

BLUE IS FAMILY

Sycamore Family Newsletter

- September 2019 -



New Semester, New Start!

It has been a very busy last few weeks here at Indiana State! We have welcomed over 1,800 new students to campus and hosted an array of events as a part of **State Welcome 2019**. First year students have also gotten to experience State traditions, such as **March Through the Arch** and **Donaghy Day**, and are now starting to settle into their daily routines.

This time of year can be an interesting one for students. New students are looking for ways to connect, upper class students may be looking for leadership positions and preparing for life after State. A lot of our students are looking for jobs, both on and off campus. In some cases, we find that students tend to take on more than they should, wanting to fit in as much as they can into each day! It can be hard for a student to vocalize exactly *what* and *why* something interests them at times and the number and variety of organizations and opportunities available can be overwhelming. Sometimes they want to try something out because their friend is a part of it, sometimes it's because they've been told it will make them more marketable. As families and support systems of students, we know that they should be involved in things that they can grow and develop from. Asking your student "why do you want to do xyz" and "how will that help you achieve your goal(s)?" is an important reminder to them about why they chose to come to State. Challenge your student with these questions! They will most likely be asked these questions down the road in other circumstances, and it's good to have perspective that will help guide in their decision-making process. When those questions come from someone they trust and look up to, it can be easier for them to answer and prepare for life beyond State.

One major event happening this month is **Family Weekend!** We are so excited to have our Sycamore families come to campus, spend time with their student, and see a little bit of what life is like at Indiana State! We're also looking forward to cheering on the Sycamore football team as they take on Illinois State at 1pm at Memorial Stadium. **Check out the information below and be sure to pre-register if you haven't already.**

Our goal is to keep you informed not only with what events are happening on campus, but also what your student may be experiencing and how you can best support them and partner with us to make their experience the best it can be. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

With Sycamore Pride,

Debbie Rea

Assistant Director, New Student Transition Programs/Family Programs

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DATES TO KNOW

SEPTEMBER

- September 18 - Career Fair
- September 20-22 - Family Weekend
- September 26- Interim Grading begins

OCTOBER

- October 4 - Fall Break (no classes)
- October 12 - Homecoming

NOVEMBER

- November 11-24 - Spring 2020 Priority Registration
- November 25 - Spring 2020 Open Registration begins
- November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break; no Day or Evening Classes
- November 28-29 - University Closed

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

Family Weekend 2019



FAMILY WEEKEND

JOIN US! | SEPTEMBER 20-22

REGISTER AT [BIT.LY/ISUFamilyWeekend](http://bit.ly/ISUFamilyWeekend)

[VIEW FULL FAMILY WEEKEND SCHEDULE](#)

CAREER FAIR 2019

Full-Time – Internships – Graduate Schools

- All majors welcome
- Business/professional attire required.
- Bring your resume to share with employers.

Career Center
INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
handshake

View attending employers & event details on Handshake in your MyISU or the Handshake app.

Timely Issues

September

- 1 Ask your student about their classes.** Students often struggle with the classroom policy differences between high school and college. One of the biggest struggles is attendance. Each class will have different guidelines and policies. Does your student know those policies for each class? How are they planning to track missed classes for each course? What is the tardy policy for each class? Most instructors have a certain number of allowed absences, then they start to lose points for being absent, and most have a set number of absences after which a student automatically fails the class. This is often regardless of a doctor's note or not. Help your student understand these policies and the lack of flexibility here.
- 2 When and how often is your student studying?** They need to schedule study time and stick to it, not just when they get to it. We encourage them to find time between classes to review notes both directly after class and before the next time so that the notes are fresh when they go into class. They also need to understand that most instructors will not teach from the book. They expect the student to read and know the material in the book and will teach at a level above the book. Failure to be familiar with the material in the book will put them at a disadvantage.
- 3 If your student is living on-campus, have they completed a roommate agreement?** This agreement forces them to sit down with their roommate and set joint rules for the room, guests, use of each other's belongings, expectations of behavior, etc. Without it, most students will not discuss any of this and it results in conflict later in the semester – usually when they are stressed out with mid-terms and projects. Encourage them to be proactive. They can get this form and process from their RA.
- 4 Has your student met their Academic Advisor yet?** Their academic advisor is their primary resource on campus. They can help them with ANY issues that come up and like to see their students each month just to make sure they are doing ok. Encourage them to schedule a meeting with their advisor as soon as possible.

STATE FAMILY TALK

Are you looking for ways to best support your student? Here are a few tips on how families can support and encourage their student from a student's perspective. [This Sycamore shares](#) gives her perspective on receiving support from family members in September and what student life is like during this time.



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