Indiana Convention Center - NASPA 2016 Annual Conference

PFRKC SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Our Knowledge Community strives to make current research and best practices in the functional area of parent and family relations available to you, our members. This tri-annual newsletter is meant to be a short source of information for you. Please send your ideas for future exploration to either of the editors so that we can continue to use our KC as a way to share resources and connect with others. We look forward to your feedback!

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

JOHN DENIO

REGION I REPRESENTATIVE

Associate Dean, Student Affairs Administration at Bryant University

Hello! My name is John Denio and I will be serving as the Parent and Family Relations Knowledge Community Rep for Region 1. I currently serve as the Associate Dean, Student Affairs Administration at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. I have worked in Region 1 for 25 years, serving at additional institutions such as Rhode Island College and Boston College. I work closely with the family members of our students as part of the team in the Vice President for Student Affairs Office. I am continually reminded of the importance of parental engagement in our student's educational journey. I look forward to working with the institutions in Region 1 as well as the national knowledge community with this important constituency.

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KC COMMUNITY HELP

Have you had success with Parent/Family orientation videos? Do you have advice to share? ***Please contact:*** *Becki Salzman at rsalzman@illinois.edu*

Have new ideas or initiatives for the KC? ***Please contact:*** *Co-Chairs Vincent Bowhay and Melissa Ulmer at vebowhay@fhsu.edu and ulmer@rowan.edu*

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@NASPAPFRKC

NASPA.ORG/CONSTITUENT-GROUPS/KCS/PARENT-AND-FAMILY-RELATIONS

RUDY TREJO

REGION V REPRESENTATIVE

Associate Director of Student Involvement at Washington State University

I'm Rudy and I currently serve as the Region V PFRKC Representative. In my professional role, I'm the Associate Director of Student Activities at Washington State University (Go Cougs!) where advise student government and oversee leadership programs within our department. I'm fairly new to the region and area, but, am excited to serve in both capacities! Prior to my arrival, I was at the University of Arkansas (Go Hogs!) where I was the Assistant Director of Student Activities. I rarely get the opportunity to work with parents and families, but, know the important role they play in our student's development, so, I was thrilled at the opportunity to serve within the PFRKC

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JULIE CISSELL

REGION IV WEST REPRESENTATIVE

Admin. Specialist to the AVP/Dean of Students at Henderson State University

Hi Everyone! I am Julie Cissell and serve as Parent & Family Relations Knowledge Community Region IV West representative. As a parent of a college student and a non-traditional student myself I was excited to be a part of this team. This is my sixth year in higher education and I am the assistant to the AVP/Dean of Students at Henderson State University. My role in Student Affairs continues to involve students, parents and family members as our office directs events on campus through various programs and venues. Engaging with parents and families united with serving the knowledge community together provide benefits for continued growth through shared collaborations. I am excited to be a part of the team and serving PF&RKC.

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MEAGHAN MILLER THUL

REGION IV EAST REPRESENTATIVE

Director of the Parent & Family Program at University of Minnesota

My name is Meaghan Miller Thul and I serve as the Director of the Parent and Family Program at the University of Minnesota. I've previously served in student services roles including leading initiatives for student engagement, leadership development, first year experience programs, academic advising, and career and post-graduate planning and am now really enjoying working primarily with the families of our students. I believe families, defined broadly as personal support networks for students, are a critical component of student success and transition to and through college. The PFRKC is ideal for helping to support and develop individual professionals, and in keeping this work at the forefront of student affairs.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

ALEX PRICE

NEW CHAIR-ELECT

Director of the Office of Parent and Family Programs at UCLA

I currently serve as the Director of the Office of Parent & Family Programs at UCLA, and have been with the department for over two years. My interest for working with parents and families stemmed from my work as a Parent Orientation Aid during my undergraduate career. I am continually reminded of the importance of familial support as students navigate this crucial time in their own development. I am excited to serve in a leadership role on the Parent & Family Relations KC and assist other universities in supporting and engaging this unique constituency.

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VACANT PFRKC POSITIONS

REGION VI REPRESENTATIVE

must apply through regional leadership team

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT POSITION

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COORDINATOR

KC BLOGGER

2016 NASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 12-16 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN

The Adult Leaders and Students with Children Knowledge Community (ALSC) Leadership team would like to remind our KC members about the exciting student parent focused pre-con session at NASPA in March.

"STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN: SUCCESS REDEFINED"
PRECON SESSION 38 | SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH FROM 9 A.M.- 12 P.M.

Students with children make up 26% of the undergraduate student population nationally. Focus often falls on the challenges this population of students face, yet students with children tend to be highly-motivated individuals who bring unique strengths and perspectives to their campuses. In this fun and interactive session, we will be featuring a series of video success stories where participants will hear first-hand about the unique experiences of students with children and what success means to them. Please join the ALSC KC for an informative precon filled with empowering stories of student parents who are defining their success.

PARENT AND FAMILY RELATIONS SPONSORED PROGRAMS

COMPASSIONATE WORK WITH PARENTS AND FAMILIES FOLLOWING A STUDENT DEATH

No issue is more important to college parents and families than the safety of their students. How a campus responds to the ultimate crisis – a student death – reflects the institution's philosophy and values. In this session, presenters will invite participants to think deeply about how we use our human and organizational resources to work compassionately with parents and families as they are responding to and grieving the loss of their student. Experts will share their experiences and insights, as well as invite the input of all session participants.
Kristic Branka | Director of Parent and Family Relations, Hoftstra University | Room 142 | Convention Center | 3/14 at 11:15am

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Why, when, and how should higher education professionals engage parents so that those connections benefit student success and persistence? The inter-divisional teamwork, the use of electronic and social media in communications, and a well-organized family orientation are a start. Presenters will explore promising practices for communicating with parents and family members and how to leverage that communication to promote student success.
Kristic Branka | Director of Parent and Family Relations, Hoftstra University | Room 142 | Convention Center | 3/15 at 2:30pm

LOOKING BACK
RUBEN NUÑEZ

Leaving San Diego to work at Pace University-Pleasantville as their Family Program Orientation Coordinator was a daunting thought, nevermind the fact that I would have to get used to living on the opposite side of the country from my own family, but I would be responsible for aiding in the successful transition of approximately 300 families to the campus. Everything about this experience was drastically different from anything I experienced in previous positions and undergraduate institution.

Me, I was accustomed to a larger institution with thousands of students transitioning during the summer. I knew in accepting this position I was going to have the chance to work at a small private school with only a couple hundred students transitioning during the summer and a small amount of two-day orientations. Pace provided me with countless opportunities to grow and experience a completely different type of institution. In the span of 2 months I worked countless hours, met hundreds of incoming family members and students, and worked alongside a staff full of wonderful, outgoing, and genuine people.

I am fortunate now to take the lessons and skills from this summer into my current assistantship working at UC San Diego in the Parent and Family Programs Office as their Graduate Assistant. Their motto sums up nicely many of my take-aways from the summer; “when parents are informed, students benefit”. I now know that we are no longer in the time of “helicopter parents” yet I now see the immense amount potential that lies in welcoming parents into our institution. I was able to see the integral role parents play in student’s success. Through presentations, debrief sessions, and even a night of karaoke we continued to work to make the family feel welcome in the Pace community. Through these sessions family members were also able to create their own community in the families that they met in the 2-days. To this day I am fortunate to see the community the families have created amongst each other by being a member of the Pace University Westminster Family Association facebook page.

Families utilize each other as resources to address their own questions, comments, and concerns. Ranging from questions concerning dining on campus to looking to one another on how to help their own student adjust to campus life. My time at Pace during orientation was the first step in fostering this relationship between families and the campus, as well as between other Pace families.

Additionally from this summer experience I gained valuable skills in my communication with family members. Different from students, family members are more upfront and appreciate transparency. They understand fully what it means to go to higher education, they know the changing reality and what their students will be encountering. Yet I found it was important to work to educate them on changing demographics and perceptions that are now facing their students. As student affairs professionals we are faced with ever changing institutions, today sexual assault and abuse, alcohol abuse, and mental illness is more prominent on a college campus. Thus it is our responsibility to start the conversation with family members so that they can thus be open to addressing these topics with their students. Though uncomfortable and uneasy to have with families that are older than myself, for not only me but also my orientation staff we continued to work to be transparent, upfront, and genuine in our experiences, something I learned the family members appreciated.

Overall, my time at Pace provided valuable insight into the integral role family members play in a student's education. It’s interesting to think about orientation and how sometimes we can be focused on making sure the students have a successful time and are ready to start in the Fall at their institution, yet families sometimes need just the same amount of attention. In the span of four orientation programs, over 2-days I was able to help a wide array of families. From families sending their first child off to campus to sending their last all with their own excitement and hesitation, over 2-days I was able to see their own transition to the Pace campus. In all this summer provided me with the valuable understanding of the importance of Parent and Family programs and fortunate take these lessons and so many more into my position at UCSD for this coming school year.

Ruben Nuñez
Outreach Coordinator- Student Advisory Board | San Diego State University
Sophomore Mentoring Program Graduate Assistant | San Diego State University
Special Events and Program/Parent and Family Programs Graduate Assistant | UC San Diego

READING CORNER
RECOMMENDED PARENT AND FAMILY RELATIONS READINGS FOR YOU

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE PARENT INVOLVEMENT
VICKI NELSON, FOUNDER OF COLLEGE PARENT CENTRAL

Parents are increasingly involved in the lives of college students. Colleges have noted the trend for several years. As college parents, we've earned several less-than-flattering nicknames – everything from helicopter parents (hovering) to snowplow parents (pushing obstacles out of the way) and lawnmower parents (running over anything blocking our student's path).

But exactly how involved are parents in their college students' lives? Is the perception accurate? And, although we know that students need to control their own lives, might there be benefits of parental involvement?...

READ MORE:
http://www.collegeparentcentral.com/2014/10/what-you-might-not-know-about-college-parent-involvement/#more-3037

2015-16 PARENTS HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
COLLEGE PARENTS OF AMERICA

Since 1997, College Parents of America (CPA) has served the needs of parents just like you. We are pleased to bring you the 2015-16 College Parents Handbook for Student Success — the quintessential parents' resource for sending children off to college.

The Parents Handbook is filled with useful insights and tips that will assist students in a successful transition to college. It is part of our mission to help students succeed in school, as well as after graduation. The book can help parents and students stay on course should anything unexpected arise.

We offer a no-nonsense, no-jargon guide to managing finances, academic success, campus life and your role as a parent. Keep this guide nearby during your student's college years....

READ MORE: http://blog.collegeparents.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/11/CPA-Handbook-2015-Digital.pdf

YOUR NEW COMMUNICATION CONTRACT
TRANSITION YEAR: PARENT EDITION

Parents and children both benefit from establishing expectations for communication while a student is away. Have a conversation before your child goes away to school about how, and with what frequency, you will communicate going forward.

How often (daily, weekly, monthly, on an as-needed basis) do you expect to hear from your child? How frequently does your child want to hear from you?

Many families agree to once-a-week phone calls. Work out a plan that fits your family's needs. E-mail works well, especially given how different a student's hours can be from his or her parents....

READ MORE: http://www.transitionyear.org/parent/articles.php?cat=4&id=45

See you in Indy!