Fresno Unified and Fresno State partner to increase college-going rate

The Fresno Unified School District has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide guidance services and counselor training to further promote a college-going culture and produce career ready graduates.

Committing resources to promote college-going culture

FUSD and Fresno State share the cost of a University College Counselor Liaison, who is responsible for implementing the program at all FUSD middle and high schools.

Starting early – making college happen

Through the partnership, the College Making It Happen (CMIH) program is being implemented at every middle school in Fresno Unified to inform families of the importance of early academic and financial planning in order for middle school children to have choices after high school.

Connecting students with university mentors

University student mentors, called College Ambassadors, work at each FUSD high school, helping high school students navigate the college application process. Ambassadors help students complete the admission and financial aid (FAFSA) online application, review transcripts, ensure students are aware of deadlines, and serve as another resource for students to access college-going information.

At-a-Glance

• Unique K-12 school district – university partnership to increase college-going rate
• Promotes college-going culture
• Provides additional resources to students to begin college and financial aid planning early
• “How to Get to College” guides distributed to middle and high school students and their families
• University College Counselor Liaison works directly with school counselors and university
• Professional development for high school counselors and 12th grade English teachers
• Outreach activities to disadvantaged students and families to provide college-going access information
• Target outcome is to have 90 percent of FUSD students apply for admissions to Fresno State