

Purposeful Partners: Engaging with Family Members to Support Student Success

Warhawk Success Conference
February 24, 2023



Agenda

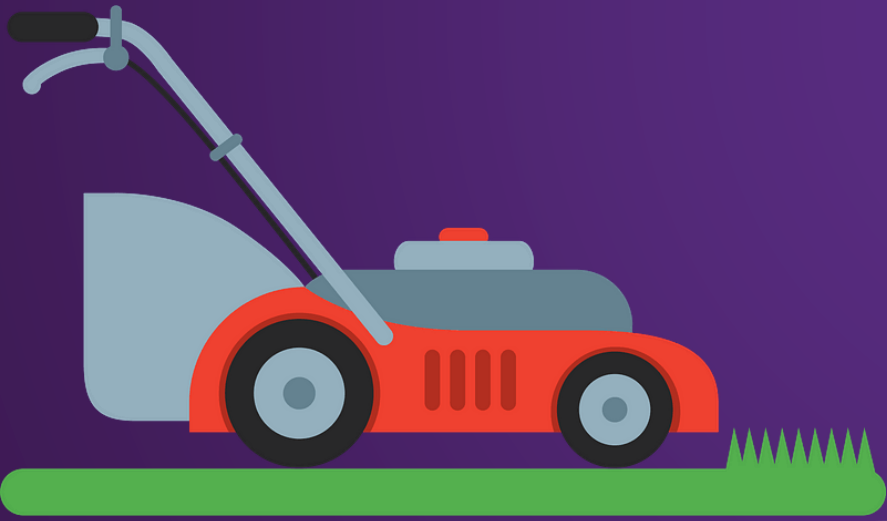
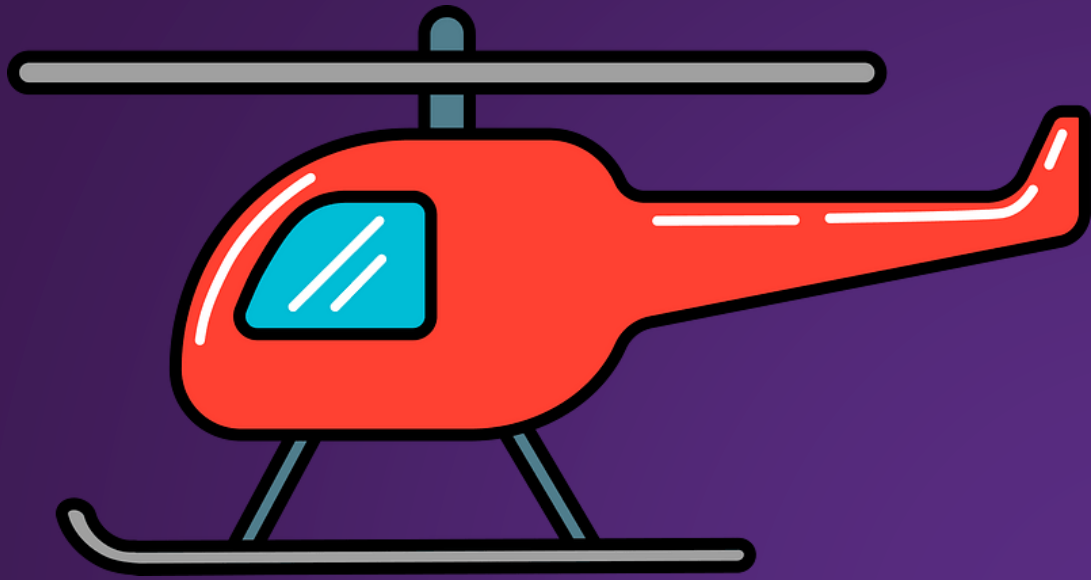
- Family Engagement & Practices
- Panel
- Q&A
- Resources & Wrap-up



“We have these really tight family units, and then we’re also seeing more students that are here on their own” (Riegler, 2019).

What terms have you heard
to describe the involvement of
family members/parents?





Parents

HELICOPTERS, LAWNMOWERS,
AND STEALTH BOMBERS

*Parents' weekend has become parents' week.
They don't leave.*

—VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS,
SELECTIVE EASTERN UNIVERSITY

*I need a launching pad. I have so many
helicopter parents.*

—DEAN, SELECTIVE EASTERN COLLEGE

THEY ARE called *helicopter* and *chinook* and *blackhawk* parents because they hover over their children. They are called *lawnmower* and *snowplow* parents because they roll over everything in their paths to "defend" their cubs. They are called *stealth* parents because they swoop in to "protect" their offspring. They are called *umbrella* and *nest* parents because they shield their progeny.

Family Engagement

- Families are more involved
- Students are more connected to their families
- Role in recruiting & retaining
- Parent PLUS loan (Department of Ed, 2022)
 - \$29,324 average debt
 - 108.5 billion debt – 3.7 million borrowers



“The days of trying to keep parents [families] at arm’s length and resenting their “interference” are over” (Perlmutter, 2021).

Family Engagement Practices

- Offering programs & services for families
- Ongoing & proactive communication
- Setting boundaries
- Student accountability
- “Purposeful partners”



Bigmouse108. Getty Images/istock. [Clip Art].

“The times we hear from families are often when we are not communicating, so the more information we can share, the better” (Blythe, 2020).

Advice from FYE to Families: 'Be an Active Spectator'

Student = Primary Participant

- **Encourage:** student to get involved in class and outside of class - this is a social and academic transition. Encourage them to seek out resources.
- **Support:** Listen, listen, listen - sometimes they just need someone to talk to and vent. And they may experience homesickness, etc. Keep encouraging them to get connected.
- **Challenge:** Challenge students to be their best, advocate for themselves to effectively problem solve and resolve conflict.



Student moves to the
front seat.

“Research and common sense suggest that family support and encouragement are critical to students developing resilience and a sense of purpose” (Kuh, 2022).

Panelists



Andy Browning
Assistant Dean of Students



Marie Hornickel
Assistant Director of FYE



Dr. Susan Johnson
Associate Dean,
College of Letters & Sciences



Jessica Stein
Assistant Director &
Coordinator of Early Success,
Academic Advising &
Exploration Center



Dr. Veronica Warren
Counseling Center Director

How does your department engage and/or support family members?



What are some challenges you have experienced with supporting family members and how have you overcome those challenges?



What advice do you have for campus partners when working with family members?



Q & A

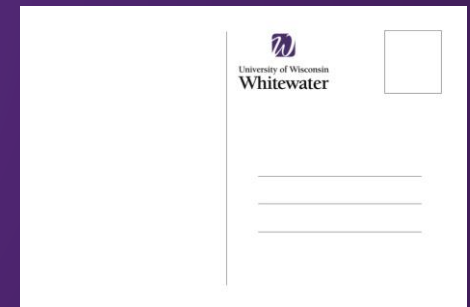
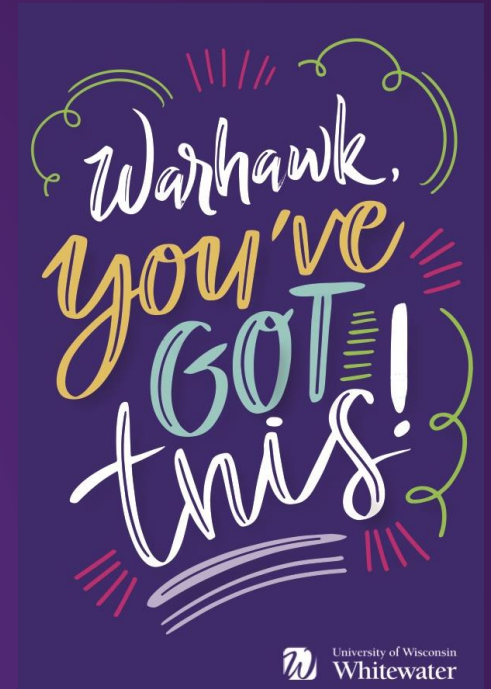
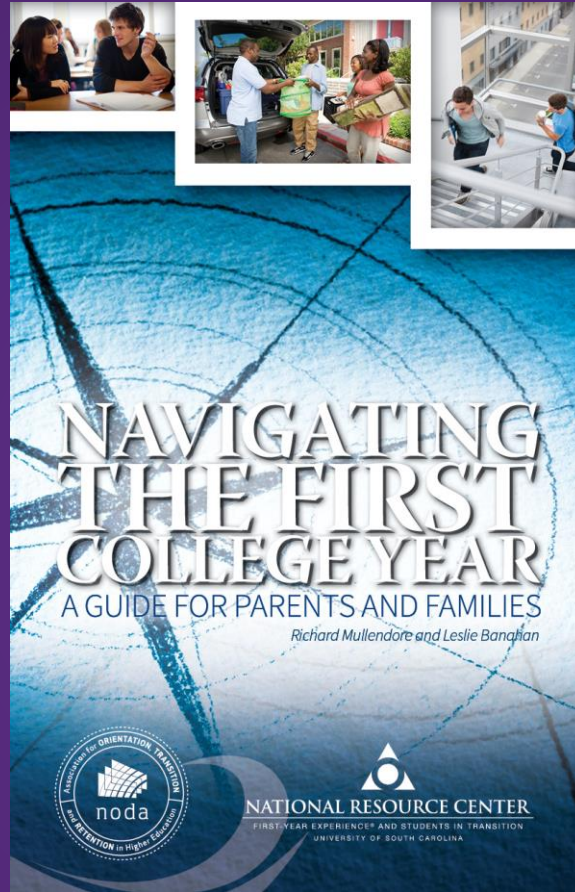


Resources

- First Year Experience, UW-W
- Fostering Success & Independence, UW-W
- Association of Higher Education Parent/Family Program Professions (AHEPP)
 - <https://www.aheppp.org/>
- National Resource Center: First Year Experience & Students in Transition
 - Navigating the first college year: A guide for parents and families



Resources



Contact Information

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PURPLE
ON
PURPOSE





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