March 2012

Mississippi College Parents Club

Sponsor: Seth Brill

Website: www.mc.edu/parents

Email: mcpc@mc.edu

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The Most Important Factor When Leading Students

Article by Tim Elmore on Growing Leaders

If you're like me, you hear all kinds of theories about how to best lead and teach students today. There are countless books on the market with the latest suggestions on how to handle this different generation of kids, who grew up online, who now carry their phones around as though they were an appendage to their bodies and who seem to speak a different language than their parents and teachers do.

Some theorists suggest we need to toughen up. We need to become more strict, and put these lazy, disengaged, slackers in their place. Others suggest the opposite, saying these kids need some latitude and grace. They require adults to allow them some creativity as they bloom into the adults they'll eventually become.

So, who is right?

Do our students need more rules or less rules? Do they need us to tighten up or loosen up? What do they need require most? I believe the answer may surprise you. I'm convinced the most important factor is:

Consistency. Simple, raw consistency.

In our day of tumultuous change, where the only thing that is constant *is* change, adults must model consistent values and behavior, whatever the rules are. I actually don't think the issue in our homes is whether to be strict and have a curfew or not, it is to simply stick to your guns and be constant. Don't waiver. Don't fluctuate.

The ingredient that fosters insecurity among children (old or young) is inconsistency in their adult leaders. We all know peers who grew up with different standards in their homes. Some of our friends remember very strict parents; others reminisce about parents who allowed them lots of leeway. In either case, I am not sure it was the rules that were important, but the fact that they were enforced in a steady manner.

So, my advice to parents, coaches, faculty and youth workers?

Choose your standards, and be consistent. It provides security. It furnishes a model to follow. It allows them a stable environment in which to grow.

http://blog.growingleaders.com/parenting/four-debts-adults-owe-kids-today/

Looking Toward the Future: A Parent's Role in Career Development

Perhaps you've heard this question around the holiday dinner table:

"So, what do you want to do when you finish school?" For seniors this discussion is far more likely and comes with a dose of reality that the college experience is coming to an end. First-year students may feel insulated by the years still in front of them. Regardless of where a student sits in the progression of a college education, however, looking toward the future can be nerve-racking and exciting. The career search is not just a one-time transaction that occurs in the senior year. It's a culmination of a variety of activities. Employers like candidates who are self-aware, knowledgeable about the opportunities that they are pursuing and who have demonstrated an application of critical skills.

Let's face it, parents have a lot of influence over the decisions students make. We know that students look to their parents for direction, advice and consultation regarding careers. So what's a parent to do in helping their student navigate the career planning process and the thought of life after college?

1. Encourage your student to explore widely.

Encouraging your student to take a wide variety 2of classes is a great start. Students change their minds about many things during their time in college, including interests, majors and career aspirations. Even the most focused first-years should be pushed to challenge themselves with a mixture of diverse courses. This will position them much better to change their path should they choose.

2. Push them to ask questions.

Most 18-to-20-year olds have a pretty narrow frame of reference regarding careers. Of course they know about doctors, lawyers or engineers but their exposure is otherwise pretty limited. Recommend that they ask questions of your friends, neighbors and other members of your community. Most colleges also provide information regarding their alumni so, encourage your student to be in touch with a graduate. It is very helpful for college students to get a sense of what students before them have gone on to do with their careers. It helps make the world of work that much more real.

3. Send your student to work.

Internships are a great way to build skills and to network. Many employers not only value internships but they use them as a way to recruit talent into their organizations. Spending at least one summer in an internship will widen your student's frame of reference and potentially sharpen his or her career goals.

4. Guide them to resources.

Push your student to take advantage of resources. Students should tap into advisors, faculty and, of course, the Career Services office. Be sure your student has investigated all the resources available. Trusted campus staff, from residence life staff to coaches to supervisors, can help point them in the direction of helpful career-related resources.

5. Be a partner in the process.

It is awfully tempting for a parent to want to make it as easy as possible for their student to make decisions and become successful adults. A great way to be a career partner is to empower, encourage and help guide, but not direct students. Serve as a sounding board and brainstorm ideas with them. This can be a difficult process, but well worth it when your student finds a satisfying career path in the end.

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Upcoming Dates You Don't Want to Miss!

Tribe & Club Informals & Formals 3/23 - 4/21

please be praying for our students as they travel to their various destinations

Spring Fever Week 3/26 - 3/30

Easter Break 4/7 - 4/9

Dead Days 4/23-4/25 4/25- last day classes & night exams begin

Study Day 4/26 no classes, reserved for studying

Final Exams 4/27 - 5/1 they'll be here before your student realizes it and yes they do have exams on Saturday!

May Term Classes 5/7 - 5/18

Note: for complete athletic schedule go to: www.gochoctaws.com

Baseball season is underway, if you are in the area, be sure to check out a game!

Do you have any questions about student life?

Maybe you just have an opinion you would like to share, Send them in to MCPC@mc.edu You just might find your question or response printed in the next JOURNEY!