



HONORING STUDENT VOICE: EXPLORING POTENTIAL, CHOICE, AND COURAGE

Ms. Guzman-Morales | Ms. Olvera
Post Secondary Success Team | Benito Juarez Community Academy
2020 -- 2021

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OVERVIEW:

Session Information





This session is for stakeholders in learning communities seeking to improve structures and efforts in post-secondary curriculum. High school educators will learn: how to humanize the Post-secondary experience for First-Generation low-income students through:

- personalized curriculum
- multi-tiered-systems of support

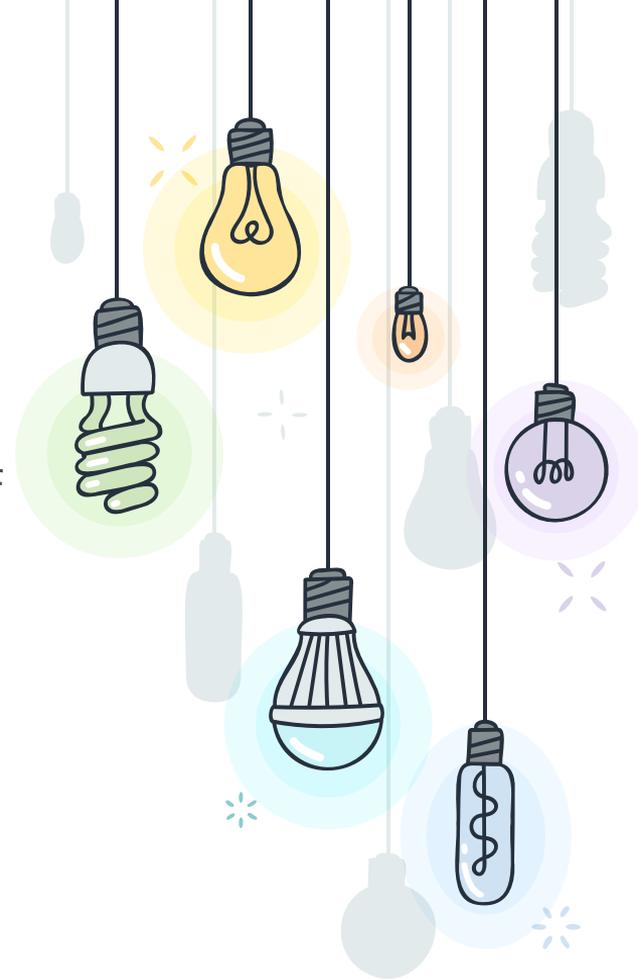
Our focus is to highlight: student voice, choice, and their courage to *aspire to new heights*.

✧ BJCA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Benito Juarez Community Academy, a premier neighborhood school, is to establish a dynamic family of lifelong learners who strive to think critically, progressively, and globally while engaged in the pursuit of personal and collective growth.

POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS TEAM MISSION

The mission of the Postsecondary Success team is to establish a professional team at Juarez who aims to improve the systems and structures in order to support students in fulfilling their post-secondary aspirations.





POST SECONDARY SUCCESS TEAM:

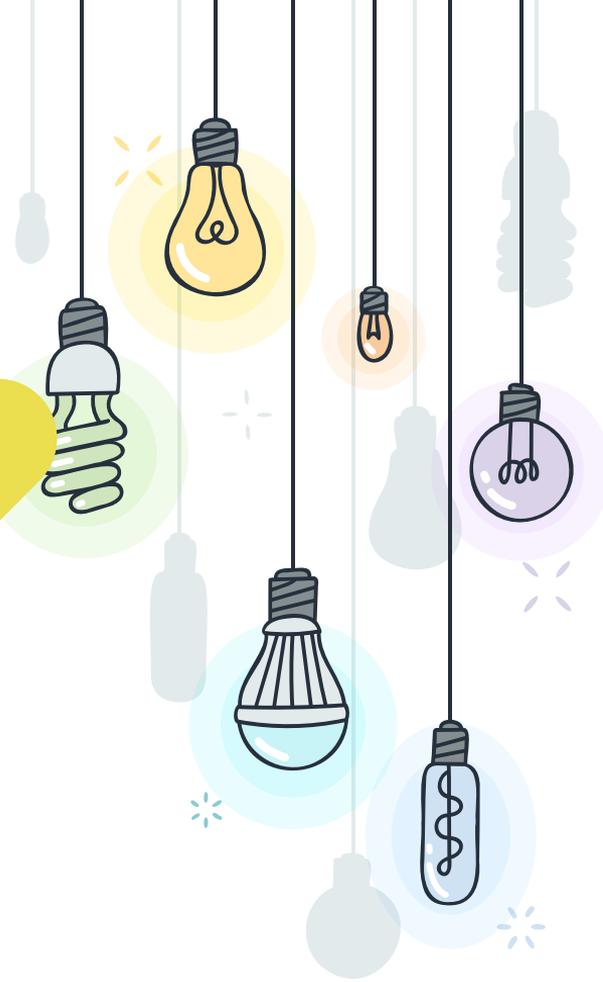
Our Dream Team

* COLLABORATION: STAKEHOLDERS

1 Counselors

2 Senior Seminar Team

3 Juarez Community



INTRODUCTIONS



Ms. GUZMAN-MORALES

ENGLISH & SENIOR SEMINAR TEACHER

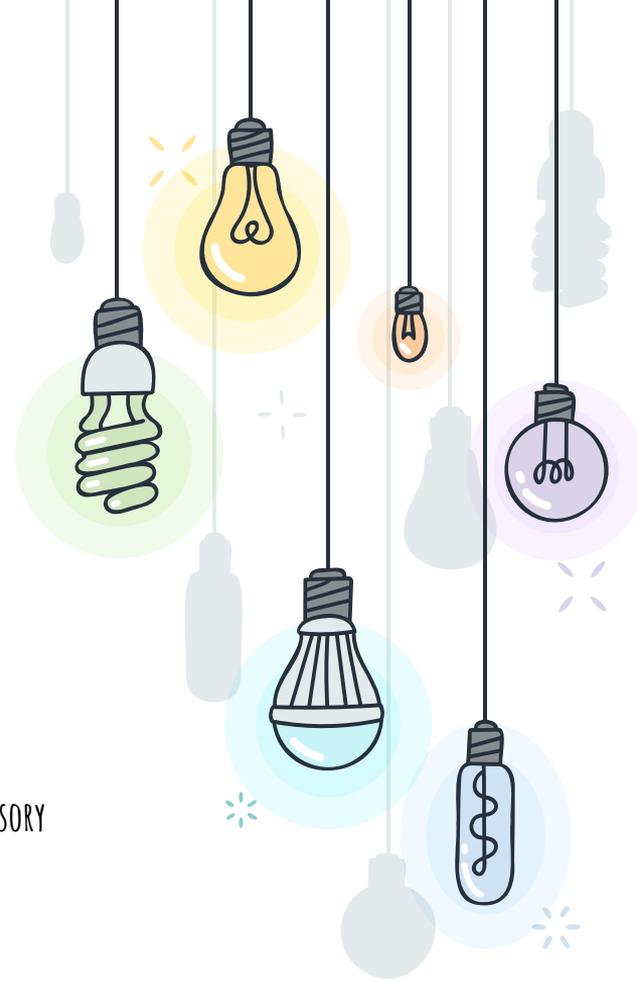
- + CCCAC CERTIFIED | FAFSA CERTIFIED
- + MI CERTIFIED
- + B.A. SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ENGLISH
- + MINORS IN BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, LATIN-AMERICAN STUDIES | DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



Ms. OLVERA

COLLEGE AND CAREER COACH & POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS TEAM LEAD

- + CCCAC CERTIFIED | FAFSA CERTIFIED
- + MASTER COUNSELING AND COACH ADVISORY COUNSEL SY2021
- + B.A. HISTORY AND LATINA/O STUDIES
- + MINOR IN EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURE



Elizabeth Carter
Senior Seminar/Librarian

TBD
College Access Advisor from the
UChicago College Advising Corps

Rita Cardenas
Career Academies & Internship
Coordinator

**Alexandra
Holland**
Senior Seminar/One Goal/
English

Rosy Pedraza
Network Specialist, Chicago Public
Schools

Andrea Cortes,
Postsecondary Coach for
the Network for College
Success

Maria Solis
Senior Seminar/One
Goal/English

**School
Counseling Intern**

Richard Gomez
Counselor

**Michael
Woldeyesus**
Senior Seminar/Math

Uvaldo Lopez
Counselor

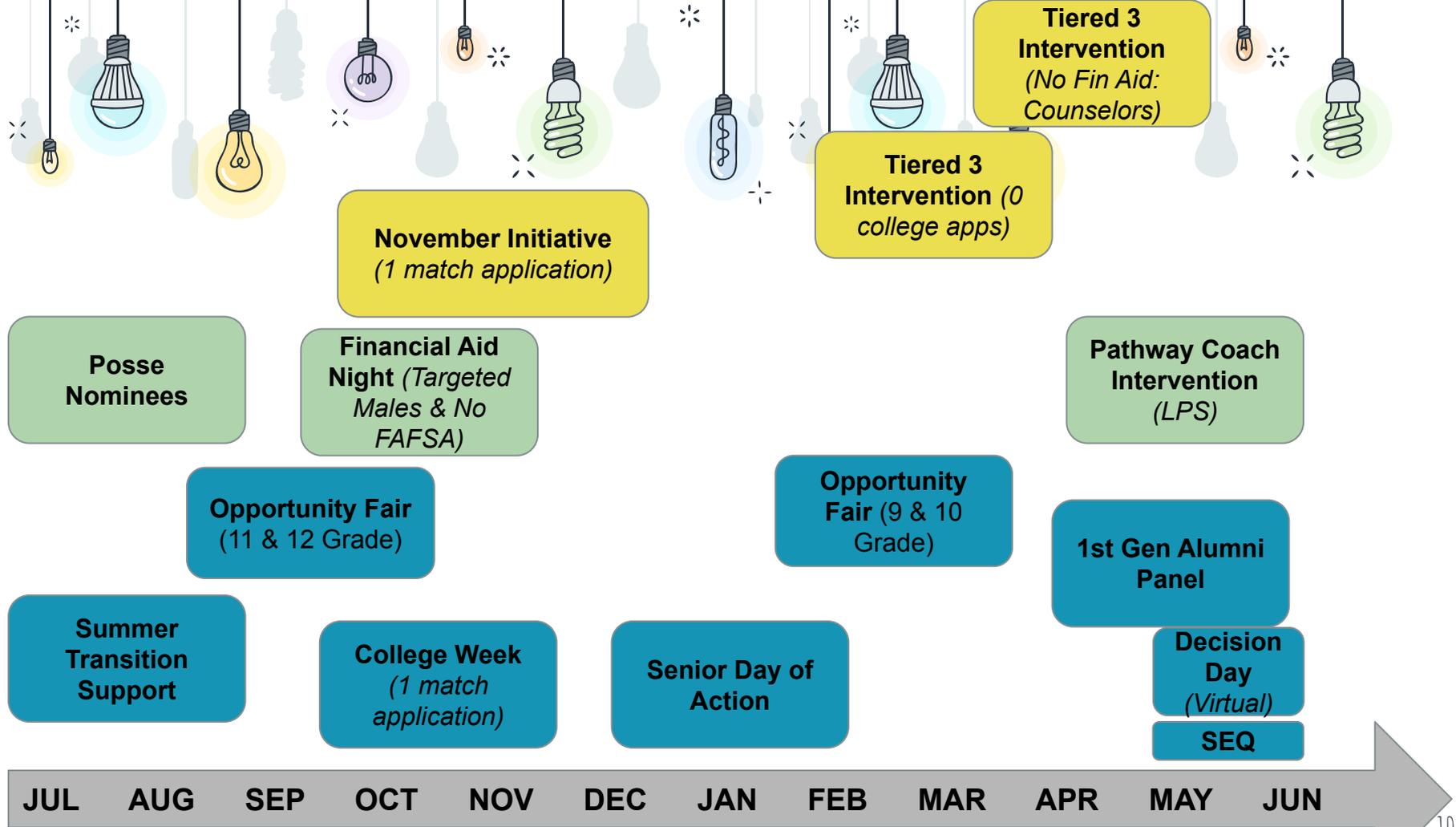


* FIRST GENERATION COMMITTEE

Our goal is to amplify student voices, respect and celebrate individual journeys, and serve as a pillar of resources, our students, can ***awaken the courage within*** and have the confidence to pursue their aspirations.

#AwakentheCourageWithin





* HUMANIZING THE POST-SECONDARY EXPERIENCE

Senior Seminar Curriculum:

- Personal Statement: The Story of Me
- Post-Secondary Pathways: Who do I want to be?
- Professional Identity: Growing My Voice
- Financial Literacy: Empowering My Community

Every Unit, topic of study, activities are selected by students - at the beginning of every school year:

- Pre-Unit Surveys/Mid-Unit Surveys
- End of the Semester Surveys
- Check-Ins & Conferences

Collaborative student support and advising, and planning.

College and Career Office

- Tiered Interventions
 - Tier 1: Opportunity Fairs, Alumni Panels,
 - Tier 2: Selectivity Support through Pod models
 - Tier 3: One on one advising.

College and Career Supports heavily rely on

- Developmental Relationships
- Student Feedback
- Student experience



HUMANIZING THE EXPERIENCE:

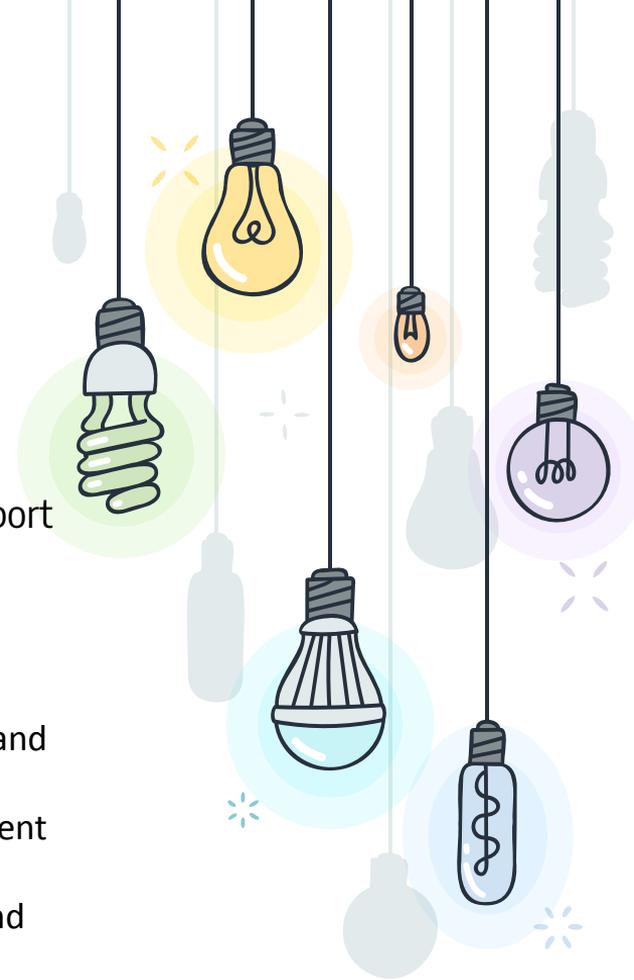
* PERSONAL STATEMENT

Purpose of Unit:

- + This unit allows students to self-reflect on their lived experiences and determine how they have come to shape their identity through said experiences.
- + Students are expected to complete the personal statement that will support them through the post-secondary process and continue the journey of becoming.

Essential Questions:

- + What steps have you taken to reflect and process on the dual-pandemic and how has this growth manifested itself in your day-to-day life?
- + How has your lived-experiences influenced your perspectives on the current socio-political climate?
- + How has the current socio-political climate impacted your future goals and aspirations?



POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS:

* WHO DO I WANT TO BE?

Purpose:

The purpose of this unit is to provide students with opportunities to self-(evaluate) reflect on their life's purpose and how a post-secondary pathway can aid in the fulfillment of their life-goals. We will explore in detail in order to capture Your plan in a virtual journal.

Essential Questions:

- ✦ How has the current socio-political climate impacted your future goals and aspirations?
- ✦ Imposter Syndrome: How do I become my own champion?
 - × WHO do you want to be? [Note: I'm not asking WHAT you want to do when you grow up?]
- ✦ In what way does society's understanding of success/happiness leave an impression on me?
- ✦ To what extent should I pursue happiness/success? What am I willing to compromise to achieve this?
- ✦ What steps do I need to take in order to obtain both?



* UNIT 3

Purpose of Unit:

Students will apply mathematical concepts & skills in order to adhere to a financial budget using real-life scenarios; in doing so students will gain financial literacy applicable to post-secondary life.

Essential Questions:

- ✦ What knowledge and skills are necessary to navigate life in a Capitalist society that is rigged to benefit the wealthy?
- ✦ Many people believe that in our society that the poor are getting poorer and the rich will continue to get richer. How do we as a society reverse this trend?
- ✦ How will your chosen Post-Secondary Pathway affect your economic mobility throughout the rest of your life?



* UNIT 4

Purpose:

Students will develop their intercommunication skills across a plethora of settings via the creation of a professional toolkit [resume, conflict-resolution activities, etc.] that will require students to highlight their strengths and to advocate for their emotional, physical, and professional well-being.

Essential Questions:

- + Identify 3 strengths and discuss the positive impact on your community.
- + In what way do your experiences shape how you carry yourself in the world?
- + How will you navigate the spaces that you are in with the person that you are becoming?
- + What will set you apart from your peers?



* STUDENT DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

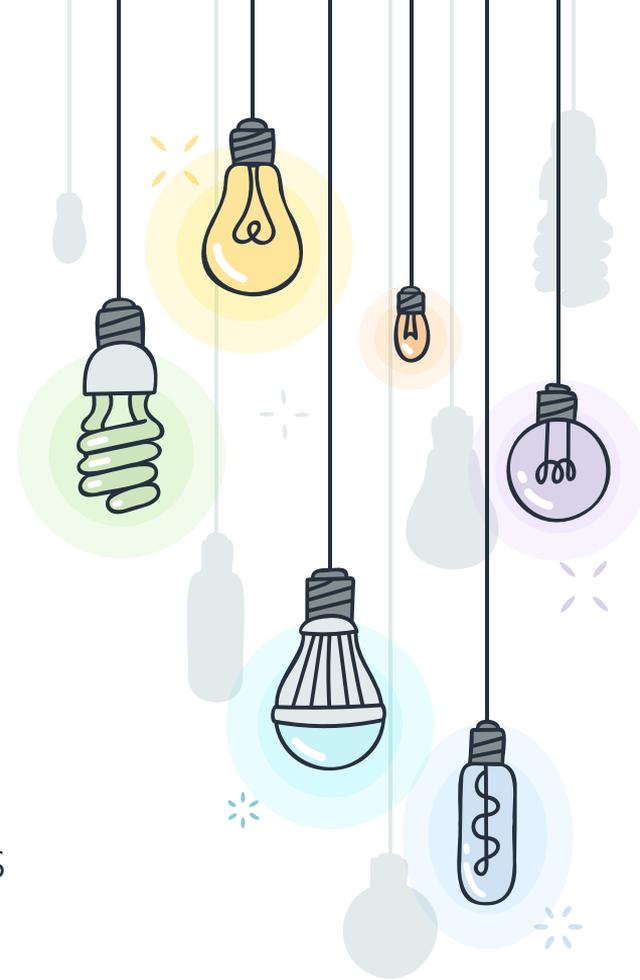
Express Care: “Show me that I matter to you.”

Challenge Growth: “Push me to keep getting better.”

Provide Support: “Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.”

Share Power: “Treat me with respect and give me a say.”

Expand Possibilities: “Connect me with people and places that broaden my world.”



* OPPORTUNITY FAIR (TIER 1)

Purpose: To host a virtual fair for students to be exposed to postsecondary resources like colleges and universities and transition support services for our students with disabilities. Additionally, students will also have the opportunity to learn about equitable weekend/summer immersion programs, internships, jobs and job training programs, co-op, and scholarship opportunities. Our goal was to expose our students early on to these opportunities and support them in building their resume while in high school!

Essential Questions:

- + Share one key point or takeaway from this session?
- + Did the fair strengthen your desire to pursue a postsecondary opportunity? Explain.
- + Which organization are you most excited about joining now or after graduating? Why?
- + What feedback can you provide to help us improve future events similar to today's opportunity fair?





- "... I have always wanted to go to college but I don't have a "dream school" or anything like that where I would really want to get accepted to so I think that today learning about different colleges and what they have to offer is really going to help me make a decision further in the future.
- " The fair has strengthened my desire to seek higher education opportunities, and I am now full of hope for the future. I will strive to be a better person..."
- " I already kind of had a plan for everything but after this fair this is giving me so much information on what's to come and I'm very excited to see where this gets me."
- " I think the fair really opened and fully extended my thought process for colleges as well as internships and jobs. It kept me on track and well informed about many opportunities."

Student Feedback - Google Form Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

STUDENTS WITH 0 COLLEGE APPLICATION * INTERVENTION (TIER 3)

Purpose:

Provide student postsecondary support through one on one meetings and help students develop a college application action plan that supports their aspirations and student match level, while still explaining postsecondary graduation requirements.

Essential Questions:

- + Did you find this one-on-one meeting helpful in comparison to other supports you may have received with completing your post secondary requirements? Explain.
- + What type of support do you prefer when completing your postsecondary graduation requirements? (One on one, Small Groups, Large Groups)
- + What feedback can you provide to improve postsecondary support for students like yourself who may need help with FAFSA or college applications? Think about what most worked for you today and/or something that could be improved.



“Do work that matters, *vale la pena.*”

-Gloria Anzaldua

