Welcome to your first issue of the First-Year Experience Newsletter! You will be receiving more of these throughout the rest of your first year. These newsletters are a useful tool to help you learn about available campus opportunities and resources. Please read on to learn about what’s happening next at NIU.

Welcome new Huskie! We hope that your first semester of college is going well and that you’re starting to make new memories and moments that count on campus. Take time to be proud of your accomplishments so far and surviving move-in, navigating campus and waking up for those dreaded early classes. Reflect on these accomplishments and begin setting goals for the rest of the semester and thinking about ways to be even more successful. Ask yourself these questions and think about ways you can enhance your academics. Are there any organizations you want to join? Are your classes going well? Have you reached out to any resources yet for anything you might be struggling with? Getting involved is a great way to make friends and build your network, which can be vital to your success at NIU.

With all of these new experiences, you may be feeling overwhelmed and a tad bit homesick. You have more responsibility, being away from family and friends from home can be hard, or maybe you just aren’t used to being on your own. As you adjust to college life, remember that you are not alone! All of these experiences will help you grow, and are a natural part of college process. Most first year students experience at least one of these struggles, but it does get better and you will find NIU to be your home away from home sooner than you think.

We hope that you find this newsletter to be helpful and encouraging, that you utilize the resources provided or attend an event that looks fun, and find ways to step out of your comfort zone and try new things. By keeping up with your academics and using these tips, your first year of college can be successful one.

What’s Inside:
• Huskie Spotlight
• Involvement Opportunities
• Seven Thing You Should Do Your First Semester
• FSYE Events
Calendar Dates

Thanksgiving Break
November 21 - November 25

Classes Resume
November 26

Classes End
December 8

Final Examinations
December 10 - December 15

Fall Football

University of Utah
September 8

Central Michigan University
September 15

Ohio University
October 13

University of Toledo
November 7

Miami University
November 14
Campus Safety

The Huskie Safe Line
This free ride service, operated by NIU Public Safety, runs from 11 p.m. until 5:30 a.m., and gives students rides across campus, to nearby businesses and to surrounding neighborhoods. The route has been expanded and revamped based upon information from students and in response to new parking restrictions.

The NIU Police Safe Selling Initiative
Under this program police are creating safe, well-lit space where students can complete transactions arranged via Craigslist, etc. so that goods and money can be exchanged securely.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity!

Volunteers will:
• Help families explore.
• Welcome and direct visitors.
• Assist with setup and tear down.
• Choose your shift.
• Receive a free t-shirt and pizza.

Contact Sara at 815-753-1272 or sfinnigan@niu.edu
go.niu.edu/stemfest
Q&A

Fact about yourself:

I am a first-generation student!

Favorite thing about NIU:

“I love how there are so many different opportunities on campus. There is always something for everyone.”

One thing you wish you did your first year at NIU:

“I wish I was more involved and used my resources more often.”

Advice for first-year students:

“Don’t be afraid to reach out to someone if you don’t know something; everyone was new to NIU at some point so they understand how hard it can be.”
7 Things to do Your First Year of College

1. **Join a club each semester**
   Getting involved on campus is super important to feel connected to NIU. By joining a club or organization, you will get to know other students that have similar interests as you and make connections that you will remember for the rest of your time at NIU!

2. **Get an on-campus job**
   Though you are a student, getting a job will help you gain experience for after college and help give you some extra cash for late-night pizza parties. Go to the Student Employment Office (Swen Parson Hall 232) and find a position that can help build your résumé. On-campus positions work around your schedule, so you will never have to worry about balancing work with school.

3. **Try studying in different places**
   Studying in your room can be dangerous: you’re too close to your bed! Get out of your room and find a nice place around campus or in DeKalb that can help you focus on studying. Everyone is different, so try different places until you find the best fit for you.

4. **Go to class**
   Attendance matters! By attending class, you attain more information that can be on exams, boost attendance grades and make connections with teachers. Showing a professor that you care about a class is so important. The content may all be in the textbook, but the professor can answer any lingering questions so you can better understand the material.

5. **Use a planner/calendar**
   College can get crazy! Be sure to keep all your class assignments, work and involvements in a planner so you know you have time to do everything. Through your student email, you have access to an Outlook Calendar to send you updates on when you have certain classes/involvements throughout the week.

6. **Be prepared to feel overwhelmed**
   Now that you are in college, you have a sense of independence that can feel a little overwhelming. Don’t be afraid to ask for help when needed. Whether it is help with schoolwork or finding someone to talk to, know that there is always someone to help.

7. **Go to as many FSYE events as possible**
   Look out for events put on by our office, First- and Second-Year Experience. These events will help you get to know other first-year students and supply you with resources from across campus.
FSYSS Events

So You Want to Be Involved?

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
MLK Commons

Want to get involved but don’t know how? Come out and join us in figuring out the best way to get you involved! Learn about events, clubs and organizations that you can join.

Cupcakes and Conversation

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 5-6 p.m.
Altgeld Room 100

Meet NIU faculty and staff and enjoy sweet treats. Students will have the opportunity to engage in informal conversations about academic success, career paths, internships and networking opportunities.

Unmasked: Facing the Imposter Syndrome

Thursday, Nov. 1, 5-7 p.m.
Holmes Student Center, Regency Room

Learn how it affects you or others, and how to overcome the feeling of “I don’t think I belong and I think everybody knows it,” so you can be your best self wherever you are!
Still Looking to Get Involved?

Huskies Get Connected
A one-on-one consultation with a knowledgeable peer to help discover ways to get connected that are personally meaningful to you. Click here to sign up for an appointment! This consultation will help you find your place on campus whether it be through:

- Involvement in student organizations or clubs.
- Campus employment.
- Attending campus events.
- Mentorship opportunities.
- Service.
- Research opportunities.

Sport Clubs
If competitive sports are your thing, NIU has a club for you! Sport Clubs are a great way to stay healthy and active, make new friends, and play. Click here to learn more about getting involved!

Northern Pact

What does it mean to be a Huskie for the rest of your life? The Northern Pact explains it all. Now that you have gotten through your first month at NIU, take time to reflect on the following statements about what it truly means to be a Huskie.

- I will be PURPOSEFUL in my education.
- I will be JUST in my actions and relationships.
- I will be CARING in my interactions with others.
- I will be OPEN to new opportunities, ideas and diverse perspectives.
- I will be DISCIPLINED in my education and my attitude.
- I will be CELEBRATIVE about my university, my classmates and my life.

The Northern Pact was formed to help strengthen our community by asking each individual to make a commitment to uphold these six principles. Your journey may not always be easy and you may have already encountered some bumps in the road. The most important thing to remember is that we are all part of the pack. You are a unique and valued Huskie. There are dedicated faculty and staff members who are here to help support you on your road to success, remind you of the Northern Pact principles when needed and celebrate with you. We are excited that you are a Huskie!