Information & Updates for Colleagues

December, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

December can be one of the busiest months of the year, as students and staff wrap up the semester and holidays seem right around the corner. But many of us are also already planning next semester.

The upcoming break also brings opportunity for rest, rejuvenation and special times with family and friends. We thank you for your many contributions on behalf of the campus community and extend our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy 2015.

Best regards,
The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life

Events

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Student Union Open House & Activities Expo — save the date!
Open House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Activities Expo, 4 – 6 p.m.
Encourage your students to come learn about the Student Union and all that’s offered there. There’ll be fun, music, food and much more.

Announcements

Winter New Students Orientation underway
The first session of winter New Students Orientation (NSO) began today, with more than 150 first-year and transfer students and their families here for the day-long program. It’s a busy day, with meetings, presentations, campus tours, a resource fair and more; your help in making the newest members of the community welcome is greatly appreciated. Three mini-orientations for undeclared students follow from Dec. 15 – 17; the remaining four full NSO sessions take place Jan. 13 – 16.

Online resource: internships and co-ops
Internships and co-ops are great ways for students to gain real-world experience. A new Career Services presentation with important information and tips for finding opportunities is now on YouTube, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fBZSBhRKLg. Take a look, and encourage your students to check it out!

RA positions spark flood of applications
Residence Education reports receiving more than 700 applications for the 2015 – 2016 Resident Assistant positions – the largest number ever submitted.

Staff news

Kelly Gray Ed.D, and Col. David Vacchi, U.S. Army (Ret.) from the Dean of Students Office were interviewed on WGBY’s “Connecting Point.” They discussed services and help available to military veterans attending UMass Amherst. View the video here.

Genny Beermyn, Ph.D., director of the Stonewall Center presents on “Best Practices for Supporting Transgender Faculty and Staff” at the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium’s fourth annual diversity conference Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Hind Mari, Ed.D, director of the Women of Color Leadership Network, is one of two recipients of this year’s “Wise Woman Award” from the American College Personnel Association’s Standing Committee for Women. Mari was selected based on her contributions toward women in student affairs and her efforts to promote women’s professional and personal development. The award will be presented at the group’s annual convention, March 5 – 8 in Tampa, Fla.
Director of Student Businesses Rosemary Schmidt is retiring at the end of December, after 11 years of service. We join her colleagues in the Student Engagement cluster in thanking Rosemary for her dedication and wishing her well in the next chapter of her life.

Cortney Johnson, Oak Hall residence director, has accepted a position at the University of Alabama Birmingham, where she’ll serve as the senior coordinator of student multicultural and diversity programs. She departs UMass in mid-December.