



Dear Parents and Families of the Class of 2027,

As director of the Providence College Parent & Family Program I am delighted to welcome you to Providence College and to the beginning of your journey as you and your student become the newest members of our Friar community. By parents and families, we mean moms, dads, guardians, grandparents, siblings---anyone who loves and cares for your student. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few weeks during our First Day in Friartown Program. I am also excited about the opportunity during the summer months to share with you information about the many resources we have in place for families.

Whether this is your first child to attend college, or your fourth, you and your family will experience amazing transitions in the coming year, as you take on the role of a parent of a first-year college student. Parenting a new student can be a unique emotional experience. It can be exciting, rewarding, frustrating, all within the same 24-hour period!

Over the years, parents have often asked me, "How much should I be involved in my student's life at college?" In a sense, working to find that balance of wanting to hold students close, while also giving them freedom to move on to a new stage in life. Of course, there is no one size fits all to this question. Our experience tells us that—**Different students need various levels of support, at various times.**

Most often it is you that your students first reach out to because you know them, and they know you, far better than anyone else. Clearly, the more information you have the better equipped you will be to support your students as they navigate their new campus landscape. That is where our Parent & Family Program comes in—to arm you with information about the college experience and to take that information to gently guide your student in the right direction. Basically, **WE WANT TO HELP PARENTS TO HELP STUDENTS TO HELP THEMSELVES!**

At Providence College we are committed to viewing parents and families as our partners in promoting student success. During the next four years, I look forward to our on-going partnership as we work together to support and encourage our students to become all they are called to be. Welcome to the Friar family!

God Bless.

**Jackie**

*Jacqueline Kiernan MacKay*

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