

## December 2020 Financial Newsletter

### Spring Registration

Registration for the spring semester is under way. If you have a balance and are unable to register, check with the Business Office. Their website allows you to schedule virtual meetings to discuss your bill or set up a payment plan. **January 15, 2021** is the last day to make changes to your spring class schedule!

### Cash Course Reminder

Check your email for information about TRIO's CashCourse financial literacy requirement. The goal of this program is to give you the skills to manage your money and loans and to become financially independent. **All TRIO Program participants are required to pass assigned CashCourse modules which are due by December 20, 2020.** If you have questions about how to complete your CashCourse requirement, please email Nadine Prokop at [prokopn@neumann.edu](mailto:prokopn@neumann.edu).

### TRIO Program Experience and Graduate Exit Surveys

This week you will receive an email with the TRIO Program Experience Survey. December graduates will also receive the TRIO Program Graduate Exit Survey. Please take a few minutes to complete these surveys. We appreciate your help!

### Holiday Budgeting Tips

- Make a holiday shopping budget and stick to it.
- Make a list before shopping to help avoid impulse purchases.
- Check newspaper and online advertisements to get the best prices.
- Look for free shipping deals with internet purchases.
- Keep track of all your purchases to make sure you stay within your budget.
- Reduce the number of gifts you buy by starting a Secret Santa!
- If you must use your credit card during the holidays, **be smart** about how you use it. Financial institutions charge credit card users interest on unpaid balances at a fixed or variable Annual Percentage Rate (APR). The higher the credit card's APR, the higher your interest payment will be. To avoid interest charges, pay off your credit card every month. If this is not possible, shop around for a credit card with a low APR and preferably no annual fee. You can also save money by paying more than the minimum payment on your credit card every month. This strategy can save you money in interest charges and shorten the duration of your payments.

