

Los Angeles Unified School District
Instructional Support Services

College Month

Activities for
Elementary School

October 2006

K-12 College-Going Culture Initiative

LAUSD students come from a wide variety of cultural, economic, ethnic, language, racial, and social backgrounds. It is essential that all elementary schools begin to prepare students to attend college or other post-secondary educational programs. To support this goal, each school is asked to develop a college-going culture. In partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the District identified the following principles of a college-going culture:

A *college-going culture* exists when the following elements are present on all school campuses, in classrooms and school offices:

- College Talk – clear communication about what it takes to get to college
- Clear Expectations – the explicit goals of preparing students for a full range of postsecondary options are clearly defined
- Information and Resources – students have access to information and resources related to college
- Curriculum – school makes a commitment to provide the instruction necessary for every student to be prepared to meet grade level standards, every year in every classroom
- Faculty Involvement – faculty integrates college information into regular classroom activities
- Family Involvement – family members have opportunities to gain knowledge about the college planning process
- College Partnerships – college-related activities and academic enrichment programs raise awareness of and aspirations toward college
- Articulation – a seamless experience where a college message is communicated from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade

Schools are encouraged to submit a College Month activity or idea to be included in next year's publication. Please send the description of the activity and photos, if available, to:

Coordinator-College Programs and Initiatives
Instructional Support Services
333 S. Beaudry Avenue
25th floor, Room 162
Los Angeles, CA 90017

College Awareness Ideas for College Month

- Use college-going as a Literacy Fair theme: (a) use a college/university name for each “station” or activity, (b) make a book mark featuring a college, (c) ”Find a College” map-reading activity, (d) provide journals in which student explains ”Why I want to go to college,” (e) issue a “Passport to College” card to be stamped at each station. Students with a specific number of stamps in their passports receive one or more books. (Ideas from Weigand Avenue Elementary)
- Use college-going as a theme for Family Literacy or Family Math Nights to review recommended reading lists, information about high school graduation requirements and financial aid.
- Each teacher shares information about the college he or she attended.
- Each paraprofessional shares information about the college he or she attends.
- College students who are alumni of the school talk to students about their college experience either in an assembly or in classroom presentations.
- School staff or community members who are alumni of the elementary school present information about their college experience.
- On a designated day or days during College Month, staff members wear clothing with a college name, mascot, or emblem. Students can also wear college sweatshirts or T-shirts.

College Awareness Activities for Elementary School

Activity 1 Read to Succeed

Remind students that fundamental to success in college and life is learning to read with excellent comprehension and learning to read for a variety of purposes. Non-fiction comprises most of the reading for secondary and college classes. Challenge students to select and read a non-fiction book and to complete a reading log to document their participation.

Title of Book/

Author:

Date	Minutes Read	Pages Read	Something I learned	A question I still have

Activity 2 Role Models

Ask faculty and staff members to bring a photograph of themselves wearing a cap and gown from their alma mater. Display the photos in a hallway display case with captions such as, “We graduated, you can too!” or “The road to your graduation begins today.”

Activity 3 Focus on Graduation

Have students contribute to a classroom bulletin board that focuses on graduation. Students might bring a graduation photograph or picture of a family member or friend to display. Images may include graduation from pre-school or kindergarten, high school, college, or training programs. Students may list words, write sentences or write a paragraph explaining why graduations are so important.

Activity 4 Graduation Pictures

Use a large piece of cardboard or poster paper to create an adult-sized drawing of a college graduate in a cap and gown holding a diploma. The drawings can be modified to indicate the name of specific colleges or universities. Cut out a hole where the face would go. Have each student stand behind the drawing so only his/her face shows. Then take a “graduation picture” of each student. Students may list words or write a paragraph describing how they or their family will feel on their graduation day.

Activity 5 College Tours

Use a computer with internet access and an LCD projector to give students a virtual tour of colleges or universities. Use a search engine to locate the website for the college or university. Select two-year and four-year, public and private institutions. Also select schools in different parts of the state or country. Have students create a T-chart in which they list information about the college or university on the left column and write reflections, questions, or observations in the column on the right.

Activity 6 College Comparisons

Use a computer with internet access and an LCD projector to give students a virtual tour of colleges or universities. Use a search engine to locate the website for the college or university. Select two-year and four-year or public and private institutions. Select schools in different parts of the state or country. Tell students to create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the institutions.

Activity 7 College-Ready Attributes and Activities

Explain to students that the good habits and self-discipline needed for success in college and in careers develop early in life. Tell students to brainstorm a list of personal attributes and activities that could help someone become college-ready.

Example: Makes list of things to do
Follows directions
Reads every day

Activity 8 Careers/Colleges Web (or Cluster)

Place students into pairs or groups of three. Allow each group to select a letter from the alphabet. Challenge students to create a web (or cluster) of careers or colleges that begin with the selected letters.

Activity 9 Focus on Careers

Have students cut pictures from magazines of people in different occupations. Ask students to select a career they would be interested in pursuing from the assortment of magazine pictures. Use a digital camera to take a picture of each student. Have students superimpose their face over the face in the magazine picture. Have students write sentences or a paragraph explaining why they selected that particular occupation or explaining how that occupation contributes to the community.

Activity 10 Alphabetical Careers or Colleges

Place students into pairs or groups of three. Have students make a list of careers and/or colleges beginning with the letter "A" through "Z."

Activity 11 College Geography

Give pairs of students an outline map of the United States and a high school or college dictionary. Tell students to use the list of colleges and universities found in the appendix of the dictionary to find at least one college or university for each state. Challenge upper grade students to list institutions other than state colleges and universities.

Activity 12 Book Mark Art Project

Provide students with construction paper, magazines, glue, scissors, markers or crayons. Have each student create a bookmark highlighting a college or career. The bookmarks may be displayed on a bulletin board or used for the classroom library.

Activity 13 Door Decorating Contest

Ask grade level members to decorate classroom doors to focus on what elementary school students must do to prepare for college. Doors may be judged for originality, amount of information provided, visual appeal, impact or other criteria. Door designs and student designers may be acknowledged in a display case or centrally-located bulletin board.

Activity 14 Focus on the Future

Tell students to select a career that they might want to pursue in the future. On an 8 ½" X 11 " sheet of paper, students are to a) draw a portrait of himself/herself in that career, b) list the school subjects needed to excel in that career, and c) list the specialized skills and abilities needed for the career.

Activity 15 Help Wanted Ads

Remind upper grade students that each semester they actively participate in school's program provides information and experiences the students will need for their future. Ask pairs of students to search through the classified section to find an ad that lists the job title, qualifications, and salary for a specific job. Have the students tape the ad to a sheet of paper and then list "what I will need to know and be able to do" to fully qualify for the position. Students may include personal qualities, academic knowledge, skills and abilities.

Activity 16 Time Log

Explain to students that the good habits and self-discipline needed for success in college and in life develop early in life. Ask students to record how they actually spent their time during any designated three days in College Month. Students are to

- a. Make a check in the College/Career column if their activity can prepare them for college/career.
- b. Share how they spent their time with a partner or small group.

Dates	October ____, 2006		October ____, 2006		October ____, 2006	
Time	How I spent my time	College/ Career?	How I spent my time	College/ Career?	How I spent my time	College/ Career?
4:00 pm						
4:30 pm						
5:00 pm						
5:30 pm						
6:00 pm						
6:30 pm						
7:00 pm						
7:30 pm						
8:00 pm						
8:30 pm						
9:00 pm						

Activity 17 Preparing for College with LAUSDnet Kids

Inform students that a vast amount of information that can help them prepare for classes and for college is available on the LAUSDnet web site. Use a computer with internet access and an LCD projector to give students a tour of the LAUSDnet Kids link. Go to the “Resources” tab on the menu bar, then to “Student Resources” and then to the LAUSDnet Kids quick link. Of special interest are the “LAUSD Kids News,” “Subjects” and “Digital Library” links.

Activity 18 Online Magazines

Remind students that fundamental to success in college and life is learning to read with excellent comprehension and learning to read for a variety of purposes. Non-fiction comprises most of the reading for secondary and college classes. Have pairs of students use a computer in the classroom, library or computer lab to go LAUSDnet and to the “Resources” tab on the menu bar, then to “Student Resources” and then to the LAUSDnet Kids quick link. Then ask students to write a summary of an article from one of the online magazines through the “Newspapers and Television” tab.

Activity 19 Getting There

Ask students to use a map of the city to plot out the route to three colleges or university in the area.

Activity 20 College Search

Inform students that there is a college that will support almost every interest or career goal that a student has. Encourage individual students or pairs of students to use a computer in the classroom, library or computer lab to identify two colleges that might be of interest based on career goals, favorite subjects, geography, class size, etc.

Websites:

www.collegeboard.com

www.collegebound.net

www.collegeview.com

www.embarc.com

Activity 21 Scholarship Search

Inform students that millions of dollars in scholarship money is available to students who work hard in school and who meet certain criteria. Encourage individual students or pairs of students to use a computer in the classroom, library or computer lab to identify two scholarships that might be available to them based on their career interests, favorite subjects, race, ethnicity, gender or special abilities.

Websites:

www.collegeboard.com

www.fastweb.com

www.scholarshiphelp.org

Activity 22 Reflection Log

At the end of College Month or College Week, ask students to

- a. fold a sheet of paper into quarters,
- b. label each quarter, and then to
- c. reflect on their learning by writing several sentences in each section of the paper.

As a result of College Month (or College Week):

I learned:	I need:
I can:	I will: