Are you looking for ways to increase your community’s college-going rate?

EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization in Nebraska with a mission to improve access to higher education. Liz Koop, President and CEO, says “We have found that students who didn’t think they would go to college often change their perception after stepping foot on a college campus. Campus visits are vital in helping students find the college that’s the right fit for them.”

Perna (2002) identified five critical components for programs targeting low-income students to facilitate educational advancement: (1) the goal of college attendance to raise expectations; (2) college tours, visits, or fairs to help students better plan for college; (3) promoting rigorous course-taking and academic excellence; (4) parental involvement as a goal; and (5) early outreach, beginning by eighth grade to facilitate curricular planning.

Research has shown it is critical to intervene early in order to facilitate curricular planning. Researchers recommend that programs begin well before high school (Levine & Nidiffer, 1996) if possible, by eighth grade (Perna, 2002), or no later than the ninth grade (Corwin et al., 2005).

NCACHE is committed to building strategic partnerships to strengthen our local communities through college access and success.

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