

Leatherneck Family NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

NEW STUDENT & FAMILY PROGRAMS HOSTS AND SUPPORTS: LEATHERNECK FIRST FOUR DAY EVENTS

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Scan the QR code to view the
Welcome Week and Campus
Events Calendar!



LEATHERNECK FIRST FOUR DAYS

Required Events FOR ALL NEW STUDENTS

- ✓ **Residence Hall Floor Meetings**
Living on campus? Get to know your roommate, meet your RA, and learn essential hall policies.
- ✓ **Reach Meeting**
*Only Required for Reach Students
- ✓ **Set Up For Success**
Hear from campus offices on how to be successful at Western
- ✓ **Your Academic Journey Starts Here**
Meet peers & professors from your academic department, ask questions & learn more about your major

EVERY QUEST EVER.
THE ULTIMATE CAMPUS SCAVENGER HUNT

Compete with friends, score points, and win awesome prizes! Meet new people while having an unforgettable time!

AUG. 21 | 1-3 PM
GRAND BALLROOM

MINI GOLF & OUTDOOR GAMES

Stop by for mini golf, batting cages, park golf, games, and fun with friends!

AUG. 22 | 2-4 PM
BALL FORE

TRANSPORTATION FROM THOMPSON HALL AND CORBIN/OLSON HALLS PROVIDED BY GO WEST

W Western Illinois University

ROCKY'S UNION KICKOFF

SILENT DISCO
AI FACE SKETCHES
KARAOKE
PHOTO BOOTH

AUG. 20 | 8:30-10 PM
UNION BASEMENT

W Western Illinois University

Back to School

Your Academic Journey Begins Here

3:30 pm
Friday, August 21
University Grand Ballroom

**LEATHERNECK FIRST FOUR DAYS
NEW STUDENTS**

WELCOME TO WESTERN

SATURDAY
AUGUST 22
1-3PM
LEAVE FROM THOMPSON & CORBIN/OLSON LOBBY

SUNDAY
AUGUST 23
3-5PM
EVERY 30 MINUTES

GUIDED CAMPUS TOURS

LEATHERNECK FIRST FOUR DAYS

SET UP FOR SUCCESS

Required for all new students

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN:

- ✓ Build connections across campus
- ✓ Learn where to find support
- ✓ Discover opportunities to get involved
- ✓ Gain confidence navigating college life

11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Friday, August 21
University Grand Ballroom

W Western Illinois University

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Rocky After Dark

Free food, activities, games, fun & more!

AUGUST 21
6-10 PM
HANSON FIELD

HOSTED BY INTER-HALL COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY UNION BOARD AND NEW STUDENT & FAMILY PROGRAMS

SCARY MOVIE

FREE popcorn, drinks & snacks!

August 23rd
Showing Starts @ 8:15 PM
Hanson Field // Rain Location: Sandburg Theatre

For more events, visit Leatherneck Link



Building Student Success, Strength and Balance



Taylor Duncan
Associate Director
Office of Student
Engagement &
Fraternity and Sorority Life



Hello Leatherneck families!

As your student navigates their journey at Western Illinois University, they will be faced with countless opportunities to get involved, grow, and find their community. One pathway they may be considering—or perhaps haven't even thought about yet—is joining a fraternity or sorority.

We know that for many families, the words "fraternity", "sorority", or "Greek Life" might bring to mind outdated media stereotypes. However, the modern fraternity and sorority experience at WIU is deeply rooted in fostering an inclusive, supportive environment where all students can build lifelong organizational bonds, excel academically, and find a true home away from home. If you and your student are wondering whether this community is the right fit, we want to share what the latest national, peer-reviewed research says about the real, tangible value of the fraternity and sorority experience and share some great data points from our FSL community at WIU.

For more information about why Fraternity and Sorority Life is important to you student's development, use the QR code or visit www.wiu.edu/student_success/greek_life/parentsAlumni.php

WIU Family Day BBQ



"Grill Me Baby One More Time"

WIU's Office of Student Engagement and School of Agriculture look forward to welcoming you to the 8th Annual Family Day BBQ Competition and Tasting on Sat., Sept. 19, 2026 from 2pm to 5pm. Including live music, activities for the entire family, bags tournament, and the battle for the best BBQ around, followed by the Fighting Leatherneck game at 6 pm! Food will be served while supplies last so don't be late to the fun. For more info, to purchase tickets and t-shirts, visit: wiu.edu/familyday



Western Illinois University LEATHERNECK FIRST FOUR DAYS

We've lined up some great events for our new Leathernecks to engage with one another and meet new people. **Please bring your Student ID to all events.**

WELCOME EVENTS

THU AUG 20	Varies	New Student Move-In (Residence Halls)
	8 AM – 8 PM	Get Your Student ID! (University Union, Service Desk)
	8:30 AM – 4 PM	Walk-In Registration Appointments for Unregistered First Year Students (First Year Advising Center, Memorial Hall, Lower Level)
	7 – 8 PM	Residence Hall Floor Meeting <u>Rocky's Union Kickoff</u>
	8:30 PM – 10 PM	Silent Disco (Sandburg Lounge) All Face Sketches (The 'Neck) Karaoke (The 'Neck) Photo Booth (Union Concourse) Class Poster Signing
FRI AUG 21	8 AM – 8 PM	Get your Student ID! (University Union Service Desk)
	8:30 AM – 4 PM	Walk-In Registration Appointments for Unregistered First Year Students (First Year Advising Center, Memorial Hall, Lower Level)
	10 AM – 11 AM	Reach Meeting *Required for Reach Students (Lamoine Room, University Union)
	11 AM – NOON	Set Up for Success *Required for All New Students (University Grand Ballroom)
	1 PM – 3 PM	"Every Quest Ever" Scavenger Hunt (University Grand Ballroom)
	3:30 PM – 5 PM	Your Academic Journey Starts Here! *Required for All New Students (University Grand Ballroom)
	5 PM – 6 PM	First Four Dinner (Thompson & CO/OL Dining Centers) Special Value Meals Available with Student ID
SAT AUG 22	6 PM – 10 PM	Rocky After Dark (Hanson Football Field) Free T-shirt for All New Students
	9:30 AM – 8 PM	Get Your Student ID! (University Union Service Desk)
	8 AM – 8 PM	Spencer Student Rec Center Drop In
	1 PM – 3 PM	Guided Campus Tours (Leave from Thompson/CO/OL Residence Halls)
	2 PM – 4 PM	Mini Golf & Outdoor Games (Ball Fore)
	2 PM	Volleyball – WIU vs. Quincy (Western Hall)
	3 PM – 5 PM	Table Top Games with Digital Rec (Digital Rec Center)
SUN AUG 23	5 PM	Mens Soccer – WIU vs. Quincy (John Mackenzie Alumni Field)
	6 PM – 9 PM	MCC Welcome Back Bash (Multicultural Center)
	10:30 AM – 6 PM	Get Your Student ID! (University Union Service Desk)
	11:30 AM	Women's Soccer – WIU vs. Eastern Washington (John Mackenzie Alumni Field)
	12 PM – 9 PM	Spencer Student Rec Center Drop In
	1 PM – 2 PM	Library Tours (Malpass Library)
	3 PM – 5 PM	Guided Campus Tours (Leave from Thompson & CO/OL Residence Halls)
	7 PM – 8 PM	Residence Hall Floor Meeting
	Dusk	Outdoor Movie – Scary Movie 6 (Hanson Football Field)

Apply for WIU scholarships today!

Deadline: March 1, 2027

#12
Best Bang for the
Buck Midwestern
Schools

\$26 Million
in Scholarships &
Awards Annually

84%
of Students Receive
Financial Aid

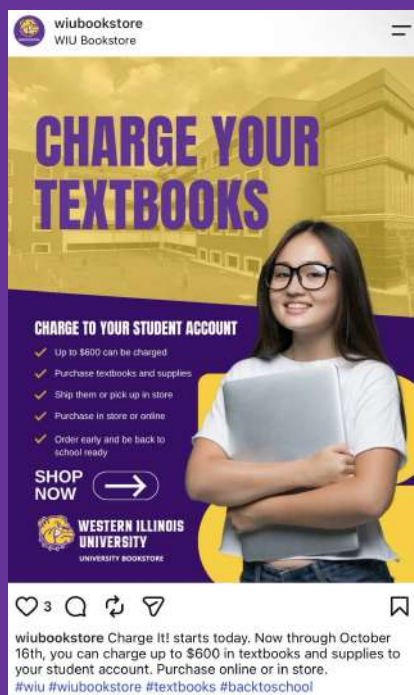
Western Illinois University (WIU) scholarships are designed to reduce financial barriers, support you in achieving your goals, and unleash your full potential.

Parents and Family Association members receive access to the following scholarships:

- PFA Lawrence Blatchley Memorial Scholarship
- PFA Gold Scholarship
- PFA Dalcamo Leadership Scholarship
- Parent & Family Association (PFA) Book Award
- First Generation Initiative Scholarship (Application Opens Jan. 2027)

For more information about PFA Gold Scholarships, visit: wiu.edu/pfa

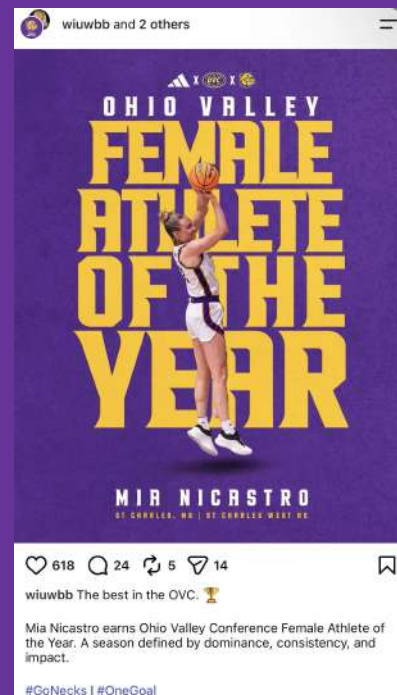
'Neck News: Connect with Social Media



@wiubookstore



@westerniluniv



@wiuathletics

Want to join the Parent & Family Association? Visit wiu.edu/parents_and_family

Move-In News from WIU Housing & Dining Services

WELCOME CREW SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 20 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday, August 21 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Need to Eat?

Opening Weekend Dining Hours 2026

Thursday, August 20th

Corbin-Olson Dining Center

Lunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5PM-7PM

Thompson Dining Center

Lunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5PM-8PM

Friday, August 21st

Corbin-Olson Dining Center

Lunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5PM-7PM

Thompson Dining Center

Breakfast: 7AM-9:30AM
Lunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5PM-8PM

Saturday, August 22nd

Corbin-Olson Dining Center

Brunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5:15PM-6:30PM

Thompson Dining Center

Brunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5:15PM-6:30PM

Sunday, August 23rd

Corbin-Olson Dining Center

Brunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5PM-7PM
Late Night: 8PM-10:30PM

Thompson Dining Center

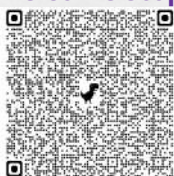
Brunch: 11AM-1:30PM
Dinner: 5:15PM-6:30PM
Late Night: 8PM-10:30PM

All other dining locations are closed and will open with normal operating hours on Monday, August 24th

WIU Alumnus?!

Scan the QR code to view the details for a special move-in day event just for YOU and WIU alumni parents/grandparents!

Leatherneck Legacy Welcome Stop



#WIUMovein
#HOMESWEETWIU

SAVE THESE DATES

August 19-23, 2026

Move-In Weekend/First Four Day Events

August 24, 2026

First Day of Fall Classes

September 19, 2026

8th Annual Family Day BBQ

October 16, 2026

Fall Break - No Classes

October 23-25, 2026

Homecoming Weekend

November 23-27, 2026

Thanksgiving Break - No Classes

December 14-18, 2026

Final Exam Week

December 19, 2026

Undergraduate/Graduate Commencement

December 19, 2026- January 18, 2027

Winter Break

January 19, 2027

First Day of Spring Classes

March 15-19, 2027

Spring Break - No Classes

APRIL 16-18, 2027

Family and Friends Weekend

May 10-14, 2027

Final Exam Week

May 15, 2027

Undergraduate/Graduate Commencement

Family & Student Resources at Western



Office of NSFP



Campus Event
Calendar



Student Support
Services



Leatherneck Link

MEET THE NSFP SUMMER TEAM



DR. MICHELLE JANISZ
Director of New Student
& Family Programs



TAMMIE LEIGH BROWN-EDWARDS
Hope Chicago Program Coordinator
Academic Success Coach



JOCELYN FOWLER
Graduate Student
LSL Supervisor
Special Projects

■ This is a publication of New Student and Family Programs (NSFP), a department of Western Illinois University's Student Success Division

■ Leatherneck Family Newsletter Editor: Tammie Leigh Brown-Edwards, Hope Chicago Program Coordinator/Success Coach

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