Creating a College-Going Culture

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STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

GEAR UP Virginia

Gaining

Early

Awareness &

Readiness for

Undergraduate

Programs

U.S. Department of Education federal competitive grant program designed to significantly increase the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Presentation Objectives

1. Examine ways school administrators can become change agents in building a college-going culture

2. Share techniques and resources for identifying areas of improvement for fostering a college-going culture

3. Explore best practices for effective implementation

Equality vs. Equity

- Fair vs. Equal
- Equitable vs. Same
- Access vs. Systemic and Social Barriers
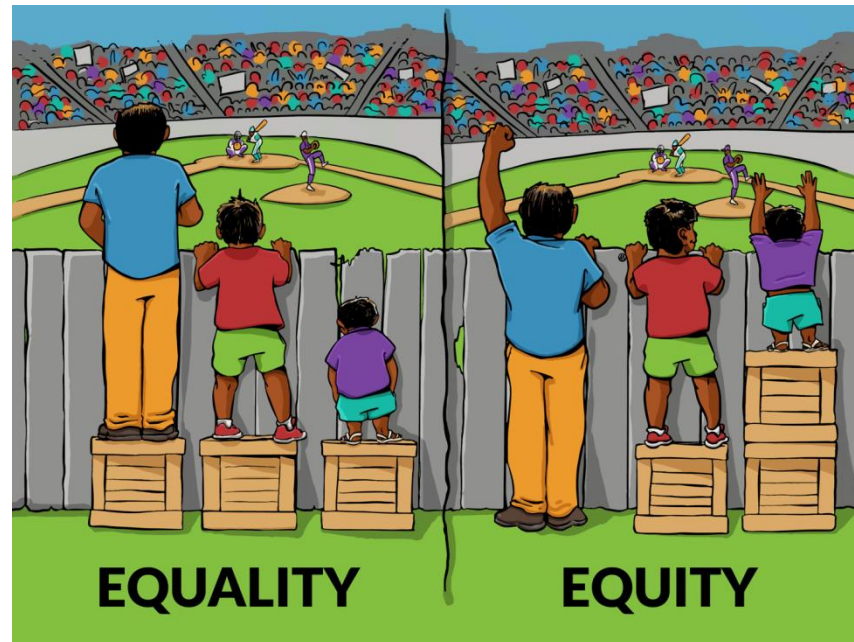
Roundtable Discussion

Experiences with Equality vs. Equity

- How did you come to value education?

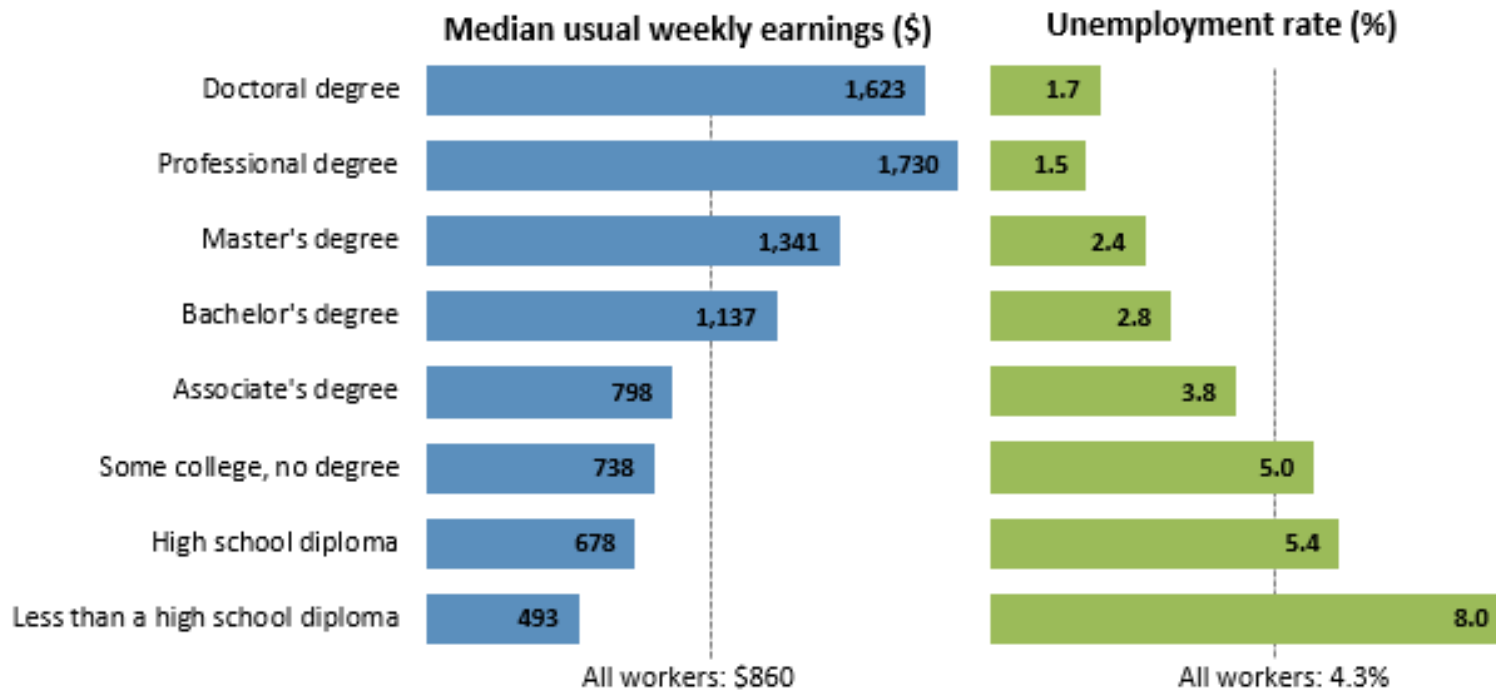- How were you convinced to go to college?

What is a College-Going Culture?

A college-going culture refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools that build the expectation of postsecondary education for all students—not just the best students.

Sources: The College Board, Creating a College-Going Culture Guide
www.collegetools.berkeley.edu

Why Have a College-Going Culture?

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015

	Median usual weekly earnings ($)	Unemployment rate (%)
Doctoral degree	1,623	1.7
Professional degree	1,730	1.5
Master's degree	1,341	2.4
Bachelor's degree	1,137	2.8
Associate's degree	798	3.8
Some college, no degree	738	5.0
High school diploma	678	5.4
Less than a high school diploma	493	8.0
All workers:	$860	4.3%

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Student Pipeline

How Many Students Receive A College Degree?

100 students start the 9th grade:

69 will graduate high school in 4 years

72 will enter college

28 will return for sophomore year

20 will earn a Bachelor's in 6 years

Source: NCES: Common Core Data, IPEDS Residency and Migration, Fall Enrollment and Graduation Rate Surveys

Key Admission Factors

Factor	Considerable Importance
Grades in college prep courses	75%
Strength of curriculum	62%
Admission test scores	54%
Grades in all courses	52%
Essay or writing sample	27%

Source: Admission Trends Survey 2008, NACAC

Creating a College-Going Culture

Sharing Promising Practices

- Think
- Pair
- Share

What does your school or division do to promote college readiness?

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture:

1. College Talk
2. Clear Expectations
3. Information and Resources
4. Comprehensive Counseling Model

5. Testing and Curriculum
6. Faculty Involvement
7. Family Involvement
8. College Partnerships
9. Articulation

Source: (McClafferty & McDonough, 2002)

College Talk

Clear, ongoing communication about college, so that **all** students develop a college-going identity

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

1. College Talk

- Add a "College Day" during your regular "Spirit Week"

- Put students in charge (e.g. college and career club, "Higher Education Readiness Officers", or "college correspondents")

- Publish and post college acceptance lists in the local newspaper

Clear Expectations

Explicit goals of college preparation must be defined and communicated clearly, consistently, and in a variety of ways by families and all school personnel

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Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

2.   Clear Expectations

- Publish your school's college-going rate. Set annual goals

- Communicate high expectations of faculty and staff while encouraging them

- Communicate expectations to both families and students

Information & Resources

Students must have access to up-to-date, comprehensive college information and schools must build college knowledge infrastructure

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

3.   Information and Resources

- Announce a college fact (particularly financial aid facts) each morning

- Post scholarships, ACT/SAT deadlines, and other relevant info on school social media sites

- Work with your local newspaper to feature college-information or college experiences

Comprehensive Counseling Model

All counselors are college counselors and all student interactions with counselors are college advising opportunities

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

4. Comprehensive Counseling Model

- Host evening workshops and evening counseling hours

- Ensure counseling staff receives continuous professional development on college and career readiness

- Build capacity to develop and review Academic Career Plans yearly

Testing & Curriculum

Students must be informed about necessary tests, must be given the opportunity to prepare for these tests, and testing fees must be taken into account

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

5.   Testing and Curriculum

- Ensure CTE course offerings mirror workforce demands and projections

- Promote ACT/SAT test dates within community bulletins

- Pay for and provide early exposure to college admission tests (PSAT or Pre-ACT)

Faculty Involvement

Faculty must be active, informed partners with counselors, students, and families and professional development opportunities must be available

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

6.   Faculty Involvement

- Post "Ask Me About College" signs on faculty and staff doors/desks

- Embed college-preparation assignments into the curriculum

- Engage faculty in student advising

Family and Community Involvement

Family and community members must have opportunities to gain college knowledge and understand their role

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

7. Family and Community Involvement

- Develop and share a broad definition of "family involvement"

- Ask Businesses to hang "Ask Me About the Qualifications for my Job" signs

- Pair college/financial aid workshops with other popular events and recruit community donations or support

College Partnerships

Have active links between K-12 schools and local colleges and universities that can lead to field trips, college fairs, and academic enrichment camps

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

8.   College Partnerships

- Name buildings, wings, or rooms after colleges and allow them to "sponsor" that space

- Partner with colleges to offer "guest lectures" at the high school as classroom lessons; conversely, allow students to observe college classes at the campus

- Participate in 1-2-3 Go! Virginia's Three Steps to College initiative

Articulation

Students should have a seamless experience from kindergarten through high school graduation, with ongoing communication among all schools in a feeder group, and work at one school site should connect with activities and other levels

Nine Critical Principles of College-Going Culture

9.   Articulation

- Create a college-readiness steering committee. Include a variety of stakeholders.

- Articulation between elementary, middle and high schools is seamless.

- Develop partnerships with colleges and businesses to create college and career pathways for students

Next Steps for Administrators

1. Develop representative college-going culture assessment team
2. Disburse Muskegon Opportunity "College-Going Culture Rubric" to faculty, staff, students, & families
3. Collect, analyze, and share results
4. Develop an implementation plan for improvement
5. Share and request feedback
6. Execute!

Questions or Comments?

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