

Reaching across the desk – Best practices for Admission & Secondary School Counselors

Presenters:

Caitlin Engel , M.A.

Director of First Year Admission, Robert Morris University

Danyelle Boyd, M.A. N.C.C.

School Counselor, Chartiers Valley

What's new in our world

- Current state of affairs
- How Covid has challenged and changed our work

What we want you to know: a School Counselors Perspective

- Letters of Recommendation
 - What is the value and impact of recommendation letters
- We are not Collegiate Advisors/Counselors
 - Our role in the area of post-secondary planning is to help students and families find their best fit
- Challenges: caseload demands & time
 - Responsible for 300+ students, role is diverse
 - Scope of our responsibilities vary greatly (mental health, personal/social concerns, academic needs)

What we want you to know: a School Counselors Perspective

- Technology is our friend (sometimes :))
 - It can take away the personal touch
 - Does simplify application process
 - Assists in data collection and record keeping
- Admission requirements & financial aid
 - Our role is to help students through the process, not do it for them or provide all the answers
 - We are not financial advisors, but can link students and families to resources

What we want you to know: an Admissions Counselor Perspective

- We are student advocates and will fight for your students
- We are a great resource for students and families, even if they don't choose higher education
- We have connections across campus
 - We don't know it all, but we can usually find the answer and connect prospective students to campus resources
- The application completion game
 - We can't make the class without the apps!
- We know financial aid

What we want you to know: an Admissions Counselor Perspective

- We're here to support you
 - We want to communicate with your students and guide them through the process
 - Refer them to us
- Technology is our friend too (sometimes)
 - Things get lost in cyberspace
 - Documents aren't typically shared with us directly, a processing team may be involved

Communication is key

- Professional development opportunities to come together and discuss our roles
- Is there still value in the traditional high school visit? College fairs?
- Overwhelmed with emails, mailers
 - Best way to communicate?
- Give us the scoop
 - If you know of other ways to engage your students (i.e. fairs, events) let us know
- Come visit us
 - Admissions professionals often connect with you at your school, but you're always welcome to visit us on campus

Thank you!