We will begin at 1:00 pm EST

Due to the large number of participants, all attendees’ phones are muted on entry to the webinar. Please do not take your phone off mute. We look forward to answering questions via the “chat” feature that you will find in the menu bar above.

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Questions may be submitted at any time during the presentation using the chat feature. To submit a question:

- Click Chat icon
- Type your question into the chat dialog box.
- Select recipient “Presenter”
- Click send/enter.
Debra F. Craig, M.A., Special Projects

- Debra is a nationally recognized education leader and school counseling professional and has served in a number of K-16 school counseling, instruction and leadership capacities. These roles have included College/Career Counselor, Interim Director of Professional Development and Chief Educational Manager of K-12 Services at the College Board, Southwestern Regional Office.

- Appointed to serve on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Common Application Committee and the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, Debra has been involved providing expert guidance and leadership in student access, college admissions and financial aid policy.

- Debra was named Counselor of the Year by the Texas Counseling Association and was honored with the William Fleming for Counseling Excellence and the Founders’ Awards by the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling.

- Debra has led a number of award winning initiatives and programs to serve students and families including content creation for the Texas State University uPhone, Parent College Admission Course, and the Fish Bowl Freshman Orientation Programs.

- Debra holds a Master’s of Education in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Texas and a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Texas Tech University.
Today’s Objectives

- To review the benefits of conducting early college planning sessions with students and parents
- To present models for college planning sessions with students and parents
- To highlight techniques and resources for these college planning sessions
- To maximize counselor time and expertise
How many times have you heard...

- “I want to go to a GOOD college...”
- “Is it better to make an A in a regular course, or a B in an AP course?”
- “What is our high school code?”
- “How many times should I take the SAT?”
- “Why didn’t you tell me this before my senior year?”
And from parents.....

- Phone call: “WE are completing the SAT registration form, what is the high school code?”

- “But taking an AP course could hurt her GPA if she makes a B”

- “How many times should my daughter take the SAT?”

- “I want my child to go to a GOOD college”

- “I wish we had known this earlier....”
Too much, too late

- There is so much information to acquire about the college planning process that it is overwhelming for students and parents.

- Better informed students and parents make better decisions.

- Setting a foundation of information before the senior year makes for less stress...for everyone.
Student Sessions (beyond the classroom)

- When/how I could get to my students without invading instructional time?
- How can I entice them to come to the sessions?
- What would be the important topics to discuss?
- What resources should I have for the meetings?
When

- Lunch
- January/February
- Alternated T/TH and M/W/F
- Prior to course selection process
- During the same time period as parent sessions
Who

- General, open sign-up, self-select
- Ten students at each lunch
- “Friends and French Fries” “Lunch Bunch”
- Special invitation
  - By me
  - By teacher or administrator
  - Upon parent request
How

- Discussed in materials during fall classroom visits with sophomores and fall/spring classroom visits with juniors
- Posted flyers in classrooms (English and math)
- Posted flyers in areas where students gathered
- Distributed flyers to teachers and administrators
What

- Not a set agenda
- Copy of student transcript
- Do have “back pocket” topics
  - Very general college terminology
  - What colleges are you thinking about
  - How do you picture your college
  - Admission requirements
- Checklists, reading lists, books, computer
Checklists

- By Grade
- By season (fall, spring, summer)
- By subject
  - College fairs
  - College visits
  - College application process
  - Financial aid process
Books/Websites

Your favorites

My favorites
– Fiske’s Guide to Colleges
– Book of Majors
– Colleges That Change Lives
– *Pre-College Planner*, from the Associated Colleges of the Midwest
– Big Future
– My College QuickStart
– Colleges/universities sites
Extras

- Gift cards from area businesses
- Snacks
- College stuff
  - Posters
  - Caps
  - T-shirts
  - Pens/pads
Benefits

- Enhance/build personal relationship with the students
- “Word of mouth” benefits
- Optimize counseling time
- Reinforce college planning guidance
**Spin-offs**

- In off-season of each athletic sport I would make a presentation to the athletes about college, NCAA, sports recruiting, etc.

- The art teacher asked me to come in and talk about how to find specific schools for students interested in art institutes.

- AP teachers had me come in during times when they were grading timed writings.

- These students became my greeters/host for college representative visits.
Parent Sessions

- How could I answer the same questions at one time, rather than take 30 phone calls with the same question?

- How to help my “early interested” parents get information?

- What was the best way to meet the needs of my “high maintenance” and “helicopter” parents?

- How could I assist parents who felt their children would never get into college?
When

- Breakfast, noon, night
- January/February
- Four week series
- 1.5 hours in length
- During the same time period as student sessions
How

- Described in materials during fall parent nights
- Posted flyers during “Back to School” night
- Posted on counselor section of website
- Put flyers in teacher mailboxes and in administrator offices
- Parents had to call and sign up to reserve a space
What

- Limited size to 20 parents
- Assigned reading homework each week
- Specific topics for each week
- Checklists, reading lists, books, websites
Week One: Introductions

- **Introductions**
  - Name, child’s grade, what they most wanted from coming to the sessions, greatest fear

- **Syllabus**
  - Topics, vocabulary list, reading list, key websites, discuss homework

- **Parent role in the college planning process**
  College fairs, college visits, moral support, what is support and what is pushy
Week Two: The Tests

- **AP**
  - Scoring, college credit, college placement

- **ACT and SAT**
  - Fees, timing, registration, deadlines

- **SAT Subject Tests, CLEP, etc**
  - Who should take, when, purpose
Week Three: College Application Process

- Terminology and vocabulary list
  - Rolling, early action, early decision, etc.

- Parts of an application
  - Provide samples, transcript discussion, resume

- Essays
  - Purpose, topics, timing

- Teacher Recommendations
  - Purpose, who to ask and why, when to ask, thank you notes

- Counselor Recommendation
  - Purpose
Week Four: Financial Aid

- **FAFSA**
  - What, when, EFC

- **PROFILE and institutional forms**
  - Purpose, procedures, deadlines

- **Financial Aid packages**
  - When, comparing, financial aid officers
  - Scholarships, grant, loans
Books/Websites

Your favorites

My favorites
– Fiske’s Guide to Colleges
– Colleges That Change Lives

– Letting Go: A Parent’s guide to Understanding the College Years
– Almost Grown: Launching Your Child From High School to College
– The iConnected Parent; Staying Close to your Kids in College (and Beyond) While Letting Them Grow Up

– Finaid.gov
Homework

- Parents have readings to do for the next week
- Each week has a vocabulary list to be reviewed by the next week
- Articles provided
- Web pages to review
Extras

- Cookies at first session
- Books to preview
- Cartoons in each session
  - “Zits” is a favorite
Benefits

- Enhance/build relationship with the parents
- “Word of mouth” benefits, sharing materials
- Optimize counseling time
- Meeting the needs of anxious parents
- Building networking support for parents
Spin-offs

- Development of a session for senior parents, “You’re Going to Miss Me When I am Gone”

- Sessions for our students with disabilities and their parents with college representatives from the learning resources office

- Parents who attended the sessions volunteered to be panelists at future parent nights

- Parents who attended the sessions volunteered to allow me to use their names and contact information for other parents (golf dad; specific school interest)
Spin-offs

- Parent volunteers to update/monitor scholarship materials
- Parents attended college representative visits to the school/hosted
- Parents would bring back materials from campus visits
- Parents donated books for future sessions for other parents or books for students
ZITS

WHOA!

POP!

POP!

THAT'S WEIRD, MY EARS JUST POPPED.

MAYBE A HIGH PRESSURE FRONT IS MOVING IN.

I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING.

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THE FORECAST, BUT...

DO YOU REALIZE YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION IS DUE IN TWO YEARS AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED ON THE ESSAYS??

THAT EXPLAINS IT.

OKAY, I FEEL IT NOW, TOO.

POP!

POP!

POP!

POP!

POP!
Questions?

E-mail: fcw@collegeboard.org
College Counseling Resources
College Board @ www.collegeboard.com

Apply to 4 or More Campaign
http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/apply-to-four-or-more

Big Future - College Planning
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Counselor Resource Page
http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/resources

College Counseling Sourcebook*
- Nuts and Bolts of College Advising
- Tips and resources from practicing school counselors
- Chapters devoted to Special Populations including:
  - Low income and First Generation
  - Students in Foster Care
  - Students with Disabilities

* Join the Apply to 4 or More campaign and provide summary information to receive a complimentary PDF in Spring 2014
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- Calvin Mackie - Friday, April 11th
- Noma LeMoine - Saturday, April 12th

**Featured Plenary Session**
“Creating a Successful Launch of the New College Board Assessments” – Friday, April 11th

http://destinationequity.collegeboard.org/
You’re Going to Miss Me When I’m Gone: Transitioning Students from High School To College
Wed., Mar. 12, 2014
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM EST

Building Leadership Skills in College and Career Readiness Counseling
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM EST

School Counselors & College Access Providers: Partnership Power
Wed., April 30, 2014
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Post-its Notes
Pencils & Ink Pens
Set of Handouts & Flyers
Submitting Poll Question Responses

We thank you in advance for providing us your feedback!
THANK YOU for your participation!

*Note: This webinar will be archived.*

*A link to the presentation will be emailed to participants and made available online.*