



Parent and Family Newsletter

APRIL 2022

Dear parents and families,

We are entering the home stretch of the school year. At the beginning of the year, I used an analogy that a school year can be much like a roller coaster ride. Well, this is the time where we do our loop-to-loop! Temperatures are warming, summer jobs are in place, and some students are still figuring out where they fit in as a college student.

With only six weeks left of school, your student may be experiencing many emotions. What can you say to help? The best advice I can give is for every student to take it class-by-class, day-by-day, and project-by-project. Encourage your student to use the many campus resources available — like the tutoring center, writing center, math center, and Power Center — and to talk to their advisors and professors for guidance.

Outside of their studies, it is important from your student to take care of themselves. At Minot State, we encourage a holistic approach to wellness. They can go to the Wellness Center and take part in one of the many stress-reducing activities available, enjoy a bike ride with our bike share program, or utilize the counseling services available Monday through Friday at the Student Health Clinic.

Registration for summer and fall semesters begins on March 29 for currently enrolled students. I am also pleased to announce new dining and residence hall packages for 2022-2023. These plans offer extraordinary value to students. To learn more about our residence halls and dining plans, visit MinotStateU.edu/life/meal-plans.shtml.

Looking to the future, students can expect a full schedule of student activities, athletics, and performing arts. We are eager to showcase the best of student life and the 250+ activities per year once again in our vibrant, growing community. Make sure to mark your calendar for Homecoming Oct. 10 – 16 and Parent & Family Weekend Oct. 14 – 16.

As always, I'm available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

Kevin Harmon,
Vice President for Student Affairs

Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

Students vote to approve Student Center Renovation

On March 23 and 24, students voted in favor of a \$2.8 million renovation of the Student Center. The Student Center renovation initiative will next go the North Dakota Legislature in January of 2023 for their review. If approved, work could begin by fall of the 2023 academic year.



Top: Proposed exterior southwest entry of the Student Center
Bottom: Proposed interior of Beaver Dam ©2021 JLG Architects



Top: Current exterior southwest entry
Bottom: Current interior of Beaver Dam



IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

- 24** – Last day to withdraw from all classes and receive a 50% refund for 16-week classes
- 29** – Summer and fall registration for currently enrolled students begins

APRIL

- 15–18** – Easter Break (University closed Friday only)

MAY

- 9 – 12** – Final exams
- 13** – Commencement, 10 A.M., MSU Dome
- 23** – Official grades available

View more dates, deadlines, and events at [MinotStateU.edu/calendar](https://www.minotstateu.edu/calendar).

How parents can help with the job search

By *Connie Lissner, CollegiateParent.com*

At a recent parenting seminar, the co-founder of a major investment firm relayed a story about an interview she conducted at her company. She was excited to be meeting with a young woman who had stellar credentials — a graduate from the top of her class at an Ivy League school, two solid summer internships with outstanding investment firms, and active participation in on-campus activities with leadership roles.

On paper, the student looked great — and then she showed up to the interview with her mother.

Needless to say, she didn't get the job.

It seems fairly obvious that a parent shouldn't tag along on their student's job interview, and yet it's not the only way in which some parents overreach. Parents are submitting applications on their student's behalf, calling companies to find out how interviews went, and advocating for higher salaries for their students, all in a misguided attempt to help their student succeed.

With great power comes great responsibility.

Blame it on the helicoptering some of us parents and guardians have been engaged in since our children were tots.



“Parents aren't going to suddenly stop working for their children's success after more than two decades of such a close attachment,” explains Ron Alsop in his book “The Trophy Kids Grow Up.”

Similarly, the “children” aren't necessarily going to stop involving their parents in major decisions — like a career — either.

“When we ask our students who they rely on [in the career search process, parents come out pretty high on that list,” said Mimi Collins, from The National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Given that influence, she believes it's unrealistic to expect parents to stay completely out of the process. That's not a bad thing, if a parent can use their influence in a productive way.

So, what can a well-meaning parent do to support their student or recent graduate through this process?

Be involved, just not over involved.

For starters, if you must talk to someone, stay away from potential employers and focus on the career services department at your student's university instead.

Many universities have embraced the role parents and other supporters play in a student's career search, offering presentations during family weekends, keeping parents/guardians updated via newsletters and Facebook feeds, and even going so far as to incorporate a “parents” section on the career services' website.

Butler University in Indianapolis, for instance, has a “Career Planning Course for Parents” on its site that walks family members through the process from freshman year on and offers tips on what parents and guardians can do to help. Not surprisingly, the tips involve supporting your student — not doing the work for them.

Gary Beaulieu, director of internship and career services at Butler University, understands parents' need to be involved in their student's career decisions.

"Parents have paid a lot for a student's education and should be invested in the outcome," he said.

He notes that parental involvement is particularly useful in the first and second years of college when students are beginning the process of figuring out what they are interested in. However, once it comes down to the actual job search, he encourages parents to take a back seat and act as a sounding board as their student works through issues, such as whether or not to take a job offer.

"It's okay to help them make that decision," Beaulieu explains. "It's okay for parents to be involved in the process. Don't be over involved."

Whose life is it, anyway?

Sometimes it helps to take a step back and consider the reasons you feel so invested in your student's job search. Are you really worried your college grad will live on the couch in your basement forever, or is it because you wanted your daughter to be a doctor and she wants to be an entrepreneur?

For Mark Presnell, executive director of Northwestern University's Career Advancement Office, communication between parent and student throughout this process is key.








"Often there is a disconnect between what the student wants and what the parent wants," Presnell observes.

He encourages parents to call his office to learn more about what can be a long and confusing process. For instance, recruiting in different fields happens at different times of the year, which means parents may hear about students who have had jobs for months while their own student is still polishing their resumé.

"Parents, a lot of time, want their son or daughter to have security and stability and that is the problem," Presnell explains.

Parents should look for opportunities to talk to their student to understand who they have become during their years in college, what kind of day-to-day work life they find attractive, what jobs are out there, and where they might fit. It may be very different from what the parent had been envisioning.

Final do's and don'ts

-  Let's say it again: **DON'T** attend interviews, call prospective employers, or negotiate salaries. Just don't.
-  **DO** reach out to the university if you are anxious about the process. "It's good to talk about outcomes," explains Presnell. Northwestern has a 97% placement rate for students within six months of graduation. Hearing that only 3% of students are still looking for jobs after six months may help lessen parental anxiety.
-  **DO** encourage your student to use the resources that are available on campus. According to Collins, students who participate in practice interviews learn better interviewing skills, which, not surprisingly, lead to more job offers. "Students who use career service deeply, benefit greatly," said Collins.
-  **DO** share a contact if you know someone who could help your student with a job lead, an internship, or an informational interview.
-  **DON'T** reach out to said contact and set up the meeting for your student.
-  **DO** encourage independence. "We want the student to own that success," Presnell explains.
-  **DO** remember that motivating your student is not your job, but being a supportive parent is.

Financial Aid Information

Plans for summer

Summer and fall class registration begins on March 29! If your student is planning to enroll in summer classes, encourage them to complete the short Summer Financial Aid Application online at <https://www.MinotStateU.edu/finaid/eligibility/summer-financial-aid.shtml>. The Summer Financial Aid Application allows students to easily communicate their summer plans to the financial aid office so that we can determine their eligibility for summer and send a new award notice specifically for the summer term.

Getting ready for 2022-23

If your student hasn't already submitted the 2022-23 FAFSA to apply for federal student aid, now is the time to submit at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). We encourage students to submit the 2022-23 FAFSA by April 8 to meet the Minot State priority funding deadline of April 15. Applying by the priority deadline helps students maximize their eligibility for federal and state aid programs, allows additional time to provide verification materials if needed, and helps students avoid delays in disbursement of funds in the fall.



If your student has already submitted the FAFSA, remind them to watch for emails or items on their “To Do” list in Campus Connection related to financial aid documents.

Returning students who have completed the FAFSA will be notified by email when their federal aid eligibility is posted in Campus Connection for the 2022-2023 school year shortly after the end of the Spring 2022 semester. They will be able to accept or decline financial aid in Campus Connection at that time.

If you or your student determine that you need to consider additional resources to assist with paying for the coming school year, some options to consider might be:

1. Minot State Tuition Payment Plan

The payment plan allows students to spread out payments over three months. Students must make the first payment and be enrolled by the semester fee payment deadline. The fee payment date for Fall 2022 is Sept. 7.

2. Federal PLUS Loans

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan is available to parents of dependent students who file the FAFSA. Parents can apply for the PLUS Loan online at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

3. Private Education Loans

Private loans are non-federal loans available from a variety of lenders. Students are the borrowers on these loans but will typically need a co-signer with good credit.

Feel free to contact the Minot State Financial Aid Office at 701-858-3375 if you have any questions.