** Studies show that involved, engaged students are substantially more successful. Whether students are new to IU for spring semester or are getting ready to kick off their second semester, students are urged to seek out options for involvement. Encourage your Hoosier to explore beINVolved online to view the many student involvement possibilities on and off campus. The IU Winter Student Involvement Fair will take place on **January 14** from 6pm to 8:30pm in the IMU's Alumni Hall. This is a great way to check out some of the many student organizations on campus.

**Part-Time Jobs Fair:** Does your student need a part-time job? On-campus and local Bloomington employers will be looking for employees at the Winter Part-Time Jobs Fair on **Wednesday, January 20** from 1-4pm in the Alumni Hall in 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!

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**Quick Notes:**

**Important dates:** Here are a few important dates to remember. For a list of important academic dates, visit [studentcentral.indiana.edu](http://studentcentral.indiana.edu).

- MLK Day (Campus Closed) - January 18
- FAFSA Due - March 10
- Family Weekend 2016 - September 23-25

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**Additional Resources**

Still have questions about IU? Check out the [Online IU Resource Guide](http://online:iu:resource:guide), a tool that will provide you with helpful information related to academic life, campus involvement, housing, health and wellness, transportation, and more.

Do you feel in the know about campus issues and safety? You can see updated news and resources at [Protect IU](http://protect:iu) and on [Facebook](http://facebook).

If you are looking for the latest information about campus, visit the [IU News Room](http://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](http://indiana:daily:student), our student newspaper, is a great resource.

The [IU Parents Association](http://iuparents: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 an email to [mykidis@indiana.edu](mailto:mykidis@indiana.edu).