

eNEWS

STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

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Dear Colleagues,

In the spirit of the New Year, I begin this newsletter by expressing my continued commitment to rejuvenating our Division's core values: student-centered service, partnerships focused on student learning, establishing an inclusive community, and actively building collaborative relationships. As I challenged you during the fall State of the Division address, it is imperative that we continually re-examine the ways in which we embody these values and express them within the Division and beyond.

This re-examination started with the creation and implementation of the Soaring to Greatness award, which was presented to Campus Child Care last May during our Annual Recognition Event. From this semester forward, I want to know who also within our Division, truly exemplifies the core values in their work. Therefore, each newsletter will reserve a space to spotlight a staff member and a graduate assistant. I also want to hear more about what is going on across the Division within departments. Tell me your story: How are the core values coming to life through your work with students? How do you keep them at the forefront of your day-to-day operations? This spring 2012 issue shows several examples of how to share your stories.

Inside this semester's Divisional newsletter, you will find continued evidence of our commitment to student service exemplified by highlights from Career Services and Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services, as well as by information about GSARP and the LGBT Resource Center's Lavender Graduation. This issue is, therefore, a testament to the work we are doing to make NIU home to a diverse and growing student body.

Have a great semester! Work hard, stay focused on our core values, and continue to inspire our students and colleagues with your great work.

Forward, together forward...

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management



Alicia Czachowski Wins Outstanding Alumni Award



Alicia Czachowski, Assistant Director for Health Enhancement, recently won one of two Outstanding Alumni Awards presented at the 2011 BACCHUS Network General Assembly in Reston, Virginia. The Outstanding Alumni Awards honor those who have previously served

as peer educators or affiliate advisors. Founded in 1975 at the University of Florida, BACCHUS (Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) was the first formally recognized peer education group to respond to issues around alcohol, health, and safety on the college campus.

Alicia's nominator wrote the following about her dedication to peer education: "As an undergraduate and graduate student, Alicia proved herself to be an outstanding student leader with incredible academic ability and integrity. She demonstrated a passion for learning and strong commitment to academic success...[M]any members of the campus community looked to Alicia for assistance and guidance. She was always pleased to offer suggestions and support in an effort to help direct others [namely students] on a path toward success...[As] the departmental graduate assistant [she gladly accepted a leadership role] to maintain a complex health promotion and peer education program with minimal support....As a peer educator, intern, and graduate assistant, Alicia [has] demonstrated [her] outstanding work ethic ...[and] her ability to be an effective health promotion and peer education student and professional."

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Alicia Czachowski for receipt of this award.

Donna Schoenfeld
Director, Health Enhancement

Stress Free Zone 2011

HHealth Enhancement is excited to announce implementation, the week before finals, of Stress Free Zone, a new program for NIU students. From 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., the Stress Free Zone was offered in Diversions Lounge in the Holmes Student Center. Additionally, the Zone traveled to one of the Residence Halls each night of that week from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Activities included therapy dogs, a massage therapist, meditation area, healthy snacks and water, a nutrition consultation from a dietetic intern, coloring pictures, play-doh, board games, and resources and information regarding stress. Attendance neared 300 participants.

While students were familiar with many of the activities offered, using any of them as a stress management technique was a new concept; petting a dog, coloring, meditating, molding play-doh, and deep breathing were novel ideas for stress reduction. These types of activities showed students that stress management does not need to be an expensive or time consuming activity. Rather, simple activities that briefly clear the mind also are beneficial. Student comments included "Dogs help keep me calm; petting them takes my focus from me to them," and "just doing something constructive like coloring calms my nerves." Students directly attributed stress relief to the simple activities provided, even if just for a few minutes.

Two students' comments best summarized the evaluations: "You acknowledged the need for a stress free area;" and "The [many] ways that everyone can relax and be stress-free is much appreciated." Health Enhancement plans to offer the Stress Free Zone again during the last class week of the spring semester. We encourage members of the Division to promote this event to the stressed-out students who may work or receive services within their offices.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center Celebrates 3rd Annual Lavender Graduation

On Thursday, May 10, 2012, the LGBT Resource Center will celebrate the graduation of self-identified lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and/or transgender students. The ceremony's goal is to recognize the graduates and honor the ways sexual orientation and gender identity have shaped their NIU experience. In the first and second Lavender Graduation ceremonies, over 25 students participated. For the next ceremony, individuals completing a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree in December 2011, May 2012, or August 2012 are eligible to participate.

The impact of developing identity and coming out to friends, family, and professors in college can add stress to LGBTQ students. Lavender Graduation provides an opportunity to honor milestones and identify those who impacted the graduates during their NIU career. As part of the ceremony, graduates recognize a special guest and hear from an alumnus and a student speaker. Students also receive a certificate and a rainbow tassel to wear at their respective graduation ceremonies.

Participants in Lavender Graduation consistently comment on how the ceremony brings their experience as LGBTQ students and as Huskies together and on how guests gain a stronger understanding of the journey of each of the participants. This new tradition is another way NIU remains among the best LGBT-friendly colleges and universities in the country, as highlighted by the four and half-star ranking in Campus Pride's climate index. The Lavender Graduation application is now available online via the LGBT Resource Center website (<http://www.niu.edu/lgbt/resourcecenter/events/lavendergraduation.shtml>). Questions can be directed to Molly Holmes, Director, at lgbt@niu.edu or 815-753-5428.



Beyond NIU's Borders

Having traveled beyond NIU's borders in Summer 2011, Michelle Bringas, Director of Asian American Center, shares experiences of her three-week site visit to China.

Eerguna, Inner Mongolia: During my first week, I volunteered at Camp Shamineau East, a Cultural Communications Center in the heart of Inner Mongolia. English as a second language was taught utilizing topics of Teamwork, Determination, and Friendship. Students participated in group activities such as rafting, camel riding, and swimming. My sleeping quarters were shared in a "yurt" with eight Chinese girls (ages 10-18) and a bilingual teacher.

Hailar, Inner Mongolia: During my second week in Hailar, the "pearl on the grasslands," Lily, a Chinese college student, graciously volunteered and showed me Hailar University, the Russian Market, the downtown, and local parks.

Hailar to Beijing by Train: This 30-hour train ride was fascinating, especially after I had read *Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train, through China* by Paul Theroux. During the busiest travel season, it was extremely overcrowded and there was no room imaginable for "personal space." Nonetheless, kind-hearted Chinese companions helped me navigate this unforgettable experience.

Beijing: My third week was spent in Beijing Courtyard Hotel, a traditional Chinese hotel located in one of the oldest neighborhoods of Beijing. I visited Beijing Normal University, the Olympic Stadium, and Lama Temple, and also experienced wonderful Chinese cuisine.

Next Steps: In June 14-30, 2012, I will lead a Study Abroad Program to China with 15 undergraduate NIU students. Regina Curry, Center for Black Studies, and Angélica Mendoza, Latino Resource Center, will serve as co-coordinators. Applications are available at www.niu.edu/aac Deadline: February 15th.



Important Dates in the Division

MARCH:

Graduate Student & Assistantship Recruitment Program (GSARP)

March 16-17, 2012

GSARP provides current and prospective Counseling, Adult & Higher Education students an opportunity to learn about the CAHE program and our Division. Students will also be able to interview for graduate assistantships. Registration is now open at www.gsarp.niu.edu. Interested students can contact Kelli Bradley at 815-753-6112 or kbradley3@niu.edu

MAY:

Annual Recognition Program

May 10, 2012

2:00–3:30 p.m.

AL 200

Join us as we award our colleagues for their contribution to our Division! Nomination and support forms in addition to award descriptions can be found on the Professional Development section of the Division website. For additional information, contact Kelli Bradley at 815-753-6112 or kbradley3@niu.edu

Important Departmental Dates

Department: Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services (OCNTSS)

FEBRUARY: A **writing workshop** co-sponsored by the Writing Center, a financial aid workshop, and satellite financial aid service outreach cosponsored with the Financial Aid Office will be offered. The remaining Soup Du Jour programs will also be held in February.

MARCH: Appreciation Week programs will be held March 26–29, and a Bunny Bash catered to student parents and their children will be offered.

MAY: The **Study Break** program, allowing students to have a free catered lunch and 10-minute seated massage, will be held on May 1.

A semester program calendar will be distributed at the beginning of the spring semester and will include details of the times, dates, and locations of all OCNTSS programs. A calendar can be picked up in room 023K in the basement of the Holmes Student Center and will also be available online at <http://www.niu.edu/comnontrad/>

Department: Career Services

FEBRUARY:

Internship Fair

Tuesday, February 21
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Convocation Center

NIU students: free; non-NIU Students: free
Visit <http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/jobfairs/internshipfair.shtml> for more information.

Full-Time Job Fair (for seniors & NIU alumni)

Wednesday, February 22
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Convocation Center

NIU students: free; NIU alumni: \$5; non-NIU students: \$10
Visit <http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/jobfairs/jobfair.shtml> for more information.

Mid-America Educators' Job Fair*

Monday, February 27

Open Fair hours for NIU students & alumni:
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Open Fair hours for non-NIU candidates:
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Scheduled interviews for invited candidates only:
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Convocation Center

NIU students: free; NIU alumni: free; all other candidates: \$10

To learn more, visit <http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/jobfairs/educatorfair.shtml>

*Candidates available for August 2012 employment.

MARCH:

Retail Leadership Expo

Thursday, March 29
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center

This event is free; pre-registration is required.

Register at <http://niu.experience.com/er/security/login.jsp> or call 815-753-8346.

Department: Student Involvement & Leadership Development (SILD)

APRIL:

NIU Cares Day

Saturday, April 14
Morning & afternoon sessions
Holmes Student Center

NIU Cares Day, a campus-wide day of service, brings students, faculty, and staff members together each year to complete service projects that serve the needs of surrounding communities. SILD welcomes donations and for faculty, staff, and graduate assistants to serve as Project Site Leaders. All questions regarding NIU Cares Day 2012 can be directed to Becky Harlow at rharlow@niu.edu or 815-753-6703.

Department: Student Financial Aid Office

FEBRUARY:

FAFSA Completion Workshop Evenings, Community Outreach

DeKalb High School, February 15
DeKalb County High Schools, FAFSA Night at
Kishwaukee Community College, February 21, 23, 29

Staff members from NIU, Kishwaukee Community College, and various DeKalb County High Schools are joining forces to assist families in the community with completing the FAFSA.

FAFSA Fridays

February 17– May 4
9:00–11:00 a.m.

For the third year, the Student Financial Aid Office will host weekly FAFSA Completion Workshops called “FAFSA Fridays.” Advisors are also available throughout the week to assist students with the online submission of their 2012-2013 FAFSA.

MARCH:

March 1

FAFSA Priority Filing Date for 2012–2013
We continue to accept and process applications after March 1st, but it is important to note that some financial aid funds run out quickly, so early filing is encouraged.

Summer Enrollment

Students interested in enrolling at NIU or participating in a Study Abroad Program for the summer semester should visit with a Student Financial Aid Advisor to review whether they have remaining financial aid eligibility and/or other funding options.

APRIL:

Transfer Orientation Presentations

April 5, 13, 18, 20, 25
8:00–8:30 a.m.

Early bird financial aid presentations will be offered each morning prior to check-in for our transfer students.

MAY:

Financial Aid Status Check

Before going home for the summer, all financial aid students should stop by and check their 2012–2013 financial aid status.

TBA:

Prospective Student Saturdays

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Student Financial Aid staff will be available to advise and support our prospective students and/or their parents. Our phone lines will be open and our office will be staffed for those preferring in-person advising.

Private Scholarship Searches

Students should be actively searching and applying for private scholarships for 2012–2013.

Submit Your Core Values Spotlight Nominations Today!

Future eNewsletters will reserve space to highlight a staff member and a graduate assistant who exemplify the core values. Submit nominations for these individuals to Kelli Bradley at kbradley3@niu.edu

Include the name, title, and department of the nominee, and provide one or two paragraphs of explanation of how he/she exemplifies the core values.