

OCTOBER 2019

Bulldog Newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FRESNO STATE PARENTS ASSOCIATION



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IMPORTANT DATES

- OCT 1** FAFSA, Dream Act, and Scholarship Application Opens
- OCT 3** Money Management Workshop
- OCT 5** Feria de Educacion
- OCT 7** LGBTQ+ Pride Week
- OCT 12** FAFSA Workshop
- OCT 16** Homecoming Big Show
- OCT 23** Family Weekend
- OCT 26** First Generation Families Workshop - What is a major and what is it good for?
- OCT 26** FAFSA Workshop

Dear Families,

The semester is in full swing and your student has hopefully already established friendships on-campus, the excitement of college has probably worn off now that mid-terms are upon them. The reality of the amount of studying and number of assignments can really have an effect on first year students. College is becoming challenging.

Your student would probably welcome a visit or a check in. Family support can go a long way in helping students get over that mid-semester hump. It's a good time to plan a weekend visit or maybe send a care package. Just don't forget to send a little something for your students' roommates.

To help you navigate the university the Parents Association is here. We have recently moved into our new offices and have two new Program Assistants to further help families support their students. We will be posting a monthly video on the first of each month to give university updates in addition to the online newsletter. We will also be hosting a Facebook Live video chat each month for a more interactive experience and to give you a chance to ask questions. Lastly, we'll be having an in-person workshop each month to give you an opportunity to network and hear from University officials regarding some of the most requested topics.

We're excited to serve families and are always available to assist you. Go Dogs!

Kenneth Ternate
Coordinator, Office of New Student and Parent Programs

WRITING CENTER

Throughout their college careers, students are required to write papers, and many may need some assistance to improving their writing. Tutors at the Writing Center are there to help your student whether if they are struggling with brainstorming ideas for a research paper, making their arguments more effective, or needing some grammatical improvements. There are two services provided at the writing center: the Small Writing Groups and the One-on-One Tutoring. The Writing Center is located at Kremen Education Building in room 184. For more information, visit fresnostate.edu/artshum/writingcenter or checkout the first episode of Bulldog Family Insights by the Parents Association on our Facebook page or Youtube channel, where we talk more about this resource on campus.

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or FAFSA) & California Dream Act Application for 2020-2021 is available on October 1, 2019. While students can complete the FAFSA application throughout the academic year, our priority deadline is March 2nd. It is important to know that each student will need to complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application every year in order to receive federal aid. If your student is not completely sure of which application to complete, the initial questions on the California Dream Act will let them know which application is best for their situation. When filling out your FAFSA application, make sure to add the Fresno State school code, which is 001147. The FAFSA application can be completed in multiple ways: online at FAFSA.ed.gov, on the myStudentAid app, or by completing the paper application and mailing it in to the U.S. Department of Education. However, the fastest and most efficient way to complete your FAFSA is by completing it online or through the app on your phone to minimize any delays there may be.

fresnostate.edu/financialaid

Here are some tips for completing the FAFSA:

- Apply early. There are additional financial aid opportunities for early applicants!
- If you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, do it! It pulls your federal tax information directly from the IRS, helping complete the FAFSA faster
- Make sure you answer the questions about your housing plans accurately.
- Use your legal name and make sure your social security number is correct!
- Complete your FAFSA accurately the first time. Going back and making changes can cause delays in processing.
- Make sure that we have your student's social security number on file.
- If your FAFSA is rejected by the U.S. Department of Education, resolve it as quickly as possible.

DID YOU KNOW...
THE FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE AWARDED OVER \$250 MILLION TO 80% OF OUR STUDENTS IN 2018-19?

LEARNING CENTER

College classes can be hard, but parents should not be worried because at Fresno State students are able to find resources to succeed. The Learning Center offers tutoring at no cost. The subjects that the Learning Center covers are those that are heavily impacted and which students struggle with the most. Another service that Fresno State offers is Supplemental Instruction or "SI" for short. SI consists of a SI leader facilitating two to three sessions a week about a specific class. SI leaders are required to work with the instructor and to attend the class regularly in order to better grasp the material and to better service students. The tutors and SI leaders are students who successfully passed the class and their experiences and skills are passed down to those who attend tutoring and SI sessions. Students are provided with study strategies and skills to do better in class, and by doing so, they reinforce the material learned. It has been shown that students that attend SI tend to earn one letter grade higher than their fellow classmates who do not attend SI.



Another program offered by the Learning Center is SupportNet. Fresno State students have to schedule an appointment with an academic coach to have a one-on-one session. SupportNet only offers academic and personal support, but it also connects students with other resources on campus and uses tools and strategies to ensure the success of Fresno State students. For more information, visit fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc or go watch the first episode of Bulldog Family Insights by Parents Association on our Facebook page or Youtube channel, where we talk more about this resource on campus.

ADVISOR SHOWCASE



Angelica Robles-Trinh

Angelica Robles-Trinh is an Academic Advisor for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Fresno State. She was an intern for EOP in 2011 and became a full-time staff member in 2014. EOP provides support for first-generation college students that are economically disadvantaged, who show potential and are determined to succeed in college. Angelica works with Junior and Senior students to help them with the transition from college to graduate school or their career. She provides students with options and connects them with campus resources for them to be able to make informed decisions.

She was born and raised in Fresno, CA. She earned a degree in Psychology and a minor in Education from UC Santa Cruz. Later on, she obtained a master's degree in Counseling at Fresno State. Thanks to her past experience at Fresno State she better understands the University's commitment to diversity.



CAN Award recipients with Dr. Harper, Provost and Dr. Lamas, Vice-President

From her perspective as a first-generation college student, she would like parents and family to know that “even if you do not know what it is like to be a university student, there are ways to support students and make sure that you can create an environment at home that is conducive to studying and that supports students on focusing on their education. Be able to work with the student and ask ‘how is it that we can support you?’ and making sure they do have time to study, focus on academics, and to be at school.”

SCHOLARSHIPS

Fresno State awards over a thousand different scholarships, totaling over 3.8 million dollars in free money to both new and continuing students. Institutional scholarships range from \$100 to almost \$12,000 and are awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students. Scholarships are offered by various colleges, departments, and organizations to students who meet specific criteria. Regardless of your student's accomplishments, interests, and background, we encourage all students to apply for scholarships. The Fresno State General Scholarship Application, which has opportunities for this year AND next year, becomes available on October 1st, 2019 and closes on March 2nd, 2020. This single application gives your student the opportunity to apply for a ton of Fresno State Scholarships!

All scholarship applicants can access the scholarship page through their MyFresnoState account. Before filling out the application, your student must be prepared to provide two different personal statements. One statement is to give them an opportunity to tell us important things about themselves that are not addressed or apparent in the application. The second statement is regarding your student's career objectives. Once they finish and submit the general scholarship application, they will be presented with recommended opportunities for which they might be eligible. These scholarship opportunities require additional questions to be answered and/or supplemental documentation to be uploaded. Your student should also be aware of our Honors Programs here at Fresno State. We have three: Smittcamp Family Honors College, Lyles College of Engineering Honors Program, and Craig School of Business Scholars Program. These are typically large scholarships that a student can receive that also gives them admittance into an honors program.

If your student is awarded a Fresno State scholarship, they must accept or decline the scholarship award offer within one week from the date on the email. All scholarship awards are dedicated to students who are admitted and enrolled at Fresno State. Visit the website for more information: fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/financialaid/scholarships

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Harkiran Kaur is a Front Desk Student Assistant in the College of Social Science Advising Center at Fresno State, and a Services Aide at City Hall. She graduated this past summer with a degree in Political Science and Economics, and she plans to pursue a graduate degree in Public Policy, Public Administration or Urban Planning.

“Working as a Front Desk Student Assistant has been such a rewarding job, I really honed in on my communication skills and built my confidence.” As a Fresno State student, Harkiran was part of Pi Sigma Alpha, which is a National Political Science Honor Society, and was the secretary the second semester she joined. She was also a Research Assistant for Economics and Political Science professors. One of her greatest accomplishments was to be accepted as a 2019 intern for the Maddy Institute this past summer.

Harkiran was born and raised in Selma, CA. Her family emigrated to the United States from Punjab, India. She would like to let parents and families know is that “just because your children are a little bit ambivalent, doesn’t mean they are not focused.”



Harkiran Kaur



FRESNO STATE
FAMILY WEEKEND
OCT. 25-27, 2019

All Bulldogs and their families are invited!
Registration and Schedule: fresnostate.edu/familyweekend

FRESNO STATE
Student Involvement

Want to know more?

If you would like to be involved, continue to receive communication, or would simply like to give some feedback complete the online survey at fresnostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_enfTly-eYhQt9LZb or use the QR code below. Your feedback will help determine what services and programs we offer in the future.

Go Dogs!



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