



Welcome New Hilltopper Parents

You are embarking on a new and exciting journey as your student begins their pursuit of a post-secondary degree. Whether your student will reside on campus or commute from home, this marks a period of transition full of both challenges and opportunities to develop into a productive, well-rounded professional and world citizen. Throughout this transition, the parental role is ever evolving. While in many instances parents remain the primary source of material and emotional support, the reality is the legal authority over your young adult is decreasing. Nevertheless, **West Liberty University recognizes the critical role parents play in student success from admission to graduation.**

The following PARENT POWER example of a newsletter is a tool we utilize to empower you with information to support your student. You can view future editions of this newsletter by requesting to be added to the email list. Just send a request to parentpower@westliberty.edu asking to be added and you will begin to receive future newsletters.

Student Support Services at West Liberty University are multi-faceted. The Learning & Student Development Center located in Main Hall, Room 147 provides Academic Advising, Peer Tutor, Academic Coaching, Career Planning and Accessibility Services. *Encourage your first-year student to take full advantage of these services.*



"Parents can only give good advice to their children or put them on the right path, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."

-Anne Frank

Learning & Student Development Center Staff

Chris McPherson

Interim Director

304-336-8274

christopher.mcpherson@westliberty.edu

Jill Burns

Administrative Assistant

304-336-8185

jill.burns@westliberty.edu

Yafeu Rougier

Graduate Assistant

Academic Coach

Brian Campbell

Graduate Assistant

Academic Coach

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year! While I am a new member of the Learning & Student Development Center team, my experience at West Liberty University started in the Housing & Residence Life department from 2012-2016. It is exciting being back at WLU and I hope to continue to grow the Parent Power program through these newsletters and other communication, including the [Parent Power Facebook Page](#). Feel free to reach out to me directly with thoughts on how to enhance current efforts or create new opportunities to best engage parents through these communications.

I hope this information will be useful to you! The schedule of additional newsletters to be released this year are as follows: October, November,

An easy-to-read bulletin designed to keep you informed about important dates, deadlines, and discussions you should be having with your college freshman to help promote academic and personal success

[Like our West Liberty University Parent Power Facebook Page](#)



Important Dates:

Sept 2: Labor Day (no classes) - Offices Closed

Sept 5: Last day to add classes

Oct 12: Homecoming

Oct 18: Mid-Term

Oct 21-Nov 8: Pre-Registration for Spring 2020 & Summer 2020

Oct 25: Last day to add 2nd half classes

Oct 25: Fall Holiday—No Classes—Offices Open

Nov 1: Last day to Withdraw with a grade of "W"

Nov 27-29: Thanksgiving Break—No Classes—Offices Closed

Dec 6: Last day of classes and last day to drop a class

Dec 7-13: Final Exams

Dec 14: Commencement

Useful Links

At this point, you have probably become somewhat of an expert at navigating WLU's website and retrieving information as needed. Throughout the fall semester you may need to quickly visit or search the website. Below you will find hyperlinks to various website areas. I encourage you to save these as a favorite on your web browser, whether that be on your smart phone, laptop, or desktop computer so you can visit these more quickly in the future.

- [Business Office](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Residence Life](#)
- [Bookstore](#)



School's F-I-N-E

As we continue through the first weeks of the semester, students will become (if they haven't already) entrenched in their daily routines, which can prove difficult for you, as parents, to find a time when you don't believe you're interfering or intruding on their independent lives. When you do find that time to have a conversation, you may feel the response to your question, "How's school?" is less than adequate. Here are questions you can try asking that may produce a more elaborate response:

- "What was the best thing that happened to you today?"
- "What was the most interesting thing you learned in class today?"
- "What is your relationship with your roommate like?"
- "What types of activities are you getting involved with outside of your classes?"
- "What is something that made you laugh recently?"
- "What are some of your goals for this



FERPA

Undoubtedly, you have come into contact with this acronym that stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). According to the U.S. Department of Education, "When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student ("eligible student")."

This change can be difficult for parents that are comfortable having regular access to their student's records and instructors through an online portal or a quick phone call. Remember: This is a time for your student to become more independent and provide opportunities for you to have constructive conversations about decision-making and responsibility. Take a look at this [article](#) from **College Parent Central** on FERPA and feel free to browse around other articles on their [website](#).

Check out recent WLU News by clicking below

IN THE NEWS



Click the sweatshirt above to search for WLU Apparel



UPCOMING CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



Click the image above to check out upcoming Hilltopper Athletic Events & News