Counselor Newsletter: Welcome Back

WELCOME

Colleagues,

Happy September! If you’re like me, you shake your head every time you look at the calendar, uncertain where the time went. My best guess is that we’ve experienced a time-warp and the summer just didn’t happen. Hopefully your summer brought some enjoyment and relaxation.

It was a busy summer in the Office of Admissions, and I’m excited to share some admissions updates we’ve been working on in this newsletter. But first...

...let me introduce myself
As I write this, I’m realizing that it’s my 56th week serving as the director...a feat that seems surreal for a few reasons. Among them, is that I feel like I’ve come full circle. See, I’m a proud, two-time Bronco alumna and started my college counseling career at WMU 20 years ago. As a female, first-gen student from a small town, it never occurred to me that I would one day be writing to all of you as a "chief admissions officer" (a term that I don’t particularly care for, but is the higher ed term none the less). It wasn’t until a former director casually said "when you sit in this chair..." that I thought to myself "wait...is that something that could really be available to someone like me?"

Since then, I’ve worked at universities, public and private, with varying levels of selectivity in Michigan, Florida, New York, and Ohio. I’ve served students and worked with school counselors from across the country and have learned a thing or two along the way. My combined experience provides me with the lens that I now look through to guide the Office of Admissions at my alma mater, a place that I care about more than words can properly express.

You...and me...and us
One of the most important things I’ve learned is the importance of colleague relationships. Some of my best insights are from school colleagues and, as I lead my team, this is a philosophy that I stress. My hope is that you’ve started to sense that viewpoint in the interactions you’ve had over the past year—and it will continue to be more evident this year and beyond. I firmly believe you and we are partners and helping students find their best-fit institution is the primary goal. My team and I are educators first, WMU representatives second.

Moving forward
For me, the past year has largely been spent observing, asking questions, reaching out to campus and counseling colleagues, and, ultimately, building an understanding of how things fit together, what works well, and what needs to be addressed. Now, it's time for me to announce some changes...many that I think you'll be pleased to learn. The goal is to remove barriers, help students identify opportunities, and increase admission decisions. Specifics about these changes are located below. I hope you see how they will positively impact your students.

On behalf of the WMU admissions team, we look forward to working with you and serving your students. Best wishes as you begin your academic year!

With Bronco Pride,
ADMISSIONS UPDATES

Test Scores

- **Superscoring** — In the interest of providing students with the greatest number of opportunities, WMU will begin superscoring the ACT and SAT. If a student has taken either the ACT, SAT or redesigned SAT more than once, WMU will use their best section scores (regardless of test date) to maximize their total or composite score. The superscore will be used for admission, scholarships, and honors college invitation.

- **Self-reported ACT/SAT** — Students are anxious and we don’t want to contribute to that stress unnecessary. To minimize a student’s wait, WMU will use ACT/SAT test scores self-reported on the application for admission. Students who decide to enroll at WMU and who have fewer than 24 transferable credit hours will be required to submit official ACT/SAT test scores prior to orientation.

- **Official Test Scores** — Scores will only be considered official if they are listed on an official high school transcript or are submitted directly from the testing agency.

New Campus Visit Structure

Students and families who wish to visit campus will select between two visit opportunities. The morning tour (9:30 a.m.) is strongly encouraged and will allow families to visit with their academic college in addition to attending the admissions presentation and walking tour of main campus. This will allow students to leave campus with a thorough understanding of how WMU will benefit them academically, developmentally, and socially. The afternoon tour (2:00 p.m.) will offer an admissions presentation followed by a walking tour of main campus.

Transfer Reps
Transfer Guides
Application Info