The Parents Fund

The Parents Fund supports undergraduate education and is a vital funding source that creates unique opportunities for students and enhances programs across campus. Each year thousands of parents and grandparents help shape the Penn experience with their unrestricted gifts. Unrestricted support from parent donors helps fulfill the immediate needs of the University—supporting the undergraduate experience in areas such as financial aid, residential enhancements, student life and academic support.

No gift is a small gift! All Parents Fund donors, no matter the size of their gift, enrich life at Penn. Smaller gifts add up quickly to make a significant difference over a year, and allow Penn to make valuable improvements in undergraduate life as they are needed. Gifts from parents are a show of involvement, passion and confidence in Penn, and strengthen our University’s stature. Visit the Penn Parents website to learn more and make your gift today.

Volunteer with Penn Parents!

Parent volunteers serve a vital role in helping parents and families feel connected and welcomed into the Penn community. There are several ways for you as parents, to get involved and share your time and energy on campus and in your home regions. The following events and activities provide the perfect opportunity to get involved:

- On-Campus Admitted Students Events – Spring
- Senior Parent and Family Activities – May
- Regional Welcome Receptions – Summer
- Welcome Calling Program – Winter and Summer
- New Parent and Family Orientation – August
- Regional Events - Year-Round

To learn more visit the Penn Parents website or Contact Christina Riso, Coordinator of Parent Outreach and Development at criso@upenn.edu to get involved today.
FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Families,

On behalf of the Office of Parent Outreach and Development/Penn Parents, I would like to welcome you and your family to the University of Pennsylvania! As new or returning Penn parents you are important members of the Penn community and we want to provide you with connections and opportunities that will enable you to be involved in supporting your child’s success as a Penn student. Given that your child is embarking upon his or her academic career and student life as an independent adult, we recognize that this may be a time of transition for you and your family. Therefore, we want to provide you with information that will enable you to develop your own unique relationship with Penn as the parent of a Penn student. We know that the college years are a special time for your child and while there may be moments of challenge, please know that you are joining a community filled with experienced faculty, administrators, staff, students and other parents who are eager to support you in this journey. We are committed to partnering with you as you assist your child in having a rich and rewarding experience at Penn. I encourage you to get connected to your individual school, get involved and attend Penn events on campus and in your home region because involvement will strengthen your relationship with the University and enrich your experience as a Penn parent. Please do not hesitate to contact the Penn Parents team if you have a question or concern and know that we look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at Penn events. I am honored to be able to welcome you and say how happy we are to have you as a member of the Penn community!

All my best,

Kenya LeNoir Messer EdD
Director
Parent Outreach and Development

About the Office of Parent Outreach and Development/Penn Parents

OUR MISSION

The Office of Parent Outreach and Development/Penn Parents is the central resource for connecting undergraduate parents and families to the University. Through events, communications, volunteer opportunities and The Parents Fund, the Penn Parents team is committed to building relationships and creating avenues for parents to feel informed, connected and uniquely involved in the life of the University and its advancement.

Our Vision:
- To ENGAGE parents in the life of the University…
- To INCREASE participation and involvement…
- To SECURE ongoing support…

Our Strategic Priorities
- Relationship Building
- Communications
- Events
- Volunteer Support / Involvement Opportunities
- The Parents Fund / Fundraising

We believe that consistent communication and providing opportunities for parents to become involved are the cornerstones of building lasting relationships. Penn Parents offers a myriad of ways for parents to stay connected and engaged in the life of the University.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Penn Parents utilizes several modes of communication to assist parents with staying connected. The Penn Parents Newsletter is sent home to families once a semester and provides parents with a glimpse into life at Penn. In addition to general program information, the newsletter also covers topics ranging from student research and summer internship experiences to faculty interviews. Penn Parents E-Newsletters are newsletters that are sent to parents via email each month to provide parents with information that parents can use in supporting their Penn student. E-Newsletters are filled with up-to-the-minute news and information about programs, events and resources on campus. Penn News for Parents is a version of Penn News Today / Penn News Weekly aimed specifically at Penn parents and is produced by the Office of University Communications. Penn News for Parents will show a cross-section of Penn ranging from scientific research and human-interest profiles to fun activities and Penn coverage in the news media. Penn Parents Webinars provide an interactive experience for parents to engage and learn from Penn experts on topics such as communicating with your Penn student to Career Services. Each webinar is recorded and placed on the Penn Parents website, allowing parents to view all webinars at their convenience. We also invite parents to utilize our website, www.pennparents.upenn.edu, as a mode of staying connected and current.

EVENTS

We encourage parents to attend events on campus and in your home region because involvement will strengthen your relationship with the University and enrich your experience as a Penn parent. Please do not hesitate to contact the Penn Parents team if you have a question or concern and know that we look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at Penn events. I am honored to be able to welcome you and say how happy we are to have you as a member of the Penn community!

All my best,

Kenya LeNoir Messer EdD
Director
Parent Outreach and Development

New Student Orientation / New Parent and Family Orientation takes place prior to the first day of the Fall term. New Parent and Family Orientation provides parents and families with an introduction to the University during new student move-in.

Family Weekend is an event that takes place during October and is aimed at providing parents and families with an opportunity to visit the campus and their Penn student while experiencing the rich academic and student life their child has been exposed to at Penn.

Individual School, Regional and International Events will take place throughout the academic year, giving parents the opportunity to hear from some of the University’s esteemed scholars and senior administrators.

Senior Parent and Family Activities / Alumni Weekend Programs are aimed at celebrating Penn parents, families and graduating seniors. These events take place during Penn Alumni Weekend and Commencement Weekend in May.

Baccalaureate and Commencement Ceremonies

The Baccalaureate ceremony is a 50-minute interfaith program that includes music, readings, prayers, and a guest speaker. The Commencement ceremony will feature the conferral of degrees, the awarding of honorary degrees, greetings by University officials, and the Commencement speaker, who will be announced in the Spring prior to the ceremony. Each undergraduate school will also host an individual school specific ceremony that will either take place the day before or the afternoon of the University Commencement.