

September 2020 Newsletter



Student Affairs in Fall 2020

Now that we're several weeks into the Fall 2020 term, there are three themes I've observed this semester: Leadership, Teamwork, and Gratitude. As I have said over the years, I am proud to be part of the WCU Student Affairs team! Every one of you had a role in opening our campus this semester and serving our community. And I appreciate the many hours of meetings, preparation, trainings, and student-centered intentional efforts to create the best student experience we can offer. Thank You!

There are so many examples of individuals leading by stepping up to take on extra duties or new responsibilities on behalf of our students. Thank you to our

department heads for your outstanding leadership through the ongoing challenges faced by each department. I also want to recognize the overall divisional teamwork by the Student Affairs Task Forces, led by Palin Berkana-Wycoff, Tacquice Davis, and Shauna Sage for their input and feedback on Fall 2020 preparations.

Going forward, I am confident that the strengths of our leadership at all levels, and the dedication to our students through our intentional teamwork will continue to make a difference. And I will continue to be grateful for all of your service to this community. I know our students are also appreciative for your efforts this semester!

Please continue to practice the Catamounts Care prevention strategies – wear face coverings, maintain physical distance, and wash your hands. I hope you will also find ways to thank students practicing good prevention habits.

Again, thank you for all that you do!

Sam Miller
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Being Me In Cullowhee



Campus Activities introduced a new virtual series of 'Being Me in Cullowhee'. The series will explore students various identities and their unique experience on campus. The first in the series ask three students what it is like "Being Black in Cullowhee". Thank you Alan, Ajaylah, and Lance for sharing your story.



Catamounts Care Ambassadors

This group of undergraduate students will reward fellow students who exhibit positive behavior by following guidelines to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. Student ambassadors completed pandemic preparedness training and will help to spread important information about our ongoing response to COVID-19.

[Read the Article](#)

THE CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER (CRC) IS **OPENING FOR WORKOUTS** WITH A RESERVATION ON SEPT. 8



For information on making reservations, hours, requirements and what to expect, visit our FALL 2020 OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES page on [RECENTER.WCU.EDU](https://recenter.wcu.edu).



Campus Activities

- Congratulations to Dianne Harris who retired, Friday, August 14th - she will be missed.
- LMP has hosted six events during this year's Week of Welcome. Attendance and participation have been down significantly from past years.

Campus Services

- GET and Get Food app will replace GrubHub for mobile ordering at most of our retail locations, as well as provide staff with "line-buster" capability to help move customers through the lines quicker.

- 26 students are participating in FLI
- Amy Kalayjian and Kristen Nichols are Miracle @WCU new interns.
- Print Shop and mailroom officially joined the Student Affairs family on July 1.
- Centralized Move-In check-in went well. There are a total of 3200 residents living on-campus.



Health & Wellness

- Health Services had 638 patient encounters this past week, 148 patients tested for COVID-19, and 7 positive tests.
- BetterYou is live and will have a second push this week. About 75 students have downloaded and used this app.
- Campus Recreation Center expanded hours of operation to include 6 am-10 am on Monday, September 14th.
- The Out of the Darkness Club (suicide prevention club) hosted a lawn which coincided with World Suicide Prevention Day.



Marketing & Assessment

- Continuous Improvement Reports (CIRs) have been submitted to the Assessment Office for the 2019-20 academic year.
- Kneeder Child Development Center opened 8 am - 3 pm on August 31.
- Jane is serving on the Hunter Library's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee.
- Carol completed Hazard Communication and Covid-19 Vivid Training,



Dean of Students

- ICA completed the matching process for Project CARE mentors and mentees, 73 students are participating.
- DSCE provided training to every RA staff member on conduct report writing.
- National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) plot concept is moving forward.



Undergraduate Enrollment

- Fall 2020 Census numbers are in for the ninth time in the past ten years we have record enrollment.
- Undergraduate Applications for Fall 2020 final numbers:
 - First-Year - 15,120
 - Transfer - 2,399

 register.betteryou.ai

Ready for a Better You 😊 @WCU?



Goals
What's most important to you?

Physical 76%

Social 100%

Education 67%

Mindfulness

DOWNLOAD AND REGISTER WITH YOUR WCU EMAIL!

 Health and Wellness Education

Celebrate the Good News!

Welcome New Staff

Melody McCabe joins us from Vero Beach, FL as the new Administrative Support Specialist for Student Affairs starting in August of 2020. She is a Sigma Beta Delta honor graduate from Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL. Melody earned her B.A.S in Organizational Management in 2012 and is currently working on her master's in Human Relations in Business.



She truly enjoys working in higher education and helping others achieve their dreams of success. In her previous position at IRSC, she was awarded mentor of

the year and most college spirit. Her favorite hobbies include reading, cooking, bike riding, fishing, football, NASCAR, and anything involving water activities.

Colton Bailey is a 2015 graduate of Smoky Mountain High School. He attended Southwestern Community College and transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 2019 with a B.A. in English. After graduating from UNC, he worked at Southwestern Community College as an Advanced Learning Writing Consultant. After six months in that position, he accepted a job as a Financial Aid Specialist. He was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Financial Aid. He enjoys working with the great students and staff at WCU.

Shantoneeka Zorn (they/them/their) is joining Western Carolina University as the 20-21 Counselor-in-Residence. Shantoneeka will be working jointly with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Residential Living to bring psycho-education and curriculum development to the residence halls.



Originally from Georgia, Shantoneeka made their way to North Carolina in May 2018. Shantoneeka graduated from North Carolina State University with their master's degree in College Counseling and Student Development.

Shantoneeka is available to students Monday-Friday through CAPS appointments, which will primarily be a virtual experience. Shantoneeka's areas of interest include: anti-Racism, intersectionality, mental health, minority student success, identity development, students in transition, sexuality and gender, values exploration, and holistic healing.

Shantoneeka is hipe to be at WCU, and they cannot wait to engage with our students, faculty/staff, and the Whee community!"



Collin Ashley was named Assistant Director of Student Community Ethics in April of 2020. He is a "Double-Duke" graduate of James Madison University - having obtained his B.S. in Health and Environmental Science in 2018 and most recently a M.Ed. in College Student Personnel Administration in May of 2020. Outside of work, Collin enjoys hiking, backpacking, spending time with friends and family, and finding the next adventure! He is very excited to call WCU home!



IT Committee Update

On Wednesday, September 9th a new app was installed on all WCU-managed devices. From the new IT Help Desktop App you can:

- access hundreds of FAQ's and how-to articles
- submit a ticket
- manage your IT assets
- view upcoming scheduled maintenance
- and more!

[Install on a Personal Device](#)



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Between Aug. 17-Nov. 20, take a photo of yourself in your chosen location with the trash you collected.
2. Stop by the Adventure Shop during designated hours and show your trash collection photo to the staff to receive a free t-shirt!



for the first 550 participants!

****DON'T FORGET SAFETY PROTOCOLS INCLUDING WEARING MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES, & WASHING YOUR HANDS AFTER COLLECTING TRASH!***



Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723