Upcoming CAP dates/events:

**Workshop 3: Paying for College**
- 1/7 Wabash 11:00 a.m.
- 1/8 New Haven 7:20 a.m.
- 1/8 Manchester 11:55 a.m.
- 1/14 Whitko 7:00 a.m.
- 1/14 Northrop 2:45 p.m.
- 1/15 Huntington 1:20 p.m.
- 1/16 DeKalb8:00 a.m.
- 1/16 Snider 11:00 a.m.

**MCAP OVERNIGHT UPDATE:**
The first MCAP overnight will NOT be January 22nd! Instead, it will be held February 15th and is open to Seniors ONLY! Transportation to and from Manchester College will be available!

From the Coordinator:
MCAP is off to a great start! As I begin meeting with students for the second workshop and planning the third, I’m reminded that all of the students in the program are at a different place in the college preparation process. It’s important to make sure that students are ready for the next step. For seniors, that means making sure S.A.T. and A.C.T. tests are completed or registering to complete the test in the next month. It’s time to start applying and gearing up for financial aid season. Everyone in the program is doing a great job of narrowing down the college selection criteria that are most important to them and finding colleges and universities that meet those criteria. College visits are an important part of the process and can give students and parents an opportunity to make the best choice for each student. Generally, juniors and seniors are allowed 2 absences for college visits. Have a fantastic holiday! As always, please contact me if you need individual assistance!

-Kim Myers
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**To-Do List: December**

**Juniors:**
- Talk to teachers in a field you are interested in. They will know the great schools that offer well-known programs.
- Definitely sign up for standardized tests. You will be able to take them in the spring instead of the fall, thus giving you more opportunities to get a higher score.

**Seniors:**
- December is a time when colleges send acceptance letters for early decisions. If you declared an early decision, you should know within this month. Make sure you act quickly to provide requested documents.
- Make sure all of your applications are in the mail by now. Waiting until after winter break is simply procrastination. Use your extra time to fill them out.

**Take it from us:**

Not knowing what to do can be a terrible feeling. However, look where you are now. As a first generation student, you are doing something that nobody in your family has had the opportunity to do yet. You should feel excited, but you may also feel lost.

Your parents/guardians will probably be worried for the next four years about your future. They want you to do things right, because this is probably their biggest investment in their lives. Remember, this is a first for your parents/guardians as well. Be patient with them, even if they are not so patient with you. Do not let them take over every decision you make, but you should at least listen to them and understand why they want you to make those decisions. It may help both of you to seek advice from teachers, guidance counselors, or other professionals who you trust.

This holiday season may be a great opportunity for you to be close to your family and forget all your worries about your future. Instead, focus on the positives. Recognize that you love each other and want the best possible future. Good luck, and happy holidays.

-Jason Adams, F.G. Mentor

**Where to look: websites**

* Fafsa.ed.gov – This website was featured in the last C.A.P. newsletter. This is due to the great importance of this site. All college students must have the FAFSA form filled out. It requires little work on your part, and everything can be completed Online.

* Facebook.com – Believe it or not, the social network juggernaut is essential to getting to know your future college. This site started out as a college-only site, after all. You can meet one person on campus and hundreds through social networking sites.


**Faculty Thoughts:**

Being a college student is an amazing time of life. Never again will you have so much fun while working so hard. But getting the most out of your college experience takes a certain mindset. Here are a few thoughts on the “personal philosophies” of successful students I’ve known:

Curiosity. Successful students like learning about new ideas and thinking about what those ideas mean. They like asking questions, even when (maybe especially when) there are no easy answers. What kinds of ideas capture your imagination? Nurture your own sense of curiosity and wonder, and practice keeping an open mind toward new ideas.


Focus on Learning, Not Grades. That may sound crazy—of course you want to earn good grades! But if you are more concerned with grades than whether you are actually learning anything, you are missing the point of education. If you struggle in a class, ask your professor how to better understand the material, not how to get a higher grade. When you are learning and developing your mind, the grades will take care of themselves.

Desire to Develop Full Potential. The students who get the most from college are those who see college as a way to reach their intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual potential.

- Barbara Burdge, Sociology and Social Work Chair, Manchester College