

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE



Bengal Family Newsletter February 2022

Opening Statement from the Dean of Students



Dear Bengal Families,

As we approach the "second quarter" of the semester, I want to remind family members that **we are here to assist you in supporting your student**. Buffalo State's **Counseling Center** offers support to students who are navigating new relationships, work and money issues, academic stress, the changing landscape of the nation during the pandemic, and other things that may arise. We are a support system for our Bengals, and I want to remind you to send students our way when they need to speak to someone. We are here to normalize the need for support during this time. Remind students to stay connected on campus and with their friends and family. If you see any concerning changes in your student, please **reach out to our Care Team** for more direct outreach for your student.

One of the best things students can do is **stay engaged on campus**. Remind students to **follow us on social media**, participate in a **United Students Government** meeting, stop by the Union tabling events during **Bengal Pause** from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, make an appointment with their faculty during office hours to discuss their major, drop by the **Academic Success** wing of the E.H. Butler Library, or watch a Bengals team **athletic event** on campus. If you have any questions about student involvement or support on campus, please reach out to me directly at deanofstudents@buffalostate.edu. I am looking forward to warmer days as the semester progresses!

Sincerely,
Sarah Young, Dean of Students

Students Encouraged to Attend Programs to Explore Inclusion and Equity

Throughout the spring semester, students are encouraged to attend programs hosted by the **Office of Inclusion and Equity** to *Reconnect, Reengage, and Renew* through the exploration of inclusion and equity. February is Black History Month and students are invited to attend Men of Merit on February 24 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Michael Heflin, Assistant Dean of Inclusion and Equity at **716-878-6235** or heflinma@buffalostate.edu.

Office of Inclusion & Equity

"Reconnect, Reengage, and Renew through Exploration of Inclusion and Equity"

February <i>Black History Month</i>	March <i>Women's History Month</i>	April <i>Celebrating Pride Month</i>
February 10, 2022 - Men of Merit 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA	March 10, 2022 - Men of Merit 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA	April 7, 2022 - Men of Merit 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA
February 15, 2022 - Conversations w/ Hef Honoring Black History Month 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA	March 15, 2022 - Conversations w/ Hef Honoring Women's History Month 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA	April 15, 2022 - Buff State Drag Show Time/Location TBA
February 16, 2022 - Diversity Programming: Microaggressions 4:30pm-6:00pm, Location TBA	March 16, 2022 - Diversity Programming: Cultural Competence 4:30pm-6:00pm, Location TBA	April 19, 2022 - Conversations w/ Hef Honoring Pride Month 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA
February 24, 2022 - Men of Merit 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA	March 18, 2022 - Women's Leadership Conference Time/Location TBA	April 20, 2022 - Diversity Programming: Unconscious Bias 4:30pm-6:00pm, Location TBA
May <i>Asian Pacific Heritage Month</i> May 6, 2022 - Lavender Graduation Time/Location TBD	March 24, 2022 - Men of Merit 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA	April 21, 2022 - Men of Merit 12:15pm-1:30pm, Location TBA
		April 29, 2022 - Men's Leadership Conference Time/Location TBA

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Michael Heflin, Assistant Dean of Inclusion & Equity
Campbell Student Union, 402
heflinma@buffalostate.edu, (716)878-6235

 @bsc_inclusionequity   @bsc_inclequity

Free Tax-Prep Sessions Offered for Eligible Individuals from February to April 2022



In partnership with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Buffalo State College will offer **free facilitated self-assisted tax return preparation sessions** for eligible individuals including students, alumni, community members, faculty, and staff from February to April 2022. This opportunity allows you to complete and file your New York State and federal taxes with the support of volunteers. Department of Taxation and Finance staff members will provide an overview of the computer software via video conference, and you'll have a 90-minute to two-hour video session to complete your filing. **Registration is required in advance.** Video conference sessions are available at 8:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. on February 18 or 25; March 4, 11, 18, or 25; or April 1, 8, or 15. If you do not have the ability to video conference, please register for an on-campus session between March 4 and April 15 to access a reserved computer lab space. **Learn more about the free tax-prep sessions, what to bring to your session, and find answers to frequently asked questions.**

Tell Students: Get Ready to Sign Up for Fall 2022 Housing!



It's almost time for students to sign up for residential housing for the fall 2022 semester! The housing license and dining application for the 2022-2023 academic year will soon be available for students to complete and select their room. Students will be notified of the following information:

- Students will receive a message to their Buffalo State email with specific instructions on how to complete the housing license and dining application. It will be available in their myHousing account under the student tab in Banner.
- **Important note:** the housing license and dining application is a legally binding document, so students should not complete it as a backup.

- A reminder about the housing requirement:
All full-time first year and second year students whose permanent residence is beyond a 35-mile radius of the college are required to reside on campus FOR 4 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS OR UNTIL 60 CREDITS HAVE BEEN EARNED AT BUFFALO STATE, whichever comes first. Pre-college credits, advanced placement credits, CLEP credits, and the like are not considered. Exemptions from this requirement include: married students, single parents, veterans, students over the age of 21, and students commuting from the home of their parent(s) or court appointed guardian(s) if within a 35-mile radius of the Residence Life Office, License Terms and Conditions last updated 10/2019 Page 6 of 25 college. The home address must be the address listed on the college application. Living with a family member that is not a parent or legally appointed guardian does not meet the requirements to live off campus. Additionally, students cannot change their address to that of local housing entity and provide that as proof without two forms of proof (i.e. utility bill, medical bill, current paystub) indicating it is a permanent residence.
 - There is a non-refundable \$125 application fee to complete the license. This amount is not in addition to the housing costs, it will be taken off of students' total cost for the fall semester.
 - **Review the residential housing costs for the 2022-2023 academic year.**
 - After completing the license, students will receive instructions on how to participate in roommate selection and room selection, which will occur in March 2022.
-

May 2022 Graduation Application Deadline



Please remind seniors who are expecting to graduate (earn their degree) in May 2022 that the deadline to submit their online graduation application is 11:59 p.m. on February 27. Students who miss the deadline to apply online should contact the Registrar's Office at regofc@buffalostate.edu to request late consideration for graduation. Late applicants may experience a delay in the awarding of their degrees.

Please note: the current online graduation application is for the awarding of a May 2022 degree. Any premature applications will be withdrawn after the application window closes. The application for August 2022 degree candidates will become available on April 18.

The minimum number of credit hours for an undergraduate degree is 120. Students should review their **Degree Works** audit to make sure all requirements are being met before applying.

For questions or technical issues, please contact the Registrar's Office at **716-878-4811**.

Spring Break Preparation Tips



Weigel Health Promotions shares the following self-care and safety tips as students prepare for upcoming spring break:

Self-Care Tips and Programs

- Find self-care tips, tricks, resources, and upcoming events and programs in the free online [Weigel Health Promotions Self-Care Kit](#).
- Discover new health and wellness tips each month by reading [The Promotional Newsletter](#).
- Follow Weigel Health Promotions on social media:
 - Like us on [Facebook](#) (Buffalo State Health Promotions)
 - Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@BSCHealthPromo)
 - Watch us on [YouTube](#) (BSCHealthPromotions)
 - Find us on [Instagram](#) (@Buffalostate_healthpromotions)
 - Follow us on [Pinterest](#) (bschealthpromo)

Travel Preparation Tips

If your student is planning to travel for spring break, advise them to follow these preparation tips, if applicable:

- Verify your passport is up to date. A U.S. Passport can technically be denied for travel to some countries if you plan on traveling within 6 months before the printed expiration date. For more information, [read #17 on travel.state.gov](#). Please note: [in 2022, passport processing is estimated to be 8-11 weeks \(routine\) and 5-7 weeks \(expedited\)](#).
- Download the [NYS Excelsior Plus App](#) to provide your COVID-19 vaccine card any test results.
- Ensure you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. Note that some countries require additional specific vaccines.
- Review [Buffalo State's COVID-19 Toolkit](#) for help navigating COVID-19 policies and safety tips.
- Research COVID-19 protocols, contactless pay options, and safety locations for where you are traveling. [Review COVID-19 safety tips for travelers on the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) website](#).
- Notify your bank that you will be traveling.
- Carry phone numbers, a credit or debit card, and some cash. Note some locations may be cashless.
- Update the emergency contacts or settings in your phone in case it is lost or stolen, or in case someone needs to connect with your emergency contacts.
- Ensure you have enough medication to last you a few extra days in case there are any travel delays or emergencies. If necessary, you may be able to request for your pharmacy to contact your insurance company to fill your prescription early.
- When making travel accommodations, consider avoiding making reservations on the first floor of an Airbnb or hotel as they can be more prone to theft.

Travel Safety Tips

If your student is traveling for spring break, advise them to follow these safety tips during their travel:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
 - Drink responsibly, stay with your friends, and make a plan in case you are separated.
 - Protect your location on social media sites but consider sharing your location with loved ones.
 - Be mindful of traveling and cyber scams
 - Wear sunscreen and stay hydrated but be cautious about drinking tap water.
 - Have fun, relax, and enjoy yourself responsibly!
-

Student Leader Highlights

Each month we will highlight various student leaders on campus. Meet the following student leaders who stood out in February!

Shianne Cooke, Student Health Ambassador



Shianne Cooke is a senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in Criminal Justice and is a Student Health Ambassador on campus. Shianne's favorite class was Introduction to Neuropsychology with Dr. DiPirro and her favorite place to meet with other students on campus is the Union.

Isaiah Cox, Student Health Ambassador



Isaiah Cox is a junior majoring in Business Marketing and is a Student Health Ambassador on campus. Isaiah's favorite classes have been Principles of Marketing and Management, Introduction to Human Communication, Microeconomics, and Personal Finance. Isaiah's favorite places to meet up with friends on campus are the dining hall, library, locker room, and weight room. Isaiah is involved on campus by working events and tabling for the Weigel Health Center and Health Promotions.

Campus Mask Mandate Remains in Effect at Buffalo State



Although the indoor mask requirement has been lifted for private businesses across New York State, the [indoor mask requirement at Buffalo State College remains in effect until further notice](#). All members of our campus community, including visitors, are reminded that, regardless of vaccination status, close-fitting face masks are required to be worn in all indoor spaces on campus. The only exceptions to the indoor mask mandate are when faculty or staff members are alone in their personal offices, when students are inside their private residence hall rooms, or when someone is actively eating or drinking in a campus dining area.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2022 Weeks of Welcome



Weeks of Welcome at Buffalo State is a series of programs hosted by student organizations and the campus community to welcome our students during the first six weeks of the semester! [View the Spring 2022 Weeks of Welcome schedule to find upcoming events to attend.](#)

Residence Life Student Employment Information Sessions for 2022-2023



Residence Life has reimagined the student Resident Assistant position into two separate roles for the 2022-2023 academic year. Student staff within the residence halls will now include Community Assistants and

Residence Life will host two student information sessions to review the application process and position responsibilities on February 18 and February 22 at 12:15 p.m. in the Campbell Student Union Assembly Hall. For questions, please email Residence Life at reslife@buffalostate.edu or view the [Residence Life Student Staff Employment website](#) for full position descriptions.



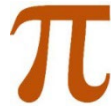
Buffalo State Cares

Buffalo State
State University of New York

Suit-Up Shopping Event at JCPenney

Suit-Up is an annual shopping event hosted by the Career Development Center to help Buffalo State students and alumni dress for success! During the event, JCPenney provides up to a 60% discount on professional dress apparel and accessories, and JCPenney and Buffalo State employees will help you coordinate your attire. Students have the option to attend the event virtually from March 5 to 7, or in person on March 6 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at JCPenney in the Walden Galleria Mall. [Register for the virtual or in-person Suit-Up event.](#)

Annual Pi Day Competition



Tell students to participate in our inaugural Pi Day Competition! The competition is on March 14 at 3:14 p.m. (check-in begins at 3:00 p.m.) in the Bulger Communication Center lobby and all Buffalo State students are welcome. Students can build a team of three to five people, come up with an awesome team name, compete for eternal glory, and take away free pizza and pie! Student teams must **register** by 11:59 p.m. on March 8 to participate in the competition. For questions, please contact **Jane Cushman**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department, or **Erica Demler** Coordinator of the Math Center.

In Process Art and Design Exhibition



In Process, the spring 2022 **Art and Design Department** faculty art exhibition, is now open in the **Czurles-Nelson Gallery** in Upton Hall through March 16. This unique exhibition leans into the gallery as a teaching space and shows students and visitors how diverse creative processes are anything but linear. All are welcome to attend a reception to celebrate the faculty in the Upton Hall lobby on March 3 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

President's Spring Student Forum



President's Spring Student Forum

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN TO CONNECT VIRTUALLY WITH CAMPUS LEADERSHIP. QUESTIONS FOR OPEN DISCUSSION ARE ENCOURAGED WHEN REGISTERING.



Register for Zoom Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/springforum1>



President Conway-Turner is hosting a virtual Spring Student Forum on March 22 from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Students are invited to attend this open session to ask any questions about the spring semester. **Students can register now for the Zoom meeting link.**

English Department Book Sale



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

BUFFALO STATE • The State University of New York

The **English Department** is holding a book sale for the campus community throughout the spring semester or as long as supplies last on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Ketchum Hall 214. Thousands of books are available and will be replenished weekly, including mystery fiction, older general fiction, and biographies, as well general nonfiction, current scholarly books in eighteenth-century studies, contemporary lit, and collectibles. Cash, check, or Venmo are accepted. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the English Department research and travel fund for students and nontenured faculty.

Athletics Games



Attend Buffalo State Athletics games and events to cheer on our Bengals! [View the Athletics calendar for upcoming game schedules.](#)

Buffalo State's 150th Anniversary



This year, we are celebrating Buffalo State College's 150th anniversary! [Learn more about our 150th anniversary events](#) and look for opportunities to participate throughout the year.

Visit Buffalo State

If you are planning to visit our campus, [view the academic calendar](#) and [learn more about Buffalo State and the surrounding community.](#)

Follow Us on Social Media!

To keep up to date on student information throughout the month, follow the Life at Buff State social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

For more general information about the college, follow the Buffalo State social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Other Questions or Need Help? Contact Us!

If you have questions, need help, or are looking for more or different information from this newsletter, please contact us:

Dean of Students:

 **Call:** [716-878-4618](tel:716-878-4618)

 **Email:** deanofstudents@buffalostate.edu

 **Web:** deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

} believe. inspire. **achieve.**