

Strategies to inform students of GPA



GPA

GRADUATION ◦ PLEDGE ◦ ALLIANCE



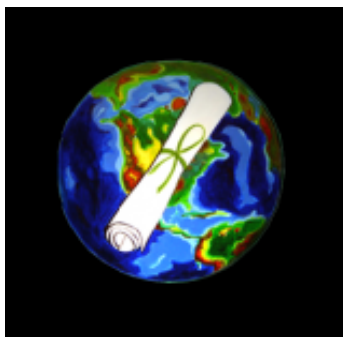
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Feedback: What Works

An overview of what strategies schools have used to implement the Graduation Pledge



The Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility states:

"I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work."

Contact Information

Graduation Pledge Alliance is a project of the Bentley Alliance for Ethics and Social Responsibility. BeBentlent Alliance for Ethics and Social Responsibility.

The Graduation Pledge Alliance reached out to our partner schools last year to ascertain what are best practices for ensuring a successful implementation of the Graduation Pledge.

Feedback from the schools indicates:

- The Graduation Pledge has a better response if it is organized as a student led Initiative.
- Although the Graduation Pledge is most effective if student led, it appears that there should be a Faculty or Staff Adviser to assist with planning and use of school facilities. This Adviser often can provide support, an "institutional memory" overview, and problem solving if barriers to implementing the Pledge arise.
- Working with other groups on campus that may have similar goals of social and environmental responsibility is very effective.

Web site:

We are currently reworking the Graduation Pledge Alliance web site. Currently, the old website remains in place at

<http://www.graduationpledge.org/>.

You will find support material for implementing the Graduation Pledge on the web site.

Our email address is:

gpa@Bentley.edu

Our mailing address is:

Graduation Pledge Alliance
Bentley University
175 Forest Street
Waltham, MA 02452

Our Executive Director is:

William Benet, Ph.D.
BBenet@Bentley.edu

Update

Schools have requested access to environmentally sustainable ribbons and other graduation materials. The Graduation Pledge Alliance staff is currently in negotiations to secure ribbon and other materials consistent with the Pledge. More on this next month.

Support collaboration.

- If the Graduation Pledge group on campus organizes transformative learning experiences, the signing of the Pledge dramatically increases. Ideas presented by schools include a Sustainable Graduation, a Plastic Free Halloween, a locally sourced Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day program to support the local food bank, Valentines Day celebrations with live plants instead of cut flowers, and an Earth Day tree planting and grounds clean up (one school reclaimed property that had been strewn with junk cars).
- Schools that have established the Graduation Pledge as a legacy, passing it down from class to class, have proven to have significantly more signers each year.
- Establishing an on line pledge form though the Graduation Pledge Alliance has proven to be a very successful strategy for several schools.
- Maintaining ongoing contact with students throughout their campus years supports the signing of the Graduation Pledge. For example, Mesa Community College has a very successful strategy which includes: placing Graduation Pledge information in the general graduation info email, a specific Graduation Pledge "Green Information" email, advertising on Mesa College's closed circuit TV, and a hard copy letter sent in the mail to graduating students. This ongoing strategy is augmented by their college sustainability department Face Book Page which is kept up to date with timely postings.

<https://www.facebook.com/mcc.recycle>

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