Parents as Allies in Pursuit of the DREAM
Bridging the Gaps in College Access, Affordability, Choice, and Success

La Casa | Live.Learn.Thrive.
a Resurrection Project initiative
Objective

To provide tips and examples of parental engagement efforts that contribute to greater college access, affordability, choice, and success for our students.
# What We Know

Schools and parents have different ideas of what they want from each other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>• We moved from an “access” agenda to a “retention” agenda, and now looking for “completion.”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>• Effective partnerships with families are essential, but this is very challenging.</td>
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<td>College Knowledge</td>
<td>• First-generation parents are less likely to have access to the information they need to prepare their children for college compared to second- and third-generation parents.</td>
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<td>Outreach</td>
<td>• Many groups, institutions, and organizations are mobilizing to address the need for college information among parents.</td>
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<td>Best Practices</td>
<td>• Some reports profile in operational detail programs that effectively provide parents with college preparatory information in order to better prepare their children for college admission and attendance.</td>
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Types of Involvement

What do you want parents to do?

The six types of *parental involvement* modeled after Joyce Epstein’s framework:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Supporting school
4. Learning at home
5. Decision making
6. Collaborating with community

Motivation

Why do parents become involved in their children’s education?

1. Parents’ role construction defines beliefs about how to contribute to the basic range of activities that are important, necessary, and permissible.

2. Parents’ sense of efficacy in helping their children succeed focuses on the extent to which parents believe that through their involvement they can exert positive influence on educational outcomes.

3. General invitations, demands, and opportunities for involvement refer to parent’s perception that the child and school want them to be involved.

College Knowledge

Why are we losing students?

Affordability

Career & Job Trend Savvy

Meaningful Use of Resources & Support Systems

Transferability

Readiness

College Choice
Communicate! Good communication cuts through the clutter, it doesn't add to it. It does this by getting the right message, in the right medium, delivered by the right messengers, to the right audience.

Most Helpful Knowledge Channels

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Printed Materials
- Informal Conversations
- Internet
- College Visits
- College Outreach
- College Nights
- PTA Meetings
- Radio/TV
- Newspapers
- Union

Outreach

Reach your target audience through influencers.

Programs & Services

The TRP/La Casa approach...

College Talks  Parent Mentors  Resource Center

Printed Materials  College & Career Coaching

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# Approach

## What to do. How to do it.

### Long-Term Programs
- **Relationships of Shared Responsibility**
  - Escuelita, Carleton College
  - Illinois PTA, Various school districts
  - ParentMentors/PadresMentores, The Resurrection Project

- **Build College Knowledge**
  - Universidad de Medicina, UIC
  - Students, Teachers, Educators & Parents (STEP), DePaul University
  - Adelante! Mother-Daughter Program, Chicago State University
  - Parent School Partnership Program, MALDEF
  - CollegeTalks/CharlasUniversitarias, La Casa Student Housing – The Resurrection Project

- **Role Construction**
  - GEAR UP Book Clubs & Parent Advocate, Chicago Teacher’s Center at Northeastern Illinois University

### Short-Term Programs
- **Develop a Skill**
  - Community Technology Access Program (Community TAP), Chicago State University
  - Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), The Resurrection Project

- **Build Social Capital**
  - ParentNET, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

### One-Day Events
- **Workshops**
  - Pathways to College & Career, Chicago Public Schools
  - College Goal Sunday, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
  - Elev8, The Resurrection Project

- **Conferences**
  - Bilingual Parent Summit, Illinois State Board of Education
  - Parent University, Various school districts

- **Broadcasts**
  - Es el momento, Univision

### Tools
- **Access Technology**
  - ChicagoVoz.org, The Resurrection Project
  - College Zone Outreach Centers, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

- **Ready-to-Use Presentations**
  - Novelas Educativas, Hispanic Scholarship Fund
  - Various Topics, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

- **Websites**
  - ISAC.org, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
  - ActivateLatino.org, Maria Bucio

- **Printed Materials**
Lessons Learned

What are the common characteristics of exemplary programs?

1. Committed Program Champions
2. Cultural Considerations
3. Program Evaluation
4. Successful Partnerships
5. Stable Funding Sources

Parent Perspectives
Their issues deserve attention…

Araceli Lucio
Francisca Agustín
Parents as Allies in Pursuit of the DREAM
Transform through innovative programming.

1. Assert *parental role and sense of efficacy* in effecting greater educational success for their children, our students.

2. Enhance *communication* between parents and staff.

3. Empower parents to undertake informed *advisory and advocacy roles* by exposing them to academic, college, and career information.

4. Expose parents to *trusted sources and environments* that lead to college enrollment and retention of students.

5. Expand the family’s *social capital* by establish networks of parents, educators, and outreach professionals who will support and mentor each other.

6. Develop strategies that allow schools and families to *work together* in efforts to start promoting *college preparation* in the middle school and intensify in high school.
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