

Preparing Your Students for College

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Online Toolkit: The ABC's of Early Awareness: A Resource Guide and Toolkit for Helping Students Achieve a Higher Education

Website: <http://www.nasfaa.org/Subhomes/ABCs/index.html>

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Overview: Here are some tips about starting your own college readiness program:

- **Identify the primary goals you want to accomplish you're your program and plan your activities accordingly.** Be sure to include parents in the goal setting process.
- **Determine what early awareness programs are already in place, and what information/encouragement students and families need.**
If programs already exist for the students you want to reach, try to build upon these programs rather than reinvent them
- **Don't create a program in a vacuum.** Individuals and organizations that will carry out the program and benefit from it should be involved in the earliest planning stages.
- **Budgetary considerations may have an impact on your program.** Nothing is more discouraging to young students than having hopes dashed by a program that promises much and delivers little.
- **Evaluate the effectiveness of your program so you can improve it in the future and secure funding.**

The website suggests a variety of activities to engage students in thinking about higher education such as group presentations, campus tours or "shadow" days, and matching undergraduate mentors and tutors with students.

Learn More: Check out the link above for more details on activities and strategies.

Local Resources and Networks

FAFSA Completion Sessions: Receive free assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form is required by colleges, universities and private career schools to qualify for scholarships, grants and loans.

Contact: Cheryl Browning philareg@pheaa.org, (215) 735-2877, for more details.

PhillyGoes2College: Visit this new referral center on the ground floor of City Hall (Room 115 – Market St. East Side).

Walk-in are welcome on Monday:12-2pm, Tuesday and Wednesday:3pm-7pm, Thursday: 10am-12pm. **Contact:**

info@PhillyGoes2College.com. 215.686.0315

Website: www.phillygoes2college.com provides a variety of resources for students, parents/mentors and adult students in Philadelphia. The website also includes a calendar of upcoming college prep events in the city.

Philadelphia's Guide to the College Preparation, Application, Admissions & Financial Aid Process: Philadelphia Futures distributes over 50,000 copies free of charge, to public, parochial, and charter school students in Philadelphia. Copies are also available in libraries, and from legislative offices and community-based organizations.

Download a copy: http://philadelphiafutures.org/additional_programs/

Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable (PCPR) - a network of professionals from non-profit and campus-based college prep programs, university admissions and financial aid offices, and the School District of Philadelphia. The PCPR exists to increase the number of Philadelphia high school students who are college-ready, matriculate and graduate from post-secondary institutions. Meeting on campuses throughout the Philadelphia region, the members of the Roundtable address common concerns such as students' academic preparedness, college entrance/placement examinations, and parental involvement and assist the District in enhancing its' effectiveness of college guidance.

Learn More and Attend Meetings: www.collegepreproundtable.org