COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE for counselors

2019 REPORT
College Knowledge for Counselors is a professional development conference designed to provide counselors, administrators, and other educators with innovative ideas of creating a college-going culture in Arizona’s middle and high schools. This conference showcases a host of subject areas with experts who are prepared to discuss the barriers students face as well as the way in which we, as an academic community, can utilize the time and resources already available to prepare all youth for a bright future. This year’s conference was back in Tucson, where we have held the conference for over 11 years. Our Keynote speaker was Marla Franco, Assistant Vice Provost of Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives. She shared information about the UA’s new strategic plan in her session, “Strategic Planning: How a university’s plan can inform our student’s college planning.”

Findings from CKC Event Evaluation:
*Data gathered from 49 respondents out of participants*

97.96% of participants agreed to being empowered to create a college going culture in my school. (69.39% strongly agree; 28.57% agree; Q. 32 of Event Evaluation).

93.88% of participants felt they now have a better understanding of the skills students will need to be prepared for success in higher education. (48.98% strongly agree; 44.90% agree; Q. 37 of Event Evaluation).

95.92% of participants felt that they could identify assets that they could provide students and parents with in the college going process. (63.27% strongly agree; 32.65% agree; Q. 38 of Event Evaluation).
Session 1a: Beyond Vocation: College Opportunities within Career and Technical Education (CTE).
Description: More than 7.4 million secondary students and 4 million post-secondary students are interested in CTE nationwide. With growing high school programs and courses for students, perspectives are changing about the value of CTE. Listen to our panelist talk about the opportunities for post-secondary education within the CTE track, and learn more about how you can help students continue or choose this path as a post-secondary option to education.
   Speaker: Jennifer Atteberry-Pierpoint & Demi Vaughn
   Session Rating: 3.38/5 (Collected from 34 Respondents)

Session 1b: Native American Youth & College Preparation.
Description: Dr. Amanda Tachine joins us as a Research and Evaluation Associate for the American Indian College Fund. She will share her insights from research, her own doctoral work, her professional experience in two of Arizona’s public universities, and her raising of three college-bound students. School counselors play a critical role and the workshop will give advice of walking alongside Native youth as they find their own college path.
   Speaker: Dr. Amanda Tachine
   Session Rating: 5/5 (Collected from 22 Respondents)

Session 2a: Our Voice. Our Community. Our Future: Examples of Mobilizing Youth.
Description: The Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) advocates for all levels of education by sharing their voice, engaging the community and providing opportunities that help students prepare for a successful future. Students are truly at the core of MEC’s work. You will get to learn about how the organization mobilizes youth to send college-going messages in their schools, to inform public policy through advocacy, and how students can maximize internship opportunities in high school to prepare them for post-secondary options.
   Speaker: Arlene Benavidez, Aiselyn Anaya, Josh Ashton, and Michaela Silva
   Session Rating: 3.85/5 (Collected from 14 Respondents)

Session 2b: Posters & Stickers are not Enough: A Discussion on Policies and Strategies to Support Undocumented and DACA Students.
Description: With the recent change in policies because of a 2018 AZ Supreme Court ruling, students with work permits through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program no longer qualify for in-state tuition at AZ public colleges and universities. In this session we will address the many ways in which K-12 and college educators can help students from all backgrounds pursue higher education and provide updates on what institutions are (not) doing to support DACA and undocumented students. We will use an Educator’s Toolkit to develop strategies that you can use to create space for students to strive towards their educational and career goals.
   Speaker: Matt Matera and Representatives from ScholarshipsA-Z
   Session Rating: 4.13/5 (Collected from 41 Respondents)
Session 3a: Transferring to the University of Arizona: The Many Modes of Completing a Bachelor’s Degree

The prospective students for universities are changing. Many students are opting for community college, military training or other various options instead of going directly to a university. At the University of Arizona, not only are we working to create strong pathways to transfer from a community college to the university, but we are also offering degrees in a variety of learning modalities. Students now have many options to complete a Bachelor’s degree through the University of Arizona South, Arizona Online, and our main campus in Tucson. In this presentation, we will provide the answer to who is transferring to our campuses and how we are serving them.

Presenter: Joseph Embacher, Aaron Holley, & Emily Weaver

Session Rating: 4.26/5 (Collected from 28 Respondents)

Session 3b: Engaging School Counselors in Advocacy for the Profession and Students.

In Arizona, and across the country, advocacy for education is a critical topic that continues to emerge. This session hopes to engage counselors in conversations regarding what they can do to advocate for the field of education, for their students, and for themselves. These actionable strategies will help to build value for counselors within their schools and to contribute to educational communities that allow counselors the appropriate time to focus on college and career preparation for all students.

Presenter: Anna Cicero

Session Rating: 4.09/5 (Collected from 11 Respondents)

Session 4a: Through an AVID Lens: Philosophy of Early College Discussions.

AVID offers a college readiness system designed to prepare all students for college readiness. School counselors, whether they work in an AVID school or not, are essential to helping students develop a predisposition and a plan for post-secondary success. This interactive session will allow participants to exchange ideas as we share best practices for middle and high school.

Presenter: Krystal Gandara

Session Rating: 4.70/5 (Collected from 17 Respondents)

Session 4b: Launching Seniors into their Future.

Join Arizona GEAR UP as it introduces its Senior Launch Guide. AZ GEAR UP developed the Senior Launch Guide to help high school seniors navigate the many unfamiliar steps required senior year to 'launch' successfully into their chosen life after graduation. The Guide includes clear, concise checklists for students based on postsecondary plan and includes helpful information and forms for completing the FAFSA, applying for scholarships and jobs, selecting and applying to colleges, and more. In this session, you will learn about the tool, how it was used, and how to access a free version of the Guide to help your students launch into their future.

Presenter: Andrea Gonzalez-Sotelo

Session Rating: 5/5 (Collected from 24 Respondents)