Late Nite: Making a Difference

Student alcohol consumption is a concern that college campuses all over the country are addressing. According to the National Institutes of Health, approximately four out of five college students drink alcohol, and about half of those who consume alcohol will binge drink. College drinking can have several negative effects, including injury, academic problems, sexual abuse, and assault.

Ball State has been a leader in providing students alcohol-free options to reduce underage drinking and associated risky behaviors, and our Late Nite program is one of the largest in the country. Late Nite began in 2001 as a monthly program. Today, Ball State hosts a Late Nite event every Saturday that residence halls are open (30 times per year), and in 2015-2016, total attendance was 35,997. Late Nite events, offered from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., are themed parties and feature different elements such as inflatables, interactive games, movies, crafts, dancing, free bowling, food, and more.

"We looked into the effectiveness of the Late Nite program by comparing alcohol citations on Fridays, when there is no Late Nite event, and Saturdays, when Late Nite provides an alternative environment for students," said Alicia Fitzgerald, assistant director of Student Center programs. "Friday violations are greater than Saturday violations. This indicates that providing a Late Nite event for students contributes to reduced alcohol citations. Given that Saturdays also pose a high risk time, we found this data especially encouraging."

Citations of two common offenses—consumption of alcohol by a minor and public intoxication—have decreased since Late Nite was created. The graphs to the right identify the number of citations during the first three years of Late Nite (2001-2003), when the program occurred once per month, and the most recent data (2012-2014).

"Both consumption by a minor and public intoxication citations have decreased significantly as Late Nite continues to grow," Fitzgerald said.

Surveys conducted during every Late Nite event indicate that participants overwhelmingly plan to attend Late Nite events again, with 94.2 percent indicating they plan to attend again during 2014-2015. Late Nite continues to grow and provide exciting events for students to participate in every week.

"The first Late Nite event of 2016-2017 saw a record-breaking 3,015 people attend," Fitzgerald said. "Late Nite remains a Ball State tradition for students, and an example for many other universities. Our program has provided guidance and assistance for other schools to create similar programs, including working with Indiana University, Indiana State University, and La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. We are proud of the impact Late Nite has had on the Ball State campus and the worldwide reputation for excellence."

Late Nite events are free to students with a Ball State ID. If your student would like to learn more or get involved, they can visit bsu.edu/late_nite
App, Opportunities for Involvement among Initiatives to Improve Inclusion

Ball State’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), established in 2015 to listen and respond to students’ issues and recommendations raised during a campuswide dialogue event in March that year, continues to make a positive impact on campus. The dialogue event—given the name Beneficence Dialogue—continues this fall semester.

The council comprises students, faculty, and staff, and provides programs, services, and campus involvement opportunities for students. Beth Messner, associate professor of communication studies, and Ro Anne Royer Engle, interim associate vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, are cochairpersons of the council.

New in fall 2016 is the B3: Breaking Bias at Ball State University App. This tool, created by the council in partnership with Digital Corps and with input from students, is designed to inform, engage, and empower users. B3 is available in the Apple App store and Google Play. Key features include:

- definitions of terms such as bias, bias incidents, hate crimes, freedom of speech, microagression, protected group status, and prejudice
- guidance on responding to bias incidents
- links to reporting options for persons affected by bias incidents
- information about campus resources

“It is a powerful and user-friendly tool for people who want direct access to campus information and resources regarding diversity,” says Royer Engle.

Other student-oriented programs and services implemented from student recommendations through CDI include:

- Multicultural Advisory Board—Comprising students from various organizations on campus, the advisory board serves as a student voice regarding issues of diversity and inclusion. The board will work closely with the Multicultural Center to identify students’ concerns, serve as a sounding board for the university in addressing concerns, and act as a liaison to students and administrators regarding issues.

- MOSAIC Peer Advocate Leaders Program—MOSAIC is a social justice peer education program whose mission is to engage undergraduate students in open dialogues focused on diversity and social justice topics to promote awareness, change, and intergroup understanding.

- REACH Peer Mentor Program—The REACH (Retain, Engage, Aspire, Connect, Help) Peer Mentorship program is designed to assist participants in successfully transitioning to life as Ball State students. The program helps participants adjust to the academic, social, personal, and professional challenges experienced by first-year students. The program serves first-year students with a focus on Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students as mentees.

If your student wants to learn more or become involved in any of these initiatives, encourage them to contact the Multicultural Center at 765-285-1344.

“Through my short time working with the Council of Diversity and Inclusion, it is apparent that the university is working tirelessly on making this campus safe for all,” says Carlos Mata, a senior telecommunications major. “It makes me proud to see some of the new initiatives from this committee come into fruition.”

The university will continue to support the Council on Diversity and Inclusion through mandatory one-time and on-going training for faculty and staff regarding diversity through the Office of Institutional Diversity and through the annual Beneficence Dialogue held each fall semester.

“Dr. Messner and I are energized by the progress the council has made and continues to make toward addressing the student recommendations that have come from the Beneficence Dialogue,” Royer Engle says. “This is very important work for the institution, and the council members are committed to improving campus inclusivity through these initiatives. The Beneficence Pledge challenges all members of the Ball State community to act in a socially responsible way and to value the intrinsic worth of every member, and that helps guide the council’s actions.

“The council is most efficient and effective when all areas of campus are represented, but we particularly like to have student input because everything we do impacts the experiences of the students we serve and educate. The student members play a crucial role on the council.”

For more information, see bsu.edu/diversity

Dates to Remember

October 22
Homecoming

October 26
Course withdrawal period for fall semester ends

October 31
Spring course registration begins

November 23
Residence halls close at 8 a.m.

November 23–27
Thanksgiving recess—no classes
University offices open Wednesday

November 27
Residence halls open at 9 a.m.

November 28
Classes resume

December 13–16
Final examination period

December 16
Fall semester ends

December 17
Commencement
Residence halls close at 4 p.m.

December 17–January 8
Semester break

January 8
Residence halls open at 9 a.m.

January 9
Spring semester classes begin

For more events and key dates, visit bsu.edu/calendar.
Near Record Number of New Students

Ball State University welcomed 21,998 students to campus this fall, making this the university’s third-largest student body in 20 years. This year’s freshman class, totaling 3,911, is the third-largest class of freshmen in Ball State history.

Importantly, this year’s freshman class also continues the tradition of strong academic abilities, posting an average high school grade point average of 3.45, and 71 percent of this year’s freshman class earned the Indiana Academic Honors Diploma or its equivalent, an 8-point increase since 2012.

“The total on-campus and off-campus enrollment is 21,998, an increase of 802 over last year,” said Kay Bales, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services and Dean of Students.

Retention of freshmen from fall 2015, another measure of institutional success, topped 81 percent. This marks the third consecutive year the university surpassed its strategic plan goal of 80 percent. The total of new undergraduate transfer students to the main campus is 796, up 28 from last year. This is the second-largest transfer class in the last 20 years.

“The quality and diversity of this class reflects the great work that occurs each day by faculty, staff, and students who not only tell, but live, the Ball State story,” Bales said. “That means engaging in entrepreneurial learning and leadership development, and getting involved and giving back to our communities.”

Interim President Terry King said the incoming class is further evidence that Ball State University remains on a positive, steady trajectory.

“We continue to recruit great students and excellent faculty and staff members, and we are in a good place,” King said. “And as our alumni recently reminded us, we have done, and we’ll continue to do, the important work of providing students a great foundation upon which they can build a happy, successful life.”

Other statistical highlights about this year’s classes include:

- More than 19 percent of new domestic freshmen are from underrepresented minority groups, surpassing the 17 percent strategic plan goal.
- 175 percent of new students are from outside Indiana.
- The average SAT for the new freshman class is 1,611, above the national norm.

Advice for Your Student to Manage Money

An important part of the college student experience is learning to manage money, perhaps for the first time. There are many options competing for the student’s dollars. Whether it’s pizza, books, gasoline, or something else, there are choices to be made.

“Along with academics and campus involvement, a focus on personal finances should be a top student priority,” said Dave Mathews, senior assistant director at the Office of Financial Aid. “This is in part because bills add up quickly and, when that happens, so does the stress.”

Mathews offered several great tips for students:

**READ:** Students and parents need to read all email communication in detail and use the provided checklists to assure that everything is getting done on schedule.

**PLAN:** One crucial date worth mentioning is March 10, the annual FAFSA deadline. When students miss this deadline they lose eligibility for significant financial help during the next academic year.

**COMMUNICATE:** Students should notify the Office of Financial Aid if anything changes in their family’s financial circumstances. Examples would be a parent loses his/her job, parents become separated or divorced, or a parent dies. When in doubt about the circumstance and its possible impact, visit the Financial Aid office website or call 765-285-6600.

**BUDGET:** For everyday expenses students should set up a budget. Use loan, grant, and scholarship money for school expenses. Use money earned from working or sent from home for groceries, the phone bill, and entertainment. Monitor your budget regularly and adjust when necessary.

- At Ball State, four out of five students qualify for financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, and other sources
- The average Ball State student borrows $27,000, lower than the national average of $35,000
- 95 percent of Ball State graduates are paying their loans back on time
The information presented here, correct at the time of publication, is subject to change.

Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.

Stay Connected
We welcome your questions and comments as we partner with you to ensure your student enjoys a fulfilling and successful experience at Ball State and beyond. Email Katie Slabaugh, associate dean of students/Title IX coordinator, at kstabaugh@bsu.edu, call 765-285-1545, or write to her at the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Bracken Administration Building, room 238, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0830.

Ball State University Telephone Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator</td>
<td>765-285-1545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bursar</td>
<td>765-285-1643</td>
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<td>Campus Information</td>
<td>765-285-5000</td>
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<td>Career Center</td>
<td>765-285-1522</td>
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<td>Counseling Center</td>
<td>765-285-1736</td>
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<td>Dining</td>
<td>765-285-1967</td>
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<td>Disability Services</td>
<td>765-285-5203</td>
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<td>Financial Aid and Scholarships</td>
<td>765-285-5600</td>
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<td>Health Center</td>
<td>765-285-8431</td>
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<td>Housing and Residence Life</td>
<td>765-285-8000</td>
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<td>Learning Center</td>
<td>765-285-1006</td>
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<td>Multicultural Center</td>
<td>765-285-1344</td>
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<td>Parking Services</td>
<td>765-285-1208</td>
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<td>Police</td>
<td>765-285-1111</td>
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<td>Registrar and Enrollment Services</td>
<td>765-285-1722</td>
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<td>Retention and Graduation Specialists</td>
<td>765-285-3312</td>
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<td>Student Legal Services</td>
<td>765-285-1888</td>
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<td>Student Life</td>
<td>765-285-2621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Rights and Community Standards</td>
<td>765-285-5036</td>
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Many of these offices can be reached using the university’s toll-free number, 800-382-8540. Campus information is always available at bsu.edu.