

Freshman Mistakes Part 2

Over spring break I had a chance to talk with an assistant professor at the University of West Virginia. He described to me an issue he recently ran into when a parent contacted him about her child's failing grade and it seemed to the professor the parent was trying to bargain with him. "I probably shouldn't even have taken the call since he (the student) is an adult and should handle his own business, but I did. The student's mother said to me, 'Well, my son came to your lectures, surely that should count for some extra credit for his grade;' I hung up on her right then," he said. For the professor, it wasn't the shock that somebody tried to bargain a grade with him; the real shock was that the student in question wasn't the one talking to him about it. In college, the expectation is that a student will be treated as an adult (albeit, a very young and sometimes immature one) and should handle their own business as an adult.

Once students enter into the college atmosphere, they should understand that the world now sees them as adults and they will be held to an adult level of accountability. Professor-student relationships are a part of the new adult world to which they need to learn to adjust.

Unlike what they may have been accustomed to in the past, this new adult world in academia usually leaves little wiggle-room for negotiations, deals, or do-overs on exams. Students are expected to participate in the experience, seek assistance when needed, and produce at a high level.

While this may seem like common sense, a lot of students and families struggle with this transition. Some students, like in the example above, will revert to seeking parental intervention to make a bad grade or a past mistake go away. In turn, some parents forget that their child is an adult now and must learn to handle things on their own.

This does not mean you cannot provide your child with assistance. When conflicts or difficult situations arise, students should rely on their parents for advice and take their opinions into consideration. But the heavy-lifting should be on the student's shoulders, not the parent's.

Think about your child for a moment and imagine if he/she was no longer your child but a colleague of yours. If your child was working with you and assigned to your project team, how would you react if: his dad called the supervisor to chal-

lenge his performance review, his mom had access to your team's online discussion board and project timelines, his dad rewrote some of his project assignments, or his dad called your supervisor to complain about you? In four or five short years, your child will be entering the workforce. At that time, he/she will need to have the skills employers want, such as adaptability, commitment, good communication skills, cooperation, honesty, initiative, and dependability. These skills will be enhanced in college, but only if your child is allowed to learn them with minimal outside assistance. Students will be better served if they learn to handle their own business and recognize the importance of managing their responsibilities.

- David Kelley



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SENIOR EDITION

APRIL 11TH, 2013

Scholarship Watch

- Julie Ploessl Memorial Scholarship
Private Scholarship
This scholarship is open to all Wahlert seniors who plan to pursue a career in nursing.
For more information, students should stop by the Wahlert counseling office to pick up an application.
Deadline: April 15th
Potential Award: \$600
- East Dubuque Lions Club Scholarship
Private Scholarship
This scholarship is open to all Wahlert seniors who reside in the area served by East Dubuque School District #119.
For more information, students should stop by the Wahlert counseling office to pick up an application.
Deadline: April 15th
Potential Award: \$1000
- Brett Buse Memorial Scholarship
Private Scholarship
This scholarship is open to all Wahlert seniors who plan to pursue further education. Students are asked to write a short essay about a significant personal or familial challenge they have faced.
For more information, Students should stop by the Wahlert counseling office to pick up an application.
Deadline: April 20th
Potential Award: \$500
- Dubuque Rotary Club
Private Scholarship
This scholarship is open to all Wahlert seniors who is a person of strong character and has been active in service opportunities in the community. For more information, students should stop by the Wahlert counseling office to pick up an application.
Deadline: April 20th
Potential Award: \$500
- Dubuque Area Credit Grantors Association
Private Scholarship
This scholarship is open to all Wahlert seniors who plan to attend a college in the tri-state area and major in the areas of business, finance, or accounting.
For more information, students should stop by the Wahlert counseling office to pick up an application.
Deadline: April 26th
Potential Award: \$500
- Dubuque Bank & Trust Scholarship
Private Scholarship
This scholarship is open to all Wahlert seniors who plan to attend a college in the tri-state area.
For more information, students should stop by the Wahlert counseling office to pick up an application.
Deadline: April 26th
Potential Award: \$500