If you had to choose one word to describe the strength that Western Carolina University faculty, staff, and students harnessed during the last academic year to navigate through a historic pandemic, it would be resiliency.

Resiliency and flexibility are what
Chancellor Kelli R. Brown highlighted in her address to faculty and staff Wednesday as she outlined her priorities for the new academic year during the Fall Opening 2021 ceremony in the Performance Hall of the Bardo Arts Center.

The event saw faculty and staff watch both in attendance and online via live-stream. Brown began her remarks by recognizing WCU’s land acknowledgment.

Get Vaccinated or Get Tested Regularly

All faculty, staff, and students who have not submitted valid proof of vaccination against COVID-19 prior to September 15th will be subject to regular testing. Up to 500 individuals will be randomly selected each week to participate in testing, which will begin on September 20th. Selected individuals will be notified via their
university email the Friday prior to the assigned testing week of their requirement to test along with a link to schedule an appointment.

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Health and Wellness Corner

Did you know September is Friendship Month?

Social interactions are a great way for your student to feel more connected at Western! “WCU Engage” is a great resource for students to see what events are happening, as well as search for clubs and organizations they may be interested in! Another way to get involved and stay active is through our Campus Recreation Center.

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Get Your Tickets

Join us for Family Weekend on Saturday, September 18, as WCU football takes on Samford at Whitmire Stadium. Kickoff is at 2:30 pm.

Football tickets for Family Weekend not in Student Section – WCU student family members can purchase tickets that are reserved near the student section in Section D, E, and F for just $30 and can be purchased online (fees apply) by clicking on this link: CLICK HERE
Guest tickets in the student section – students can purchase (2) student guest tickets for any game. The tickets are $13 and can be purchased online by WCU students through their account (fees apply) by clicking on this link: CLICK HERE or on game day at the ticket booths. On game day students can present their Cat Card at any ticket booth to purchase the guest tickets. All student guest tickets are general admission in the student sections: A, AA, B, BB, C, CC.

You can also call the ticket office at 828-227-2401 to purchase tickets to any game. We look forward to seeing you at Whitmire Stadium.

On-Campus Quarantine and Isolation Space Update

Students living in WCU residence halls are already strongly encouraged to quarantine and isolate at home, but in the event that the specified on-campus quarantine and isolation residence hall spaces are unavailable and/or become fully utilized, students living on-campus will be required to return home for quarantine and isolation with limited exceptions. WCU currently has 125 residence hall beds (located in Madison Hall and the Village) which are available for on-campus student quarantine and isolation. The utilization of these spaces is documented on the WCU Reporting COVID-19 data dashboard.

WiFi Update

The Cullowhee campus WiFi network experienced some stability issues during the first week of classes. These issues seem to have been caused by an overload of network traffic in the WiFi environment.
The Cullowhee campus WiFi network experienced some stability issues during the first week of classes. These issues seem to have been caused by an overload of network traffic in the WiFi environment. Changes were made Thursday (August 26, 2021) to reduce the load, and the WiFi network appears to have stabilized. If your student is still having issues connecting to the campus WiFi, please have them contact the IT HelpDesk (https://ithelp.wcu.edu or x7487) or visit the TechCommons.

WCU Videos

See Catamount Country in a different way. Subscribe to the Western Carolina University YouTube channel. The latest video releases include New Student Convocation, WCU Opening Assembly, and Base Camp Cullowhee - Bear Safety. Coming Up: watch the Grand Opening Ceremony of the new Apodaca Science Building.

WCU YouTube Channel
Class of 2025 Official Photo

Download a copy of the photo for printing or to add to your digital frame. Browse through the gallery to see photos of other events from opening and perhaps catch a glimpse of your student. Just click on **Gallery Password** on the right side and type **2025** for the login.

**Download the Photo**

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**September 17-19**
FAMILY WEEKEND
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Western’s Got Talent
Come and watch our talented Catamounts compete for Catamount gold in our largest talent competition. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The performances will be in the Bardo Arts Center at 7:30pm on September 17th. The event is free to all.

Family Weekend Movies
In honor of Family Weekend, Last Minute Productions will host a double feature! Cruella will be showing on Sat., Sept. 18 at 6 pm and Sun., Sept. 19 at 9pm. Mulan will be showing Sat. Sept. 18 at 9 pm and Sun. Sept. 19 at 6pm. RSVPs will be open on Engage 1 week prior to event date.

Legacy Pinning Ceremony
On Sept. 18, Alumni Engagement will be hosting a Legacy Pinning Ceremony for those that are forever Catamounts. The ceremony will be 10:00 am-12:00 pm in the Ramsey Center Arena.

Open Climbing Wall
Basecamp Cullowhee will host Open Climbing Wall Hours for Family Weekend on Saturday, Sept. 18th from 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Face coverings are required indoors. There is an age restriction for the wall, 4 years or older. The event is first come, first served with a max of 25 individual at a time.

Special Guest Passes at the CRC
During Family Weekend, guests (18 yrs or older) can purchase a pass to use the Campus Recreation Center for $5 (1 day), $10 (3 days) or $15 (7 days) at the CRC front desk. Call the CRC at 828.227.7069 for more information.

Fill the Truck
In partnership with Pride of the Mountains marching band and the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, WCU is proud to sponsor a relief drive to help our neighbors in Haywood County who have been impacted by Tropical Storm Fred. During the Catamount football game on Saturday, September 18th volunteers will be collecting donations (water, non-perishable food items, and cleaning supplies) at the main entrances to the stadium from 1:30-3:30 pm. If you have any questions, email Lane Perry for assistance.

Family Weekend Glaze-a-thon
Come decorate a mug or plate! 10-1 pm under tents by Clock Tower. No pre-registration, first-come, first serve. Cash/Check only please—ATM is nearby! $15 per plate or mug. Wares will be fired and mailed to student boxes in UC within a week. This event is sponsored by WCU Ceramics Club (Mudcats) and WCU Art Education Club. For more information, email Erin Tapley.
Mountain Heritage Day

The annual festival of Southern Appalachian traditions returns on Saturday, September 25th. Renowned as a showcase of bluegrass, old-time and traditional music, as well as family activities, vendors, and the region's finest arts and crafts.

The Blue Ridge Stage Schedule

- Summer Brooke and Brayden at 10 a.m.
- Whitewater Bluegrass Company at 11 a.m.
- Apple Blossom Cloggers at 12:00 p.m.
- Presentation of the Mountain Heritage Awards at 12:15 p.m.
- The Queen Family at 12:45 p.m.
- Phil and Gaye Johnson at 1:30 p.m.
- The Grascals at 2:15 p.m.
- The Bailey Mountain Cloggers at 3:30 p.m.
- Merle Monroe at 3:45 p.m.
There will also be the Circle Tent, Stickball Field, and the Children’s Tent with continual performances, including workshops, sing-alongs, storytelling, and a community square dance, along with children’s play-party activities.
Relief for Haywood County

In partnership with the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band and the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, WCU is proud to sponsor a relief drive to help our neighbors in Haywood County who have been impacted by Tropical Storm Fred. During the Catamount football game on Saturday, September 18th, volunteers will be collecting donations (water, non-perishable food items, and cleaning supplies) at the main entrances to the stadium from
Family Society

The WCU Office of Alumni Engagement, in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs, is excited to announce the recent establishment of the WCU Family Society. The mission of the WCU Family Society is to foster extraordinary relationships between the university and all WCU families. To find out more information about the WCU Family Society, join us on Family Weekend, Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 1:00-2:00 pm at the WCU Alumni Association Tailgate Headquarters in the football stadium parking lot prior to the WCU vs Samford football game. Complimentary food, beverage, and WCU swag will be available as well as the opportunity to learn more about the society and meet other WCU families. Please rsvp to Hugo Sanchez at h Sanchez@wcu.edu or call 828-227-7335 by Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

We hope to see and connect with you soon!

Recent Events

Here are a few events your student recently had the opportunity to participate in.
Week of Welcome Events kept students entertained.

We want students to find their niche. Encourage your student to step outside of their comfort zone and try something new!
Scott and Walker Replacement

The new Residence Halls are coming along. Watch a time-lapse of the demolition and real-time construction of the replacement.

Construction Camera

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

September 10 - Health insurance waiver deadline

September 17-19 - Family Weekend

September 27 - 5th week grades due
October 1 - FAFSA opens

October 9 - Homecoming

October 19-22 - Fall Break, no classes