Bridging Both Sides of the Desk:

Working Together to Put Students First
WHY ARE WE HERE?

- Identify issues with college fairs
- Efficient ways to improve HS visit planning
- Provide solutions
- Make GARN and GRACE a resource to HS counselors
SURVEY SAYS...

- Text to 37607-- pattyhays344 to join
  or visit pollev.com/pattyhays344
- Try to use one word or # to make a long word
College reps: What do you hate the most about high school visits?
HS counselors: What do you hate the most about college visits?
CHALLENGES

- Too many fairs
- Length of fairs
- Lunch visits
- Fewer students attending
- Not using barcodes

- Principals requesting fairs
- Students can’t miss class time
- HS Counselors have more to deal with than just college process
- No main resource to utilize for planning events outside of Probe
GARN Fall Travel
March 4th
SOLUTIONS

- Encourage students to attend Probe and NACAC Fairs
- Utilize the Probe and GARN Calendars before scheduling events
- Consolidate college fairs with other schools
- Mini college fairs/panels/presentations instead of lunch visits
- Get students to register for fairs/barcodes
- Deadline for all fairs to be planned
- Master calendar for all fairs
## Getting College Reps Involved

### Prior to mini fairs:
- AO Visits
- Competitive College Night
- GA Colleges Panel
- Lunchroom visits

### Issues we faced:
- Lack of parent/student attendance
  - Sometimes only a counselor would meet with admissions reps
- Lack of variation for community
- “Dreaded Lunchroom Visit”

### Our mini college fairs:
- During early release time
  - Access to students while still on campus but not missing class time
- 20 or less schools
  - To the best of our ability and a wide range if possible
- Fall semester only
  - This year- 1 in August, 2 in September, & 1 in October
  - Except our All GA fair and the late application fair
Getting College Reps Involved

Prior to College Advising:
- Evening Grade Level Meetings for Families
- Lunchroom visits

Issues We Faced:
- Need to create a college-going culture
- Lack of parent/student involvement
- Mostly negative perceptions about our school community with college reps

What We Changed:
- Moved from lunch visits to private visits in the fall
  - 15-20 mins. Students must sign up online, but teachers have final say on if they can attend visit
  - We monitor student signups
- Created a group of parent volunteers to help with visits and to take notes
- Hold three mini-college fairs in the spring with 15-40 colleges
- Multiple college nights ranging from College Kickoff to Selective Admission Day/Evening Program.
- College visits increased from 23 in Fall 2016 to 139 in Fall 2018
Getting College Reps Involved

**More important aspects of our mini college fairs:**
- Available to ALL students
  - At first only 11th and 12th but this year invited all grades
- STUDENTS ONLY 😊
  - We feel our students need more encouragement of responsibility and self-advocacy and broadening their horizons
- But we still try to involve parents...
  - E-Mail to them about the conversation to have before and after the fair
- Prepare the students
  - We hand out questions to ask at a college fair
- U shape and all counselors attend
  - If a student tries to grab a brochure and run, we redirect with a conversation
Getting College Reps Involved

- We worked to be more consistent with our overall communication with college reps.
- Reached out to colleges and universities and let them know that we had event space that they could hold some of their Atlanta area information sessions at a low cost or for free (limited spaces)
- Provided meals for programs and snacks for reps when they came to visit.
- Began following admission offices on social media and encouraged them to follow us.
- Began conducting counselor calls at the end of each admission cycle with as many admission offices as possible to better understand what they are looking for and how to better prepare our students.
- Created a program so some college reps could spend time with our Superintendent, Principal, Counselors, Teachers and other administrators to help our community better understand the current college admission landscape.
SCHEDULING
### Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back &amp; forth emails and calls</th>
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<tr>
<td>Locating college rep sign up on school’s website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited options</td>
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| Too many reps reaching out-hard to keep up with calls/emails |
| Busy with students & other activities |
| Pushback when trying to provide visit options |
SOLUTIONS

- Repvisits
- Naviance
- Clear instructions on how to schedule on HS pages
- Best practices
- Discussions with teachers and admin about benefits to providing time for visits-share examples from other schools
DISCUSSION
RESOURCES

- GAPROBE.ORG
- THEGARN.ORG
- GRACE COMMITTEE OF GARN: BEST PRACTICES
- he.intersect.hobsons.com/repvisits (free resource)
- NACAC
- SACAC
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