

A young man with a bright smile is looking upwards and to the right. He is wearing a grey V-neck sweater. In the background, a library setting is visible with bookshelves and other people, including a woman smiling in the mid-ground.

**Strengthening Learning through the forging of a
College Going Culture**

March 3, 2010

college
summit™
connect to your future

CONNECT TO YOUR FUTURE

COLLEGE SUMMIT BELIEVES:

The future vitality of our nation depends on whether we can expand the college-educated talent pool to grow the economy.

Equipping young people to be the first in their family to succeed in college is likely the most cost-effective way to break the cycle of poverty.

THE CHALLENGE:

In the last 20 years, U.S. College Attainment has slipped from 1st in the World to 10th.

The talent loss in high school is especially severe: 50% of 9th graders from low-income households do not graduate from high school.

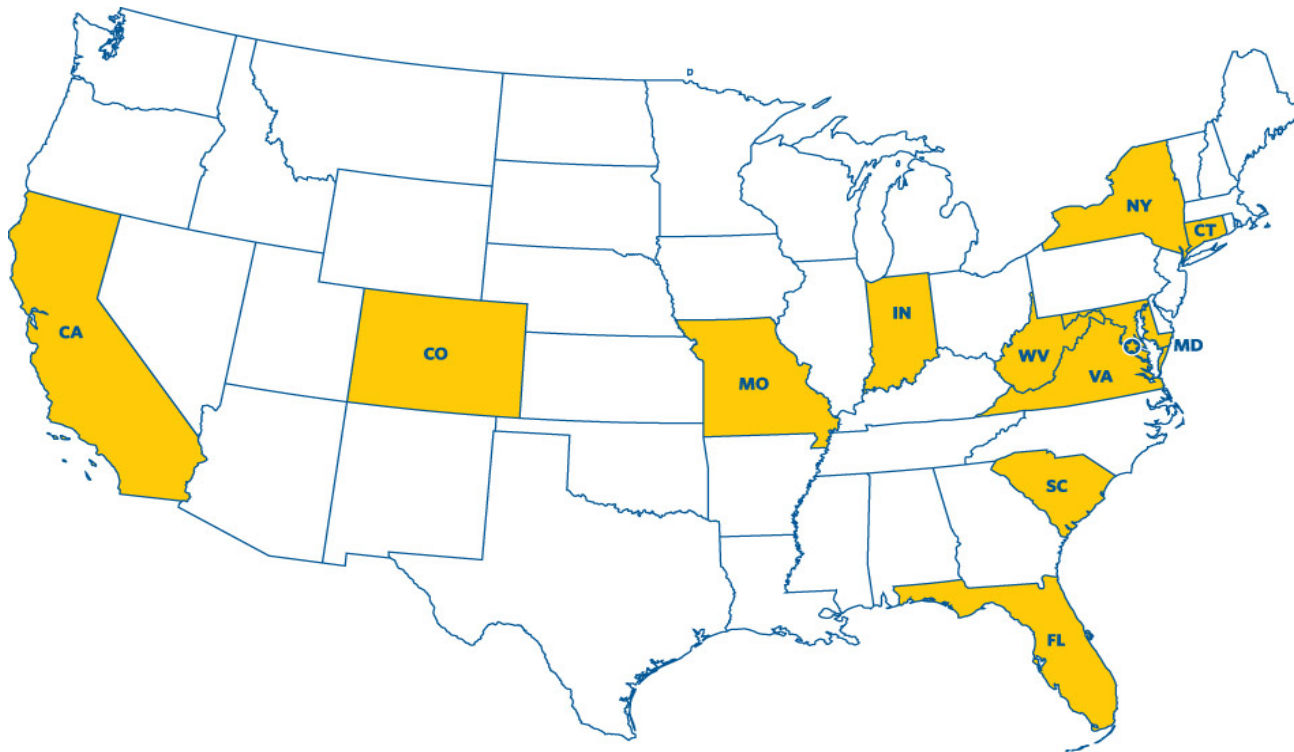
RESULTS:

Nationally, schools that serve 80% or more of their seniors increase their college enrollment rate by 15%

Overall College Summit students persist to their 2nd year in college at rate of nearly 70%

College Summit Across the Country

In the 2009-2010 school year College Summit served 28,000 students in 169 high schools. College Summit has partnerships with over 20 school districts in 11 states and the District of Columbia.



National Capital Region (NCR)

Working with 26 schools, 7,000+ students in 5 school districts including Baltimore City, PGCPS, DCPS, DC Charters, Arlington, & Alexandria

2009-10 school year in Baltimore City schools

- Baltimore Talent Development
- Renaissance Academy High School
- The Institute of Business & Entrepreneurship
- Maritime Academy High School

Results from the 2008-09 school year

- 89% of 207 seniors applied to college
- 89% were accepted!!!



"I came back from the College Summit summer workshop with fire in my eyes. I realized that I wasted a lot of time in middle and high school and my time was ticking away... I studied hard for the first time in my life and I received the best grades that I have ever gotten in my life." - DeAnthony Hall, 2009 Peer Leader of the Year

The College Summit Strategy

- Implement a **classroom-based college and career planning curriculum (with full online portal)** for all students
- Provide **professional development** for high school educators
- Train **student influencers** (“Peer Leaders”) to create college-going culture with their peers and in their community
- Deliver customized **performance management reports** on student and school progress
- Utilize a **team approach** to build capacity of school community to drive college going culture

Repurposing High Schools

- Destiny
- “High schools as launch pads’ is exactly the direction we are heading in DCPS. A college going culture needs to permeate everything our high schools are doing.” –Chancellor Michelle Rhee, DCPS
- “Graduating kids from high school is a very important part of our mission, but it is simply NOT enough. We must deliver our children to the doors of higher learning, fully prepared to walk through those doors and into the rigors of college life. When you start pushing the ceiling, the floor comes up.” Abelardo Saaverda, Houston Independent School District
- **Consortium on Chicago School Research:**
 - Supportive relationships between teachers and students
 - Perception among students that the work they are doing in high school was preparing them for the future.

Critical Culture Shifts to Establish College-Going Culture in High Schools

1. Shift from thinking of students as recipients of school culture to *drivers* of school culture
2. Shift from a “guidance counselor only” model to a guidance counselor plus teacher-engaged effort to encourage college-going

Research

• *When a majority of a student's friends are planning to go to college, a student is 4x more likely to seek a higher education.*

American Council of Education

• *College-going culture is one of the two most important drivers of student academic performance in high school.* Chicago Consortium on School Research

“Building and sustaining a college-going culture requires one basic concept and that is every adult must work as one unit for the best interest of the child.”

- Teacher, Institute for Business and Entrepreneurism

Critical Culture Shifts to Establish College-Going Culture in High Schools

3. Shift from thinking postsecondary guidance should be more for some students to providing it to *all* students
4. Shift to counting college enrollment rates as a measure of high school success

Research

• *Top reason students give for dropping-out? High school was not relevant for their future job goals.*

"Silent Epidemic"

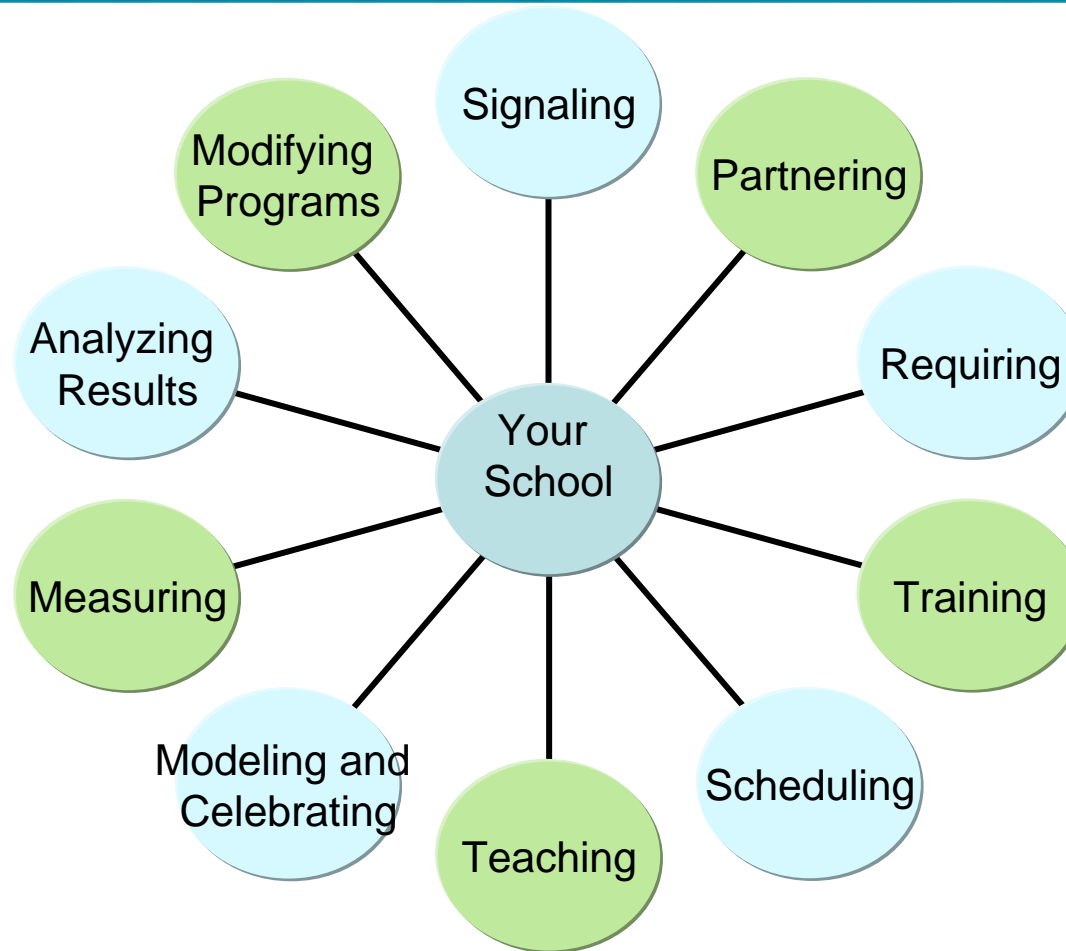
J.M. Bridgeland

• *We value what we measure & we measure what we value.*

"I believe that other educators can learn that students need to be inspired through the college process. Inspiration leads to the students trusting in the process and will inspire them to live by the guide in which they should believe. . . ."

- Teacher, Maritime Industries Academy

FORGING A COLLEGE GOING CULTURE



BEST PRACTICES

Signaling

- Send letters to parents with path to college information
- Integrate college conversation in morning announcement
- Messaging – College is not just for 4 years but it's about lifelong learning

Partnering

- Create a relationship with college groups to show role models and create mentors
- Create buddies and pair 9th with 11th graders and 10th with 12th graders

Requiring

- All students to take the PSAT/SAT/ACT
- All students compose an end of high school graduation plan

Training

- All school staff participate in professional development on how to create a college going culture in their classrooms and building

BEST PRACTICES

Scheduling

- Schedule a in School College Fair
- Facilitate mandatory financial aid (literacy) workshops

Teaching

- Integrate career options in all content area
- Emphasize relationship of high school curriculum to college curriculum
- Scrutinizing admissions criteria for particular colleges to help students make better choices

Modeling and Celebrating

- Wear college paraphernalia to promote a college-going culture
- Display college acceptance letters around school

Measuring

- Keep track of senior graduation rate and college enrollment
- Principals track progress on key milestones for college enrollment

Analyzing Results

- Sharing PSAT & SAT/ACT scores with students and parents to help them in understanding the data
- Display progress towards established goals (college applications, financial aid)

Modifying Programs

- Hold quarterly meetings with all support organizations to review results and discuss student progress
- Establish quarterly goals for school and students based on progress

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