

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

June 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Chairs

FROM: Kim A. Wilcox, Provost



RE: Fall Welcome "Fill the Bus" Service Initiative for New Students

In order to meet the needs of Michigan State University's new students and the community of East Lansing, Fall Welcome 2009 has been revised in terms of both timeline and content. A key new component being added is the university-wide "Fill the Bus" service initiative in which new students will contribute school supplies, non-perishable food items, or comparable small items to be donated to local school districts, health and human service agencies, and youth-serving organizations. "Fill the Bus" is intended to underscore Michigan State University's land-grant mission of service integrated with scholarly endeavors and help instill positive concepts of engagement that:

SPARTANS GIVE:

- of themselves
- to others
- in community
- for the public good



OFFICE OF THE
PROVOST

Michigan State University
Administration Building
East Lansing, Michigan
48824-1046

FAX: 517/355-9601

Through messaging that began during summer Academic Orientation Programs, students are being asked to consider others as they shop in preparation for the upcoming semester. Items being requested are 'low-end' such as small spiral notebooks, cans of soup, packs of trail mix, bars of soap, etc., with one item per student being requested. Students also will have the opportunity to write notes of encouragement to the recipients of the items. Personnel from the non-profit partners will be on hand to assist the students as they bring their items to the busses. A combination of MSU and community school busses will be used to illustrate the linkages between campus and community. Students are being encouraged to view "Fill the Bus" as the beginning of their involvement with community, not the only.

The assistant/associate dean for undergraduate education from each college, or his/her representative is working with the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (CSLCE) to tailor the types of donated items, as well as the manner and timing of the college-related "fill the bus" activity, that best meets the ideas and needs of the individual college. The CSLCE is handling the contacts with the non-profit partners and the logistics. Additional partners include International Studies and Programs, University Housing, University Outreach and Engagement, Student Affairs and Services, Office of the Vice President for Finance and Operations, Department of Police and Public Safety, Residence Life and Dean Transportation.

I encourage you to support the assistant/associate deans for undergraduate education and CSLCE as they plan and implement this campus-wide endeavor designed to teach new students that service and engagement are important aspects of what it means to be a Spartan! Please feel free to contact Karen McKnight Casey, director, CSLCE, 353-4400, caseyk@msu.edu, or your assistant/associate dean with questions, comments and/or offers of assistance.

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Did You Know....

Over 370 community nonprofit organizations, agencies, schools, etc. utilize MSU students engaged in service.

15,060 MSU student registrations for service-learning and community volunteer opportunities were recorded by the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in 2008-2009.

82 registered student organizations in Student Life listed service as their primary mission.

You can also participate in Fill the Bus by composing a "thinking of you" message to those who will receive the items!

Suggested Donations to Fill the Bus...

Highlighters, markers, pencils, pens, spiral notebooks, pads of paper, cans of soup or spaghetti/ravioli, trail mix or other non-perishable healthy snacks, bars of soap, small bottles of shampoo, combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, boxes of band aids, and the like.

MICHIGAN STATE
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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

2009 Fall Welcome



Attention First-Year Students!!!

Michigan State University invites you to

Fill the Bus!

Monday, August 31 + Tuesday, September 1

Buying school supplies? Stocking up on snacks for your dorm room? Shopping for shampoo, soap, toiletries?

Buy one extra to Fill the Bus!

Small contributions by thousands of incoming students create **BIG impacts!** Bring your donation items and **share your Spartan Spirit** with those in the greater-Lansing community!

Each college will have a focus area for donations to local community organizations. **For details, watch for e-mails and other communications from your college!!!**

