

September 2016

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Introduction by Dawn Taylor Owens, executive director, College In Colorado

Hello and welcome to another school year. This school year is a tough one for me, as my oldest, Harlan, started middle school, and the transition has been slow and somewhat difficult. Harlan is fine – I'm talking about my transition. Suddenly I am no longer BFFs with his teacher or going to baby showers for his para or working out with his principal. Just when he is grabbing onto this new world, I am expected to let go a little. And that is not my strong suit. At all. I literally have to physically restrain myself sometimes from being the most helicopteree mother on the planet.

However, my fears and my doubts were quelled and my questions answered at "meet the teacher night" because I was reminded that teaching, as much as any profession in the world, is a labor of love. Listening to Harlan's teachers talk about their philosophies on teaching, the school's vision, and the faculty's promise was all the reassurance I needed. Letting go that much more wasn't necessarily easier, but it was a little less painful. A shout out and a huge thank you to the rock star staff at McAuliffe International School!

So while middle school teachers are making life easier for Harlan and his slightly

neurotic mother, CIC can make life easier for middle school teachers. Look for details on the new middle school features on CollegelInColorado.org below, along with other helpful tools, features and upgrades. As always, if there is anything we can do to help you grab on or let go, please don't hesitate to ask.

Save the Date for College Friday 2017

College Friday is **April 21, 2017**. Save the date and spread the word! More information is coming soon.

October is College Application Month

College Application Month is right around the corner! The goal of College Application Month is to provide every graduating high school senior with the preparation and opportunity to apply to college, with the help of CollegelInColorado.org. While the focus of the month is particularly on first-generation students and students who may not otherwise apply to college, we encourage participating high schools to include activities for all students, including freshmen, sophomores and juniors, and even seniors who have already applied to college.

With the FAFSA opening date moving to Oct. 1, we'll kick-off the month a little sooner with activities beginning in September. We're busy updating the website with new resources and activities, so watch www.CICCollegeAppMonth.org for updated daily activities, a calendar, a checklist and a professional handbook. Get your students involved! We're also doing tailgates n this year – we'll have scholarship prizes and an IKEA gift card give-away!

New goal-setting activity to debut, retiring Guideways

As the 2016-2017 school year gets underway, we're rolling out an enhanced goal-setting activity.

Over the summer, we introduced **My Goals and Action Plans**, which aligns with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound) guidelines. Find it on the student website under **My Goals and Action Plans in Your Portfolio > Your Profile > Looking Ahead**.

With this new activity in place, we're retiring old goal-setting activities on Sept. 13, 2016. Students may access goals set in past years by navigating to **My Goals and Action Plans > Previous Goals**; however, this content will not be available for editing nor updating.

We're also taking down **Guideways** on **Sept. 13**. After that date, there will be no access to use Guideways or to run Guideway Tracking Reports. Since all activities are stored in student portfolios, students will still be able to see activities they completed while doing a Guideway in the past.

To make sure your students are set for these changes, complete the following tasks by Sept. 13:

- Review your ICAP set(s) to see if any of the retiring goal activities are used. If so, run ICAP tracking reports for 2015-2016 school year.
- Update your ICAP set(s) with new My Goals and Action Plans activity. Refer to the **Step-by-Step: How to Update to Goals and Action Plans** guide for assistance.
- Run any Guideway Tracking Reports you may require for the 2015-2016 school year.

New ICAP template for 2016-2017

In the ICAP Administration area, we've provided an improved 2016-17 By-Grade ICAP template that includes student lessons featuring the College Admissions Tool, the new SMART Goals and Action Plans activity and new middle school activities. Feel free to duplicate, rename and modify the template to your liking. For a quick tutorial, download [Making Effective Use of the ICAP Template](#)..

For editable Word documents of student worksheets included in the template, navigate to **Resources > 2016-2017 ICAP Templates** in the Professional Center.

New middle school module encourages kids to start thinking ahead

We're excited to roll out School-2-College-2-Work, new college and career tools for middle-schoolers, including:

1. **Directions after High School:** Students review six possible paths they could take after graduating from high school and rate each path.
2. **Career Clusters Map:** Students discover the basic facts about all 16 Career Clusters and rate each cluster.
3. **Career Cluster Survey:** Students learn how the activities they like, their personal qualities and their favorite subjects relate to Career Clusters.

These interactive tools feature friendly graphics, easy-to-read language and feedback mechanisms to make sure kids stay engaged. We hope you and your students have fun exploring options after graduation! Find School-2-College-2-Work in **Your Portfolio** and on the middle school role-based home page of the student website.

ETLP site simplifies process for students, providers

Are your students looking for training programs (college, career, technical or

occupational) – particularly if they could be paid for? In partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment, we've built a website for that!

Colorado's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) is the official list of training programs eligible for receive federal workforce development funds for participating students. Launched in July, COTrainingProviders.org is an interactive web tool that allows consumers to search programs and providers authorized to offer training in Colorado. Once students have identified a program of interest, they can contact their local workforce center for funding.

New Website for Foster and Homeless Youth

Through a partnership between College In Colorado and the Pathways to Success initiative of the Colorado Office of Children, Youth and Families, we've launched OnTheRightPath.org—a website geared for homeless and foster youth that provides information on housing, money management, health and wellness, education, career advice and more. As you browse the site, please send suggestions to Julia.Pirnack@cic.state.co.us.

FAFSA WHEN? Calculator

Students can now submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) earlier, beginning Oct. 1. Our new FAFSA WHEN? Calculator takes the guesswork out of when to file and what tax information to include. Simply select the school year you'll attend college and the tool tells you when to submit your FAFSA and which tax return year to include. [See it in action now!](#)

Need Access to the Professional Center?

Need your PAAK or AC Code? Email your request to twyla.esquibel@cic.state.co.us. Your PAAK and AC Code are site specific and will allow you to access to the Professional Center (<http://procenter.collegeincolorado.org>). The Pro Center gives you all the tools you need to manage your college and career planning programs - administration, reporting, communicating and managing students.

Website Spotlight – College Admissions Tool

The [College Admissions Tool](#) helps students understand the admissions process and make informed decisions about Colorado colleges. The tool was designed with two audiences in mind:

PLAN: The tool is a great way for **middle and high school students and their families** to gain understanding about the college admissions process for Colorado colleges and universities.

Ø Students can select college characteristics that are important to them, and enter a goal GPA and test scores to create a list of four- and two-year Colorado

colleges and universities that are a good match.

DECIDE: The tool helps **high school upperclassmen** understand how their current academic performance compares to Colorado four-year college and university admissions standards. Students may also use the planning features to guide their work as they prepare to select a college and for College Application Month in October.

Ø Students can select their favorite colleges and universities to analyze side-by-side, and use **My Progress** and **My Scorecard** to compare their performance to college expectations.

Gully Stanford Legacy Award

We will again 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 third 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.

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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