

March 2016

Recently while enjoying a glass of wine after work, one of my girlfriends said that I seemed a little out of it. I think my answer was the ever-popular, over-used, "I'm just a little stressed." As I was driving home I was trying to pinpoint what, exactly, was giving me anxiety. Was it the question of whether the Broncos would franchise Von Miller (They did, the next day – way to go Elway!)? Was it my 16-year-old cat who had retaliated against his new grain-free cat food by barfing all over the house? Was it trying to strategically plan carpools for the boys' baseball and basketball practices for the week? Then, as I passed Holly Street on 26th Avenue – the location of McAuliffe Middle School – it hit me like a ton of bricks: my 5th-grader, Harlan, will find out soon which middle school he will attend.

We put a lot of thought into the decision before filling out the choice form – academics, size, athletics, specific fields of study, etc. – and I felt good about our decisions. When I got home I asked him if he and his friends have been talking about middle schools and who would go where and he said, "Uh ... YEAH, pretty much every day." I asked him if he was nervous. Harlan said he would be happy with either of his top two choices and, if he got his third choice, he would "get there." So why the anxiety on my part, other than the typical mom reaction to fight every instinct to be a helicopter parent and protect my boys at all costs? I finally determined that I was projecting my own middle school experience on my son. I loved high school – middle school was a little harder. I don't think the 80's perm, perpendicular front teeth and the glasses the size of my face helped my social situation in 6th- and 7th-grade (8th-grade brought me braces and contacts – huge improvement), but it was more than that. It was just that time of change – feeling like we were growing up but really having no idea what that meant. I know for a fact that a huge reason I got through middle school fairly unscathed was my teachers.

So today, as I sit here still feeling anxious about the letter we should receive any day now, and feeling grateful to the small town Wyoming middle school teachers who got me through those important three years, I want to say a huge thank you to Colorado's middle school teachers! Your patience is admirable, your energy is boundless, your influence is life-changing, and we salute you!

Save the Date

College Friday is April 29, 2016! College Friday is a day we ask all Coloradans to wear their favorite college gear to support students' path to higher education. It's not too early to begin planning how your school/business/organization will participate. We will share more information and resources soon. If you have ideas or questions, please contact Megan McDermott, director of communications at Megan.McDermott@cic.state.co.us or 303-974-2495.

Hosting an Event for College Friday?

Are you planning an event for College Friday? A letter from CIC will go out soon on ways to get involved, but if you have already planned your involvement, please let us know how you will participate by sending an email to Megan McDermott, director of communications, at Megan.McDermott@cic.state.co.us.

Event Requests

College In Colorado has professionals in each region dedicated to assisting your organization in using the websites and tools effectively. We can also help with career exploration and education planning, implementing your ICAP and informing families about financial aid.

- For website training, online tutorials and Webinars - use this [online form](#) to review upcoming sessions on ICAP, career exploration, college planning, financial aid or financial literacy.
- Our outreach and access team members are your go-to people for assistance. Meet your region's coordinators by clicking on the map below, or use this [online form](#) to send us your request for a College In Colorado staff member to provide assistance.

Note: You may receive an error message when you submit the online event request form. We are working to resolve this issue, but please know that the request reaches us. There is no need to resubmit the form.

Website Spotlight – ICAP Templates

Each month we're highlighting a resource on the College In Colorado website. This month, we're highlighting the Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP) templates. We've completed significant improvements to the [ICAP templates](#) that meet the CDE indicators and will help you build your ICAP system quickly and easily. College In Colorado has everything you need to meet ICAP requirements in a free, customizable way. We even have examples from your colleagues. [Learn more.](#)

Pre-Collegiate Conference and Gully Stanford Legacy Award

College in Colorado will not hold the Colorado Statewide Pre-Collegiate Conference this year. This is due in part to the need to dedicate our resources in a way that helps Lt. Governor Garcia meet his goal of cutting the attainment gap in half, as well as the prevalence of other conferences during this time of year, the majority of which will offer sessions similar to what we have traditionally offered at the Pre-Collegiate Conference. We will, however, still pay homage to the man behind the Pre-Collegiate Conference and so many of College In Colorado's other successes by seeking nominations for the second annual Gully Stanford Legacy Award. The award will be presented to an individual who has been instrumental in assisting Colorado students in their pursuit of postsecondary education, within the K-12 and postsecondary systems, or through education-minded organizations and non-profit organizations. Additional consideration will be given to those who have concurrently pushed for the inclusion of arts education in school curriculum.

Nominations for the 2015 Award are due by **Friday, April 1.**

To nominate an individual, please submit a thorough letter of recommendation that includes answers to the questions below and a current CV or resume of the nominee. Also, please let us know if the nominee is aware of their nomination (this does not have any bearing on the selection).

- In what way does the nominee work with students looking to pursue postsecondary education?
- How long has the nominee been involved in the education community and what are some highlights of his/her accomplishments?
- In what way has the nominee been involved in arts education?
- List some exemplary practices that have resulted in student success.

Please submit the nomination letter and the CV or resume to:

College In Colorado
Attn: Dawn Taylor Owens
1560 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

or

Dawn.TaylorOwens@cic.state.co.us

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