

## Nomination for AHEPPP Award: Best Institutional Initiative – Large College/University

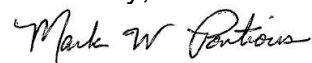
Parent & Family Programs (PFP) at Miami University is charged with engaging and supporting parents and families of current, domestic, undergraduate students. Global Initiatives/International Students & Scholar Services (ISSS), within Academic Affairs, is charged with primary responsibility for working with international students, including orientation and advising. Parents of international students are lost in this current arrangement. In 2015, ISSS and PFP collaborated to offer the first International Parent Luncheon during International Orientation. With over 80 parents and 15 staff members in attendance, the event was a huge success. This luncheon was repeated in 2016 and 2017, with similar success. Throughout 2017-2018, ISSS and PFP met several times to devise a plan for strategic and intentional engagement of parents and families of international undergraduate students. This plan included a survey, offered in English and Chinese, sent to current parents of international undergraduates regarding needs, highest concerns, and other information that would assist in the creation of the plan.

In 2018-2019, PFP and ISSS enacted the first phase of this plan, which included the continuation of the international parent luncheon (with an educational session component), a pilot webinar offered in Chinese, and a newsletter specific to parents of first-year international students, offered in both English and Chinese. Content for the newsletter was adapted from the newsletter PFP currently sends to parents of domestic first-year students, then translated using an outside provider. PFP and ISSS are currently in the second year of implementation, which includes plans for additional webinars and discussion of future events and additional translation needs.

Thus far, engagement with the newsletters has almost equaled that of first-year domestic parents and positive anecdotal feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The long-term impact of this initiative is yet to be determined, but will hopefully prove to be a positive influence on the experience of Miami University's international student population.

Links to newsletters: <http://miamioh.edu/student-life/parents/stay-in-touch/newsletters/index.html>

Sincerely,



Mark W. Pontious  
Director