

# CALIFORNIA GEAR UP

## Counseling Institute Notes - 2009

### Principles of a College Going Culture

-----Based on the research of Dr. Pat McDonough  
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*Participant Feedback listed.*

#### **1. College Talk**

Talk to students individually and conduct college presentations  
Ask teachers to wear college t-shirt  
Visit colleges  
AVID- College Fair (college kids come to speak to MS students)  
College tours of actual campuses  
Academic/College Day  
Alumni student speakers  
Career Day  
AB 1802 conferences on college/career planning  
College Live!  
Out of classroom staff share their path to college  
College T-shirt Wednesdays to spark conversations  
Focus on College of the Week  
Guest speakers – college reps & students  
March Madness – Door decorating contest  
College Yard Fest  
AVID  
College field trips  
College education curriculum  
ETS (Education Talent Search) Partnership with CSULB  
School-wide “College Class”  
College pennants in each classroom  
A- G posted in every classroom  
Former students coming back to share experience in college  
Ask every student “Have you thought about college yet?”  
On Bulletin Board have pictures of 1 or 2 staff members with college bio on display  
weekly/monthly  
Presentation at Family Night “Planning for College”

#### **2. Clear Expectations**

Be safe, respectful, be responsible (reminded daily via announcements)  
Present college information to all students & families  
We expect all students to go to college and/or get training for a career

Standards written on the board  
Detention announces sports scores and what's going on (create a BUZZ)  
Connections - kids earn ASU shirt as reward for going to level 3  
Get XXL & XXXL shirts in pink for girls uncomfortable with their beauty  
Make A-G requirements clear for all students and families  
Organization/planners, materials for success  
Monthly Academic Bridge Meetings in auditorium with 6, 7, 8<sup>th</sup> grades (separate meetings)  
Organize academic conferences, test chats with students  
Required Elective Course on A-G, FAFSA, etc. in middle school  
AB 1802  
Parent Night meetings connected for effective communication  
Ask teachers to incorporate college information in classes as assignments that kids can get credit for A- G, research various colleges etc.  
AVID contracts (students & parent)  
GEAR UP student & parent contract

### **3. Information & Resources**

Have college info in office/view books in office  
Invite college reps to visit classrooms  
College corner- Counseling offices  
Career day  
College resource packets given to all students  
College Fair, AB 1802, parent meetings, career & college club  
Visible college corner  
College videos available for check-out  
College Live!  
[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)  
Have college applications and course guides in middle schools  
Teach students how to get financial aid  
Distribute College Booklets to advisory classes and at 1802 conferences with students  
AVID classes applied to "Save Me a Spot in College"  
Parent workshops  
College Trivia over PA  
Career Fair  
DVDs of college campus tours  
College Expo with transportation for family  
Getting into College Assembly  
Inspirational speakers for students about college  
Websites lists, i.e. [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)  
Newsletter to parents & staff  
Bulletin boards  
Share between/among community partners  
"College Wall" in counseling office, "College Corner" in classrooms  
College banners throughout the school  
College pennants on school walls

### **4. Comprehensive Counseling Model**

ICP – Review college requirements A-G, college awareness program, 7-12 Planning

Link academic, social and vocational Ed skills for future goals/careers  
Master schedule that supports creating a *college-going culture*  
Set goals- Goal Sheet  
Identify needs of community and individual students  
Have “cost” meetings  
Counselors visiting classrooms to review ICPs, A-G requirements, credits, CAHSEE; work with at-risk students  
Work with DPC (drop-out prevention counselor) to go over A-G requirements  
Follow ASCA Model & CASC.  
GEAR UP Counselor  
AVID Counselor  
AB 1802  
Academic counseling/college awareness

## **5. Testing & Curriculum**

Utilize COPS – Career Inventory  
My Road Career Inventory  
EXPLORE or PSAT  
Bridges  
Guidance Lessons  
EXPLORE for ALL 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
Test Prep in advisory twice a week  
Cornell Notes becoming school-wide  
AVID culture expanding-adding 2nd class  
Grade level by department: conversations about CST scores, grades and how to improve our curriculum  
Rewards for perfect attendance during CST Testing  
7<sup>th</sup> grade pre-algebra and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra

## **6. Faculty Involvement**

Raise expectations of student achievement  
Professional Development  
Newsletters to staff  
Faculty/staff mentoring program for students  
Ask teachers to incorporate college information in assignments (math problems, essays)  
College Trivia Bowl  
Door Decorating Contest  
College Resumes on doors (teachers & staff)  
Pennants  
College Yard Fest  
College Night  
College Fair (teachers represent their own college)  
Morning announcements regarding college paths by staff  
Homeroom discussions regarding college  
Share information with staff  
College T-shirt Wednesdays  
Teachers assign college for research project  
PIP Program –Positive behavior support

College theme groups/teams  
Write letters to get T-shirts donated  
Clothes line up at workshop for staff to hang college shirts (give shirts as awards to students)  
Career Day  
ALL staff wearing college shirts on a designated day  
Field trips to colleges  
College bio for each faculty & staff member, with photo & tips for success  
Staff wears college sweat shirts on Wednesday  
Increase of staff attending AVID Institutes/Faculty meetings

## **7. Family Involvement**

Parent workshops - high school/college info, use tool  
Campus Visits  
Math Night  
Parent Center (resources, parenting classes)  
College Night, College Visits  
Math Carnival  
PIQE, FIP  
Workshops in neighborhoods  
Encourage parents to enroll their child in summer programs located on a college campus  
Families in Schools Program (transition middle school to high school)  
Cash for College Convention (Family Night)  
Info night for families on the same night as PHABAO Conference  
Provide continuing education info for parents  
College Yard Festivals include fraternities, sororities, and steppers  
Parent orientation course/handbook  
3 parent meetings – 2 evenings and Saturday  
Summer Algebra Prep/study skills  
Parent food pantry  
Family night-Parent work on College night

## **8. College Partnerships**

Invite college reps to campus  
Partnership with community colleges, Claremont Colleges & Cal Poly Pomona  
Phi Theta Kappa – adopted AVID  
Amigos De UCLA  
Field Trips to Colleges & Universities – use city bus or walking if close  
Partnerships with UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program – classroom presentations & visits to university  
LBUSD, LBCC, CSULB Partnerships field trips to college as early as 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Scavenger Hunt at local university  
Local community college can offer college credit course on the middle school campus, i.e. intro to college class  
USC Talent Search – Provides information and resources on study skills, scholarships, college field trips and great food  
Yuba College Culinary Involvement  
Student Government calling and emailing colleges for information to post and speakers  
GEAR UP College night on campus, SSU outreach

Local community colleges provide tutors  
Upward Bound (CSUEB)  
College rep for Career Day

## **9. Articulation**

Department meetings: math, Language Arts, science to set up expectations  
AVID shadow days at high schools  
Visit 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and have 5<sup>th</sup> grade visit middle school  
High school counselors come to meet with 8<sup>th</sup> graders one-on-one on middle school campus,  
discuss expectations and schedule classes  
Awards and incentives  
HS presentation to parents/families, student body  
Summer Bridging Program  
HS tours for families (8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Bulletin Boards at MS about the local high schools  
6<sup>th</sup> grade Academy  
Summer school for incoming 7th grade  
Orientation for incoming and outgoing  
Same prep time for collaboration, vertical collaboration  
Community information to others