Parent & Family Engagement
PRESENTED BY: SHARON BOND AND AMBER JAYNES
SEPT 4, 2018
Who we are

Sharon Bond – Director for Parent & Family Engagement
Who we are

Amber Jaynes– Assistant Director for Parent & Family Engagement
Parent & Family Engagement

- Educate families on what to expect in the transition from high school to college and throughout their students time at DU

- Provide support and advice in difficult situations

- Facilitate community amongst DU families
  - Regionally
  - Nationally
  - Internationally

- Facilitate connections at the University of Denver & in the Denver community
Letters from Home

- **Step 1:** Find us at Parent & Family Orientation to grab some stationary

- **Step 2:** Write a letter to your student with words of encouragement, excitement, pride, or hopes for the next four years

- **Step 3:** Put it in an envelope and address it to your student’s residence hall
  - Building addresses can be found here: https://www.du.edu/housing/student/movingin/shipping

- **Step 4:** Return the envelope to your Parent & Family Engagement Team

- **Step 5:** We deliver in the 3rd week of school when the transition becomes most difficult
Homecoming & Family Weekend

October 12-14, 2018

- Homecoming Parade
- Hocktober Fest
- Music Festival
- Opportunities to engage and meet with other DU families
- Faculty & Staff Lectures
- DU vs. University of Alabama-Huntsville Hockey Game

Stay tuned for information about registration!
Parent & Family Weekend

February 22-24, 2019

- Opportunities to engage & meet with other DU families
- Parent & Family Association Reception
- Tours throughout the city of Denver
- DU Hockey versus Miami University of Ohio
- Faculty & Staff Lectures
- Full schedule and pricing to be determined
Parent & Family Facebook Group

Purpose:

- Provide information about what’s happening on campus
- Offer tips, reminders, and articles related to having a student in college
- Cultivate community amongst parents & families at DU
  - This is a great place to get your questions answered!

Request access to join!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/UniversityofDenverParents/

Facebook Search: DU Parents
$99 membership fee is a one-time fee per family, including these benefits:

- DU Parent & Family Calendar mailed to you before the beginning of each academic year
- Entry in a drawing each quarter of the academic year to be 1 of 5 winners of a $50 DU Bookstore gift certificate
- Early event registration for our very popular Parent & Family Weekend in February
- Association Reception at Parent & Family Weekend

[go.du.edu/parents]
Local Partnerships

Fruit Revival
- Perfect for sending healthy care packages to your student
- https://fruitrevival.com/

Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Birthday cakes & special events
- https://www.nothingbundtcakes.com

SquirrelBox & CSS Storage
- Summer storage options for college students
- Squirrel Box: https://www.squirrelboxstorage.com/
- CSS Storage: https://www.csstorage.com/
Regional Parent & Family Clubs

Coming in 2019!

Denver/Boulder area families who are interested in helping get us started, contact Amber!

Amber.Jaynes@du.edu
Advice from *The Naked Roommate*

- “Loosening the Grip”
- Tips for communicating with your student
- What to expect in the first few months
- Homesickness
- Campus Involvement
- Tips for Commuter Students
Loosening the Grip

• You’re never “Letting Go”
• Giving your student space for growth
Communicating with your student

• Things to keep in mind when your phone rings or a text comes through...
  
  • Sometimes your students just need to vent
    • 48 hour rule
  
  • Technology has made it easier for students to share problems as they unfold in real time
  
  • Try not to give advice unless they ask for it
    • Instead, use the phrase “what do you think you should do”
    • Remind students of tools and resources available to them on campus
Communicating with your student

- You are calling too often if...
  - You are providing wake up calls in the morning
  - You are calling a campus staff or faculty member to let them know your student is sick
  - You call to make sure your student is in their room studying or not staying up too late throughout the week
  - You call anytime you need technical support or help finding something that is misplaced at home.
“College is 90 percent amazing and 10 percent difficult. The trick is not allowing the 10 percent to take up 100 percent of your time”
The First Few Months

• The 10 percent of difficult times tend to come in the first few months
  • False impressions that everyone else is having the best time ever
  • Homesickness
  • Struggles with finding their place

• “The Phone Call”
  • Be there.
  • Use the 24 hour rule
  • Help them find their own answers
  • Help them identify campus resources to help find answers
  • Lean on your own support system
  • Call your friends in Parent & Family Engagement
Homesickness

- 61% of students report feeling homesick

- Don’t bring them home when they feel homesick, consider it part of the experience... even if it is part of the 10%

- Send them packages, remind them of when they will see you next, and if you are close – come to campus for lunch or dinner

“Giving a homesick kid more home is like giving someone on a diet more cake and cookies”
3 main reasons students don’t get involved

1. They don’t know they should get involved

2. They are discouraged from getting involved
   • More involved students are more likely to succeed
   • More involved students are more likely to graduate

3. They are uncomfortable with getting involved
   • All first year students are in the same boat
   • It’s only awkward if you make it awkward
Commuter Students

Tips for commuter students:
• Stay on campus
  • Study here.
  • Work here.
  • Exercise here.
  • Eat here.
• Make office hours part of the routine
• Create study groups with students in the same classes
• Get involved!!

“Not taking advantage would be the equivalent to staying at a hotel and paying a resort fee and not using the resort”
Questions?

Contact Information:
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