Parent and Family Council (PFC)

Structural and Operational Guidelines

Version: 2.1
Effective Date: 12/10/2025
Last Revision: 7/8/2026
Prepared By: Avary Kampwerth, Volunteer Engagement Officer

Purpose

The Parent and Family Council supports Illinois Wesleyan University by strengthening engagement, philanthropy, and advocacy among current and past Titan families. The Council works to advance the University's mission by raising annual unrestricted support for the Wesleyan Fund, Parent Fund, and General Student Scholarships; fostering meaningful connections that help identify prospective major donors; and building an informed, involved, and united community of families dedicated to enhancing the Titan experience and the future of the University.

Mission

The Illinois Wesleyan University Parent and Family Council works to foster a welcoming community where parents and families build connections with one another and Illinois Wesleyan leadership to collectively enhance the Titan experience. As partners, advocates, and investors in the University, members contribute their time, expertise, and philanthropic support to benefit current and future generations of Titans and advance Illinois Wesleyan's vision to better serve every student, every day.

Objectives

Career – Collaborate with the Hart Career Center to provide students with career preparation and guidance. This is achieved by:

a. Participating on a career panel.
b. Hosting mock interviews.
c. Offering mentorship, job shadow, or networking opportunities with your employer.
d. Providing internship and employment opportunities for current students and recent graduates.

Connect – Collaborate with the Office of Admissions and Office of Alumni Engagement to help welcome incoming parents, connect with current parents, and celebrate past parents. This is achieved by:

a. Making calls and sending handwritten notes to prospective students and their families.
b. Conducting check-in with first year parents.
c. Promoting a sense of community amongst the parent and family population at IWU.
d. Inviting new, incoming, and current families to participate in local and campus events.

Contribute – Collaborate with the Office of Advancement to serve as philanthropic leaders among the Titan community and help increase giving in participation and dollars raised. This is achieved by:

a. Soliciting parent gifts during IWU fundraising appeals by making phone calls, sending emails, and posting on social media.
b. Educating current IWU students and families on the importance of philanthropy.
c. Sending thank you messages to parent and family donors.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

a. Alumni Engagement Lead: Avary Kampwerth
    i. Manages members/volunteers.
b. Advancement Partner: AJ Ainslie
    i. Provides updates on annual giving and University production

c. Career Center Partner: Warren Kistner
    i. Provides updates on career opportunities
d. Admissions Partner: Lindsey Haan
    i. Provides updates on incoming student and parent populations

Eligibility

Parent and Family Council Members

All family members may join the Parent and Family Council at any time their student is enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan University. They may remain on the Council for (i) the entirety of their students' IWU enrollment, for (ii) up to three years after their student graduates (or more if mutually agreed upon), or (iii) during the gap years when one child graduates and another is admitted.

Parent and Family Council Board

The Parent and Family Council President and Office of Alumni Engagement collaborate to recruit Parent and Family Council Board Members. Board Members may be existing Members of the Parent and Family Council or parents joining the group for the first time. They may remain on the Board for (i) the entirety of their students' IWU enrollment, for (ii) up to three years after their student graduates (or more if mutually agreed upon), or (iii) during the gap years when one child graduates and another is admitted.

Parent and Family Council President

The Parent and Family Council President may serve a two-year term, which will begin at the start of Illinois Wesleyan University's fiscal year, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. The President may be reappointed after a hiatus of one (1) term or two years. The President is expected to demonstrate their commitment with an annual gift of $1,000 to any designation. The President is recruited by the Office of Alumni Engagement in collaboration with University partners.

Time & Engagement Commitment

a. Dedicate 5-10 hours per semester to participate in the opportunities for engagement provided by the Council leadership.
b. Uplift the Parent and Family Council focus of engaging with the Titan community through career, connection, and contribution initiatives.
c. Attend two Parent and Family Council meetings annually, scheduled for October (Homecoming week) and March (prior to All In).
d. Recommend fellow parents and family members for participation in the Council.
e. Serve as a positive ambassador of Illinois Wesleyan University in personal communities, online spaces, and amongst fellow parents and family members.

Leadership

The Parent & Family Council Board is composed of the President of the Parent and Family Council and all current Board Members. The President oversees the Board and all Council initiatives.

President Responsibilities

Current President: George Tomecki '94

a. Serve as community leader and strategic planner
    i. Convene meetings with Board Members to seek collaborative input on strategic direction.
    ii. Convene meetings of the full Council.
    iii. Act as family representative for internal and external constituents.
    iv. Ensure the Board's succession by seeking new volunteers and connecting with Members who have expressed interest in leadership roles.
b. Act as liaison to the Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement

i. Communicate regularly with University staff to ensure compliance with University guidelines, receive University updates, and coordinate on all Council initiatives.
ii. Ensure Parent and Family Council initiatives are in alignment with University needs.
iii. In partnership with University staff, review metrics as they relate to the Council's career, connect, and contribute objectives.

c. Provide support to Council and University initiatives
    i. Engage in the planning process of all signature events and attend all events when able
    ii. Report on data and updates relevant to the Council's career, connect, and contribute objectives

Board Responsibilities

Current Board Members: OPEN

a. Attend Boards meetings as scheduled by the Parent and Family Council President.
b. Connect with parents and families to build and maintain relationships that support volunteer recruitment and community connection.
c. Regularly engage with content on the Parent and Family Council's social media channels.
d. Provide assistance at Parent and Family Council events.
    i. Research venues and events that will attract a variety of constituents (i.e. sporting events, family events, community volunteer events, social events, etc.)
    ii. Assist with promotion for events through personal networks and the Council's channels.
    iii. Connect with event attendees and take photos during events.
e. Participate and uplift opportunities that relate to the Council's career, connect, and contribute objectives.

Giving Opportunities

Members of the Parent and Family Council are encouraged to contribute each year to demonstrate your commitment to excellence at Illinois Wesleyan (suggested annual gift of $1,000, all gifts welcome). Members would make an annual gift of $1,000 are eligible for the following courtesies for that year:

a. Premium parking and seating for Commencement.
b. Access to the President's Tent during home football tailgates.
c. Invitation to the Campus House for the Leadership Donor Reception.
d. Exclusive IWU merchandise.

Member Opportunities

All Members of the Parent and Family Council have the opportunity to:

a. Represent student and family interests in open dialogue with University administrators, staff, and faculty.
b. Gain an insider's perspective of the University through interactions with IWU leaders during Parent and Family Council meetings (two meetings per academic year).
c. Contribute each year to demonstrate your commitment to excellence at Illinois Wesleyan (suggested annual gift of $1,000, all gifts welcome).
d. Promote IWU within your circles of influence and support outreach efforts among other Illinois Wesleyan families.
e. Receive exclusive invitations to special events and volunteer opportunities in your community or on campus.
f. Be recognized as a Council Member on the IWU website and other print and digital publications.

Parent & Family Council New Member Processes

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Version: 1.2
Effective Date: August 8, 2025
Last Revision: July 8, 2026
Prepared By: Avary Kampwerth, Volunteer Engagement Officer

Purpose

This SOP details the process for connecting with the new members of the IWU Parent and Family Council. The purpose of connecting with our Parent and Family Council new members is to establish trust with volunteers/donors, establish a point of contact for the group (Avary Kampwerth, Volunteer Engagement Officer), and establish that the University has an investment in their continued success and connections with the Titan experience.

Procedure(s)

The Volunteer Engagement Officer manages the overall process, connecting with the Director of Annual Giving and Annual Giving Officer when needed. The Volunteer Engagement Officer processes the Parent and Family Council Application, records the member information in the Parent and Family Council Active Roster, updates that member's involvement information in Slate, and sends the introductory email and new member gifts. The Annual Giving Officer connects with the individual for information regarding annual giving and leadership gift benefits.

How To

When a potential member responds to the Parent and Family Council Application…

1. Review the response and consider whether the application is approved.
    a. If a parent expresses their interest *without* completing the application, they can be approved pending a conversation with the Volunteer Engagement Officer or Parent and Family Council President.
2. Upon approval, add member information to the Parent and Family Council Active Roster.
3. Update the member's record in Slate
    a. Record → Involvement → Committee Service → Parent & Family Council
4. Send the new member the introductory email (see below).
5. Mail the new member the "I ♡ My Titan" license plate cover, the PFC New Member Letter, and the Alumni Engagement save-the-date card (pictured below).
    a. Add as a stewardship interaction on their Slate record.

SENDER: Avary Kampwerth <akampwer@iwu.edu>; CC AJ Ainslie <aainslie@iwu.edu>
SUBJECT LINE: Welcome to the IWU Parent & Family Council!

Dear <Preferred>,

Welcome to the Parent and Family Council! We are so glad you are invested in making Illinois Wesleyan a better place for students, parents, and families. Here's what you can expect for your membership in the Council:

- Opportunities for connection with University leadership at regular events and meetings

- Quarterly newsletters on all things Illinois Wesleyan, including campus life, Athletics, and other important updates
- Get involved through career, connect, and contribute initiatives that match your interests and help support students and families
- Promoting Illinois Wesleyan amongst your inner circles and networks

Members are also encouraged to demonstrate a commitment to excellence at IWU by making an annual gift. The suggested annual gift is $1,000, however you are welcome to give *any* amount you are comfortable with. If you are interested in contributing, our Annual Giving Officer AJ Ainslie, included in this message, will work with you on the next steps. You can also make your annual gift here:

MAKE A GIFT

Members that make an annual contribution of $1,000 or more are also eligible for:

- Access to the President's Tent during home football games
- Premium parking and seating at Commencement
- Invitation to the Campus House for our Leadership Donor Reception
- And more!

Again, thank you for joining the Parent and Family Council. Your investment in the Titan community is a testament to Illinois Wesleyan's mission, and is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you!



New Member Letter:







CONTACT

Avary Kampwerth ‘24

Volunteer Engagement Officer

akampwer@iwu.edu

309-556-2038

WELCOME TO THE PARENT AND FAMILY COUNCIL!

On behalf of the Parent and Family Council, welcome!

The Parent & Family Council brings together parents and family members who are passionate about supporting Illinois Wesleyan and enhancing the student experience. Through engagement, advocacy, and philanthropy, members create opportunities that benefit current and future Titans. Every member brings something unique, and we are excited to share in your experiences and stories.

Throughout the year, you will have the ability to connect with fellow families, dialogue with University leadership, and support student success through our three areas of focus: career, connect, and contribute. Whether you're sharing your expertise, attending Council meetings, or serving as an ambassador for IWU, we encourage you to participate in the ways that are most meaningful to you.

As a member, you'll receive updates about upcoming meetings, events, and opportunities to make an impact through the Council. We hope you'll share your ideas, experiences, and perspectives as we strengthen the partnership between families and the University.

Again, welcome to our community. We can’t wait to see where this journey takes you!

New Member License Plate Cover:

CMPromo!
A Geiger Company
309.829.5646 | cmpromotionsinc.com

Imprint Box is 4 x 4"

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

I ♥ My Titan

Imprint Color: Green 342
Max Imprint Size:
Narrow : 6.625" H x 0.5" W, Wide : 1 x 11.5 inches
Imprint Location: Centered
Scale: Both @50%,



Mockup above is for imprint location only and is not to scale.

Alumni Engagement Office Welcome Card:

MEET OUR TEAM

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



OLIVIA RUFF '19

Director of Alumni Engagement



CARLA RUDICIL

Alumni Engagement Coordinator



AVARY KAMPWERTH '24

Volunteer Engagement Officer



ASHLEY GRABER

Alumni Engagement & Events Specialist

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 21, 2026



BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026



PETRICK IDEA CENTER RIBBON CUTTING

Scan to Learn More!



SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

IWU SOCIAL & CUBS GAME



OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

HOMECOMING