Hello First-Year Huskies!

This newsletter was designed to help you discover opportunities to build your résumé, help you succeed and also help you find some fun things to do on campus.

Make this semester well worth your money by using the resources you have at hand. Don’t be afraid to commit to a New Year’s resolution or try something new. Whatever it is that you want to accomplish this semester, plan for it to happen by staying organized.

A new chapter is unfolding and time waits for no one, so get out there and expose yourself to new ideas before these wonderful opportunities pass! Be sure to check out the "What’s Happening @NIU?!" pages to find an event that suits your interest! Huskie Pride!

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Sophomore Days of Service
CALLING ALL STUDENTS (Freshmen, too!)

Give blood, get Subway!

Sophomore Days of Service Blood Drive
Tuesday, Feb. 28
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Campus Life Building, Room 100

To schedule your donation time, please contact Jency at 815-753-0028 or call/text Camille from Heartland at 847-305-9998 with your name and desired donation time and you will be added to the schedule. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins welcome! Photo ID required.

*All students who participate get $5.00 in Subway Bucks. Your participation also helps support a sophomore year financial scholarship. You could win money next year if you participate in Sophomore Days of Service!

Donate a book to help incarcerated parents and grandparents so that they can record themselves reading for their child or grandchild.

Feb. 1-28
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Altgeld 100

Sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, CRESO, and Lambda Sigma Honor Society

For more information, contact First- and Second-Year Experience at fsye@niu.edu, 815-753-0028 or visit us at Altgeld Hall 100

Reserve your spot today: Sophomore Days of Service
Sign-up genius.

Want more info?
Visit our SDOS website or contact us at fsye@niu.edu or 815-753-0028
JobsPLUS Professional Development Workshops

There's something to learn in every job, especially when paired with professional development. Visit the JobsPLUS website to learn more about how you can build your professional skills while working almost any on- or off-campus job. JobsPLUS offers a series of workshops open to all students, and you may have the opportunity to be paid by your employer to attend them! Check out page 5 for more details!

Browse JobsPLUS events and learn more about how you can get involved.

Leadership Academy and Leadership Development Workshops

Want to learn how to build your leadership skills or find ways to boost your personal growth? Visit the Student Involvement and Leadership Development website to learn more about their upcoming workshops on leadership and their interactive program called Leadership Academy.

Browse SILD events and learn more about how you can get involved.
Preparing for your future is serious business. The knowledge and experience you gain in the next four years will set you on a path toward achieving your dreams. We’re here to make sure you stand out from the rest. Through our PLUS programs, you can create an academic experience as unique as you are, and make sure that the work you do here helps you earn your first job.

Details and events!

Academics PLUS:

Every college student chooses a major, and many choose minors. At NIU, you can customize your general education courses too, and earn a transcript notation for it (that means that employers and graduate schools will see even more of your hard work). This gives you the opportunity to choose an academic pathway to enhance your transcripts.

Engage PLUS:

Earn transcript notation for the leadership work you already do on campus. Working with a faculty or staff mentor or supervisor, you’ll create an experience unique to your goals and interests. Through this structured experience that blends your classroom concepts with real-world scenarios and opportunities, you’ll make better connections, gain a deeper understanding and perspective on your interests and test the knowledge you gain in class. Engage PLUS also offers experiential learning opportunities related to your interests to help you determine the right career path for you.

Jobs PLUS:

Earn and Learn! A lot of our students hold down jobs to make ends meet. No matter if you work in your chosen field, there is something you can learn that will serve you well when you graduate and go into your career. That’s where Jobs PLUS comes in. Through our partnerships with local employers, you can enhance those on-the-job experiences with professional development programs.
Financial Opportunities

Within AcademicWorks, you can apply for multiple competitive scholarships. Visit AcademicWorks to view scholarships and apply to those for which you meet the criteria. While the majority of scholarships can be found on AcademicWorks, don’t forget to check with your academic department to see if they have any other opportunities not available on the system. Make sure you check this site often as it is updated with new scholarships and deadlines regularly.

Applying for Scholarships Just Got Easier!

Our new online scholarship application system, AcademicWorks is now open for you.

- Within AcademicWorks, you can apply for multiple competitive scholarships.
- Visit AcademicWorks to view scholarships and apply to those for which you meet the criteria.
- While the majority of scholarships can be found on AcademicWorks, don’t forget to check with your academic department to see if they have any other opportunities not available on the system.
- Make sure you check this site often as it is updated with new scholarships and deadlines regularly.

Huskie Food Pantry- Want to Save Money on Food?

Every Thursday
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Chick Evans Field House

The Huskie Food Pantry provides free food to NIU students who have found themselves in a circumstance where access to healthy food, or food in general is inconsistent. Their motto is, “Take what you need.” To be eligible to use the Huskie Food Pantry, you must be an NIU student without an NIU meal plan. All students must bring their NIU OneCard. Visit go.niu.edu/foodpantry for more info.

FSYE: Now Hiring!

First- and Second- Year Experience is currently looking for students to join our Student Success Team (SST) for the 2017-2018 academic year!

SST members assist FSYE in creating and running programs to assist students like you! Visit our website to see what we do.

To learn more about the position or to apply:

View our application: go.niu.edu/joinourteamfsye
Priority deadline: 4:30 p.m., March 3, 2017.
Final deadline: 4:30 p.m., March 10, 2017.

Wanted NOW for Spring 2017!

Email fsye@niu.edu with your résumé!
Exploring Career Options?

Go to the Academic Career Expo!

March 22, 2017
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Holmes Student Center Ballroom

The Academic Career Expo happens every year and offers you the opportunity to learn more about majors and minors and how they connect to various careers!

How to maximize your Academic Career Expo Experience

- Identify three to five college departments to visit.
- Identify skills you will develop through this major and how it links to top skills employers are seeking.
- Seek out information about minors and certificate programs that would complement your major.
- Attend at least one workshop.

What to do after the Academic Career Expo!

- Read, review and reflect on all the materials you were given.
- Follow up with the College Representative you met at the Expo.
- Connect with your Academic Advisor early.
- Attend a Career Event and Fair.

Find out more information about the Expo!
MPTSS is holding a series of workshops designed to help students with their academic and living situations!

- Roommate 101: From Moving In to Moving Out: 3/9/2017
- Off-Campus Housing Options: 3/21/2017
- Off-Campus Housing Fair: 4/3/2017
  - If you’re looking to move off campus, be sure to drop by to view tons of options!
- Getting Involved on Campus and in the Community: 4/4/2017
- Ask the Human Resources Rep: 4/13/2017
- Preparing for Finals: 4/18/2017
- Tying Up Loose Ends: Wrapping Up the Semester: 5/2/2017

The second year of college is a time when students should strengthen their academic and career goals, deepen their friendships, become more involved in student organizations and engage in campus and community service. Some of the benefits of the Second-Year Experience Living Learning Community include: living with other second-year students, having a Community Advisor who understands specific needs of second-year students, educational, and career planning events for second-years, resources for career advising and major selection, and social programs to continue to build a second-year class identity.

Requirements: Students must be entering their second year of college.

How to Sign Up: Log into MyNIU with your student Z-ID, select Campus Housing Sign Up and follow the instructions for selecting a new room and meal plan. If you meet the above requirements, you will be able to select a room in the Second-Year Experience Community. Note that depending on the time of the year, room selection may be unavailable to you.

Additional information about the SYE Community and sign up instructions.
Get Active!

SPORT CLUBS
NIU CAMPUS RECREATION
SPRING 2017

Why Join?

• Stay competitive.
• Travel to other schools.
• Excellent Regional and National standings.
• Easy to start your own.
• Student run clubs.
• New Sport Clubs added regularly.

To learn more about sport clubs visit go.niu.edu/start or contact Logan Wilson at lwilson3@niu.edu.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact Campus Recreation, 815-753-0211. Advance notice is appreciated. Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
NIU is offering many exciting events this semester. Check out the next few pages to see what’s happening at NIU.

Events for: DESTRESSING and HAVING FUN

**Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them**  
Feb. 21 and Mar. 7, 2017  
7:30 p.m.  
Holmes Student Center,  
Carl Sandburg Auditorium  
Bring your family and friends to watch a free movie at the Student Center! Popcorn and soda for only $1 each.

**Alternative Spring Break Trip**  
Campus Recreation Center  
Outdoor Adventures  
Conasauga Ranger District, GA  
Spend your spring break doing something good for the planet. Join us as NIU OA returns for the fifth time to volunteer with the U.S. Forest Service in the Chattahoochee National Forest and spend a week working together with your friends and Outdoor Adventure leaders while learning about this scenic area. Saturday, March 11, 6 a.m. – Saturday, March 18, 8 p.m.  
Early registration cost and deadline: NIU Student $350, Faculty/Staff/Community $400 by Feb. 24.  
Regular registration cost and deadline: NIU Student $400.00, Faculty/Staff/Community $450 by March 5.

**Weekly Bike Rides**  
Wednesdays at 5 p.m.  
Starting March 22 to May 3  
Campus Recreation Center  
Outdoor Adventures  
Outdoor Adventures will be hosting free weekly bike rides again this spring. Come hang out with our awesome staff, ride around town, meet some new people! On these rides, you can and get a good workout, too. Take this as an opportunity to visit a local joint or trail and suggest a destination via e-mail. This ride is for all skill levels. Don’t have a bike? The Adventure Center will loan you one of their rental Trek mountain bikes (first come, first serve). Meet at the Adventure Center by 5 p.m.!

**NIU Campus Health & Wellness Fair**  
March 29  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
NIU Employees Assistance Program  
Health and Wellness providers from around the area, campus departments and student organizations will be on hand to take part in enhancing your knowledge on the seven dimensions of wellness. There will be free demonstrations, screenings and assessments, games and activities. This is open to everyone! The event is hosted by the NIU Employee Assistance Program.
What’s Happening@NIU?! Continued..

Events for: FUN and ADVENTURE

Crate Climbing
Feb. 27 and April 17
5-6 p.m.
Student Recreation Center

Stop by the Rec Center to experience this challenging activity that involves stacking and scaling crates as high as you can. There is a prize for the highest climber!

Boundary Waters Trip Info Meeting
March 27 and 28
5-6 p.m.
Outdoor Adventures: Extended Canoe Adventure in the Boundary Waters, Ely, MN

Celebrate the end of the semester on the water canoeing on picturesque lakes and camping in the woods with great company. At this info meeting, you will learn about the trip costs, details and dates.

Indoor Climbing Trip
April 3
5-10:30 p.m.
Vertical Endeavors
Glendale Heights, IL

Rock climbing is not just an activity—it is a lifestyle. Come find out what it’s all about and enjoy a great workout too, whether you’re a first-timer or an experienced climber. Find out more about details and costs.

Backpacking
April 7
6 p.m.
Kettle Moraine State Forest, Eagle, WI

Join the Outdoor Adventure Center for a weekend backpacking trip to the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Wisconsin. Included in the registration fee is transportation, leadership, all meals, backpacking and camping gear. Find out more about details and costs.

Day Hiking Trip
Apr. 15
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Midwein National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, IL

Spend the day hiking through the first designated national tallgrass prairie with over 12 miles of trails. Find out more about details and costs.
Events for: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Internship Fair**
Feb. 21, 2017
10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Convocation Center

The NIU Internship Fair offers students the chance to network and impress potential employers who rely on internships as an important source for identifying and hiring new talent. All students are welcome! Admission is free for NIU students, $5 for Alumni and $10 for non-NIU job seekers.

**Full-Time Job Fair**
Feb. 22, 2017
10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Convocation Center

The NIU Job Fair offers students the chance to network and impress potential employers. All students are welcome! Admission is free for NIU students, $5 for Alumni and $10 for non-NIU job seekers.

**NIU Educators’ Job Fair**
Feb. 27, 2017
10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Convocation Center

Talk with recruiters in the field of education to learn more about what they are looking for upon graduation. NIU students are welcome for free and non-NIU affiliated candidates ($10 fee) to the Educators’ Job Fair.

**Edible Education: Career Expo**
March 29
Noon to 1 p.m.
Campus Life Building 100

Deciding which career to pursue is difficult. Join the Student Success Specialists from the Office of Student Academic Success (OSAS) for information about which careers may best suit you!

**Sample Résumés!**

Looking to create an amazing résumé but don’t know where to start? Check out Career Services’ sample résumés.
Looking to gain experience that will prepare you for your future career? Interested in building your skills in writing and oral communication and critical thinking? These are two of the most sought after qualities for today’s employers? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you should consider applying for one of the many undergraduate research programs provided by the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL)!

**Opportunities:**

- [Student Engagement Funds](#) (SEF) to support undergraduate student engagement projects.
- [Applications for summer and fall 2017 SEF](#) are currently available and being accepted until March 15, 2017.
- [The Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)](#) allows students to engage in full-time faculty mentored research (40+ hours/week) for an eight week period during the summer semester. Applications for SROP are available now and have a deadline of Feb. 19, 2017.
- [Undergraduate Special Opportunities in Artistry and Research (USOAR) program](#). Awards of up to $2,500 support original research and creative activities by undergraduates working with a faculty mentor. USOAR proposals are currently being accepted and have a deadline of Feb. 15, 2017.

For more information on undergraduate research or any of the above programs, contact an OSEEL staff member at UGResearch@niu.edu or 815-753-8154.

**Present Your Community Service or Research at URAD and CES**

**WHAT:** The NIU Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning will host the annual Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD) and Community Engagement Showcase (CES) from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 in the Duke Ellington Ballroom of the Holmes Student Center.

**WHO:** Any undergraduate student who has participated in a faculty-mentored research, artistry project or community service is eligible to showcase his/her work at Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day or the Community Engagement Showcase.

**HOW:** Students have the option to present their work in a poster, exhibit, performance and digital media display or through an informal table talk. OSEEL will be offering multiple Poster Design and Project Display Workshops to assist students with planning their presentations this March.

**WHEN:** Registration to present is due March 24.

For more information about URAD and CES, including how to register, view the quick video explaining details of this years’ event or visit the OSEEL website.
Need Advice?

How to Earn Higher Grades: Improve Your Writing!

Work one-on-one with writing advisors who will help you brainstorm, draft, revise and perfect your work.

Four New Writing Center Locations – Six Across Campus:
- Stevenson South
- Founders Memorial Library
- Barsema Business School
- Nursing School
- Music Library
- Still Gym

Learn about locations and hours at uwc.niu.edu.

Need Advice and Don’t Know Where to Turn?

The university ombudsperson assists people who are attempting to resolve a university-related issue or conflict. The ombudsperson is independent of the university’s formal administrative structure and serves as an alternative source for information and advice about issues related to the university.

The ombudsperson is a neutral party who provides confidential assistance in an impartial and objective manner. The ombudsperson cannot impose solutions but will identify options to help you to effectively resolve your concern.

For more info: niu.edu/ombuds.
Connect With Us

First- and Second-Year Experience
Email: fsye@niu.edu
Call: 815-753-0028
Visit: Altgeld Hall, Room 100

For office updates, “Take Over Tuesdays,” live event recordings and more: follow us on SnapChat at niufsy
For updates on upcoming events and other important information: facebook.com/niu.fysye