CELEBRATE END OF YEAR WITH MPTSS

Come and celebrate with us as Military and Post-Traditional Student Services looks to honor graduates and celebrate the end of the year at our third annual Celebration Ceremony on Monday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m., in the Holmes Student Center’s Capitol Room. All are invited!

Throughout the year, we have highlighted adult learners, faculty and staff who make a difference to our students in this monthly newsletter. At this ceremony, we gather all those featured for a special recognition.

At this ceremony, two special awards are handed out—The Eli Whitney Award for post-traditional student excellence and the Four-Star Award for an outstanding military student.

The Celebration Ceremony is also an excellent opportunity for student veteran graduates to pick up their red, white and blue commencement cords. Post-traditional graduates will receive alumni stickers. Food will be provided and attendees should feel free to dress casually.
ARE YOU GRADUATING IN MAY?

It has officially reached the point in the semester where students should be thinking about graduation! You must submit your online reply form/RSVP by 4 p.m. on April 22.

Students can pick up guest tickets at the Convocation Center Ticket Office (Entrance 2) on Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19, in addition to Monday, April 22, from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. There is a limit of up to 10 tickets per under-graduate students. Before your tickets can be given to you, you will need to complete the online reply/rsvp form. If you are unable to pick up your guest tickets on the date listed above you must e-mail commencement@niu.edu by 4 p.m. April 22 to request tickets be held at the Convocation Center Ticket Office. Then they can be picked up during regular business hours which are M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or on the ceremony day. After April 22, if you haven’t picked up your guest tickets or asked for them to be held via e-mail at commencement@niu.edu, NIU will assume that you do not want your guest tickets and they will no longer be available to you.

**Graduation Times**
Saturday, May 11, 2019
- Ceremony One - 9 a.m.
  - (doors open at 7:30 a.m.)
  - College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Ceremony Two - 1:30 p.m.
  - (doors open at 12:30 p.m.)
  - College of Business
  - College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
  - College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Ceremony Three - 5:30 p.m.
  - (doors open at 4:30 pm)
  - College of Education
  - College of Health & Human Sciences

APRIL IS A MONTH FOR AWARENESS

April the beginning of spring, and a time where students are busy studying for their upcoming finals. April is also Sexual Assault Awareness month. Northern Illinois University and its partners, host events and programs to provide sexual assault education as well as, outreach and support to survivors and those affected by sexual assault.

Safe Passage, DeKalb County’s sexual assault crisis center, is recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month with multiple local events throughout April. On April 6, Safe Passage is hosting its fourth annual “Walk a Mile” event where participants put themselves in the shoes of a survivor to walk a mile in high heels.

On April 16, Safe Passage will host Take Back the Night at the Egyptian Theatre. The event is free and is a way for the community to come together and stand against sexual assault while marching throughout downtown DeKalb. After the march, survivors of sexual abuse will share their experiences through the annual Survivor Speak Out.

On campus, on April 17, NIU will be hosting their own Sexual Assault Awareness Month presentation from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THE FISH HOOK

Each month Associate Director Jeff Salmon shares insights and thoughts with Post-Trads.

The month of April is upon us and it seems we are all scrambling to the finish line.

We hope everyone has a most successful wrap up to the spring semester. It has been cold and dreary, but you all have shined brightly and deserve the best academically.

I’d like to give a special shout out to everyone that is graduating next month. Everybody’s path to graduation is different. Some of you transferred to NIU, others commute from short and far distances, some have transitioned from military service and many of you juggle multiple aspects that make up your work/life balance. We here at MPTSS are proud of all you and hope you join us for our Commencement Ceremony on April 29, at 5:30 p.m., in the Capitol Room of the HSC.

I look forward to this event every year because it’s our chance to celebrate all our wonderful graduates and wish them well in their future careers.
Meet Huskie Staff Member: Michael Zajac

Michael Zajac is the new NIU Associate Dean of Students. He graduated from University of Miami, Ohio, with his undergraduate degree in history and human geography. He then went on to graduate school at ISU and received his master’s degree in History. As an undergraduate student, he identified as a first-generation student. Because of this, he needed to find a job quickly when he began school. He became a student employee working within Student Affairs, specifically working in Student Conduct, and during his master’s degree he was hired as a graduate assistant within Student Conduct. He said these were the jobs that made him realize this could become a career for him.

Since joining NIU, Michael shared that he loves the passion NIU employees and students have. He enjoys the opportunity to get to know students on a daily basis. One piece of advice that he has for students is to be open and ask questions. He expressed how his office is there to help any student with questions, and they can always direct students to appropriate offices. He also believes students should become as involved as possible, and to make the most of their time at NIU.

Outside of work, Michael is a huge sports fan! He expressed that he’s excited to attend upcoming NIU sporting events. He also enjoys spending time with his family and his two dogs. He has a German shepherd and a black lab! When asked about his favorite memory from undergrad, he said it would have to be when he walked across the stage at graduation. He shared that as a first-generation student, this was a significant accomplishment for him as an individual.

Meet Huskie Post-Traditional Student: Roxanne Sorci

Roxanne is a counseling graduate student at NIU. She is going into her third year specializing in clinical mental health. She is hoping to graduate next May. Roxanne is hoping to work with individuals who have more severe mental health implications creating impairment in their every day life.

She chose to go into counseling after taking a year off between her undergraduate and graduate studies. Upon graduation from her undergraduate, she had several options to choose from for her future so she wanted to be certain she made the right choice so during that year she finalized her decision to go to graduate school for clinical counseling.

Roxanne made her decision by reflecting how intimate it is to be a part of someone’s journey through life which is not something most professionals are able to experience.

During downtime, when there is any, Roxanne prefers to paint, read for enjoyment, and be outdoors in the sunshine. Self-care is a major factor for a counseling profession so she had also recently started reading for pleasure and enjoying poetry. Right now, she has been reading a book by Yalom, Gifts of Therapy.

Her favorite memories of NIU thus far include when the weather gets nice and warm and you can finally spend time outdoors. She enjoys reading by the lagoon on campus, one of the hidden gems students are able to enjoy during the spring and summertime.
Child Care Access Means Parents In School Program (CCAMPIS)

Support for parents through NIU Child Development and Family Center

Northern Illinois University’s award-winning, nationally accredited Child Development and Family Center offers families access to exemplary child care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. A new Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS) helps make child care more accessible for NIU students.

What is the CCAMPIS Program?
• Helps support student-parents who need child care assistance in order to remain in school and graduate with a college degree.
• Provides student-parents with additional academic supports.
• Program funded and authorized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Who is eligible?
• Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at NIU, who are Pell eligible, or can demonstrate financial need.
• Students enrolled in at least six credit hours.
• Student families actively enrolled in the Child Development and Family Center.

What is covered in the program?
• Child care scholarships with up to 100 percent cost covered.
• Full and part time options for care.
• Assistance with monitoring healthy child development.
• Student-parent workshops to support parents.
• Mentoring and coaching through a family coordinator.

For details visit go.niu.edu/CDFC or contact Dahlia Roman, 815-753-0125, droman1@niu.edu.
## Upcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Survey</strong></td>
<td>(April 1- May 3)</td>
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<td><strong>Online</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Job Search: 101</strong></td>
<td>(April 3-24, 10-11 a.m.)</td>
<td>IL Worknet Center</td>
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<td>650 N. Peace Rd (Suite B), DeKalb, IL</td>
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<td><strong>Group Fitness Free Week</strong></td>
<td>(April 8-12)</td>
<td>Student Recreation Center</td>
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<td><strong>Outdoor Adventures Starved Rock Waterfall Hike</strong></td>
<td>(April 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>Starved Rock State Park</td>
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<td><strong>Overcoming Fear: Re-training Your Brain- Part 1</strong></td>
<td>(April 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)</td>
<td>Holmes Student Center</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<td><strong>Flute Studio Recital</strong></td>
<td>(April 16, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)</td>
<td>Music Building</td>
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