**TIPS WHEN GOING TO A COLLEGE FAIR:**

**Before the Fair:**

* **Ask yourself “Why do I want to go to college?”** This may sound basic but you’ll be surprised how difficult this question might be for you to answer in the beginning.
* **Consider what you are looking for in a school:** big/small, major, urban/rural, 2-year/4-year, religiously-affiliated, athletics, Greek life, special programs/opportunities, etc.
* **Make a list of schools that are a “must” to connect with.** You may not be able to get to every college, so know ahead of time what type of colleges you would be interested in attending.
* **Register online ahead of time, if applicable.** Registering will give you a bar code the college rep will be able to scan to get your contact information.
* **Type your contact info, high school name, graduation year, major, etc. on sticky labnles for contact cards.**
* **Talk to at least one college representative from a school you have never heard of.**
* **Prepare a list of interesting, specific questions for the college reps** – this will generate interesting and specific conversations.
* **Make a professional email address.**

**During the Fair:**

* **Bring a pen, paper, and tote bag** for notes and materials.
* **Grab a map** (if available) to plan your route.
* **Be patient** – you may have to wait in line to talk to a college.
* **Don’t let your parents do all of the talking.**
* **Take notes!** Write down what you find most interesting about each college.
* **Ask for business cards.** Follow up with the rep if you have more questions or just want to thank them for their time.
* **Be adventurous!** Chat with colleges you may not have considered or never heard of.
* **Attend an information session** to learn more about the college search process, financial etc.

**After the Fair:**

* **Organize and sort through all of the material** you have collected.
* **Make notes about schools that stood out to you** while it is fresh in your mind.
* **Recycle materials** from colleges you have ruled out.
* **Review college websites, catalogs, and view** books of the schools that interested you most.
* **Write down any additional questions** you want to follow up about.
* **Consider sending a thank you email to the college rep.** This simple gesture can show admission officials you are serious about wanting to attend their college.
* **Talk to your parents and counselor** about what schools peaked our interest and why.
* **Adjust your college list accordingly**, if necessary.
* **Start scheduling visits** to your top schools.
* **Read e-mails** to see when colleges will be visiting your school or community.

**Questions do’s & don’ts**

DON’T ask things you can research easily online like:

* What is your freshmen acceptance rate?
* What’s the average GPA of students accepted?
* How cold does it get in the winter?
* What’s the student-to-faculty ratio?
* What’s your school like? (Too general)
* “Is your \_\_\_\_\_ program good? (Of course it is!)

Do ask:

* What are the 3 coolest things about your school?
* Where do you like to eat on campus?
* How easy is it to take classes in \_\_\_\_\_\_ if I’m a \_\_\_\_major?
* What are 3 adjectives to describe the type of students at your school?
* What is your favorite tradition at your college?
* Out-of-state colleges: What programs are offered to help out-of-state students adjust living away from home?
* If the rep is an alum: What do you wish you would have taken advantage of at your college?
* What do students like to do on the weekends at your school or in the area?