10 KEY WAYS TO BE SUPPORTIVE

Students are testing the waters and developing their own voice at college, yet they can’t do it without your love and support.

1. Ask your student about what he’s LEARNING instead of always focusing on grades. When he gets to talk about what he’s learning, it helps reinforce what he’s discovering in class, plus it helps him practically apply his academic learning.

2. Talk about FRIENDS at school without grilling her. Ask a few leading questions, like “So, what have you been up to?” or follow up by asking about a friend she mentioned in a previous conversation. Even if you haven’t met these friends yet, they are a new “family” she is creating for herself and hold great importance in her life. But don’t worry – you’re not being replaced! It’s a healthy, natural thing for young people to do.

3. Encourage your student to get INVOLVED. Research shows that students who engage in campus life feel more satisfied with their experience, often do better in class, plus it helps him practically apply his academic learning, and may balk at the same time. Plus, he’ll gain great leadership skills that will be helpful in getting a job after college and throughout his life!

4. Discuss COMING HOME, if your student lives away at school, before the first occasion arises. There will be a changing dynamic, as she’ll be used to having freedom and self-responsibility at school, and may balk at the same time rules she used to abide by. Talk about how to handle this, figure out where you’re both willing to compromise and enjoy the fact that your visits won’t have to be spent fighting over these kinds of details!

5. LISTEN when your student is trying to work something out. Don’t interrupt with immediate solutions or advice, as figuring things out for himself is a key part of growing into adulthood.

6. By the same token, DON’T JUMP IN to solve things for your student when she’s struggling. It’s certainly fine to listen and talk things through. Yet, when it comes to action, it’s really important that your student go to that office to ask questions or visit a professor during office hours to better understand why she received the grade that she did. You can challenge her to take these actions while supporting her every step of the way.

7. SEND MAIL when your student will be least expecting it. In the midst of stressful times, tests and a million priorities, he will welcome a piece of mail, letting him know that he’s on your mind.

8. Try NOT TO OVERCOMMUNICATE with your student via all the various tech tools at your disposal. Emails, texts, Instant Messages, Tweets, Facebook chats, phone calls and more are all welcome! Yet, just because you can use these mediums whenever possible, it doesn’t mean you have to always be in touch. It’s all part of your student’s growth process so she feels comfortable standing on her own feet and making decisions without always checking in.

9. Be ready to EMBRACE CHANGE as it comes. Perhaps your student will change political views because of an issue on campus or decide that he wants to explore another spiritual path. Change may also come in the shape of your relationship with your student. He will be developing his own voice and opinions – and you may not always see eye to eye. Yet, if you can step back and see this being part of his development, rather than open defiance, you’re bound to engage in some interesting, eye-opening conversations!

10. Let your student know that you TRUST her. This will lead to more self-confidence and an ability to stand up for what he believes is right. He’ll also be better able to say “no” in certain situations so he can maintain that sense of trust. Nothing will be perfect, yet knowing that folks back home trust and respect his decisions can go a long, long way.


THE BIG 5-0

To (loosely) paraphrase George Orwell, every academic year at John Jay is special, but some years are more special than others.

The 2014-2015 school year will a singular milestone in the life of the College, as the community celebrates the 50th Anniversary of John Jay’s founding. The celebration will kick off formally on September 17 with a Convocation featuring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and will continue almost without let-up through the 2015 Commencement ceremonies next May.

“Over five decades ago, a small and dedicated group of academic visionaries came together to develop a plan for a new college representing a new idea... that a liberal arts education, with a focus on issues of justice, will advance our democracy’s pursuit of the common good,” President Jeremy Travis observed in an August 19 e-mail to the college community. “That vision has come true. John Jay College is a unique and powerful educational institution that has made a difference in our world. This year we honor those who had this vision, those who saved the College when it was almost closed, and those who built the remarkable institution that we love.”

The September 17 Convocation for new students will include remarks by Justice Sotomayor, a Bronx native who is the first Latina on the Supreme Court. The event will take place during the Community Hour, and the Justice is also planning to meet with select groups of students before and after the Convocation.

A planning group, chaired by interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies Allison Pease, put together a suite of events and other offerings to mark the milestone anniversary. One of the more whimsical was the arrival on August 19 of the new ‘Lil Jays, a six-inch bobblehead representation of the College’s namesake. Hundreds of ‘Lil Jays will be distributed on campus, and members of the community are invited to take pictures of the statuette in various settings and post the images on social media.

Written by: Peter Dodenhoff, Senior Editor/Writer

On December 8, a life-size statue of John Jay will be unveiled in the Kroll Atrium. Produced by StudioEIS, one of the nation’s foremost designers of historical statuary, the bronze icon will take its place during a special ceremony that will be followed by the screening of a new film commemorating 50 years of the College.

Throughout the year, members of the college community and campus visitors will be able to view an engaging timeline of the history of John Jay that will be on display in the Haaren Hall Lobby. The timeline, “A History of Educating for Justice,” will include a complementary digital exhibition.

Other commemorations planned for the 50th Anniversary include a “Future of Justice” expression contest; art installations; an “Acts of Justice” community service initiative; special alumni events, including a weekend-long Alumni Reunion in April 2015; and in May, the College’s 50th Commencement ceremony.

A full roster of events can be found on a special Web site created for the anniversary, at http://johnjay.jay.cuny.edu/j50/.

Written by: Peter Dodenhoff, Senior Editor/Writer

John Jay College’s Family Connection Newsletter
Office of Student Transition Programs
September 2014
Welcome to Fall 2014 at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. If your student is new to John Jay or a returning student, a short FAQ about Student Health Services will be useful for you. Student Health Services at John Jay is an on-campus health care service for all enrolled students.

Our Office provides low cost, high quality health care services and medical treatment for ill or injured students whether they have health insurance or not! We are YOUR student’s on campus source for health care and education in health matters. We are a small, dedicated staff that keeps health as our priority. Our health professionals include nurse practitioners, a fitness professional/nutritionist, and a certified health educator that serves as a knowledgeable resource for health related questions, concerns, or information.

Whether your student needs a physical examination, vaccination (MMR, Meningitis, and Flu), is feeling ill, or has a health question, we will work to meet their health care needs.

To help your student stay healthy and remain active in all the things they love to do, we will be offering the following events in September:

- Open House: 9/9/2014 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Rm. L 67.00NB
- Alcohol & Drug Awareness: 9/17/2014, 10am - 3pm, Atrium
- World Heart Day (Wear Red Day): 9/20/2014, 10am - 3pm, Atrium
- Free HIV Testing: Tuesdays 10am – 3pm, L67.00NB

Students can expect to spend up to five hours per week in the course, which will include video lectures, readings and discussions.

We’re very proud to be able to offer the public a free course of this caliber,” said Feng Wang, director of John Jay Online.

"Even a decade ago, this would not have been possible. Thanks to today’s technology, anyone with an Internet connection, no matter where they live or what their educational level is, can participate in a rich academic experience with classmates from around the world, taught by one of the brightest thinkers of our time.”

To learn more and register for this free course, please visit johnjayonline.com/slavery.

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