

## Welcome Speech to Parents – 2011

Good afternoon, I want to welcome you to the extended family of Naropa.

Naropa University is founded on a pedagogy of Contemplative Education, a place where Education with Contemplation Produces Transformation

Our Faculty, Staff and Administration's sole purpose and dedication is to insure that your Student receive the very best education possible.

An education of both Mind and Heart. Naropa was Founded to be a place where the mind and heart are cultivated together to enable a profound Wisdom to flourish.

Our academics are designed to thoughtfully transform the student so he or she is motivated to transform the world.

Transformation is not always easy however, for Transformation is, at its core, a change for the positive.

We develop habits ...we learn to master them ... we know what to expect and they become a part of our comfort Zone

However today your student steps out of their comfort zone ---  
To start their relationship with this University...it's Faculty, Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors, staff, and members of the Boulder and Denver community

Your student in now a part of a new community who cares deeply about their total growth

Mind, body, and spirit.

However this growth requires much from our Students.

- Openness and vulnerability
- Rigger and discipline
- Academic Excellence
- Hard work and creativity
- Inner and outer transformation
- Fear and delight

The rigger and discipline of an education at Naropa will require your student to confront and examine the problems of in the world...

Develop and understanding that the world's problems are our problems

As you entrust your student to us here at Naropa University, we hope they will see that not only can they initiate change, they can (to quote Gandhi) be the change they want to see in the world.

At Naropa, we believe education does not end with memorization and regurgitation of facts.

We provide time and opportunity for contemplation.

Our world has become so busy and so involved in activity, that we often do not have time to reflect on the lessons we learn.

We live in a world where information is growing exponentially.

At Naropa, understanding the implications of this wealth of information for the individual is crucial.

This can only be fully accomplished through thoughtful contemplation, a practice that we often set aside in the fast-paces cultures we inhabit.

Naropa provides the opportunity to contemplate one's role in this culture

And your students will be challenged to be the change they want to see in the world.

Why this model?

- We believe this is the only way to initiate lasting change in our world.
- We believe this is the only way to make substantive changes within ourselves.
- Thus, we want your students to be thoughtful,
- With a deep understanding of the value of rigorous exercise of all aspects of the individual, mind, body and spirit.

Education with contemplation producing transformation.

That is the distinctive message of Naropa.

As your student embarks down this wonderful academic path,

1. We want you to know,
2. We are not seeking to produce mere scholars.
3. We want to produce scholars whose lives connect to the world around them.

The poet, Khalil Gibran wrote,

"Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love, but not your thoughts.

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward, nor tarries with yesterday."

Thank you.

Lead Discussion and storytelling

Questions;

1. How did your child or student find Naropa University?
2. As you have started your relationship Naropa what are you most excited about?
3. What are your expectations of Naropa University?