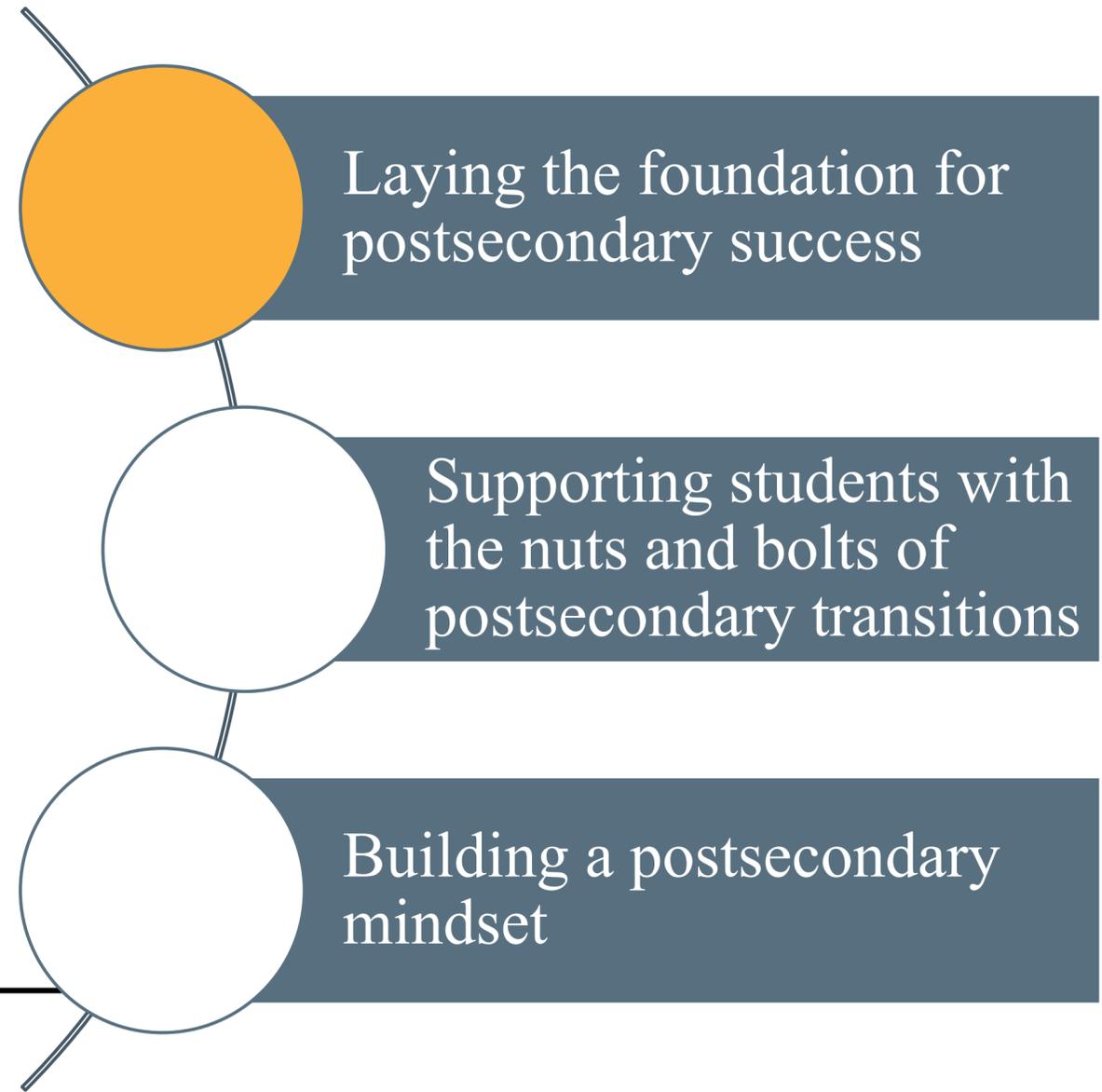


Laying the Foundation for Postsecondary Success

Paving the Pathway to College and Careers
Training Series



Paving the pathway to college and careers



Laying the foundation for postsecondary success

Supporting students with the nuts and bolts of postsecondary transitions

Building a postsecondary mindset

Agenda

- Welcome and overview
- Drawing on the research to inform practical strategies
 - College norms and expectations
 - Careers and majors
 - Family expectations
- Wrap-up

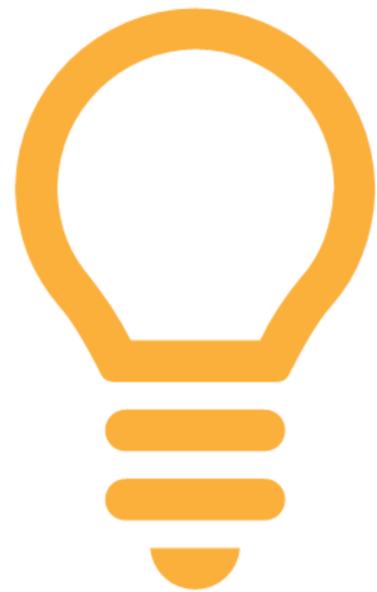


Meeting goals

Share strategies and research related to...

- Improving students' knowledge of postsecondary structures, norms, and expectations.
- Building students' career goals.





Activity



What strategies to build postsecondary knowledge about college and careers do you use in...

- Your work with students?
- Your school?
- Program?

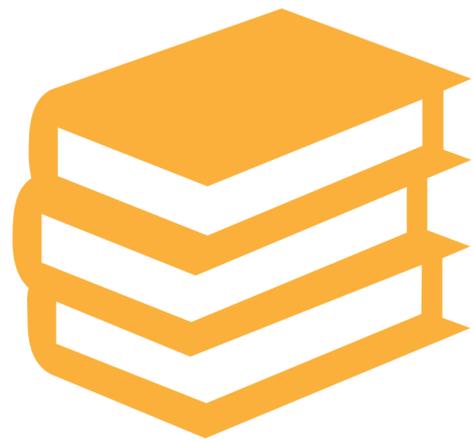
Importance of postsecondary knowledge

- Exposing students to **college norms** and **expectations**.
- Entering college with a **career goal** and interest aligned **major**.



(Barnett, 2016)

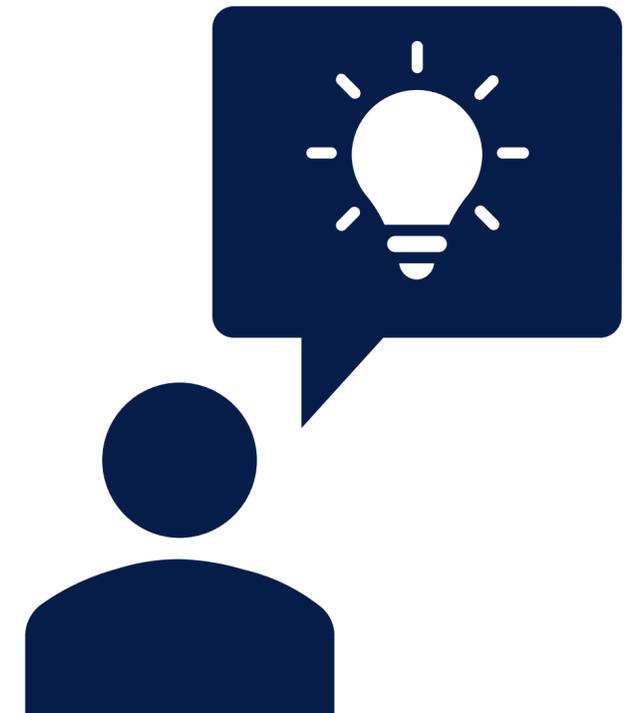
(Barnett, 2016)



Drawing on the research to inform practical strategies

Importance of building students' understanding of college norms and expectations

- K–12 and college systems are traditionally disconnected.
- Academic and social experiences and expectation on students differ between high school and college, leaving students underprepared.



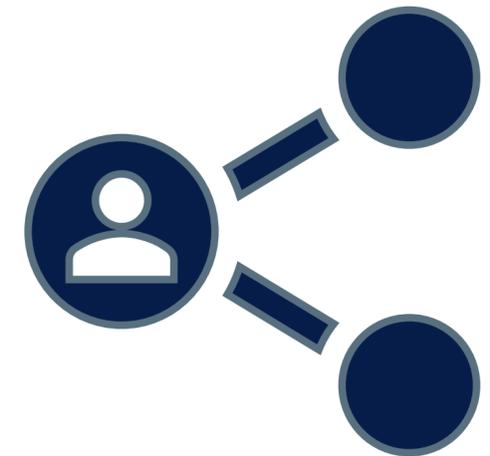
(Conley, 2007; Venezia & Kirst, 2005)

How to expose students to college norms and expectations

Work with local and distant institutions to provide opportunities for students to learn about what they offer.

- Invite college representatives to speak with your students.
- Organize visits to the institutions.
- Invite alumni who are enrolled in postsecondary to speak to students.

Options can be virtual, in-person, or asynchronous



(Barnett, 2016)

How to expose students to college norms and expectations

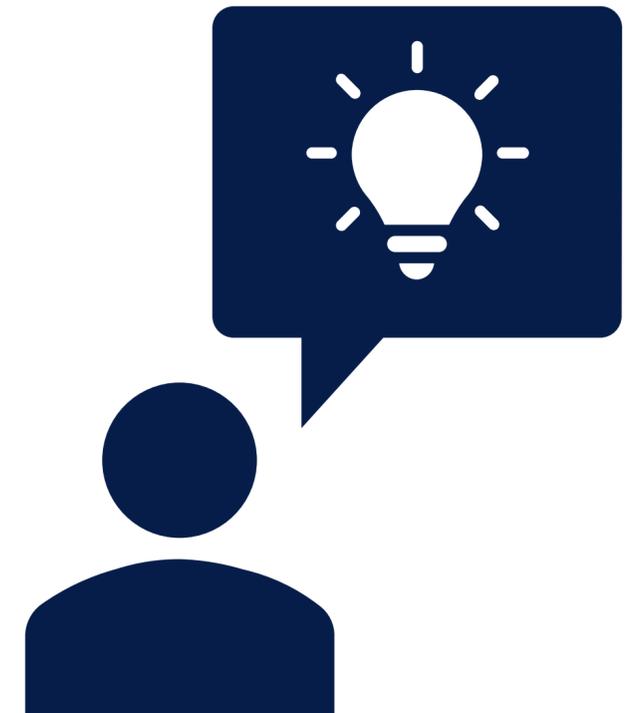
In advance of in-person and virtual visits and speakers:

- Share what to expect.
- Brainstorm questions.
- Set learning goals.
- Give assignments.
- Share information with colleges/speakers so they can tailor their presentation.



Importance of exposing students to career and postsecondary majors

- When students' interests match majors, students are more likely to persist and have higher GPAs.
- Students are more likely to persist and graduate if they begin college with a major in mind.



(Bailey, et al., 2015, as cited by Barnett, 2016; Graunke & Woosley, 2005, as cited by Barnett, 2016)

Expose students to careers and postsecondary majors: Light-touch strategies

Career inventories

- Map personality and interests onto careers.



College visits

- Include department visits aligned with student interests.
- Arrange conversations with students to pursue diverse career pathways or use virtual resources.



School counseling

- Develop student individualized learning plans tied to career goals.
- Guide student course-taking.



(Barnett, 2016)

Expose students to careers and postsecondary majors: Light-touch strategies

Career fairs and job talks

- Aim for diversity of fields.
- Reflect students' interests.
- Leverage virtual resources.

Integration into classroom

- Career exploration assignments in academic classes.
- Career inventory during homeroom.

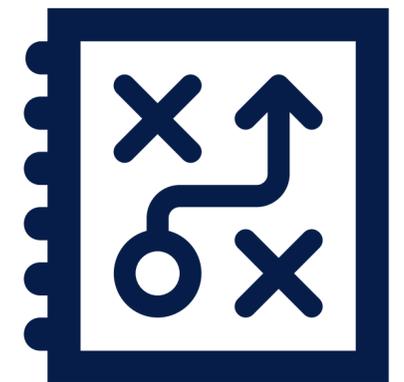
Example from the field: Career Café

- Targeted small groups of students with aligned interests.
- Held during lunch hour.



Expose students to careers and postsecondary majors: More intensive strategies

- Career pathway programs like career academies.
- Job experiences through internships, service learning, and apprenticeships.
- Career-focused dual enrollment.
- Range of other work-based learning opportunities.



(Barnett, 2016; Work-based Learning Opportunities: Learning that Works for Virginia, n.d.)

Importance of families

- Students had higher educational aspirations when they thought their parents expected them to attend college and talked to them about college.
- Parental involvement in school leads to greater enrollment in college.



(Byun, et al, 2012; Perna & Titus, 2005)

Growing family expectations

Invite parents to...

- Volunteer in the school or at events.
- Chaperone/participate in college visits.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.

Create parent-friendly spaces and events

- Hold a college application kickoff, not just for seniors.
- Create a family space in your school.
- Offer food and childcare.





Wrap-up and next steps

Question and answer



Continuing this journey

How can you use what we discussed today?

Develop an action plan

- In which area do you want to improve?
- What specific strategies or considerations from today's presentation do you want to employ?
 - Refer to the Strategies and Possible Applications section of the resource compilation for more ideas.
- What's your plan?
 - Identify next steps.
 - Assign responsible parties and due dates.
 - Track progress.

