



collegesummit.org

COLLEGE SUMMIT WORKSHOP

“A workshop is four days when hard working students, role model peers, inspired teachers, and caring individuals in the community come together to bring out the leadership potential that exist within each and every student, while at the same time creating family bonds without noticing. Despite the workshop only lasting four days, the lives of students, their families, their community and our nation are positively changed forever as everyone walks away with a College Summit family that lasts forever.”

Flavio Guzman
College Summit Alumni
Leader Coordinator

WHAT IS A COLLEGE SUMMIT WORKSHOP?

The College Summit Workshop is a dynamic four-day, college campus experience largely attended by lower-income students from families with a limited history of post-secondary education. The Workshop helps students realize their college potential, and understand the importance and impact of postsecondary education in our modern economy. It also helps students take concrete steps toward their postsecondary future – preparing personal statements, learning about the college application process, and obtaining information on the financial aspects of college. Finally, Workshop students develop leadership skills, and learn how they can play a constructive role as Peer Leaders using social networking skills to help classmates pursue a college education.

A group of influential rising seniors selected from partner high schools attend College Summit Workshops and complete four critical components of the college application process:

- Write their personal statement
- Practice filling out a college application
- Develop a list of possible “good fit” colleges
- Develop knowledge and skills related to obtaining financial aid

The Workshop curriculum also includes leadership skills training. Students return to their high schools empowered as “Peer Leaders” to help strengthen their schools’ college-going-culture.

The Workshop gives students an opportunity to live in a dormitory, eat in the student cafeteria, meet students from other high schools, and participate in sessions that give them a feel for a college setting. They are taught and supported by a College Summit core team, college coaches, adult volunteers, and alumni.

College Summit and partner schools select participants through a methodical process to identify students with potential for success both as Peer Leaders and college students. Participants tend to be academically average students who lead by example and show their peers that the college application process is not just for the most gifted or top students. College Summit has found that training these students to become Peer Leaders is an extremely effective, high leverage tool for increasing college enrollment.

Peer Leaders take their Workshop experience back to their high schools where they begin their senior year prepared for success. College Summit staff continue to provide support as these students spread their enthusiasm and know-how to other students. This results in strengthening the school’s college-going-culture, and ultimately increasing college enrollment rates.

WHAT ARE THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES?

The College Summit four-day workshop has been transforming lives since 1993.

Workshop sessions include:

WRITING SESSION

Small group sessions, led by volunteer Writing Coaches during which students draft a personal statement that will become the centerpiece of their college application

COLLEGE COACHING SESSIONS

One-on-one meeting with a College Coach to help students produce a “good-fit” college list—research shows this is critical for enrollment and persistence

TOWER OF POWER

Alumni-led activity in which financial aid facts are presented and self-advocacy skills are practiced

PRACTICE COLLEGE APPLICATION

Students create a CSNav account and complete a practice college application

PEER LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

Students learn what it means to be a “Peer Leader” (PL), create a communication toolkit, and learn how to support the College Summit Class in their school

RAP SESSIONS

Rap Directors lead PLs through the process of overcoming personal barriers, recognizing possibilities, and the development of leadership skills

WHO WORKS WITH THE STUDENTS?

College Summit staffs each workshop with a well trained team supported by volunteers.

The roles and responsibilities of the key staff include:

FIELD MANAGER (FM)

The FM will oversee two to three workshop core teams on various college campuses. The Workshop Director and FM work collaboratively to create a cohesive workshop experience.

WORKSHOP DIRECTOR (WD)

The WD ensures that all activities, sessions, and operations run smoothly.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (AD)

The AD is a task manager responsible for creating schedules and managing the logistics of the workshop.

TECH COORDINATOR (TC)

The TC is the expert on technology and works with students to help manage their online application process.

RAP DIRECTOR (RD)

The RD is a trained youth facilitator who leads “Rap Sessions”— interactive sessions with students to explore personal barriers, consider alternative perspectives, and acknowledge individual strengths.

ALUMNI LEADER COORDINATOR (ALC)

The Alumni Leader Coordinator is responsible for training and managing a team of alumni to meet their goals.

ALUMNI LEADER (AL)

ALs are individuals who have been through the College Summit program. They serve in a junior supervisory role, and are on hand to offer advice, guidance, encouragement, and reassurance to students.

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COACHING (DCC)

The DCC leads the team of College Coaches, briefs them on the admissions criteria of potential Colleges/Universities.

COLLEGE COACH (CC)

CCs are professional counselors and college advisors who provide students with one-on-one college counseling. They are responsible for helping students develop their college list and develop a senior plan.

WRITING COACH COORDINATOR (WCC)

The WCC is a veteran Writing Coach who trains the writing team on College Summit’s Writing Team™ Curriculum.

WRITING COACH (WC)

WCs are a diverse group of community leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and graduate students who help students produce their personal statement drafts (college essay).

CHAPERONE

Chaperones are personnel from students’ schools who accompany the students to the workshop and serve in different capacities depending on the need of the workshop.