



No Excuses WT

March 2014

Getting the most out of what you have been given

WORD TO THE WISE

Opportunity and Support

by Brant Nelson

Now more than ever before opportunities are arising for students to go to college—many students who wouldn't even have had the option as to whether they wanted to pursue a higher education or not. Opportunity, however, without support is not really an opportunity.

We see that many of these students enroll in college as freshman with visions of social mobility in their head, but once they get on campus they are met with a total sense of isolation. No one looks like them; no one talks like them. Their parents didn't go to college; they don't even know anybody who has gone to college. They have responsibilities and hardships that many of their peers do not have. They have questions and concerns and frustrations, and even though the college may have tons of support systems, these students do not know where to go to get the help that they need. And so, while more students may be coming to college, the effect in many cases is that this only creates dropout factories.

This is where our program comes in. By setting students up in a one-on-one relationship with a faculty or staff mentor, we are giving our students the individual support they need in order to receive the most out of what they have been given.

With a mentor's guidance, our students are receiving the guidance they need in order to be successful. Our students are not merely surviving, but they are thriving.

And this process is full circle.

With the launch of the program's new No Excuses Leadership Team, our students are now giving back to their community by helping other student become connected with a mentor their first semester of college. They are also getting younger students in the community excited about the prospect of college.

Thank you for all for the commitment you have made. It is being noticed.

"There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes "What the hell is water?"

—David Foster Wallace

MARCH EVENTS

*Greenlighting Available

Midterm

Tuesday, March 4th

Spring Break

March 10th—March 14th

No Excuses Leadership Team Meeting

Monday, March 17th

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: CUB @ AC