

From: [Dr. Sal Rizza, Director of OTEE](#)
To: [Rizza, Salvatore A.](#)
Subject: Happy First Day of the Semester!
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:42:20 PM

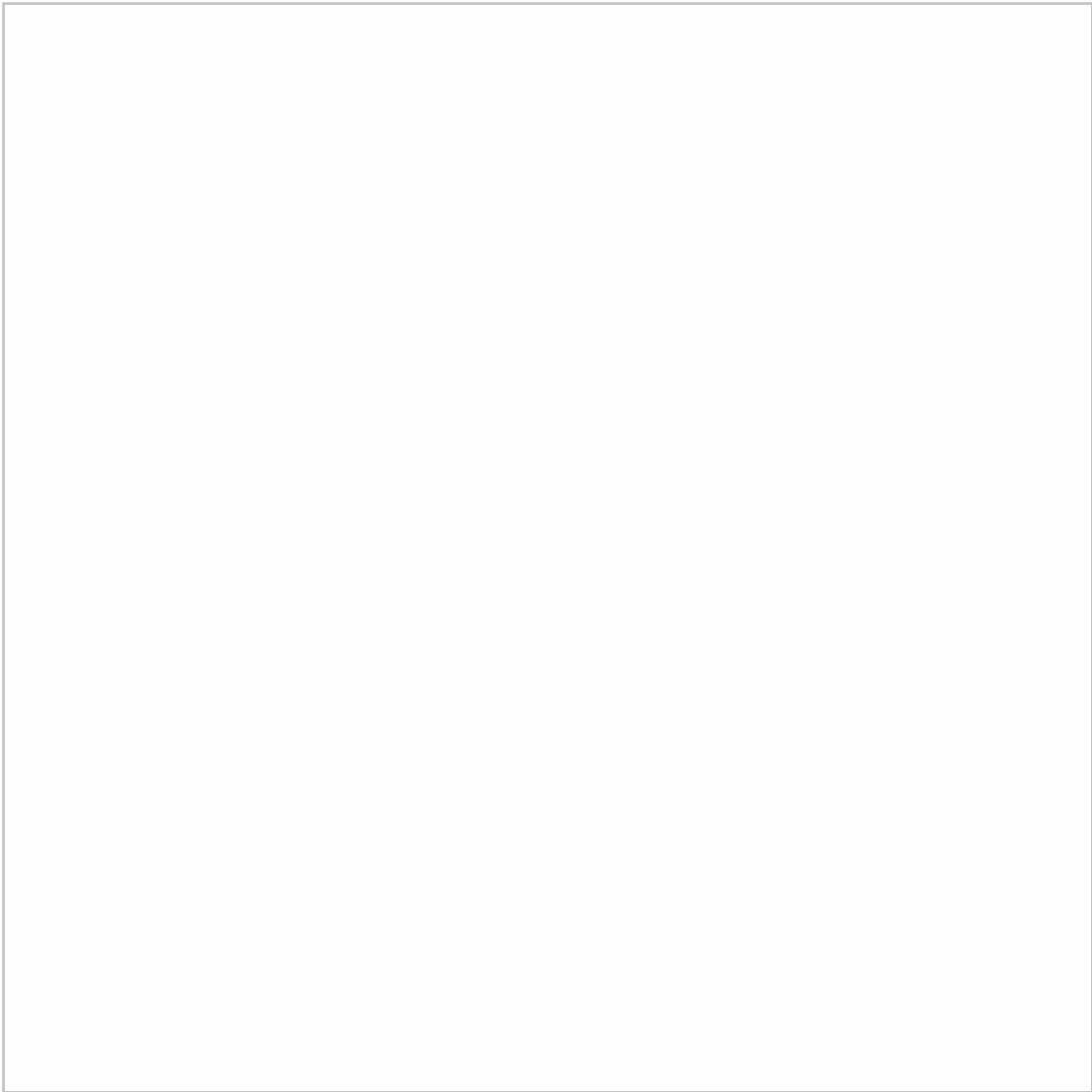


Family Update: August 25, 2026

This email contains the following:

Message from the Director of Orientation,
Transition & Family Engagement

- Weekly Feature
 - Week of Welcome
 - News and Notes
 - Part-Time Job Fair
 - Southern Technology Resources
 - Important Dates and Deadlines
 - Photos from New Owl Welcome
 - Resources
-



Dear Owl Families,

Welcome to the first day of the semester! This is the Week of Welcome with so many opportunities for students to explore, engage, and connect.

Whether your student is beginning their first year, joining us as a transfer student, or returning for another year of study, today marks the start of new opportunities, new challenges, and new experiences. We are excited to partner with you as we support your student's success throughout the semester.

The beginning of every year often brings a mix of excitement, uncertainty, anticipation, and adjustment. As students settle into classes, establish routines, and build connections, the encouragement and support they receive from family members and loved ones can make a meaningful difference.

Here are a few ways you can support you student during the first week:

- **Check in regularly.** Ask about classes, what they're enjoying, and how they are feeling about the first days. Even if responses are short, knowing that someone is reaching out feels great!
- **Encourage connection.** Remind them to introduce themselves to classmates and professors!
- **Support routine-building.** Building good habits in the first week will pay major dividends in the future!
- **Identify Resources.** Our offices, professionals, and student mentors want to support your students. One of the early steps students can take is identifying resources that can guide them in meeting their academic goals, getting involved, and making friends.

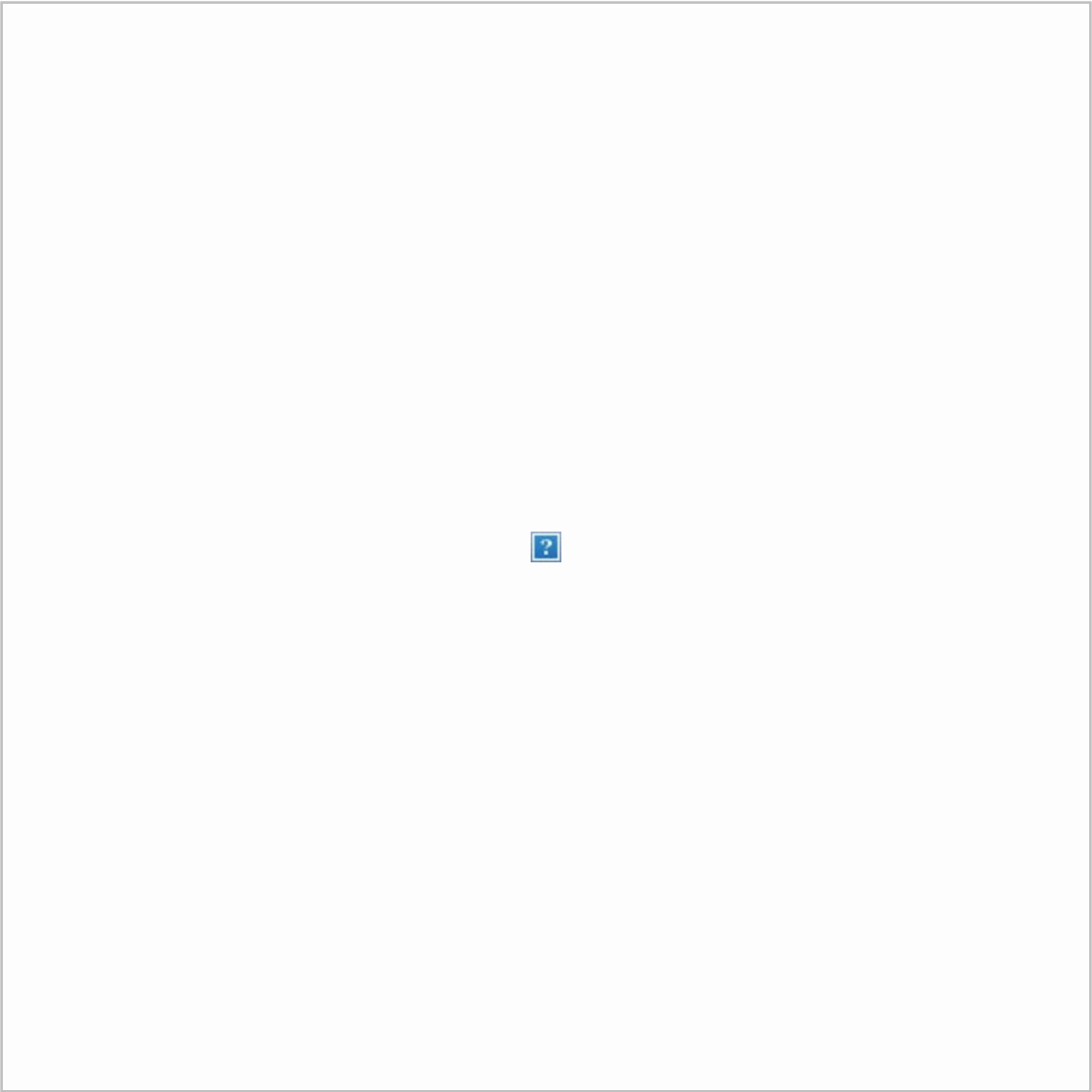
Please let us know how we can support YOU as well.

We wish all of our students a great first week and successful semester!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sal Rizza

Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement





This is the Week of Welcome! Students will receive an email every day listing the day's events. They can also visit the [WOW website](#) to see the full listing.



In this section, we will share information students received recently.

Email from the Office of Career and Professional Development regarding the Part-Time Job Fair:

Looking for a paid part-time job, seasonal position, on-campus opportunity, or part-time internship? Join us during Week of Welcome and connect with **40+ on- and off-campus organizations ready to hire SCSU students!**

Part-Time Job Fair

Wednesday, August 26 | 12:00–3:00 p.m.

Adanti Student Center Ballroom

Registration is encouraged but not required. Click this link below to register! [Click Here](#)

Stop by anytime - bring your résumé if you have one, but it is not required. Don't miss this opportunity to explore openings and make valuable connections!

Email from the Office of Institutional Technology regarding Student Technology

Resources:

Week of Welcome

As part of Southern Connecticut State University's Week of Welcome, the Information Technology Department invites you to participate in an interactive cybersecurity event, **Can You Spot the Phish?** The interaction is designed to help you stay safe online while competing for a prize. [Click here for details.](#)

Owls,

Welcome to the Fall 2026 semester. Whether you are new to Southern or returning for another year, Information Technology is here to help you get connected, stay secure, and be ready for class. Use this guide as your first-week technology checklist and save it for later.

Your First-Week Tech Checklist

Before your first class:

- Sign in to MySCSU and confirm that you can open your email, Blackboard, Teams, and Banner services.
- Set up or review Multifactor Authentication on a device you regularly use.
- Connect your phone and laptop to Eduroam.
- Open each Blackboard course and review announcements, assignments, and course materials.
- Install the Microsoft 365 apps you need and sign in with your Southern account.
- Know how to contact the IT Help Desk before something becomes urgent.
- Save your files in OneDrive so they are backed up and available from different devices.

IT Help Desk Support

The IT Help Desk can assist with your SouthernCT.edu account, password and MFA issues, Wi-Fi, Blackboard, Microsoft 365, OneDrive, Teams, printing, computer labs, and other campus technology.

- Phone: 203-392-5123, available 24/7

- Email: HelpDesk@SouthernCT.edu
- Self-Service Portal and AI Chatbot: <https://HelpDesk.SouthernCT.edu/>
- "TOPdesk Help Desk Portal" via <https://myscsu.southernct.edu>
- Walk-in Support: Buley Library, first floor
 - i. Monday – Thursday: 8:00am - 9:00pm
 - Friday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
 - Saturday: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

**Please check the [Buley Library calendar](#) for current Fall 2026 walk-in hours before visiting.*

MySCSU: Your Main Starting Point

MySCSU gives you access to many university services, including email, Blackboard, Teams, OneDrive, Word, Excel, and Banner. Visit <https://login.southernct.edu/> and sign in with your full SouthernCT.edu email address and password.

If you cannot sign in, do not wait until an assignment is due. Contact the Help Desk as early as possible.

Wireless Network

Eduroam is Southern's secure wireless network for students, faculty, and staff personal devices. Connect your laptop, phone, or tablet. Once your device is configured, it can also connect at other participating Eduroam institutions. Friends, family members, and campus visitors without a Southern account can use the self-registered guest wireless service.

Blackboard

Blackboard is Southern's Learning Management System (LMS). You will use Blackboard to access your courses, view course materials, submit assignments, complete assessments, participate in discussions, check grades, join virtual class sessions when applicable, and more. Blackboard can be accessed through [MySCSU](#). As the University continues transitioning to Blackboard's latest course experience, you may notice slight differences in how some courses are organized, but all courses are accessed through the same Blackboard site. During the first week, open every course and review the instructor's directions. If a course or expected item is missing, contact your instructor first. If Blackboard itself is not working or you cannot sign in, contact the Help Desk.

Microsoft 365, Outlook, Teams, and OneDrive

Your Southern account gives you access to Microsoft 365 tools such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, and OneDrive.

- Use Teams for class meetings, chat, calls, and collaboration when directed by your instructor.
- Use OneDrive to save and back up your work instead of keeping the only copy on one computer or USB drive.
- Keep school files in your Southern account so they remain separate from personal accounts.

Free Software and Discounted Applications

The Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) can be downloaded on up to 5 computers for free by logging into [Office.com](https://office.com) with your SouthernCT.edu email and password and then clicking on “Install Office”.

Software packages are available at a reduced price by creating an account with [OnTheHub](https://onthehub.com).

[Microsoft Azure Dev Tools for Teaching](#) is another no cost option that allows students, faculty, and staff to install Microsoft software on personal devices for instructional purposes.

Computer Labs, Printing, and Laptop Workstations

Public computer labs are available on campus, including the main public labs in Buley Library. Some locations also provide [docking workstations](#) that let you connect your own laptop to a larger display.

[Campus printing](#) devices support printing, copying, and scanning. Review the current IT Help Desk article for locations, instructions, and applicable charges before printing. Services and locations can change, so use the Help Desk knowledge base for the latest information.

Protect Yourself from Phishing and Scams

Students are frequent targets of fraudulent messages about jobs, financial aid, internships, account expiration, shared documents, tuition, and urgent payment requests.

- Do not approve an MFA notification you did not initiate.
- Never share your password or authentication code.
- Be cautious of job offers that ask you to deposit a check, purchase gift cards, or send money.
- Check the sender address and destination of links before responding.
- Contact the Help Desk if a message seems suspicious.

Information Technology will never ask you to send your password or

authentication code by email or text.

Five Habits for a Successful Semester

1. Check your Southern email regularly.
2. Review Blackboard announcements and due dates.
3. Save important files in OneDrive.
4. Update your devices and restart them as an early troubleshooting step.
5. Ask for help early rather than waiting until a deadline.

Have a great start to Fall 2026. We are glad you are here and look forward to supporting your success.

SCSU Information Technology

Email from the Office of the Registrar regarding Important Dates and Deadlines:

Welcome Back, Owls! We're excited to kick off Southern's Fall 2026 semester and hope you had a restful summer.

As you settle in, please take a moment to review these important deadlines to help you stay on track.

For the full academic calendar visit: <https://southernct.edu/calendar>.

- Aug. 24 - 100% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Aug. 25 - fall classes begin
- Aug. 31 - last day to add a course
- Aug. 31 - 90% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Aug. 31 - 100% refund deadline for dropped classes (part-time students) and the last day to change to part-time status for students in full-semester and first session classes only.
- Sep. 8 - last day to drop a course (no 'W' grade)
- Sep. 8 - 60% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Sep. 8 - 60% refund deadline for dropped classes for (part-time students)
- Sep. 21 - 40% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Sep. 21 - 40% refund deadline for dropped classes for (part-time students)
- Nov. 16 - last day to withdraw and receive 'W' grades or to request pass-

fail

Add a Class

You can [add classes online](#) in [Banner Student](#) during the first week of the semester.

Drop a Class

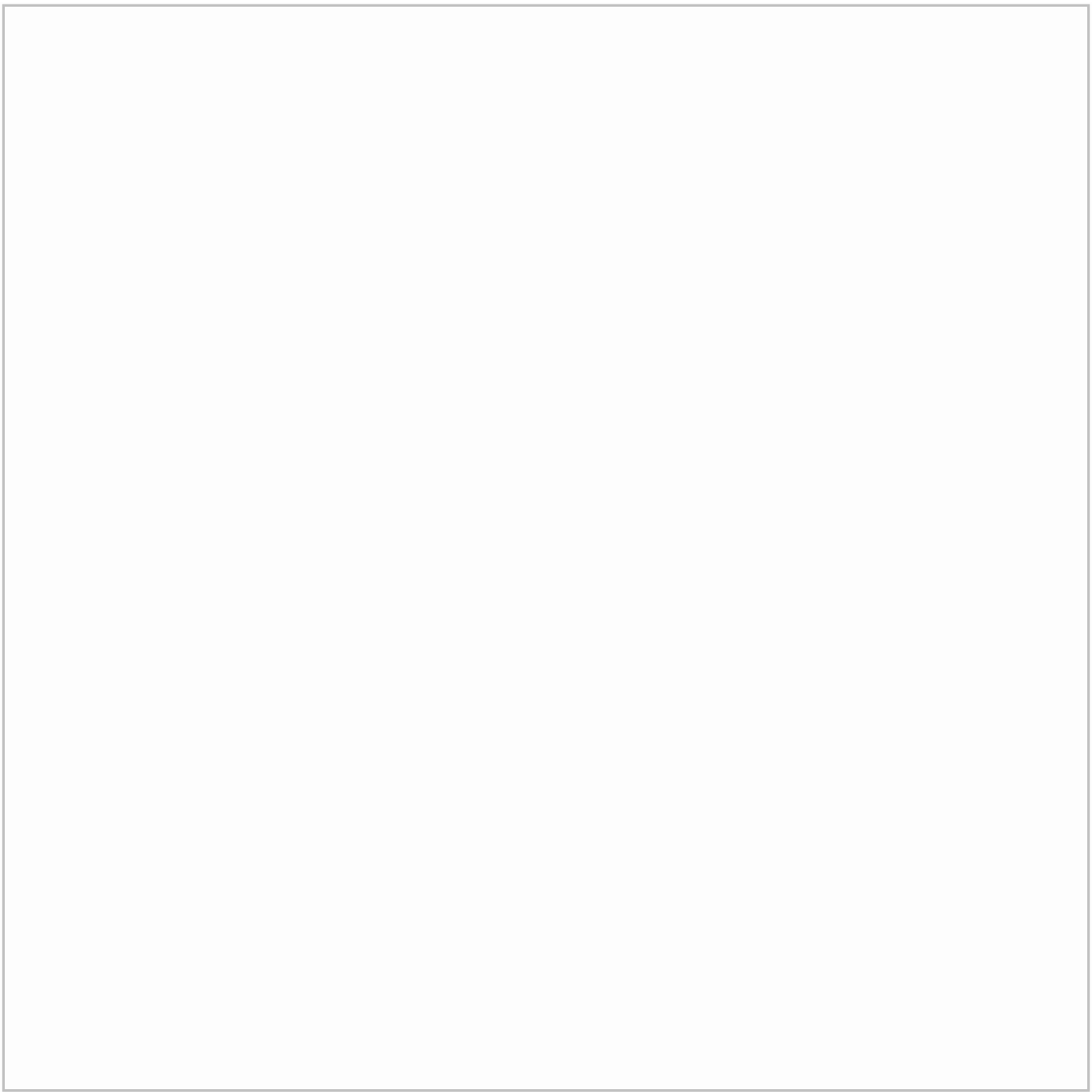
You have a two-week window to [drop a class](#) in [Banner Student](#) without it appearing on your transcript or affecting your GPA. Be sure to act by the refund deadlines noted above if you're seeking a refund.

Note: First-semester freshmen must consult their advisor to add/drop classes.

Thank you,

The Registrar's Office

**Just a few pictures from yesterday's New Student
Convocation and New Owl Fest!**





Helpful Links- these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

Resources- these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Residence Life- with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- information regarding academic advising.



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