Upcoming MCAP dates/events:

MCAP lunch meetings: last week of March/first week of April.

Workshop 6 Culture Clash:
Whitko: 5/13 9:00 a.m.
Wabash: 5/13 11:00 a.m.
Northrop: 5/13 2:45 p.m.
Huntington: 5/14 6th period
DeKalb: 5/15 9:00 a.m.
New Haven: 5/21 Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
Manchester: 5/21 11:55 a.m.

MCAP JUNIOR OVERNIGHT:
The MCAP overnight will be held April 23rd and is open to Juniors ONLY! Overnight include lodging, meals, campus tours, activities and the opportunity to experience college life for a day! Transportation to and from Manchester College will be available! Please RSVP by Monday, April 13th!

From the Coordinator:
Spring has arrived! During this time of growth and renewal, it’s important to take a serious look at your college goals and see if you’re on track. During workshops 4 and 5, we discussed making informed academic and extracurricular choices. During workshop 6, we’ll discuss culture. Many first generation students find that college is the first time they encounter groups of people who are significantly different from them in a variety of ways. We’ll discuss some common concerns, the value of diversity on college campuses and how to navigate interaction with others whose background is different from your own. Seniors should be gearing up for the THREE DAY College 101 program at Manchester this summer, where you’ll get a taste of college life, work on study skills, time management and communication, giving you a jump start on your level of preparedness before college classes begin in August!

- Kim Myers
kmymers@manchester.edu
(260) 982-5591

Take it from us:
You may be excited about spring break or sad that you’ve just returned to school. Spring break is a great time to relax and not worry about school for a week. This is one time that I was always excited about, but knew as soon as I got back from it that I really needed to buckle down and get focused.

One thing to remember: you can’t stay in “relaxed mode” once spring break is over. The end of the school year will be here in no time. Get ahead now and start preparing yourself now for your finals, college planning or summer jobs or volunteer service. It is never too early to start and it means less time that you will spend feeling stressed out the week before school ends.

-Sarah Bose,
First Generation Student Mentor

Spring To-Do List:
Juniors:
- Register for the SAT and ACT.
- Start looking for a summer job, internship, or volunteer opportunity. This will not only give you GREAT experience and a chance to build skills, but it will also look good on a resume or college application.
- Meet with your school guidance counselor to discuss summer learning programs at local colleges that are of interest.
- Attend local college fairs.

Seniors:
- Look for financial aid and scholarship award letters in the mail and confirm the information on your Student Aid Report.
- Complete and submit all forms (i.e. housing, dining).
- Start looking for a summer job, internship or volunteer opportunity.

Where to look:
www.students.gov
This website provides a variety of information that you might need. It helps answers various questions about what things are needed to make sure that everything is in place for the start of your college career.

www.fastweb.com
This website provides various of different scholarships and grants that are available to anybody for free. College-bound students can find loads of free money if they look for it carefully and apply, apply, APPLY. Don’t forget to follow-up once you have applied for scholarships!

Faculty Thoughts:
Congratulations to all of you for participating in our MCAP program. It is an honor to be working with you. Our goal in the program is to help you make the right choice about college and also prepare you for what to expect once you arrive.

Let me offer a few observations as both a former college student, college teacher, and college administrator about what I have experienced.

- In the long run, both in terms of happiness and in terms of money, college pays off.
- You will take many classes in college that will ask you to consider new ways of thinking, expose you to different kinds of people, and work to strengthen your skills in writing, speaking, and thinking. That can be both frightening and exhilarating at the same time. These are the kinds of classes you will remember for a lifetime. There are the kinds of things that our faculty strive to do everyday.
- Most of what you will remember in college happens outside of the classroom. As much as I might want my history class to be the most memorable experience for students, it rarely is. The friends you meet, both colleagues and faculty, will last forever.
- Don’t EVER be afraid to ask for help. In college, faculty see this as a sign of maturity and are impressed when you take the initiative, even if you are so lost you do not know where to begin.
- You can do it. If college is not hard then you should ask for your money back. We purposely want to stretch students so that they are ready for the challenges that await them. In the end, grades are much less important than learning, and finishing college is really a key to your success. I have run across no one who has put in effort that has failed college.

Glenn Sharfman
Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs