



# Parent and Family Newsletter

**APRIL 2023** Issue 1

April 1, 2023

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, writing, math, and POWER centers — and to talk to their advisors and professors for guidance.

Outside of their studies, it is important for 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 began on March 28 for currently enrolled students. I am also pleased to announce new dining and residence hall packages for 2023-2024. These plans offer extraordinary value to students. To learn more about our residence halls and dining plans, visit [MinotStateU.edu/life/meal-plans.shtml](https://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 and Parent and Family Weekend, Sept. 14-17.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Harmon".

Kevin Harmon,  
Vice President for Student Affairs

Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

## Latif selected to lead Office of International Programs

Maleeha Latif began duties as the director of international programs in mid-February. Latif has been adjunct faculty in the College of Business since 2019, earning her Master of Science in Management from Minot State University in 2018 after graduating with a degree in business administration from the University of the People in Pasadena, California in 2017. She has worked part-time in international programs at Minot State and has also served on the Study Abroad Advisory Committee and MSU Diversity Council.



"I'm looking forward to getting to know our international student body further and finding different ways we can serve them and help them reach their maximum potential here at MSU," said Latif. "Coming to a different country, with a different education system, in a potentially different language can be tough enough, even with the on-campus resources you might have available to you.

"We want to be a source of information, support, and access. I plan on furthering campus internationalization and creating a culture that caters to the inclusion of international students and also allows our American student body to learn and grow. Cultural exposure and understanding are extremely important for our students in order to leave MSU and become well-rounded individuals."

Part of Latif's plan to increase cultural exposure is by bolstering the University's study abroad options.

"Promoting study abroad programs and creating avenues for our students to experience the world is on my agenda as well," she said. "We have seen a lot of interest from faculty wanting to take their students on trips abroad to further their education and help them grow in a more organic environment related to their studies, and I'm excited about being able to facilitate those needs."

### Fun facts about Maleeha Latif

- I enjoy being a part of multiple fandoms like "Harry Potter," "LOTR," "The Hobbit," and various anime series. I even named my pet snake Severus Snake.
- I collect figurines and Funko Pops and enjoy both board and video games. My top three favorite video games are "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild," "Detroit: Become Human," and "Mario Party Superstars." The top three games I dislike are "Rocket League," most first-person shooters, and all the "Far Cry" games.
- I enjoy trying out different forms of art like painting, needle punching, resin, clay work, beading, etc. I believe art can be therapeutic and it helps me unwind after a long day. I like making things for my friends and family because when it's a gift, they have to act like they like it even if they don't.
- I love animals. All kinds of animals. I enjoy learning about them and often watch YouTube videos on them when I am bored. Currently, I am learning about the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous period dinosaurs and their differences. Did you know (I didn't) that the Tyrannosaurus rex and Velociraptor were actually found in the late Cretaceous period, as opposed to the Jurassic period as popularized by the movies?
- I enjoy teaching at MSU as well and I hope I can continue to do it a little every semester. My students teach me so much and I enjoy learning about them and their perspectives. They also keep me young by making sure I'm up to date with the latest Gen Z lingo.
- I speak fluent Urdu/Hindi and Punjabi. Here's a little lesson:  
*How are you?*  
Urdu: کیا حال ہے؟  
Transliteration: Kya haal hai?

For more information about international programs, contact Latif at [maleeha.latif@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:maleeha.latif@MinotStateU.edu).

# Mid-year money conversations

By Jodi Okun, [CollegiateParent.com](http://CollegiateParent.com)

As the proud parent of a college student, it might feel as if your parenting days are almost over, but there is one important area where your almost-adult child can still use plenty of input and guidance: smart money management.

Newfound financial freedom can be intoxicating. There are so many interesting things to do on campus, and it can seem as if everyone else has lots of money to spend. Your student may succumb to the offer of easy credit, spend all of the student loan money you so carefully budgeted, and dig a huge debt hole before the first semester ends.

I always advise parents I work with as a college financial aid advisor to be open with their children about money. You should have money discussions throughout high school about the college choice and continue these regularly in college.

When your student comes home for break — whether fall, winter, or spring — check in with them about their bank account balance and budget for the rest of the term, or a new semester if that's the case. In addition, consider having a conversation about one (or all!) of these important financial topics:

## 1. Easy credit isn't easy at all.

Credit card companies often offer enticing introductory rates to new college students. Your student may think it's awesome to just wave a smartphone to buy pizza or attend a show, until the bills arrive. The interest rate might increase, your student might not have the full amount or may miss a payment, and late fees and penalties are added. That five-dollar piece of pizza suddenly ends up costing much more. Ask if your student has signed up for any credit cards and explain exactly how they work. If they haven't signed up yet, counsel them to wait so you can research the right kind of card together.

## 2. Student loans — out of sight, out of mind?

You and your student may use federal or private student loans to pay for college expenses. If the amount received was more than tuition, there

might be “extra” money available. Since repayment is usually deferred until graduation, it can be easy to spend this money and then take out more loans for the next semester. Not until graduation do

you realize that you're \$30,000 in debt. Be sure your student understands how much money has been borrowed and who will be responsible for repaying it. This is not “free” money; it's borrowed money. For more information, read [Borrowing for college: Advice about loans for students and parents](#).

## 3. Financial aid isn't a guarantee!

Your student may have chosen a college based on a nice financial aid package; however, there could be conditions attached such as taking a certain number of credit hours or making satisfactory academic progress. If these conditions aren't met, the financial aid could be withdrawn, and you will pay much more to attend this college. Discuss where your student needs to be academically and financially by the end of second semester; make sure the financial aid/academic success connection is clearly understood. Learn all about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and how to apply at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov).

## Money conversations aren't always the easiest.

But they are essential, and when we get in the habit of checking in about finances on a regular basis, it starts to feel less intimidating (trust me!). Let your student know that you are there to help with any of the challenges they face on their way to academic — and financial — success.

*Don't miss these related posts by financial expert Erica Sandberg:*

[Credit 101: What your college student needs to know now](#)

[Should you add your student to your credit card?](#)



# Financial Aid Information

## Plans for summer

Summer and fall class registration began on March 28! Students who register for summer classes will automatically be evaluated for summer financial aid eligibility after they register for summer classes. No additional application forms will be required for students to be evaluated for summer financial aid eligibility. If students have eligibility for summer aid, a new financial aid offer will be generated in Campus Connection and students will receive an email notification to their Minot State email account. We encourage summer students to register for all summer classes as early as possible and if they have questions about eligibility for summer financial aid, contact the Financial Aid Office.

## Getting ready for 2023-24

If your student hasn't already submitted the 2023-24 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 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 2023-2024 school year shortly after the end of the Spring 2023 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 2023 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.



## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

### MARCH

**28** – Summer and fall registration for currently enrolled students begins

### APRIL

**6** – Last day to drop 16-week classes

**7 – 10** – Easter Break, University closed Friday

**16** – Minot State FAFSA priority deadline

**19** – Last day to drop second 8-week classes

### MAY

**12** – Commencement, MSU Dome, 10 A.M.

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



# How parents can help with the job search

By *Connie Lisner, [CollegiateParent.com](http://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.