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Designing with Autonomy: A College Counseling Program for Charter Schools

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Goals of the Session

Provide strategies that consider student outcomes and the autonomy of charter schools

Provide ideas for your program

Create a space for exchange of ideas and information



Our School

- Our school serves the area of MacArthur Park and our students are 98% Latino
- We have a teacher staff of 24; 16-18 of which teach in our college knowledge program
- We have a 240:1 counselor ratio.
- Our college counseling model allows for counselors to stay with their caseloads to ensure deeper relationships
- On average, 75%-80% four-year acceptance, 72%-76% enrollment





Nine Principles of College Counseling

College Talk

Clear Expectations

Information & Resources

Comprehensive Counseling Model

Testing and Curriculum

Faculty Involvement

Family Involvement

College Partnerships

Articulation



The Nine Principles of College Counseling at CNCA



Building with Autonomy

- Being part of the Administration Team allows us to hone in on the priorities and needs of our students in terms of their college preparation and voice those needs.
- The mission of our charter organization includes preparing our students to be prepared for college beginning in pre-k through their college career.
- The College Counselors advocates for the counseling program and this has helped build trust among other school leaders and the home support office.





Becoming Effective

Act with the whole child in mind

Data-driven program with consistent evaluation of our effectiveness in different aspects

Grade-level structure has lended itself to better collaboration, streamlined communication, and effective implementation

AP application program has elevated our academic culture and motivation



Becoming Effective cont.

Integrating alumni counselor earlier into the students' lives

Support our alumni through their college journey and career preparation

Proactive and frequent communication with stakeholders has helped garner buyin and support

Educating others about the changes and trends in college counseling



Learning from Others

College Awareness

Parental Involvement

Academic Advising and Success

Small Student-tocounselor Ratio

Social Preparation



Learning from Others cont.

- College representatives as social capital
- Progressive college counseling model
- Cohort-style caseload management
- A-G as graduation requirements are the hallmark for California charter school success
- Everyone is a college counselor on site





Strategies

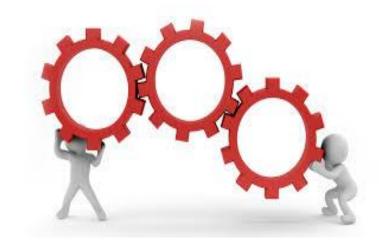
- Design a program that is student-centered, sustainable and has the ability to involve all stakeholders
- Create your own network among other college counselors at charter schools
- Share your best practices with stakeholders and potential partners
- Create a culture of high expectations for students, while ensuring that the school is being supportive





Strategies

- Share your successes with students, teachers and families alike
- Set goals as a campus to involve all stakeholders in the college counseling process
- Make use of the summer (as possible)
- Create student energy around college culture through competitions





Thank you!

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