Ivy Be ell, & F.

## **Stress Awareness Month**

Stress Awareness Month is an annual designation observed in April. Have you ever been in a situation that was a little (or a lot) overwhelming, you had deadlines approaching and a mile-long to-do list, and you were just in way over your head? Well, you're definitely not alone. Everyone feels stressed from time to time, especially as we get older and the responsibilities pile up. The thing about stress is, a little bit of it isn't necessarily a bad thing, but too much of it can be detrimental to our emotional and physical health. Learning to find a healthy balance is the best way to live a productive, happy life.

A small amount of stress once in a while is a good thing because it means you're working hard and you care about what you're doing. If you were never stressed, that would probably mean you're living a lethargic lifestyle without a whole lot of work involved. However, too much stress doesn't allow us to think straight, and is overbearing and counterproductive. Prolonged stress leads to real physical problems and can cause strokes, IBS, ulcers, diabetes, muscle and joint pain, miscarriages, etc. This month, recognize the difference between good and bad stress and try to find your happy place within the madness.

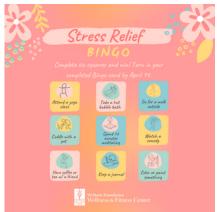
People who work too hard get rewarded. Let's work on changing that mindset and reward those who take a step back to take care of themselves.

Here are some great ways to keep your mind clear and de-stress if you find yourself getting too overwhelmed:

# WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Stress Awareness Month
- Resume Relay
- Wellness & Resource Fair, Self-Defense Class, and more!
- Exercise is medicine. You've heard this before, but exercise gets endorphins pumping through your brain, which triggers a happy feeling. Exercise lowers your body's stress hormones like cortisol, and releases chemicals that make you feel more at peace.
- Get outside. Nature is known to lower stress and is linked to lower risks of depression and improved concentration and attention.
- Light a candle, try essential oils, put on some soft, soothing music, and dim the lights. Try a hot bubble bath.
- Spend time around animals. Studies show that just petting and playing with pets helps lower anxiety and blood pressure.
- Spend time laughing with friends and family. Let yourself have a good time and get your mind off the busyness of the real world.
- Write about it. Journaling can lower stress and anxiety and help regulate emotions. Try something simple like writing down five things you're grateful for or your three greatest strengths and see how it makes you feel.
- Just breathe. Try one of our <u>meditation</u> <u>exercises</u> or use Headspace or Calm. Attend Mindfulness Mondays every Monday at 11:30.
- Include a visit to the <u>Relaxation Lounge</u> in Room 142 to your weekly schedule. You will find a variety of tools to help you destress.





#### April 2024

### SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2024





# MINDFULNESS MONDAYS @ 11:30

Ease into your week with meditation and light stretching.

Relax, clear your mind, and become more focused to take on the week.

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Welborn Foundation Wellness & Fitness Center

## Ivy Tech Community Wellness and Resource Fair

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 10:00 - 1:00 KOCH STUDENT CENTER

• OVER 40 VENDORS!

- MEDICAL ASSISTING STUDENTS PROVIDING CHOLESTEROL AND GLUCOSE SCREENINGS.
- NURSING STUDENTS PROVIDING INFORMATION ON VARIOUS HEALTH AND WELLNESS TOPICS.





Welborn Foundation Wellness & Fitness Center

