

July 2016

Dear New Boilermakers,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Purdue University, your home for the next four years. At no time in your life will you be surrounded by so many people who are committed to your success.

If we do our job well and you hold up your end, these years will be the most important of your life to date, and ones you will remember for a lifetime. An essential part of “your end” is conducting yourself at the level of character we expect of Purdue students. Our rules are simple, and likely already a firm part of your values system. But I thought it only fair to state them to you now, before your first day on campus, so that you have full notice of how seriously we take these matters:

Academic honesty – Whether in examinations, course assignments or research, cheating and plagiarism are a subversion of the education process, grossly unfair to honest students, and will be dealt with severely. Students are expected not only to maintain their own integrity but to demand that same integrity from their peers.

Respect for others – A great strength of Purdue is the wide variety of nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, lifestyle preferences and faith traditions of its student body. We strongly believe, and you will see on our campus, that differences aren’t deficiencies, but rather opportunities for learning. We expect each student to respect all such differences and behave accordingly. Any discrimination or intimidation on the basis of race or other such characteristic is unacceptable, and those who practice either are not welcome at Purdue.

Freedom of expression – A wide spectrum of opinions is natural and necessary at an institution of higher learning. Purdue encourages vigorous, open debate; we ask that disagreements remain civil, but we insist that the public square remain open to all. Any attempt to silence or intimidate others in the exercise of their free speech rights will be confronted firmly. If you hear or see expression you disagree with, speak up, using facts and well-framed thoughts to counter it.

Alcohol and substance abuse – Obviously we expect Purdue students to obey the laws of our state in all respects. Even when its use is lawful, alcohol when abused can lead to conduct with which the University deals sternly.

“Your end” also entails taking an active role in your education and seeking out the people and resources that will help you make the most of your college years. Purdue offers countless

opportunities to extend your learning beyond the classroom and to broaden your experiences beyond campus.

In partnership with Gallup, we conducted the largest survey of college graduates ever about how their postsecondary study has led to success in life and at work, and here's some of what we've learned:

- Don't be afraid to approach faculty — getting to know the professors in your major and beyond will help them provide you with their best wisdom and guidance.
- Take on a project that lasts a semester or longer, especially research with a faculty member.
- Try to have an international experience — even if you can't study abroad for a full semester, look for a shorter experience during the summer or spring break. Purdue now offers all students scholarships of up to \$3,000 to study abroad.
- Look for a leadership opportunity within a student club or organization — having the courage and commitment to lead will serve you well.
- And be sure to continue to take summer courses, whether on-campus or via distance learning — it will help you stay on track to graduate in four years.

Your high school record gives every indication that you practice good behavior and are inclined to go beyond that which is expected of you. It is exactly because we harbor the highest of hopes for your time at Purdue and beyond that I have written you this letter. Meeting these basic standards of conduct and engagement will do much more than get you through your Purdue years without trouble. It will serve you well and enhance your success throughout the life of leadership we know lies ahead.

Boiler Up! And see you soon,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.".

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
President