Welcome Back Second-Year Huskies!

We hope that you had a joyful winter break! Now that you have had some much needed time to de-stress and relax, it is time to get back into action here at NIU with a fresh start.

Take this opportunity to set new goals and strive for even greater accomplishments. Development and achievement is what college is all about, so make sure to check out one of the many professional development events being offered this semester!

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 making it an achievable goal and staying organized.

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Sophomore Days of Service (SDoS) is a series of 18 brief one-time service events in DeKalb and nearby communities. SDoS is designed specifically for students in their second-year, however, all students are welcome to participate. Choose from a variety of dates and community service sites scheduled throughout the month of February. You can volunteer for as many or as little events as you’d like. Sign-up is required online here.

Events for February 2017

Barb Food Mart
Huskie Student Food Pantry
TAILS Humane Society
Raven’s Husky Haven & Rescue
Communiversity Gardens
Campus Childcare
Barb City Manor
Kishwaukee YMCA
DeKalb Public Library
West Elementary School
DeKalb Area Women’s Center
Blood Drive

Read a description of each service site with volunteer responsibilities. Volunteer for one or all!

Present your community service project during the Community Engagement Showcase this April.

Check out pictures from past Sophomore Days of Service events.

WHY Should I volunteer with SDoS?

- Build your résumé.
- Gain experience.
- Help people in need.
- Explore and connect to your community.
- Earn a chance to apply for our exclusive SDoS money-towards-your tuition-award just for volunteering.
- College of Business Passport Credit.
- Honors Engaged Credit.

Reserve your spot today at: Sophomore Days of Service Sign-up genius, click here.

Want more info or have questions: Click here to visit our SDoS website or Contact us: fsye@niu.edu /815-753-0028
Seven Steps of Sophomore Success

Want to make sure you start your semester strong? Check out these seven steps to help you achieve your goals and stay on track towards success.

1. **Finalize your Major**
   If you have not done so already, focus on figuring out what you want to make of your time here at NIU. Take time to evaluate all of the paths that lay before you and decide which one will leave you feeling accomplished, happy, and excited to step out into the world with your degree in hand.

2. **Map out your Academic Plan**
   Once your major has been finalized, set up an appointment with your advisor to map out your academic plan for the next couple of years. This will help prepare you for class registration, textbook searching, and setting career-focused goals.

3. **Gain Relevant Work Experience**
   It is crucial to stay ahead of the game by gaining experience to help you in your career. Employers are looking for candidates with strong skills in teamwork, communication, writing, public-speaking and more! Be sure to check out the events page of this newsletter to find dates for the internship and job fairs!

4. **Build a Solid Network**
   A solid network and a successful career go hand in hand! Joining professional organizations will help you figure out the ropes of your career. There are tools, such as Huskies Get Hired! and LinkedIn that can help you build that supportive network.

5. **Polish Your Résumé**
   Having a résumé that catches an employer’s eye and sets you apart from other candidates is an accomplishment in itself. For that reason, be sure to visit Career Services in Campus Life Buiding room 220 for help with creating, updating, and revising your résumé.

6. **Strive for Academic Success**
   Academic success means more than scoring well on exams and homework. It means that you took the time to understand the material needed for you to execute bright new innovative ideas in your field of work. Needless to say, keep up the hard work! If you are struggling, contact a Student Success Specialist in the Office of Student Academic Success at osas@niu.edu.

7. **Keep Applying for Scholarships**
   After all, who doesn’t like the idea of making a lot of money for a little bit of work? Apply for all of the scholarships that you can! Be sure to act fast, because deadlines are quickly approaching and the sooner that you submit applications, the better! Check out the next page for more info on scholarship opportunities!
We’re Hiring Student Success Team Members!

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: March 3, 2017 by 4:30 p.m.
Final deadline: March 10, 2017 by 4:30 p.m.

Applying for Scholarships Just Got Easier!

NIU’s new online scholarship application system, AcademicWorks is now open for students.

• Within AcademicWorks, you can apply for multiple competitive scholarships.
• Visit AcademicWorks before Jan. 31, 2017 to have access to nearly every NIU scholarship, 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.
• A common deadline for scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year is Jan. 31, 2017.
• Some scholarships may have later deadlines. However, you are encouraged to complete a general application prior to Jan. 31 to be considered for the majority of NIU scholarships.

Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards - Apply Now!

Want to get recognized for the leadership you do on-campus?

The Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards recognize the leadership contributions of NIU students to the NIU and DeKalb communities.

Check out the Kevin D. Knight page to learn about all available awards and how you can apply.

The Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 30, 2017. All award applications are due on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 11:45 p.m.

Contact leadership@niu.edu or 815-753-6707 with any questions.
Confused About Internships?
Read this and get started.

At NIU internships are a “keystone goal” that makes the classroom and co-curricular learning come to life in real-world, career-related experiences before students graduate. In fact, internships are “…the single-most important [factor] that predicts whether students will get a job after graduation-- more important than their grades, their school or their area of study… (Baker, D., 2013)"

Maria Senf is one such student whose extraordinary experience illustrates what NIU Huskies can do, as well as surprise themselves with what they never thought possible.

Maria Senf, psychology major, interned with the University of Chicago as a research assistant. “My internship at the University of Chicago opened my eyes for my future career in industrial organizational psychology, Maria said. “This experience made it possible for me to combine my research interest in Occupational Health Psychology and my academic studies in Psychology. I conducted psychological research in Germany with Dr. Boaz Keysar from the University of Chicago. By conducting research with 124 test subjects in a time period of three weeks, I learned how to run a study independently and in a short time frame. The statistical knowledge as well as the quantitative and qualitative research skills that I have learned have given me fundamental skills to succeed in my academic studies and prepared me well for my future work.”

Dr. Boaz Keysar, University of Chicago, praised Maria’s internship, “Maria began working with us on a research project in Germany looking at how using a foreign language affects decision making. She was involved in every step of the research process from designing the materials to data collection and analysis. Maria is an exceptionally reliable and motivated individual who has made a significant contribution to our project.”

NIU students can begin searching for internships throughout their time at NIU. For students just beginning or in the early stages of their collegiate work, Career Services provides the “Skills Builder Inventory” that shows how students can gain skills at NIU that employers seek in internships and jobs. By taking advantage of these opportunities, students will gain valuable co-curricular experiences that will prepare them, along with their academic work, for success in internships.

Visit niu.edu/careerservices to explore more about internships.
NIU is offering many exciting events this semester. Check out the next few pages to see what’s happening at NIU.

Events for: DESTRESSING & HAVING FUN

Steven Stone the Comedian – Hypnotist
Feb. 2, 2017
7-10 p.m.
Holmes Student Center
Steven Stone has traveled the country hypnotizing students. Come see him make a fool out of you! A funny and friendly event that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Family Day 2017
Feb. 4, 2017
9 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Stevenson North & Convocation Center
Come enjoy a day as a Huskie with the family! The day will include a warm breakfast, presentations about Financial Aid, First-Generation students, Academic Advising, and Public Safety resources, Women’s & Men’s Basketball games, Bowling, Billiards middle school play, and a free movie!

Kevin Hart: What Now
Feb. 7, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Holmes Student Center,
Carl Sandburg Auditorium
Bring your family and friends to come watch "Kevin Hart: What Now" for free in the Sandburg Auditorium! Popcorn and soda for only $1 each.

Free Movie Showing: Moana
Feb. 3-5, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Holmes Student Center,
Carl Sandburg Auditorium
Bring your family and friends to watch a free movie in the Student Center. Popcorn and soda for only $1 each.

Alternative Spring Break Trip Info Meeting
Feb. 6, 2017
5-6 p.m.
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.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
Feb. 21 & 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.
What’s Happening @NIU?!
Continued..

Events for: FUN & ADVENTURE

Spring Involvement Fair
Jan. 26, 2017
2-4 p.m.
Holmes Student Center,
Duke Ellington Ballroom
Connect with leaders of numerous student organizations and departments to see how you can better connect to campus. The Spring Involvement Fair is sponsored by the Student Association (SA) and Student Involvement & Leadership Development (SILD).

Indoor Climbing Trip
Feb. 1, 2017
5-10:30 p.m.
Vertical Endeavors-Glendale Heights, IL
We’ll be going monthly to the largest rock climbing gym in the United States called Vertical Endeavors (VE) in nearby Glendale Heights. VE offers more than 44,000 square feet of climbing surface including bouldering areas, auto-belays, top ropes, and lead climbing. Learn more by emailing outdooradventure@niu.edu

Kayak Pool Workshop
Feb. 7, 2017
7-9 p.m.
Gabel Hall Pool
Prepare for summer fun and learn how to kayak the right way with Outdoor Adventures! This workshop will introduce you to basic kayaking skills, blending skill instruction with practice. Also learn about how you can rent kayak gear.

Beginner Snowboarding Trip
Feb. 11, 2017
9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Lake Carroll Ski Hill-Lanark, IL
Outdoor Adventure Trip Leaders are ready to teach and introduce you to the sport of snowboarding at this perfect beginner hill—step by step—making snowboarding an achievable goal for you! Learn at your own pace. For more info visit niu.edu/campusrec.

Ski/Snowboard Trip
Feb. 17, 2017
2 p.m.-12 a.m.
Chestnut Mountain-Galena, IL
Attend an evening of shredding on the area’s finest corduroy slopes under the lights. Sign up soon as this trip fills quickly! Learn about costs and trip details at niu.edu/campusrec.

Crate Climbing
Feb. 27 & Apr. 17, 2017
5-6 p.m.
Student Recreation Center
Bring your friends, club, or org, and get competitive! 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!

Campus Activity Board Events!
Click here for a list of events happening this spring that are hosted by the Campus Activity Board.
BP Applications

Jan. 16, 2017 - Mar. 16, 2017
BP’s U.S. University Relations will begin accepting applications for BP’s 2017 Early Engagement programs for the new generation of high achievers. BP offers a range of programs where university students can hear from the brightest minds in BP and learn from their experience as leaders in a multinational company, participate in trading simulations, or even be awarded a scholarship toward their studies. There are three programs that students can apply to:
• The BP STEP Program
• IST Sophomore experience, and
• BP scholars program

All are great opportunities for qualifying students. More information is available in the link below:

Click here to learn about and apply for BP opportunities due by March 16.

Practice Interview Week
Jan. 30 – Feb. 2, 2017
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Campus Life Building, Rm. 200
Practice interviews will teach you how to identify the skills and competencies interviewers look for, and how to prepare in advance for difficult questions. All students will receive feedback on how to improve.

Career Fair & Internship Prep Workshop
Feb. 14, 2017
5-7 p.m.
Location TBD
Learn how to meet and greet employers that will be on campus this spring to recruit for internships and jobs. Learn how to find, research, prepare and interview for internship opportunities. Get a jump start on your career and attend this workshop!

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
We welcome both NIU students (free admission) and non-NIU affiliated candidates ($10 fee) to our Educators’ Fair.

Academic Career Expo
Mar. 22, 2017
11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Location TBD
Learn more about majors/minors and how they connect to various careers. Visit the Academic Advising Center website to learn more.
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!

To browse JobsPLUS events and learn more about how you can get involved, click here.

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

To browse SILD events and learn more about how you can get involved, click here.
Connect With Us

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

Northern Illinois University

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