Welcome to the first edition of our MCAP newsletter! I’m excited that we have so many students involved in the program and look forward to working with each student, guidance counselor and parent/guardian this year! As the weather turns cold and the days grow shorter, it’s a good idea to work on goal setting. I know, with everything else we have going on in our lives, it can be difficult to see beyond our immediate future. Becoming prepared for college, however, requires that students set clear goals, anticipate the things they will need to do, and have a support network comprised of people who hold them accountable. If you’re a student, try writing down 3 goals that you want to accomplish before the end of the year to help you become better prepared for college. If you’re a support person, ask college-bound students to set goals, then ask about their goals and follow up with their progress. When we work together, it’s amazing what we can accomplish! -Kim Myers

Faculty Thoughts:
Why do some students thrive in college while others wonder if they will make it through the semester? After observing college students for the past 15 years, I’ve found that successful students share some common characteristics. Firstly, they are emotionally mature. They take responsibility for their failures and don’t blame others for their difficulties or explain away poor grades. Secondly, they are goal oriented. They find a major that they are enthusiastic about and devote a lot of time and energy doing things that will help them to reach their career goals. Thirdly, they have determination and patience and are willing to struggle through a problem for long periods of time despite the frustration. If they still don’t get it, they ask for help. Fourthly, they possess self-discipline. They set their priorities for each day and budget their time effectively to balance work and play. Lastly, they have good study habits. They read their textbook regularly and are active listeners/participants in class. They try to comprehend the material, not just memorize it. They do their homework on a regular basis and anticipate the questions they will be asked.

Unfortunately effort is not enough. Often students invest a lot of time using study strategies that are ineffective for them. If you run into a wall, take advantage of campus resources and try new strategies to change your situation. A teacher can’t give you a passing grade because you are trying hard. At exam time you must ultimately demonstrate that you know the material without using your textbook and notes.

Most importantly: study, study, study. A 3 credit hour class requires at least 6 hours per week of study time outside of class. The majority of what you learn comes from the time you spend outside of class wrestling with the course material. If you’re not wrestling with the material on a regular basis, you’re probably not learning very much. -Dr. Salupo-Bryant, Associate Professor of Chemistry

Where to look: websites
* Fafsa.ed.gov—This website is the U.S. Federal government site that aids in applying for federal financial aid.
* Www.FinAid.org—Guide to financial aid includes: scholarship search, descriptions of federal loans, savings plans, other types of aid, financial aid application help, FAQ section, and a college cost calculator.
* Cappex.com—Create a profile that is accessible to colleges around the country. It allows you to only look at colleges that interest you and you only share your information at your discretion. This site helps students find opportunities they wouldn’t have before.
* Www.college.gov—From the U.S. Department of Education; offers advice on

To-Do List: November

Juniors:
- Make a list of your top 5-10 colleges that you are interested in and start narrowing them down.
- Find and sign up for necessary college prep and practice tests such as PSAT, SAT, ACT, and AP exams.
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.

Seniors:
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates; it doesn’t hurt to take it twice.
- Ask for and collect letters of recommendation if required for your applications.
- Get your high school transcript and compare to chosen college requirements.
- Submit all college admissions applications.

From the Coordinator:

Welcome to the first edition of our MCAP newsletter! I’m excited that we have so many students involved in the program and look forward to working with each student, guidance counselor and parent/guardian this year! As the weather turns cold and the days grow shorter, it’s a good idea to work on goal setting. I know, with everything else we have going on in our lives, it can be difficult to see beyond our immediate future. Becoming prepared for college, however, requires that students set clear goals, anticipate the things they will need to do, and have a support network comprised of people who hold them accountable. If you’re a student, try writing down 3 goals that you want to accomplish before the end of the year to help you become better prepared for college. If you’re a support person, ask college-bound students to set goals, then ask about their goals and follow up with their progress. When we work together, it’s amazing what we can accomplish! -Kim Myers

Hey there! As first generations students ourselves, we’ve been where you are now and want to make sure you have what you need to succeed as you take the next steps towards college. Something we’ve been faced with time and time again is that no one is more invested in your future than you are. Take charge of your future from the start. It will be a lot of work, but it will definitely pay off. There are also a lot of people along the way who are going to be great assets to you such as high school guidance counselors, current teachers, and current professionals in the field you’re interested in. They’ve all been through the college process and can share valuable insights with you as well.

Something that we would have been very helpful when we were getting ready to apply to colleges would have been to visit numerous colleges of different types. Both of only visited two colleges a piece because we didn’t realize the value of a college visit. Visit as many colleges of different types as you can: private, public, community, large, small, two-year, and four-year. You may find one kind you really love, or find that you could fit in more than one place. Each one has a unique experience to offer. Good luck! -Amber Richey & Erica Nisley, FGMentors

Take it from us:

To-Do List: November

Juniors:
- Make a list of your top 5-10 colleges that you are interested in and start narrowing them down.
- Find and sign up for necessary college prep and practice tests such as PSAT, SAT, ACT, and AP exams.
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.

Seniors:
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates; it doesn’t hurt to take it twice.
- Ask for and collect letters of recommendation if required for your applications.
- Get your high school transcript and compare to chosen college requirements.
- Submit all college admissions applications.

Workshop 2: The Application Process
12/10 7-8 a.m. Whitko
12/10 11 a.m. Wabash
12/11 New Haven 7:20 a.m.
12/11 Huntington 10:50 a.m.
12/12 Snider Time TBD
12/17 Northrop 2:45 p.m.
12/18 Manchester 11:55 a.m.
12/19 DeKalb 9:00 a.m.

Workshop 2: The Application Process