



Presenters:

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Leading to Create a Culture of Collaboration, Care, and College/Career Readiness

Session Overview

- Explore how intentional leadership fosters collaboration and care among staff, students, families, and college partners.
- Identify strategies that strengthen high school and college partnerships.
- Examine practices that promote equity through access, exposure, and opportunity.
- Reflect on actionable ways to support college and career readiness for all learners.



Why This Work Matters

The Power of Intentional Leadership

Early Colleges Serve Students Who Need:

- ➔ Access to opportunities
- ➔ Exposure to college and career pathways and options
- ➔ Strong systems of support
- ➔ Adults who believe in their potential
- ➔ Clear communication and guidance
- ➔ Advocacy

Intentional Leadership Cultivates:

- ➔ Trust
- ➔ Connection
- ➔ Collaboration
- ➔ Belonging
- ➔ Postsecondary Readiness

“STUDENTS RISE WHEN SYSTEMS ARE BUILT TO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, AND EMPOWER THEM.”

Building a Culture of Collaboration and Care

What Does a Caring School Culture Look Like?

- ✔ **Shared vision and collective responsibility**
- ✔ **Strong relationships among staff, students, and stakeholders**
- ✔ **Open communication and transparency**
- ✔ **Consistent encouragement and support**
- ✔ **High expectations with high support**
- ✔ **Student voice and family engagement**
- ✔ **Celebration of growth and success**



Intentional Leadership Practices

Leadership That Builds Trust

- Being visible and approachable
- Listening before leading
- Maintaining consistency and accountability
- Creating safe spaces for feedback
- Leading with empathy and understanding
- Supporting staff collaboration and wellness
- Communicating proactively and honestly

RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Collaboration Across Stakeholders

Everyone Plays a Vital Role

Staff

- Teachers
- Administrators
- Counselors and School Social Workers
- Administrative Assistants
- Support Personnel

Families

- Ongoing Communication
- Family Education Opportunities
- Accessible Support Systems

College Partnerships

- Shared Expectations
- Advisement and Student Support
- Regular Communication and Planning

Students

- Leadership Opportunities
- Student Voice Initiatives
- Ownership of learning
- Ownership of Goals

Strengthening High School-College Partnerships

Building Meaningful Bridges

Successful Partnerships Require:

- ✦ **Shared goals and aligned expectations**
- ✦ **Frequent Communication**
- ✦ **Collaborative problem-solving**
- ✦ **Clear student support systems**
- ✦ **Mutual respect and accountability**
- ✦ **Joint planning opportunities**

What Can This Look Like?

- ✦ **Regular meetings with college partners**
- ✦ **Shared student success monitoring**
- ✦ **Cross-Campus support systems**
- ✦ **Transition Preparedness**
- ✦ **Early Intervention Processes**

Supporting Students Through Transitions

Meeting Students Where They Are

REMINDER

SUPPORT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
MUST ALWAYS
WORK
TOGETHER.

Students Need Support In Many Areas:

- ✓ Academically
- ✓ Socially
- ✓ Emotionally
- ✓ Financially
- ✓ Professionally

Practical Ways to Implement Support:

- College Readiness Workshops
- Mentoring and Advisement
- Check-ins and Intervention Systems
- Career Exploration Opportunities
- Family Informational Sessions
- Encouragement
- Positive Reinforcement

Promoting Equity Through Access and Opportunity

Equity Is Intentional

Equity-Focused Leadership Includes:

- ✓ Removing Barriers to Opportunity
- ✓ Increasing Awareness of Available Resources
- ✓ Providing Exposure to Careers and College Pathways
- ✓ Encouraging Student Participation and Leadership
- ✓ Ensuring All Students Feel Seen, Valued, and Supported

Questions to Consider:

- ? Who Has Access?
- ? Who may still face barriers?
- ? How are we intentionally supporting all learners?

Creating Access and Exposure

Expanding Postsecondary Possibilities

Strategies That Increase Access:

- College visits and campus tours
- Career exploration activities
- Guest Speakers
- Dual Enrollment Opportunities and Exploration
- FAFSA and Financial Aid Support
- Scholarship awareness and exposure
- Internship and work-based learning opportunities

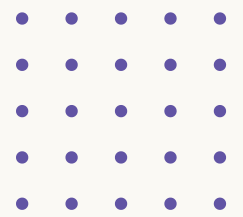
GOAL

HELP STUDENTS SEE POSSIBILITIES THEY MAY NOT HAVE PREVIOUSLY IMAGINED BEING ATTAINABLE.



The Importance of Communication

Communication Builds Confidence



Effective Communication Practices:

- ✦ **Frequent and clear updates**
- ✦ **Honest feedback with encouragement**
- ✦ **Family-centered communication methods**
- ✦ **Multimodal communication platforms**
- ✦ **Student-centered conversations**

Communication Should Always:

- ☑ **Inform**
- ☑ **Encourage**
- ☑ **Empower**
- ☑ **Build Trust**
- ☑ **Be Transparent**



Student Voice & Empowerment

Students Thrive When They Feel Heard

Ways to Elevate Student Voices:

- Student Leadership Opportunities
- Peer Mentoring
- Student-led Initiatives
- Feedback Surveys
- Classroom and Schoolwide Collaboration

Outcomes of Student Empowerment:

- Increased Confidence
- Greater Engagement
- Stronger Sense of Belonging
- Improved Self-Advocacy Skills



Real-World Practices and Examples

Practices that Strengthen School Communities

- ➔ Collaborative student support meetings

- ➔ Family engagement nights

- ➔ College transition support programs

- ➔ Staff relationship-building activities

- ➔ Advising and mentoring programs

- ➔ Positivity and culture-building initiatives

- ➔ Celebration of student growth and milestones

SMALL INTENTIONAL ACTIONS CREATE MEANINGFUL, LONG-LASTING IMPACTS.



Stop.



Start.



Continue.

Reflect & Plan

Reflections:

- What practices currently strengthen collaboration and care in your school?
- Where are opportunities for growth?
- How can leadership increase access and opportunities for students?
- What is one strategy you could implement?

Consider:

- One relationship you want to strengthen
- One barrier you want to address
- One communication strategy to improve
- One new opportunity you could create for students



REMEMBER! →

Intentional Leadership Can:

- Build trust and collaboration
- Strengthen school and college partnerships
- Promote equitable access and opportunity
- Empower students and families
- Create systems rooted in care and support

A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION AND CARE CREATES PATHWAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED.

THANK
YOU! 😊

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