



A Letter to Parents

Transition of Care: You, the University & Your Student's Spiritual & Academic Well-Being

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Your student's collegiate experience and its relationship to you, the parents, and the University is much like a dance. Sometimes the parents lead and sometimes the University leads. Both dancers have in mind the end goal of a student graduating from Regent University as a Christian leader who is well-equipped to make an impact on the profession he or she will enter. You, the parents, have poured yourselves into your son or daughter for the last 18 or so years. A time of significant transition awaits you, your student and Regent University. Please know that the University takes great delight, care and responsibility in making your student's holistic experience as positive, engaging and God-honoring as possible.

Similar to the feelings your son or daughter is having about heading off to college, it has been our experience that you are probably both excited and anxious about this new phase in your family's life. These emotions are natural, normal, and healthy. You may be worried that the relationship you have with your student and the influence you have on him or her will drastically change or be minimized. Instead of assuming or expecting the worst, recognize that this time in your life actually provides opportunities to build a stronger relationship with your son or daughter. Consider the following:

- **Your son or daughter will want to be treated like an adult.**
 - Your student will have a lot of autonomy at college. Allow him or her to take those first critical steps toward adulthood. Be supportive but not smothering. Rather than call your student's professors or roommates because your son or daughter is upset, encourage your student to work out his or her own problems. Certainly provide wisdom and insight into how a situation could be addressed or resolved but do not dictate your student's words and actions. Your son or daughter will thank you. Regent University has well-trained and caring staff on-site to assist your students as they grow academically and spiritually. Your student can seek out assistance from Resident Assistants (RAs), Life Group Leaders, professors and student services providers.
- **Stay in touch with your student through nontraditional means of communication.**
 - Your student will spend a lot of time online while at college. Consider using email to correspond with your son or daughter. If you're feeling really technologically savvy, create a Facebook or Skype account or give your fingers a workout by becoming a professional text-messenger. You might actually communicate more with your student due to the conveniences of technology. Of course if all else fails you can always give your student a ring on the phone or send a care package in the mail. Plan a visit or two to campus each semester. Just don't show up unexpectedly. You will want your student to clean his or her room before you arrive. During those times when you cannot communicate with your student you can always pray!
- **New experiences, people, and life lessons await your student.**
 - It might sound cliché but college is a time for students to be introduced to new and different ideas, people, and situations; your student will experience all of this in the context of a leading global Christian university committed to propelling students into thought and action. Your student will have to adjust to increased independence, responsibility, and self exploration. You can be your student's biggest fan and coach. Counsel your son or daughter on finances. Make known your expectations about relationships. Your student may learn the hard way about lessons in life while attending college. Sometimes learning the hard way is what a student needs for the light bulb to finally turn on in his or her head. Remember that you were once young, too. Use your own experiences as invaluable educational tools with your son or daughter.

We are so pleased you and your student chose Regent University. We take great honor in being able to assist your student develop into the outstanding Christian leader God has called him or her to be in the world.