



## College Preparation Toolkit

### Parent Connection

The vast majority of schools are now developing communication pipelines specifically aimed at parents. These pipelines can start as early as the application process, and continue on throughout the college experience. Here are a few things to look for:

#### **Campus Events**

It's nice to know what your student may or may not be up to on campus. Campus event calendars are posted on nearly every school's website. From free concerts to art exhibitions, the events calendar covers A to Z!

#### **Discounts**

Many schools have information available to help parents save some cash while visiting their student. Request information on discounts for lodging and restaurants, etc. There may also be discounts available for books and other supplies from online and local retailers.

#### **Parent Information Page**

Schools are making a greater effort to keep parents informed; parent information pages on their websites are part of that push. Not every school has a parent page, but they are becoming more popular and are a great resource.

#### **Parent News/E-letter**

These communiqués contain information on opportunities your student may be eligible for, such as travel and volunteer projects. They may also be your main source of information on activities and events if your student isn't the communicative type.

#### **Parent-to-Parent Virtual Communities**

Some universities, along with a host of unassociated websites such as [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and <http://www.collegeconfidential.com> are connecting college parents with other parents from the same school. This gives parents a chance to swap information, share tips and ideas, offer support, etc.

#### **Parent Weekends**

Parent weekends are a great opportunity to visit campus after your student is safely settled. They are often scheduled around sporting events. Numerous activities are planned to get you out and about on campus – with or without your student.

#### **Shopping Lists**

Wonder what to pack for your student's freshman year? Schools usually provide parents with lists: for the dorm, for the classroom, for life in general. These lists have been refined by the schools and critiqued by parents that have come before you. To say these lists are a resource is an understatement!

#### **Reaching Out After School Starts**

Think about ways to connect with your child after classes start. Ideas include keeping in touch via telephone and text message, but gift certificates and care packages in the mail are universally well received by college students.

- [knowhow2gomichigan.org](http://knowhow2gomichigan.org)
- [michigan.gov/mentormichigan](http://michigan.gov/mentormichigan)