Dear Colleagues,

As we leave another blustery northern Illinois winter, I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the great care and commitment you have shown in ensuring our students’ success. In the fall, I continued to challenge each of you to focus on the idea of “responsive leadership.” By your re-committing to this effort every day, our students will continue to flourish under your ever-present and unfailing guidance and support. Thank you!

While the divisional priorities will remain at the forefront of our day-to-day work, in September, during his State of the University Address, President Peters charged us with the creation and implementation of the Northern Illinois University Vision 2020 Initiative. A huge, yet inspired, undertaking, I can assure you that this has become a campus-wide priority, and one that will take precedence over the next few months. The steering committee and working groups are hard at work to quantify and qualify how exactly NIU will progress to become “the most student-centered public research university in the Midwest.” I thank you in advance for your efforts regarding the Initiative, as, in addition to the work you already do for our students, your insights and expertise will be called upon in the coming months and are greatly valued and appreciated. I encourage you to visit http://www.niu.edu/vision2020/ for the most up-to-date information. It is my hope that you are as enthusiastic and hopeful about this time in our university’s history as I am.

Please take some time to peruse this edition of the Student Affairs & Enrollment Management eNewsletter. Inside, you will find evidence of campus collaboration, care, commitment, celebration, and progress. From the tips for you to share with students to pieces on the LEAD NIU Summit and NIU Cares Day events, this issue is truly a snapshot of the great work occurring across the campus and throughout the Division.

Sincerely,

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

GSARP

Registration for the Graduate Student & Assistantship Recruitment Program (GSARP) is now open! The GSARP Preview Weekend will be held on March 18 & 19, 2011. GSARP takes place each spring and gives prospective Counseling, Adult & Higher Education graduate students an opportunity to learn more about the academic program and the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, and provides an opportunity to interview for GA positions. Interested students may contact Adam Neal at 815-753-6257 or aneal5@niu.edu for more information.
NIU Cares Day

NIU Cares Day, our campus-wide day of service, is back for its fifth year! Coordinated by Student Involvement & Leadership Development, NIU Cares Day brings students, faculty, and staff members together to complete service projects that benefit the surrounding communities. NIU Cares Day 2010 resulted in a whopping 2,000 participants who completed work at over 60 project sites in DeKalb county!

NIU Cares Day 2011 will take place on Saturday, April 16, and will begin with a kick-off program at the Holmes Student Center. We hope that you will encourage the students with whom you work to register individually or with a volunteer team and to get involved with this great event. Teams can include students in the same organization, residence hall floor, class, or even groups of friends! Sign up online at http://niucaresday.niu.edu until April 1.

There are also several involvement opportunities for faculty, staff, and graduate assistants. The NIU Cares Day committee is currently looking for Project Site Leaders (PSL). Each PSL will serve as a resource for students at the assigned project site as well as to ensure that students are having the best experience possible. Serving as a PSL is a great opportunity to work alongside students in a fun and unique environment. Interested individuals can sign up for the 'Project Site Leader' team at http://niucaresday.niu.edu. The committee is also looking for individuals to assist with volunteer check-in and other event logistics on the day of the event. This is a great opportunity to be a part of a high-energy, interactive event with your colleagues and our fellow Huskies!

All questions regarding NIU Cares Day 2011 can be directed to Becky Harlow at rharlow@niu.edu

Week of the Young Child 2011

Campus Child Care will celebrate the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) Week of the Young Child (WOYC) April 10-16. The theme for WOYC this year is Early Years Are Learning Years. This special week is celebrated annually to remind us of the importance of high-quality early learning opportunities and to celebrate the teachers and programs that are dedicated in providing rich learning experiences to all children and families.

Campus Child Care has a number of activities planned to celebrate this week. All classrooms will contribute to the creation of a flag for the Center. Each classroom will create a portion of the flag, and all pieces will be combined to create the CCC WOYC 2011 flag. The flag will be displayed in the lobby by the end of the week.

Parents are valued and respected in our program and CCC acknowledges that a parent is a child’s first teacher. A family breakfast is planned so that parents can enjoy spending time with their child and the teachers in the classroom. Our program celebrates all families and appreciates the contributions and support parents make to our program and to their child’s teachers.

The NIU community is ‘home’ for many of our children. The children and their teachers will be writing letters inviting members of the NIU community to come in and read books or perhaps enjoy a snack time. Inviting the NIU community into our program is beneficial to the children, faculty, and staff of NIU. Campus Child Care values creating relationships with others on campus; we are building an ‘extended family’ while creating a strong sense of community.
Student Financial Aid Office Important Dates—Spring 2011

FAFSA Fridays
*February 18–May 6, 9:00–11:00 a.m.*
For the second year, the Student Financial Aid Office will host weekly FAFSA Completion Workshops called “FAFSA Fridays.” Advisors are also available throughout the week to assist students with the online submission of their 2011-2012 FAFSA.

FAFSA Priority Filing Date, NIU
*March 1*
We continue to accept and process applications after March 1st, but it is important to note that some financial aid funds run out quickly, so early filing is strongly encouraged.

Prospective Student Saturdays
*March 5, April 2, and April 30, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.*
Student Financial Aid staff members will be available to advise and support prospective students and/or their parents. Phone lines will be open and the office will be staffed for those who prefer in-person advising.

Testing Saturdays
*April 30, May 21, June 4*
Financial aid presentations and individual advising will be available to parents while their students are testing.

Transfer Orientation Presentations
*7:30–8:00 a.m. and 8:00–8:30 a.m.*
Early-bird financial aid presentations will be offered each morning prior to transfer student check-in.

Private Scholarship Searches
Students should be actively searching and applying for private scholarships for 2011-2012.

Summer Enrollment
*March*
Students interested in enrolling at NIU or participating in a Study Abroad Program for the summer semester should visit with a Student Financial Aid Advisor to review whether they have remaining financial aid eligibility and/or other funding options.

Financial Aid Status Check
*May*
All students who are receiving financial aid should plan to stop by and check their 2011-2012 financial aid status before going home for the summer.

Applauding Excellence in Leadership

On the morning of spring commencement, staff members from the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management gather to applaud select graduating seniors who truly exemplify excellence in leadership. The honorees contribute significantly to the quality of campus life by sharing their talents with faculty, staff, fellow NIU students, and the community.

Hosted by Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, Vice President for the Division, the event will include a video presentation, live music, and an awards ceremony, as well as a catered buffet breakfast for the students, their families, close friends, and nominators. For their significant contributions to NIU through their organizational, service, or academic leadership, the honorees will receive a unique NIU Applauding Excellence in Leadership medallion to be proudly worn with their commencement ceremony regalia. The Applauding Excellence in Leadership breakfast will take place at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Nominations are now being accepted and are due to pfisher@niu.edu by Wednesday, March 23.

Additional information and the nomination form can be found at [http://www.stuaff.niu.edu/stuaff/division_employee_resources/events/applauding_excellence.shtml](http://www.stuaff.niu.edu/stuaff/division_employee_resources/events/applauding_excellence.shtml)
How You Can Help Students Connect with Career Services

With hiring season upon us, we offer many services to assist students in launching a successful career post graduation. We need everyone to let us know when students obtain a job or internship. Through the reporting of students’ achievement, we are able to share with new employers the level of academic preparedness they can expect and will receive from our students. Please understand that all data is confidential and, when reported for national statistics, we only report averages. Reporting job and internship employment information helps us make the data available to faculty, employers, and future students (and their parents!)

How You Can Help: Employment data is stored in our database, Victor eRecruiting, in the form of employer lists detailing where our students/graduates are working or interning, current salaries/wages, and types of positions. Please encourage students to take a few minutes to report all jobs/positions (part-time, full-time, internships, or cooperative education experiences) to Career Services on our website at [http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/reporting/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/reporting/index.shtml)

Opportunities Abroad: A priority for career services is educating students about the relationships we have developed with employers and connecting students with those employers. Career Services offers these opportunities:

- **ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING:** During both the fall and spring semesters, employers are on campus actively recruiting students for current and future position openings. After reviewing résumés on the eRecruiting site, many companies conduct the interviews on campus in the Career Services office suites.

- **VICTOR eRECRUITING:** Employers post their open positions on Victor eRecruiting, Career Services’ online job search database ([http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/erecruiting/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/erecruiting/index.shtml)). Students can use Victor eRecruiting to: search for internship, co-op, and full-time positions as well as part-time, off-campus jobs; submit résumés to employers; publish their résumés in résumés books for employers to view; and learn which employers have scheduled campus interviews and other campus events.

- **CAREER FAIRS:** Career Services hosts three career fairs during the spring semester—Internship Fair for internships and cooperative education; Job Fair for full-time employment; and Educators’ Fair for education-related opportunities. During the fall semester, we again host an Internship Fair and Job Fair plus a Health and Human Sciences Job Fair for internships and full-time employment related to this industry. Employers participating in our career fairs are actively seeking students from a broad range of majors. By attending the career fairs, your student may have the opportunity to interview with employers “on the spot” or to be scheduled for a follow-up interview.

- **PERFECT INTERVIEW™:** Perfect Interview™ is a tool available thru Career Services that can assist students with their interviewing skills by answering questions through a recorded, simulated interview. Perfect Interview™ is available to students (who have a webcam) 24/7 on our website ([http://www.perfectinterview.com/niu/](http://www.perfectinterview.com/niu/)) or appointments can be arranged to use Perfect Interview™ in our office.

Encourage your students to become involved with NIU Career Services’ campus recruiting program. Our campus recruiting staff can be contacted by calling 815-753-1641, visiting our website at [www.niu.edu/careerservices](http://www.niu.edu/careerservices), or by e-mail at careerservices@niu.edu. Visit us in the Campus Life Building, Room 220.
LEAD NIU Summit

The Department of Student Involvement and Leadership Development hosted the LEAD NIU Summit on November 12 and 13, 2010, at the Holmes Student Center. The LEAD NIU Summit provided opportunities for Northern Illinois University students to garner valuable knowledge from regional and national leadership experts. These experts included Hill Harper, author of three New York Times bestsellers: *Letters to a Young Brother, Letters to a Young Sister, and The Conversation*. Mr. Harper also stars as Dr. Shelton Hawkes on the hit television drama *CSI:NY*. He is the founder of the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation, dedicated to empowering, encouraging, and inspiring underserved youth to succeed through mentorship, scholarship, and grant programs. Mr. Harper graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Brown University (and was valedictorian of his department) and cum laude with a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He also holds a master’s degree with honors from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

Other leadership experts included Scott J. Allen, Ph.D., who is an assistant professor of management at John Carroll University and the co-author of *Emotionally Intelligent Leadership: A Guide for College Students* (Jossey-Bass) and the corresponding suite of resources (*Facilitation & Activity Guide, Workbook, Facilitation and Activity Guide*). Martha Singleton, Ed.D, is an assistant professor in the Counseling and Special Education department at Central Michigan University. The final speaker was Darion Page, who is an Assistant Director in Student Involvement and Leadership Development at NIU.

In addition to hearing messages from leadership experts, participants divided into small networking teams to participate in targeted discussions and focused team exercises on leadership topics facilitated by NIU staff members. The Lead NIU Summit was made possible through the generous contributions of Mr. David Knight and the Knight family, Student Association, Campus Activities Board, Residence Hall Association, NIU Alumni Association, and the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management.

Fifty-five students were selected to participate in the program. These students ranged from freshman to graduate and represented different majors across the university. Following are some of their reactions to the program:

“I believe this was truly a valuable way to spend my time. I really enjoyed myself. I am walking away with so much knowledge and new ways to think and live.”

“Overall, I believe that this Summit was the most influential and memorable aspect of my journey into NIU. I look forward to attending more events like this as well as hosting and speaking at leadership conferences at NIU myself. Thanks.”

“I did not know what to expect from the Summit, but it was an amazing and empowering experience. I learned a lot and strongly recommend others to participate in the future.”

“This was a very rewarding experience and I am honored to have had so much wisdom and insight bestowed upon me throughout my encounters, conversations, and lectures this weekend.”

“The summit was a great chance for me to meet other leaders at NIU. This seminar pushed my leadership capabilities to new limits. Hill Harper was a phenomenal choice for the keynote speech. His passion and excitement motivated me to accomplish my dreams.”

The LEAD NIU Summit was an overwhelming success. Our office continues to provide involvement and leadership development opportunities for the NIU student body. For additional opportunities and coming event please visit us at [www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement](http://www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement)