Hello! My name is Emily Holmes and I am the Director of the Office of Leadership and Student Involvement at Southern Miss. As the academic year comes to a close, I wanted to tell you about some of the leadership opportunities for your students to consider for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Nestled in the center of campus, in the Union Complex, is the Hub, which houses the Office of Leadership and Student Involvement. Charged with providing quality student engagement experiences on campus, the office oversees more than 200 student organizations and the over 6,000 students active in at least one organization. One of the main focuses of this office is to provide student leadership opportunities.

The Office of Leadership and Student Involvement offers a wealth of student leadership development opportunities throughout the year. All students are encouraged to join student organizations and to step out of their comfort zone as the leaders of these organizations, as well. Student organization leaders are in direct contact with the office and have resources such as a Leadership Library available to them for free.

In recognizing that students can become leaders through additional opportunities rather than just student organizations, the office also provides a Student Leadership Workshop series, which showcases faculty and staff on a variety of topics related to leadership development. We also host an annual Student Leadership Summit each spring with an open application to all Southern Miss students to attend. This event is like a traditional conference where attendees select from numerous educational sessions designed to enhance their leadership capacity.

Finally, in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, the office coordinates the Leadership Experience Certificate program. This is the only for-credit undergraduate certificate program offered at Southern Miss. Students learn more about the basics of leadership theory and practice and get hands-on experience in the classroom working on a social change project to benefit their community.

For more about the office, visit www.usm.edu/lsi.

Emily D. Holmes, Director of Leadership & Student Involvement

Sophomore Programming

The 2017-18 academic year is quickly coming to a close and the Office of New Student and Retention Programs is already preparing for a full fall 2018 semester. Out of the many programs available to students through our office, this month we wanted to highlight our sophomore programming. In fall 2017, we created a new program just for second year students called Spark. Within the Spark program, we explore career options, leadership development, and academic
The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth.
~John F. Kennedy

A Message From Career Services

We know by now that internships are important. Students who have interned will earn a starting salary that is 28% higher than those who did not engage in an internship. Additionally, 72.2% of students receive full-time job offers from the companies where they interned. As the spring semester winds down and your student begins to think about his/her upcoming summer internship, keep some of these tips in mind.

They should use the internship as a springboard into the working world by making an effort to develop what employers call soft skills. These skills include:

- Communication skills: written and verbal
- Interpersonal abilities: develop personal insight in order to engage with others
- Critical thinking: analyze, interpret, and reason
- Professionalism/Work Ethic: demonstrate personal accountability and work habits

The internship is a valuable resource that has the potential to jumpstart a career. Your student should pursue relationships with everyone in the department. If your student has free time, encourage him/her to meet others in different departments and learn what they do. This will help them start to build their professional network, which may result in many benefits – short and long term.

Ensure your student understands the need to be professional all the times. They should dress professionally, and be mindful of the needs of others. Keep conversations on the tame side, and related to work unless the manager brings up a topic that is outside the bounds of their task.

Remind them that this internship is a resource, and to make the most of this opportunity. They should update their resume with skills learned and results achieved. Developing success “stories” to share in interviews can also be helpful. Ultimately, encouraging them to have a strong work ethic, build relationships, and develop communication skills will pay off.

Time Flies When You’re Working Hard!

Somehow, we find ourselves in April here in Hattiesburg. Your students are in their final month of classes for the spring semester, with finals and commencement closing out the year in early May. In this edition of the newsletter, we wanted to discuss some useful resources for your students returning to Southern Miss this fall. Hopefully, you found the information on the Spark Sophomore program, leadership development, and internship strategies informative and useful.

I also wanted to let you know that this is the last newsletter you will receive from NSRP for the year. We will spend the summer helping welcome the next new class of golden eagles and planning another year of programming for all of our students. Please check our social media pages over the summer for updates from our office and information about the Parent and Family Tailgate for fall 2018. If you need assistance with anything, know that we are here all summer and are always happy to help members of our extended Southern Miss family.

You can always reach us at 601.266.6405 or nsrp@usm.edu!

SMTTT,
Katie McBride

Upcoming Events on Campus

University Forum--Reporting Sex Trafficking, Genocide...
April 10 at 6:30pm, Bennett Auditorim

SSS Workshop--“The Art of Public Speaking”
April 16 at 3:30pm, McLemore 205

Undergraduate Research Symposium
April 21

Finals Week
May 7-10

Commencement Ceremonies
May 11 at 9:00am & 3:00pm, Reed Green Coliseum