

## An Growing Relationship

Just because students head to college, it doesn't mean that they are leaving you behind. They still need you and your wisdom, your counsel, and your love.

They just need you in different ways now. For instance:

### ▶ **Let Go.**

It's difficult for a student to start making his/her own life at college if his/her "old life" keeps pulling him/her back. So, let go so that your conversations contain a reasonable mix of what's happening on campus and what's happening at home. And try not to do everything for your student. Your student needs to learn the knowledge of figuring some things out on his/her own, this can be an essential asset.

### ▶ **Let Them Make Mistakes**

Part of discovering this new sense of independence involves the unavoidable making of mistakes. A student who is scared of "screwing up" in his/her parent's eyes may not take some constructive risks such as tackling a new subject. Risk will allow your students to grow maturely so support their risks.

### ▶ **Believe in Your Student**

As your student tries new things, expands his/her worldview and questions beliefs, his/her perspective may change. Successful students are able to experiment because they know that someone back home believes in them – in their intelligence, their ideas and their ability to make good decisions.

### **Involved, Yet Not Intrusive**

Just because your student is at school, it doesn't mean that he/she no longer needs you in his/her life. It's important for you to be involved- it's actually quite essential to his/her success!

The key is being involved in what's happening in their life without being too intrusive.

Some ways to do that include:

- ▶ don't make conversations feel like interrogations
- ▶ ask your student what he/she is learning in class instead of always focusing on grades
- ▶ if your student mentions a new person's name, casually ask about that person rather than drilling for details
- ▶ don't call or email constantly – there needs to be a healthy distance
- ▶ ask what they're getting involved in and what interests them so far – let them share their eagerness!