



Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2010

Update from Salazar & Associates

The Council contract with Salazar & Associates began in late January as a combination of services with the Colorado School Counselors Association (CSCA). This was a new relationship between Salazar & Associates and the Council. CSCA began its contract in December in order to maintain representation at the beginning of the legislative session.

Services Provided by Salazar & Associates on behalf of the Council:

- Engaged in an education campaign to increase state policymaker's awareness and understanding of the Council, including its members, the transition of students from high school to higher education, and access to and affordability of higher education
- Increased the Council's visibility among critical state-level policymakers, including the Governor's office, Joint Budget Committee, and House and Senate Education Committees

- Provided basic legislative analyses with access to online reports
- Provided detailed summaries of complex legislation, such as the budget and school finance
- Provided weekly narratives electronically
- Attended requested board meetings with advance notice of the association or affiliated groups and conferences
- Presented at regional conferences in breakout sessions educating members on the state budget
- Conducted bi-weekly conference calls with the client to update and develop positions on legislation
- Assisted with joint CSCA and Council Day at the Capitol to continue to increase policymakers' awareness of Council issues, including inviting legislators to attend and facilitating briefings and access to the Senate and House Chambers
- Engaged in relationship building and collaboration with other K-12 and higher education stakeholders

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College Credit Curriculum: A Counter to the College Cost Crisis?

Meghan Cave; Edited by John Karakoulakis

It is no surprise that college costs are rising. Equally daunting is the proliferating rate of student loan debt. A student loan debt study by College-InSight.org found that 54% of college graduates in Colorado have an average of \$20,866 in student loan debt. Nationally, college seniors who graduated in 2009 carried an average of \$24,000 in student loan debt, up six percent from the previous year. Moreover, higher education funding continues to decline. According to the "State Higher Education Finance FY 2009" report, Colorado ranks 48th in the nation in state funding per student for post secondary education. Consequently, student loan debt has become an inevitable economic burden for many students to obtain a post-secondary education.

Colorado GEAR UP has established college credit strategies that abate and often eliminate student loan debt for students. GEAR UP is a federally funded pre-collegiate program operating in middle and high schools across the state. The program offers college-readiness curriculum for low-income, first generation 7th – 12th grade students. Students must be receiving free and reduced lunch benefits for admission into the GEAR UP program but there is no academic requirement. GEAR UP staffs a Pre-Collegiate Advisor to work one-on-one with students in schools with a GEAR UP program. GEAR UP has aligned their programmatic goals with the President's American Graduation Initiative, to lead the world in percentage of citizens with college credentials. The average GEAR

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Important Deadlines & Reminders

College Goal Sunday: February 13, 2011

Colorado Council Volunteerism & Community
Service Scholarship

Deadline to apply is January 31, 2011

Counselor of the Month for September – Mike
Deutsch from Chatfield HS

Counselor of the Month for October
Tonia Miller from Strasburg HS

In a Blackboard Institute Study, researchers found a myriad of benefits of dual enrollment for students, high schools, and colleges and noted that students who complete dual enrollment courses are 12% more likely to enter college within seven months of high school graduation.

In the fall of 2009, 90% of GEAR UP juniors completed a college course with 79% of students earning a C or better. In the spring of 2010, 88% of sophomores and 81% of juniors were enrolled in a college course and 87% earned a C or better. College course work includes certification programs: nursing assistant and emergency medical tech certifications; Career and Technical courses: Auto Tech, Cosmetology, CAD, Welding, and Catering; and college gateway and introductory courses: English, Speech, Psychology, Biology, Music, Business Law, Literature, Computer Technology, and Calculus.

College credit initiatives at GEAR UP are predicated upon the prior work of GEAR UP Executive Director, Scott Mendelsberg. Mendelsberg implemented college credit initiatives in 2000, at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School where he served as Principal. In 2003 Mendelsberg accepted a Principal position at Abraham Lincoln High School, a school that was headed towards closure due to the poor graduation, retention, and post-secondary attendance rates. In Mendelsberg's first year at Lincoln he measured the post-secondary attendance rate at 17% (including military). In his second year after implementing 'College Now' and college-readiness and concurrent enrollment program, post-secondary attendance increased to 73% (excluding military). In 2006, Mendelsberg was asked to manage the GEAR UP program in Colorado.

It is estimated that by 2018, 63% of jobs will require a college degree which translates to the United States needing at least 22 million new degrees. (Carnevale, Smith, and Strohl) College costs are not projected to decrease, similarly, federal and state funding for higher education are not likely to increase in the near future. College credit initiatives in high schools are a proven method to help students attain a postsecondary credential in less time and more cost effective and GEAR UP is paving the way. These initiatives not only prepare students for an academic career in the post-secondary arena but also mitigate college cost and loan debt. To learn more about Colorado GEAR UP, please visit www.coloradogearup.org or send an email to askgearup@dhe.state.co.us

Resources

Barnett, Elisabeth (PhD Columbia University) and Stamm, Leisa (PhD Rutgers Camden). Dual Enrollment: A Strategy for Educational Advancement of all Students. Blackboard Institute. http://www.blackboardinstitute.com/pdf/Bbinstitute_DualEnrollment.pdf

Carnevale, Anthony P. Smith, Nicole. Strohl, Jeff. Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018. Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce. June 2010

Cheng, Diane and Reed, Matthew. Student Debt and the Class of 2009 The Project on Student Loan Debt October 2010. College-InSight.org

State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and The College Board. State Higher Education Finance FY 2009.

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UP senior high school student will graduate with some college credit, many will graduate with over one full year of college credits completed. GEAR UP utilizes developmental education courses, College Level Examination Program (CLEP testing), and concurrent enrollment for students to earn college credits while in high school.

GEAR UP offers developmental education course work in the high school. These remedial courses are typically only offered in college, where students pay tuition and fees for the courses work but do not earn college credit. Studies show poor retention rates for students who enter college needing remediation. GEAR UP uses the Accuplacer, a CollegeBoard test, to place students in developmental education English, Reading, and Math (030, 060, 090) courses where needed. Completing these courses in high school saves students countless hours and tuition dollars in future college years. GEAR UP recently partnered with Adams State College to offer developmental education online students to complete course work self paced with a tutor.

GEAR UP has also implemented CLEP testing for students. The CLEP test is a College Board test that allows students to earn between 5 and 12 credits in subjects areas they are proficient in. GEAR UP offers the CLEP test in the following subject areas: Composition and Literature, History and Social Science, Science and Mathematics, Business and Language. In the 2009-2010 school year 36% of GEAR UP students who tested in Spanish earned 5-8 college credits and 54% of those who test in Spanish earned 9-12 credits.

GEAR UP students begin participation in concurrent enrollment with one college course during the spring semester of the sophomore year. College course load increases as students progress through high school. Under Colorado House Bill 1319 and the Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) legislation the school district incurs the cost of tuition and fees for the college courses. College courses are completed on both the college campus and in the high school classroom depending on the school.

Highlights of the Council's 2010 Lobbying Contract

- Tracked K-12 and higher education legislation and actively lobby on behalf of The Council. HB 10-1376 (Long Bill) secured \$5M in funding for the Counselor Corp Grant Program that had been cut from the state budget for FY 10-11
- Promoted the Council as a resource on critical state education issues such as ICAPS, high school graduation requirements, workforce readiness definitions and requirements, and Counselor Corp Grant funding. SB10-026 was a piece of legislation that we worked actively on that would have expanded the grade level of ICAPs, but ultimately we had to defeat the bill due to unforeseen complications that would have eliminated College in Colorado and ICAPs as currently required under statute. The expansion of ICAPS continues to be a priority.
- Provided assistance with conversations regarding the transition of students between community colleges and four-year institutions and the creation of two-year degree majors. Two piece of legislation, SB 10-088 Transfer of Two-Year Degrees and HB 10-1208 Higher Education Transfer Agreements, worked hand-in-hand to create a package that will assist students in an easier transition between two and four-year institutions. SB 10-108 Higher Education Core Courses also allows private institutions to pay to have their classes audited to determine if students can test out of those courses.
- SB 10-003 Negotiations for Higher Education Flexibility lasted the entire session and resulted in greater tuition flexibility and relief from other rules and regulations.
- Tracked 13 measures to increase revenue to the state, specifically the Tax Exemptions raising \$284M in revenue
- Assisted in defeating HB 10-1254 High School Assessments that required every student to score at the proficient each portion of the 10th-grade CSAP as a condition of graduation.

This Year's Retirees

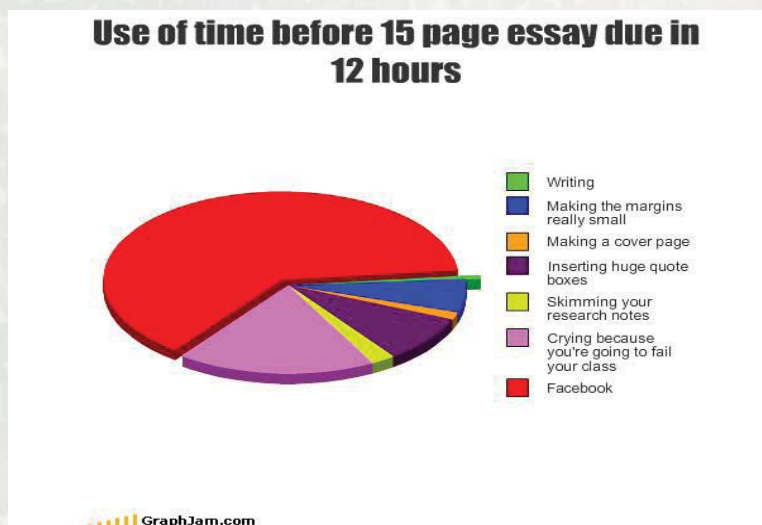
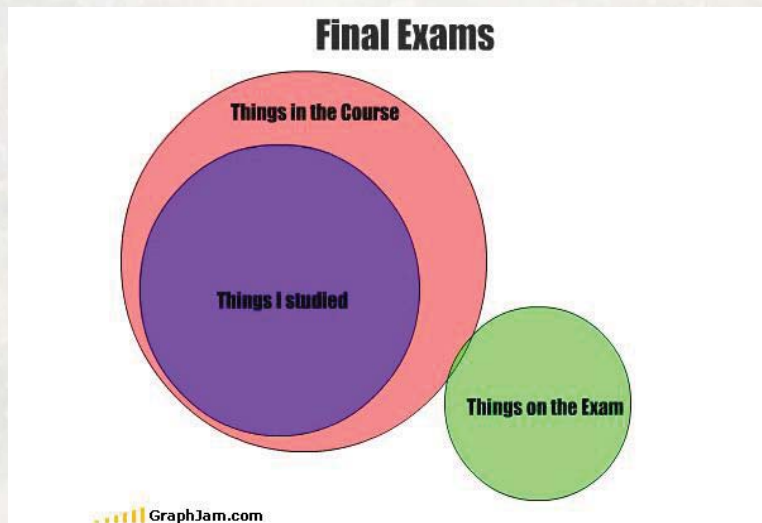
Congratulations to those retiring this year from your friends at the Colorado Council on High School and College Relations!

- Betsy Thompson, District Counselor Coordinator
- Shari Cornelison, Golden High School
- Al Villani, Pomona High School
- Olga Coleman, CEC Middle College of Denver
- Nancy Sarchet, Valley High School
- Daniel Harris, Flagler High School
- Carol Bergman, Grand Junction High School
- Dan Burke, Hotchkiss High School
- Pat Myers, Montrose High School
- Judith Walton, Thomas B. Doherty High School
- Phil Moeller, Eaglecrest High School
- Carol Diebel, Fairview High School
- Janice Bell, Colorado Mountain College
- Diane Brumfitt, Fairview High School

Graphical Gems

Stephanie Cuddihy

I was trolling the web recently and came across these graphical gems. As someone who has worked with cohorts ranging from kindergartners to university students, and as the wife of a high school teacher, I am very aware that these graphs apply to the populace at large. Frankly, anyone who works in education needs a little levity now and then!



Council Member Bios

In This Issue: George Cruz

School: Palmer Ridge High School

Number of years at current school: 2.5 (New High School)
5 years at previous school prior to transferring to PRHS.

Where you grew up:
Widefield, CO

Who is your most influential mentor and why?

Rick Wilson – Teacher/Coach in MS and HS. Always encouraged me to work hard and never made me feel like I was not capable of achieving. Spoke to me in a way that made me feel valued and that what I said mattered.

Reason for/Route of entering the guidance/counseling field:

I have always had an interest in working with people in general. I originally started College with the intent on going into Music Education but ended up changing majors and ended up with a degree in Sociology and began working in the Mental Health/Social Work field, after 9 years in this field, the call to get into education re-emerged.

Best/favorite thing about your job:

I love working with students and seeing the growth in them from the start of the year to the end of the year. The physical and emotional growth in students from August to May is and incredible thing to observe. I also enjoy hearing and observing the decision making process students go through as they select/apply for options available to them for life after high school.

Best/favorite thing about CCHS/CR:

The ability to network and meet professionals in this field. The information that we receive from our colleagues at the college level is invaluable and the connections I have been able to make have allowed me to contact folks directly if/when I have questions in regards to changes in admissions at specific colleges.

Advice for a new counseling professional:

Tomorrow is another day – don't get caught up in things that can be addressed in the morning. It will still be there tomorrow – take care of it then and go home.



FAFSA Deadlines

Schools	FAFSA Deadline
Adams State College	No deadline
Aims Community College	March 15
Arapahoe Community College	Priority Deadline May 1
Colorado Christian University	Priority Deadline March 1
Colorado College	February 15
Colorado Mountain College	Priority Deadline March 31
Colorado Northwestern Community College	Priority Deadline May 1
Colorado School of Mines	Priority Deadline April 1
Colorado State University	Priority Deadline March 1
Colorado State University-Pueblo	Priority Deadline March 1
Community College of Aurora	Priority Deadline May 1
Community College of Denver	Priority Deadline April 15
Fort Lewis College	Rec Deadline February 15
Front Range Community College	Priority Deadline March 1
Johnson & Wales University	Priority Deadline March 1
Lamar Community College	Priority Deadline April 1
Mesa State College	Priority Deadline March 1
Metropolitan State College of Denver	Priority Deadline March 1
Morgan Community College	Priority Deadline April 1
Naropa University	Priority Deadline March 1
Northeastern Junior College	Priority Deadline March 1
Otero Junior College	No deadline
Pikes Peak Community College	June 30
Pueblo Community College	Priority Deadline March 15
Red Rocks Community College	Priority Deadline March 31
Regis University	Priority Deadline March 1
Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design	Priority Deadline March 1
Trinidad State Junior College	June 30
United States Air Force Academy	Priority Deadline March 15
University of Colorado at Boulder	Priority Deadline April 1
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	Priority Deadline April 1
University of Colorado Denver	Priority Deadline March 1
University of Denver	Priority Deadline March 1
University of Northern Colorado	Priority Deadline March 1
Western State College of Colorado	Recommended deadline April 1

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