



Family Involvement Network

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

February 3, 2012

Building D, 1004-5-6



Agenda

- **Getting to Know You...**
- **College and Financial Aid:**
 - What do we need to tell families about college admissions processes?
 - What can we tell families about financial aid?
- **Common Core State Standards:** The standards are "out there" but the curriculum and assessments aren't ready yet. Now what?
- **Technology for Families:** Apps you can share with your parents/families
- **Meeting Evaluation**

Next FIN Meeting: Friday, March 30, 2012

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



WILLIAM M. HABERMEHL
County Superintendent of Schools

Guest Speaker

Lisa McLaughlin, M.Ed
Founder & Executive Director



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Lisa McLaughlin, M.Ed
Founder & Executive Director

Lisa's passion for helping students and families navigate the often complicated and stressful path to college was developed throughout her more than 10 years of experience in public education. She became a trusted adviser, providing hundreds of families with a comfortable environment in which educational goals were broadened and students were motivated to achieve their highest academic and emotional potentials.

Professionally, Lisa's career in education began as a middle school tutor in study skills and writing, and after graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a B.A. in English, she returned to UCSB for a Master's Degree in Education and English teaching credential. Her five years of specific English teaching experience at both the middle and high school levels honed her ability to teach students strategies for writing college admissions and scholarship essays. She went on to become the lead coordinator of a college readiness program for students in grades 6-12, planning and leading various college tours, assisting students with college applications and admissions essays, preparing students for the rigors of advanced high school courses, meeting with college admissions representatives, and developing relationships with directors of financial aid and admissions at higher educational institutions throughout the country.

Lisa is a professional member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association serving as College Ethics Liaison and is responsible for ensuring college admissions counselors uphold the Principles of Good Practice promoted by IECA. She is also a member of The National Association of College Admissions Counselors and The Western Association of College Admissions Counselors. She was recently selected to participate on an Advisory Board for USC's Rossier Graduate School of Education for the purpose of creating a college counseling certificate for high school counselors.

Lisa authors a weekly column, *The College Conversation*, which appears on Saturdays in the community papers of the *Los Angeles Times* and has appeared in the *OC Register* community paper, *The Sun Post News*.

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The College Conversation: Is College for Everyone?

By: Lisa McLaughlin, M.Ed

The belief that “college is not for everyone” is a copout.

More often than not, students don’t hear this statement in spoken words. It stares back at them on a report card. It rears its ugly head when students select coursework for the subsequent year. It’s the teacher who drops Johnny from her class since he did not meet the course pre-requisite. It’s the placement test that relegates a student to a remedial course. It’s the mom who is so frustrated with the student’s less than stellar grades that she stops talking about college altogether. All of this screams “You are not good enough for college!” Too often, the student walks away with his tail between his legs or waives a white flag declaring, “I give up.”

While it is certainly true that selective colleges are not for everyone (after all, that is what makes them selective), I respectfully disagree that a college education should be relegated to only the smartest, brightest, most capable and diligent young adults. There is “a” college for everyone and it is our job to ensure the door to college is left open to all. What is behind that door may differ from student to student (as it should), but we have no right to slam that door in a child’s face. Inevitably, some options will dry up as students progress through high school—but that doesn’t mean none are left. So, don’t make the mistake of abandoning the prospect of college just because UCLA is out of the picture.

Not a day goes by without my verbalizing "there is “a” college for everyone." Just this week, I calmed down a panicked high school student who called to ask if her C- in math just ruined her college chances. I also declared to an unmotivated 10th grader that one semester of low grades would not squelch his dreams of college. There are colleges that accept students who have below a 3.0 Grade Point Average. This message is important for school personnel as well. If a student earns C's, it doesn't mean they are not college material. Let's be careful about the message being sent if students are allowed to drop classes, level down, and skate through their senior year without a math, science, and foreign language class.

If a bad semester hurts your student's chance of admission at some colleges, so be it. Mistakes happen and it is not the end of the world. C’s on a high school transcript do not mean your child is going to community college. Lack of a laundry list of activities on a student’s resume, does not mean your child won’t have college options.

We are fortunate in the United States of America to have the freedom to pursue higher education. There is “a” college for everyone.



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HUNTINGTON BEACH
INDEPENDENT

October 23, 2010

The College Conversation: Why will you go to college?

By: Lisa McLaughlin, M.Ed

What is the true purpose of going to college? This question will ultimately drive how parents navigate the college selection and admission process with their child.

On the one hand, there are parents who believe that only the most selective colleges have the best professors, thus the best academic departments, ultimately providing their child with the best degree to get the best job and have the best life.

They believe competing with the best and brightest students will get the attention of recruiters and graduate schools, who will be knocking down their child's door upon graduation. And that will lead their child to the best first job out of college, at the best company, which will ultimately determine their child's best career path for the rest of his or her life. To these parents, the purpose of college is to set their children up for lifelong professional success at the age of 17. To this group, success in life is directly tied to the selectivity of a college. For them, college is a means to a financial end.

With these parents, I know right at the onset, the college selection and admissions process will be far more stressful for everyone involved. The stakes are high — if their child doesn't get in to the "best" college, they feel like their child's success in life is severely diminished. And their self worth as a parent is often directly tied to this, as well.

If my child doesn't get in to so and so school, I failed.

On the other hand, there are parents whose greatest hope is that their child finds an institution where he or she will grow more than ever imagined. They want their son or daughter to question every notion and value in which he or she has been raised and earn an appreciation for what he's had and where he's been. They aspire to have their child's perspectives broadened, their horizons expanded. It's important to these parents that their child sees himself as part of a larger world and finds his place in it.

Their children are encouraged to test boundaries, experience freedom away from home with the least amount of responsibility, and identify what's important to them, apart from the world of work and their parents. College is just the beginning and ideally instills intellectual curiosity and a desire to be part of the greater good. The true test of their parenting skills is tied to how well a student survives in college — not when the day their child gets his or her acceptance letter.

It's time to clarify what you feel is the purpose of college. And more importantly, your child needs to grapple with this question in order to find the right colleges that meet his or her needs. Allowing yourself to be open to at least some of the philosophies of the latter mindset will ultimately alleviate unnecessary stress as you navigate the college admissions process.

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Looking for Parent Education Related to College Admissions?



Unique Fundraising Opportunity: Coffee and College Conversation Parent Ed Series

Lisa McLaughlin, M.Ed., Founder and Executive Director of EDvantage College Consulting & LA Times Columnist of *The College Conversation* will facilitate a **4-part parent education series to further college admissions dialogue** in your school or organization setting.

- Be the most informed about the newest trends in higher education and college admissions.
- Gain clear strategies on how to handle different aspects of the entire process.

Nerves will be calmed & questions answered!

Open for Discussion:

- Understanding the College Admissions Timeline
- The Value of Rigor in High School
- To AP/IB or not?
- The Balance Between Academics and LIFE in high school
- What Really Matters in Selective College Admissions
- Tips for Helping Your Teen to Take the Reins
- Inspiration for Being the Calm Parent Throughout the College Admissions Process
- Excellent Colleges for the B/C Student
- Time for Q&A w/Lisa

Since 1999, Lisa McLaughlin, M.Ed., Founder and Executive Director, has presented dynamic, straightforward, and timely college admissions advice to thousands of families of college bound teens, district personnel, school based counselors, middle and high school students. Attendance at her events is often "standing room only."

To schedule Lisa for a presentation or seminar series with your school or organization,
CONTACT:

(949) 429-5454 or email Lisa@EDvantageConsulting.com for more information

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EDvantage Bookshelf

***Blessings of A Skinned Knee & Blessings of a B- Minus* by Wendy Mogel**

***College Match, Ninth Edition & College Finder* by Steven Antonoff**

***Looking Beyond the Ivy League & Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope**

***The Price of Privilege* by Madeline Levine**

Princeton Review Best 376 Colleges

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Top Ten Trends in Financial Aid

Jim Whitaker
Chapman University

#10

It will continue to be easier to
apply for financial aid

#9

It will be easier to determine
the net cost of an education

#8
The Federal Government will penalize institutions for rising tuition rates

#7
Work-study will be more widely available to students

#6
Graduate loans will become more expensive

#5
Repayment options will
continue to be a mixed bag

#4
State aid will be cut back
significantly and qualifications
increased

#3
Less need based and more
merit based aid will be made
available

#2

The amount of institutional aid allocated to students will continue to increase

And the Number 1 trend in financial aid

Financial aid will continue to be the second largest financial decision individuals and families make
