The Value of Pre-College Programs in the Admission Process
Introductions

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Call and Response

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
The Call
Admission Perspective: Overview

We want you to go far.
We want students to go far.
Academic departments collaborate with admission offices to form pre-college programs.
This is a call to students, counselors, and CBOs.
Admission Perspective: Carnegie Mellon Pre-College

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76awS8awJqo
Admission Perspective: Carnegie Mellon Pre-College

Large portfolio of summer programs and experiences varying by coursework, demographic, cost, and purpose.

AP/EA
SAMS
Admission Perspective: AP / EA

Advanced Placement / Early Admission

Talented students looking for more challenging coursework.

- Residential Program
- Over 40 course offerings
- Variety of disciplines
- Tuition (Scholarships available)
Admission Perspective: SAMS

Summer Academy of Math and Science
Serving students from underrepresented, under-resourced backgrounds.

Residential Program
Limited Course Offerings
STEM focused program
Accredited SAT prep course
Engineering Projects
Tuition Free
Admission Perspective: Goals

Different programs, same objective.

Enhance student’s academic portfolio
Facilitate interest and affinity for campus
Provide access to under-resourced students
Recruitment and yield great students.
Admission Perspective: Value to Counselors

Students and counselors are able to evaluate fit to the institution

  Important for under-resourced communities

High schools are able to develop better relationships with institutions

  SAMS Partnerships
The Response
Pre-College Perspective

The INVESTING NOW program

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phP-xDho5AQ
INVESTING NOW, created in 1988, is a college preparatory program created to stimulate, support, and recognize the high academic performance of pre-college students from groups that are historically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors and careers. The purpose of the program is to ensure that participants are well prepared for matriculation to the collegiate level.
Pre-College Perspective: Goals

1. Create a pipeline for well-prepared students to enter college and pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors;
2. Encourage and support students’ enrollment and achievement in advanced mathematics and science courses;
3. Ensure that the participants make informed college choices;
4. Support and encourage parents and teachers in their role as advocates for their children
5. Coordinate partnerships between the University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering and local and regional schools.
Pre-College Perspective: Goals

STUDENT SUPPORT:
Academic advising, tutoring, workshops on academic success

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT:
Summer enrichment session, hands-on science and engineering

COLLEGE PLANNING:
College preparation and financial aid workshops, SAT preparation

CAREER AWARENESS:
Career awareness seminars, summer research

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:
College planning and financial aid workshops, transition to high school sessions, program volunteers and facilitators
Pre-college Perspective: Focus Areas

**PARTICIPATE**

**NOW**

**NAVIGATE**

**EVALUATE**
Fill the Gap

How pre-college programs help to fill the gap or act as a bridge for student admissions and student success = going far!

- Parents and students
- Schools and students
- Students and students
- Careers and Students
- Communities and schools
- Families/parents and schools/fields
Collaboration → Supplementation

Yearlong Pre-college programs and summer enrichment programs do not re-invent the wheel or replace school; we collaborate and supplement one another.

**going fast** = life is not linear = **alone**

**going far** = the real goal = **together**

Institutions, pre-college programs, high schools staff, families, and communities = **it takes a village**
Top Things Colleges Look for in a High School Student

1. A Challenging High School Curriculum
2. Strong Grades / Upward Trend
3. Solid Scores on Standardized Tests
4. Quality Involvement Activities
5. Record of Community Service
Top Things Colleges Look for in a High School Student

6. Demonstrated Leadership and Initiative
7. Work/Out of School Experiences
8. A well written essay
9. Positive Recommendation Letters
10. Honors/Awards
Will you answer the call?
Thank You

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