



Session 24

Building Blocks for Successful College Access

Presenter:

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National College Access Network (NCAN)



What is the National College Access Network?

The National College Access Network (NCAN) is dedicated to assisting local communities all over the country initiate, develop and sustain their own college access programs.



What is a College Access Program?

- Community-based non-profit organization
- Provide financially disadvantaged students with free services to learn about, enroll in, and pay for college
- Primary funding is from private sources in the community

Target Populations

- Families with low incomes
- First-generation potential college students
- Minority students
- Adult learners
- Urban (high-density high schools)
- Rural (low-density high schools)



Partnership with FAAs

College access programs assist FAAs by:

- Increasing community awareness about the value of postsecondary education
- Advising prospective students about financial aid and assisting with applications
- Serving student clients and acting as an ombudsman with the financial aid office
- Providing additional aid, in the form of last-dollar scholarships, to enrolling students



NCAN Membership

Association of 92 members in 30 states and the District of Columbia including:

- College Access Programs
- Resource Centers
- TRIO and GEAR UP Programs
- Colleges and Universities
- Lenders and Guarantors



NCAN Members...

In the 2002 – 2003 school year, NCAN members:

- Served over 210,000 students in 1,000 schools;
- Awarded over \$14 million in more than 9,000 last-dollar and administered scholarships.

Expansion Project

- Recent \$1.9 million Lumina Foundation grant supports three-year nationwide expansion effort
- NCAN will provide consulting services to create college access initiatives
- Goal: establish 45 new community-based college access programs and 12 new regional or statewide networks.



Expansion Project Components

- Consultation and Visits
- Guidebooks for replication
- Marketing
- Sponsorship and seed grants
- Virtual Demonstration Site

Building Blocks

- Online toolkit at www.collegeaccess.org
- Resources for communities building a college access program or center
- Resources for existing programs to add program components
- Includes Virtual Demonstration Site to showcase program models and examples

Building Blocks

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Changing the Face of Education



Starting a college access organization in your community takes planning. **NCAN can help.** From developing a framework to build and run your organization, to helping you set up an advisory services program, you'll find hundreds of strategies and best practices here. **Below are the Building Blocks to a successful college access organization.**

		
<p>Start here...</p>	<p>...then explore 7 service options...</p>	<p>...finally, see college access in action.</p>
<p>Learn the management basics you need to build and run a college access organization in this first Building Block.</p> <p>College Access Basics</p> <p>Building Your Program</p> <p>Running Your Program</p> <p>Using Research</p>	<p>Discover how to implement the seven basic services common to successful college access organizations in this second Building Block.</p> <p>Advisory Services</p> <p>Last Dollar Scholarships</p> <p>Resource Centers</p> <p>Retention</p> <p>Adult Learner Services</p> <p>Early Awareness</p> <p>Career Development</p>	<p>There is no single best way to provide college access services; it's important to select a model of service delivery that meets your community's needs.</p> <p>Explore this final Building Block to learn about the five models of college access.</p> <p>Classic College Access Program</p> <p>College Access Resource Center</p> <p>Statewide College Access Network</p> <p>College Access Information & Referral System</p> <p>Web-based College Access Portal</p>

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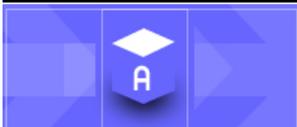


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Welcome!



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College Access Basics

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Does Your Community Need College Access?

Is Your Community Ready?

Who Should Be Involved?

What College Access Model Works for You?

College Access Glossary

Building Your Program

Running Your Program

Using Research

What is a College Access Program?

College access programs (CAPs) are nonprofit organizations designed to increase the number of students who pursue education beyond high school. The mission of these organizations is to open the doors to postsecondary education by providing some combination of financial counseling, college admissions advising, last dollar scholarships, college visits, career guidance, tutoring and test preparation courses.

There are many ways a college access program can help its community and students become successful in their pursuit of a college education. The following are typical components and activities of college access programs:

Financial Aid Advising - Provide trained advisors for personal and confidential advising services to high school students and their families, supplementing the financial aid information provided by school guidance staffs and maximizing each student's financial aid opportunities.

College Resource Center - Maintain a centralized location for community members to research higher education opportunities. Trained staff offer assistance in identifying colleges and programs that match a student's interests; search for financial aid; offer a step-by-step procedure through the admissions and financial aid process.

"Last Dollar" Grants - Award need-based grants to high school students who are pursuing postsecondary education.

Early Awareness Activities - Offer opportunities for elementary, middle and high school students and their parents to be made aware of and plan for postsecondary education.



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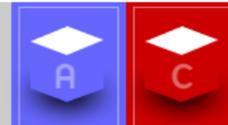


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Building Your One-on-One Guidance & Advisory Services Program

One-on-one college guidance continues to be the backbone of a successful advisory program. A combination of people skills, appropriate expertise and the ability to engage students identifies an effective advisor as the professional in areas related to the college application process.

Developing a strong advisory program requires on-going and relevant training, particularly in the field of college financial aid. Advisors should be equipped with the necessary tools to:

- assist with the FAFSA and Profile;
- act as liaison between students and college; and
- interpret financial aid awards.

Click on any of the links to the left for additional information on starting your advisory services program.



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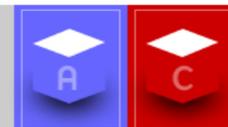


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Common Questions

Use the answers to these frequently asked questions to guide the development of your advisory services program:

1. What type of services should I provide?

Rome wasn't built in a day; so don't expect to have an all-encompassing program running smoothly within the first years. However, measurable/quantifiable objectives should be written and articulated to the advisory staff.

Think in terms of Long Term and Short Term goals. Be realistic, but clearly define your Short Term goals. For example, what do you hope to accomplish (Measurable Objectives) during the first year.

- a. Classroom visits.
- b. One-on-one meetings with students.
- c. Group meetings
- d. Parental Contacts.

Implementation of the stated goals can be accomplished by developing a quarterly checklist of activities to insure the timely completion of specific activities.



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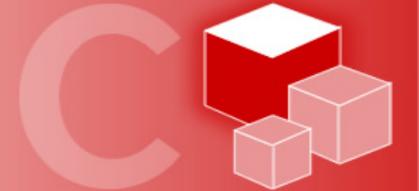


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- Building Block C: The Five Models
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- College Access Resource Center
- Statewide College Access Network
- College Access Information & Referral System
- Web-based College Access Portal

Building Block C: The Five Models

There is no single best way to provide college access services; it's important to select a model of service delivery that meets your community's needs.

Explore this final Building Block to learn about the five models of college access.



[Classic College Access Program](#)

[College Access Resource Center](#)

[Statewide College Access Network](#)

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Classic College Access Program

These programs focus on providing college access services to underserved students and families in urban metropolitan areas and rural communities. They provide one-on-one advising to clients in areas of college selection and application, career development and financial aid. The programs also offer last-dollar scholarships to high school students with unmet needs for college education. Some of these independent, non-profit organizations offer other services including early awareness, adult learners, and retention efforts for students attending college.

Exemplary programs of this model include the Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc. and College Bound of Baltimore.

Want to know more? Please contact [Nancy Werbach](#) at 216.241.6122 x210.



Technical Assistance

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