Preparing for a New Partnership

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College provides a unique opportunity for parents/families and the institution to partner together in helping students adjust to college life.
Your partnership with the University can help students adjust AND succeed in college.
Parent and Family Relations, a unit in the Office of the Dean of Students, helps parents understand and support the student experience, learning and growth. This office provides support and assists in orienting parents/families of students within the College. We serve as a resource for parents/families throughout their student’s undergraduate career. It is our goal that, as a member of the University of Rochester parent community you feel informed, valued, and respected.
Parent and Family Relations

- Provides a direct resource to parents and families including:
  - Advisory service
  - 1:1 Consultation
  - Education
  - Referral
  - Communications (Parents Buzz, Facebook)
We Encourage Staying Connected in Healthy Ways vs. Letting Go
Please keep in mind

We are not asking you to let go—we respect you as parents and for the important role you will always have in the lives of students. We want to encourage you stay connected in healthy ways. Ways that acknowledge your students’ growth and empowers them to make decisions.

*Your relationship with your student impacts how you engage and partner with the institution
Expect Change

- College is a transformative time & experience
  - Changes to come may be related to:
    - Communication structure
    - Exposure to new cultures and values
    - Major
    - Interests
- Be interested in the student’s perspective
- Be open
What can you do?

- Communicate
- LISTEN
- Ask questions
- Trust
- Remember – first time to college for *this* student
- Learn/know the resources
- Acknowledge that this will be a transition for you too
On a daily basis, we might face hopes and fears about many things—college can certainly be one of these things.

Your willingness to express your own hopes and fears can be an important exercise as you consider how you will stay connected in healthy ways.

Then, engage your student in a discussion on their hopes and fears.
Communication is Key

- There are just over four months between now and the fall semester...
  - There are many small and extended discussions to have.
- What are your....
  - expectations?
  - thoughts about fraternity/sorority life?
  - thoughts about student employment?
  - ??????
Trust…

- Yourselves and your students
  - You have raised good kids and young adults
  - Your student/your family will choose the right college
- Trust that the University shares a common goal with you → student success and well-being
What steps will you take to shift your relationship with your ‘soon to be’ college student?

What are you learning about your relationship with your student now that will promote healthier connections in the fall?

How does your family thrive in times of change?
CONTACT

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