Hello, Loper Families!

Happy Holidays! Today is a bittersweet day at UNK because we just said goodbye to our December 2016 graduates, and just think, in just a few short years you will watch your student do the same. In order to make sure your student gets to that graduation day, we want to make sure you and your student have all of the necessary resources to get there!

Which is why I wanted to touch base with you all about some conversations you might have with your first year student as they come home after their first semester of college, and ways that maybe we can help you with those conversations.

**Conversation #1:**

"I didn't do very well in my (XYZ) class." or "I failed my (XYZ) class."

While it may feel like the end of the world for you and your student, it is not. Failing happens. College is hard, and unless students take the proper steps early in the semester, some classes just get the best of them. That doesn't necessarily mean they aren't cut out for college or they are "bad" students. They may just need extra support - support from you to know that although failing is not ideal, it happens, and now they understand (hopefully) what not to do next time. However, if they aren't sure exactly what to do better next time, we have people who can help! Tell them:

1. Talk to the professor of the course that is challenging your student. It helps for the professor to know that a student is struggling. Professors want their students to succeed and will more than likely go the extra mile to help them do better.
2. Go see the tutors and the folks in the Learning Commons right away at the beginning of the spring semester for any courses that may give them trouble.
3. Talk to their academic advisor or visit with the folks in Academic and Career Services. They are here to make sure your student is on the correct academic path at the right time in their college career. Perhaps this class is something that he/she should wait to take, or a class that he/she should take with a lighter course load, and his/her advisor can help with these decisions.

Fun fact: Did you know that once your student re-takes the class he or she failed, the better grade replaces that "F"?

**Conversation #2:**
"I was too busy this semester to have any fun." or "I had too much fun this semester."

Time management can be difficult, especially in college. Students are still trying to adjust to being on their own, and sometimes they just don't know how to balance all of their school, work, fun, etc. without the help of a nagging (but loving) parent or guardian. The cool thing is that we have people who can help your students with time management and other things like getting organized, study skills, etc. They are called Success Coaches and they are peers who are paid to help your students get back on track with things in which they may be struggling.

Fun fact: Success Coaches are also located in our library Learning Commons. Basically, your student should be hanging out in the library. :)

**Conversation #3:**

"I didn't seem to find the right friends." or "Now that I am settled into college, I want to get more involved."

It is never too late to find new friends, or find new organizations in college. Often times students think that if they don't "do it all" in their first semester, they won't ever find their niche. So not true. Some students just take a bit longer to settle in. If that is your student, tell them about our student organization fair on January 25th. It is a great opportunity for students to jump start their second semester and find some new friends as well as something they can get involved and passionate about.

Fun Fact: Students who get involved outside of the classroom are more likely to succeed in college.

Sincerely,

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