



College Fair Plus



31st COLLEGE FAIR PLUS COUNSELOR LESSON PLANS

**Sponsored by
Clark County School District**

And

CCSD School Counselors

Monday, October 20, 2008

And

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

5:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Cashman Center

850 Las Vegas Blvd. North Las Vegas, NV

www.ccsd.net/collegefair

WELCOME: This is a guide that will be useful for you at College Fair Plus. Included is a variety of information, self-assessment, questions to ask a college representative, and three (3) College Inquiry Cards. The intention of this guide is to help you through the fair and make it easier for you and your parents to get the most out of the evening.

Finding the right college is a long and sometimes tiring process. In order to help you best use your time at the fair, you should spend some time preparing for the fair at home! Come prepared with questions and a self-assessment.

This is the first time that many students and parents have sought the college-to-career pathway. It can be an exciting and overwhelming experience for the whole family. It is a good idea to look over the material and discuss the information with your parents **prior** to attending the fair.

THE FAIR

The College Fair Plus is designed for you and your parent(s) to get a variety of information in a short period of time. You will have the opportunity to meet with more than 200 college representatives from institutions throughout the nation. There will be a lot of information to cover in a small amount of time, so it is imperative that you **come prepared**. The fair is just a small part of the college planning process and should be used as a tool to expand your knowledge on what you want in a college. There will be three program components at the fair:

1. **POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES.** Their main goal is to provide you with the most current information about their school and to answer questions. The representatives will have materials that will help you make your decisions.
2. **SPECIAL INTEREST PRESENTATIONS.** A non-profit group called, Education Funding Consultants will provide workshops on college funding. Other workshop topics will include: Scholarship Searches, and NCAA, (Student-Athletes Eligibility). See your counselor or visit the counseling office for specific times. Each workshop is about 45 minutes.
3. **CCSD COUNSELING CENTER.** CCSD counselors will be available at the Counseling Counter who can answer your questions regarding general college planning, CCSD graduation requirements, how to make the most of your high school experience, important timelines in the school district, and more! Stop in and see them.

HOW DO YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF THE FAIR? Here are some suggestions that may help:

- ❖ Bring something to carry all the materials you gather (book bag or backpack).
- ❖ Do not overwhelm yourself. Do not pick up everything in sight. There will be an abundance of information and materials handed out, but you don't need or want all of the paper. Be selective!
- ❖ **Be prepared!** Bring a list of questions you have to ask the college representatives. Bring extra paper and a pen or pencil to write down useful information you hear.

Self-Assessment **(Complete before fair)**

The most important aspect in looking for a college is finding the right college fit. In order to help you find the perfect fit it is crucial for you to understand what is important to you – what makes you happy and what is necessary at the institution you attend. Just as important is to realize what you don't want in a college. All these factors come together to help narrow the options. ***Before*** you attend the College Fair, work through this self-assessment exercise. The more thoughtful you are on the self-assessment exercise, the more useful the College Fair will be for you.

1. Do you want to go to college? What are the reasons you want to attend college? Make a list of all these reasons then prioritize your list. This will help you see which are the most important factors to you.
2. What are your expectations for college? What do you expect to gain?
 - ❖ Would you do better at a two-year college or a four-year university? What are your reasons?
 - ❖ What type of location fits you best? Do you want to stay in the state? Do you want to be close to home? Do you want a rural, urban, or suburban area? Is weather a factor?
3. What are the factors that are involved in your college selection? Make a list of all relevant factors and then prioritize.
 - ❖ What facilities and programs (computer labs, clinics, career centers, diversity awareness programs, internships, foreign exchange, etc.) are important to you?

QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

1. Do I need an interview?
2. What tests do you require (SAT/ACT/SATII)? Is there a minimum score?
3. My area of interest includes _____. How does your program fit these needs:
4. What unique programs does your institution offer?
5. What is the average class size? Are student-teachers used to teach?
6. What is the diversity of your college? Geographically, racially, socially, economically?
7. What are the admissions criteria at your university? Is there an application fee? How much?
8. What is the average time from entrance to graduation (4 years)?
9. How is financial aid awarded? What percentages of your students are awarded financial aid? What is the average financial aid package?
10. What is the total estimated student budget for the year?
11. What types of scholarship opportunities are available?
12. What is your application deadline?
13. How do I apply? Do you have an online application process, or should I request a paper application?
14. How many students attend your school?
15. Do you have dorms, and do you require students to live in them?

College Inquiry Cards

- ❖ Bring your College Inquiry Cards and give them to the representatives of the schools in which you are interested. Have all your cards filled out before you come to the fair. **Make extra copies as needed.**

Name _____	Grade _____	School _____
Address _____	City _____	State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone Number _____	Program of Study (if known; otherwise write “undecided”) _____	
<p>Please send me information regarding your school, especially related to the program of study listed above. I am interested in receiving an admissions application, financial aid and scholarship information, view book, and any other literature you have about your campus (i.e., student housing, meal programs, special events, student organizations, etc.).</p> <p>Thank you.</p>		

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