

# New Committee Aims At Higher Retention Rates For Underclassmen

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New to the Caldwell College campus this year is a Sophomore/Freshman committee oriented towards helping second-year students embrace the difficult transition that many face from the freshman year to the sophomore year. Exclusive events have been developed for current and upcoming sophomores in an effort to make them feel more connected to the campus.

Subcommittees have been formulated to accomplish specific general committee goals. The groups are each responsible for planning specific events for the students. One such committee, which includes Campus Chaplain Father Al Berner, Assistant Dean of Student Academic Affairs Harriet Schenk, Assistant Director of Resident Life Sandra Gilot, and Executive Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Kathlyn Reilly, as well as several current freshman and sophomore students, organized an exclusive event entitled *Clash of the Classes*.

The first-ever *Clash of the Classes* was scheduled to be held on April 24. It was a private event

for Caldwell College's freshmen and sophomores and included food, music and a series of games between the freshman and sophomore classes.

Sandra Gilot hopes that the evening served to promote campus community and establish new Caldwell College traditions. Her strongest desire for the event was to make students "want to come back." Dean Schenk's goal was to create a "fun and spirited event that will provide an opportunity for freshman and sophomores to meet and compete with each other."

The goal of this *Clash of the Classes* and other similar events planned by the committee is to make the transition from freshman to sophomore year a smooth one. The committee hopes that sophomores will enjoy events created specially for them and have fun meeting classmates. In addition, the committee also seeks to make sophomores feel more welcome on campus and provide all students with the opportunity to meet and interact with both residents and commuters. Sandra Gilot hopes that the connection to the campus will result in "an increased retention for sophomores and will socially bring together

the residents and the commuters on campus."

Other exclusive events have been planned for the upcoming year, including a "Welcome Back Luau" for the new sophomores to welcome them to a new year. Also in September, a special event will be organized in order for the sophomores to meet with their major department and academic advisors to discuss course outlining and careers. A career week has been planned to provide an opportunity for sophomores to "meet with alumni, who will be able to speak about the job opportunities on a variety of majors," Dean Schenk said. "We welcome anyone who would like to join in planning and implementing the activities. Feel free to contact any member of the committee"

These plans are just the beginning, however. The committee will be paving the way for many exclusive academic and social events for first and second year students. It's efforts will hopefully result in better retention rates for underclassmen here at Caldwell College.