The State of School Counseling: Revisiting the Paths Forward

Presenters:
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Objectives

1. Rethink collaborative pathways to advance America's students with a postsecondary education.
2. Review the current movement to reposition school counselors as college and career readiness leaders.
3. Review National Consortium of School Counselors for Postsecondary Success (NCSCPS) recommendations and the impact on college and career practice, especially for low income students.
Session Description

Amid a growing national recognition of the need for some postsecondary training beyond high school, the school counselor has emerged as a potential collaborative campus leader for college and career readiness and success.

The report aims to provide recommendations to the field that will serve as a key driver to increase postsecondary opportunities for all students, especially first generation college goers.

Report Recommendations fall into the following areas.

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1. Lit Review
2. Survey Participants
3. Think Tank Participants
4. State Teams
The STATE OF SCHOOL COUNSELING review focuses specifically on the intersection of college counseling and school counseling. The goal is to identify notable themes and gaps in current empirical research on this critically important topic so as to inform future research.
Path Forward Recommendations (2012)

1. Act Now Through Existing Training and Tools for College and Career Readiness
2. Include Counselors as Integral Partners in Education Policy
3. Include Counselors in Common Core State Standards Implementation
4. Provide Counselors, Teachers and Administrators Pre-service /In-service Training that Aligns Counselors’ Work to Students’ College and Career Readiness
5. Align Counselor “Accountability Measures” with Student, School and Districts Goals
6. Accelerate FAFSA Completion for Students

NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy
Our consortium emerged in response to First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative and the call for improvements to school counseling and school-based college and career counseling systems.

We promote strategic partnerships with state leadership organizations to ensure that school counselor standards and guidelines ensure postsecondary success for underserved and/or first generation college students.
Chart 1.1 summarizes the origins of Reach Higher, providing a timeline of early events that transformed Reach Higher into a nationwide movement.
Chart 2.3 shows all of the Reach Higher State Teams to date, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, by region.
We must acknowledge that despite the hard work of many well-intentioned professionals working in the college advising space across institutions, we have failed to accelerate the degree attainment process, particularly with underserved populations across the nation who are in greatest need of assistance.
NCSCPS – Counselor Leadership

• Counselors can play a catalytic role in a student’s college journey; however, their ability to do so is constrained by a wide range of competing priorities and demands upon their time.

• Importantly, the systematic literature review shows that the field continues to lack research demonstrating school counselors’ unique impact on postsecondary metrics and outcomes.
On May 14, 2015, former First Lady Michelle Obama, rolled out REACH HIGHER because she wanted to inspire every student to pursue and complete a postsecondary education, whether it be a 2 year, 4 year or industry training program.

REACH HIGHER focuses on 4 areas:
1. College affordability
2. Exposing kids to college
3. Academic and Summer Planning
4. Supporting School Counselors
Vision/Goal

End the silo approach to college advising that exists in too many underserved communities.
Call To Action

We call on everyone to use their time, energy, skills, knowledge and resources to unleash postsecondary opportunities for all students, in order for all children to realize their dreams.

School Counselor Positioned As A Foundational Support For College and Workforce Readiness Aspirations
Counselor Impact On Student Outcomes

Students who worked one-on-one with a school counselor were:

- 6.8 times more likely to complete a FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- 3.2 times more likely to attend college
- 2 times more likely to attend a bachelor's degree program

Other key factors that influenced students' college-going behavior included:

- speaking with a counselor in ninth grade about going to college
- parents speaking with a counselor by 11th grade about college
- participating in a college preparation program outside of school
- having close friends who plan to attend a four-year college
- parents' expectations about college-going

This is only the BEGINNING.

It’s the start of your journey: to create something better for millions of students around the nation. It’s not about being seen—it’s about making a difference. Not for us. For them.

As we look towards to the next phase of work to be done, we’re confident in people like you, who see what our students could be and are willing to help get them there.

We want to amplify our counselors’ impact.

Take to social media and tell us how a school counselor helped you succeed!

BetterMakeRoom.org
#BetterMakeRoom

ReachHigher.gov
#ReachHigher
Illinois College and Workforce Ready Work Plan

Adopted in 2008, Goal 3 of The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success:

“Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.”
In recent years, far greater numbers of Illinois school districts are teaching students who are living in poverty. In 43% of school districts in 2015, more than half of the students are coming from low-income homes, up from 13% in 2005.
Low Income Students Less Likely To Complete College

Six-Year Postsecondary Completion Rate for Students Who Enroll in College

SIX-YEAR POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION RATE FOR STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN COLLEGE
Sources: National Student Clearinghouse, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY
SCHOOL COUNSELOR AS FOUNDATIONAL COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE READY LEADER
RELATIONSHIPS
DATA
CASELOADS

58%
37%
75%

ALL STUDENTS
LOW INCOME
WEALTHIER PEERS
WHERE WE ARE!

Tracking the Trend®
Percentage of the state’s working population (25-64) with a quality postsecondary credential

2014 includes an estimate of certificates, adding about 6%.

Levels of education for Illinois residents, ages 25-64*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

*Excerpted from the Lumina Foundation’s A Stronger Nation Illinois policy brief.
School Counselor Leadership in Partnership

Internal Leadership Perspective
Dr. Venisa Beasley-Green
School Counselor

External Leadership Perspective
Venise Bradley-Mitchell
College Access Professional

Reflection on Recommendations
Download Reports At: www.ncscps.org

1. Lit Review
2. Survey Participants
3. Think Tank Participants
4. State Teams
Four Cross Cutting Themes

1. Alignment
2. Collaboration
3. Accountability
4. Counselor Leadership

STUDENT LEVEL COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS OUTCOMES
Which Of The 6 Priority Recommendation Areas Do You Believe To Be The Most Important?

1. Policy – Training/Evaluation
2. Practice – Framework
3. Practice – Metrics
4. Research – National Center
5. Research – Professional Development
6. Credentialing – School Counselor Preparation
FOCUS AREAS
23 Recommendations

Activity: Idea Catcher
1. Take a few minutes to read through the recommendations.
2. Put a check mark next to the areas you feel are most important.
Four Focus Areas

1. Policy
2. Practice
3. Research
4. Credentialing

CHANGE LEVERS
STUDENT LEVEL COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS OUTCOMES
What Recommendation Areas Are You Most Interested?

Research
Policy
Credentialing
Practice
Transformative Delivery of the Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling

Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling

1. College Aspirations
2. Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness
3. Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement
4. College and Career Exploration and Selection Processes
5. College and Career Assessments
6. College Affordability Planning
7. College and Career Admission Processes
8. Transition from High School to College Enrollment

Required elements for EACH component

- Context
- Cultural Competence
- Multilevel Interventions
- Data

Equitable Outcomes

College and Career Readiness for All Students
“It’s the start of your journey: to create something better for millions of our students around the nation. It is not about being seen…. It is about making a difference. NOT FOR US, BUT FOR THEM.

As we look forward to the next phase of work to be done, we feel confident in people like you, who see what are students could be and are willing to help them get there.”

First Lady Michelle Obama

ENDING THOUGHT:
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Contact Us For Further Information and Presentations
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