

# 2012-2013 RRISD Guidance & Counseling



## It's Not Too Late...College Enrollment Event

RRISD Guidance & Counseling Department hosted the first event for RRISD students from the Class of 2012. Texas State Technical College and Austin Community College provided opportunities for recent graduates to enroll in their certificate and/or Associate programs on this evening. Patrick Patterson, from UT Outreach, opened the program with a motivational talk about how important it is for all students to pursue post secondary opportunities. Then ACC & TSTC pre-

sented a short power point advertising their programs available, steps to register, and options to apply for financial aid. Both programs brought recruiters, admission officers, continuing education staff, financial aid officers, enrollment staff, Department Heads, and Directors of Enrollment. ACC provided the Mobile Bus where students could do their entire admission process on site. The event was attended by 50 students and many brought their guardians to assist them in the registration process. A few families were able to access FAFSA services because they brought their tax documents with them and

worked one on one with a financial aid representative. Many students who might not have accessed services from these two programs were able to get customized and individualized attention to help them navigate the programs that interested them.



### Special Thanks to the following for making this event happen:

- RRISD Counselors who attended the event to greet their former students
- Olivia Carreno, Administrative Associate, Guidance & Counseling, Student Services, Health Services
- RRISD Technology Staff
- Round Rock High School, for sharing their facilities
- Austin Community College Staff/Faculty
- Texas State Technical College Staff/Faculty
- Patrick Patterson, Guest Speaker

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## Personal stories of students who attended...

**First Generation Brothers...** One Spanish speaking mother brought her two sons. One of the young men had not finished high school and ACC continuing education spoke with him individually to provide him with the resources to obtain his GED and then enroll in one of their culinary programs. His younger brother just graduated from SPSHS and wanted to study to be a dental hygienist. We connected him to the right adviser so that his questions could be answered. The family worked with financial aid officers regarding completing the TASFA application to get assistance with college finances. ACC also took the time to answer questions regarding the two brothers getting their papers for citizenship prior to completing these programs.

**Adult Wanting More Education...** An adult from the community attended to research furthering her education. She had heard about the event and decided she wanted to change her career options to better her career potential.

**Remote Advising in the Parking Lot...Whatever It Takes!** One of our ACC advisers was creative in working with a particular young lady. Her mother had brought her to the event, but the young girl would not get out of the car and come inside to speak to any representative. The mother approached the ACC table and explained her dilemma regarding how her daughter was embarrassed that she had yet to enroll in any programs for the fall semester. The admissions counselor, undaunted, asked the mother to take her to the young lady in the car. The admissions counselor worked with her in the parking lot and provided the guidance she needed to begin ACC for the fall semester.

**Grand Finale Excitement...** When the evening ended, the last lingering student was walking down the hallway to exit the cafeteria with his parent. He was a 2012 graduate and did not realize his conversation was overhead by RRISD counselors. He jumped up and told his parent this was so exciting. He could not wait to begin his new classes. He attended the event as a RRISD Class of 2012 Graduate and left the event a newly enrolled ACC student beginning his post secondary education this fall.





## *Be Extraordinary!*

### *Job Alike 2012-2013*

RRISD Counselors began a great year with our job alike held at Round Rock High School. Dr. Chavez began our morning with an emphasis on the first three district goals that counselors in the district need to emphasize this year (see insert below).

Rosemary Kelly, Director of Guidance and Counseling Services, talked with the entire district counseling team about the four Disciplines of Execution:

- Focus on the Wildly Important Goals
- Act on Lead Measures
- Keep a Compelling Scoreboard
- Create a Cadence of Accountability

All counselors read professional articles regarding post secondary options, graduation rates, college trends, and latest career opportunities. They analyzed the articles in groups and then related the latest research based information to the grade levels they would work with and how the information would impact what they would do on their campuses for 2012-2013.

Counselors also had the opportunity to select 3 breakout sessions from 7 different offerings. This format provided the opportunity to select topics relevant to them as professionals as well as select topics relevant to campus needs.

Following lunch, a method for parents to have the option to schedule their own meetings and conferences with their students' counselor online via Gmail was presented. Many counselors will be implementing this tool this year through our Google services.

Self-care and stress management techniques were offered for all as we approach a very fast paced and exciting year.

Closing remarks were made by Ms. Kelly including prioritizing your career and personal life so that we may all seize the wonderful opportunities that await us everyday in our profession.

## **2012- 2013 District Goals for Emphasis by RRISD Counselors**

### *Wildly Important Goals*

1. Increase the percentage of Round Rock ISD students who, upon graduation, matriculate in programs for post-secondary education, including two- or four-year institutions of higher education, the following fall.
2. Increase the percentage of students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program who receive the IB Diploma; increase the percentage of scores of 3 or higher received by Round Rock ISD students taking Advance Placement exams.
3. Reduce the gap on SAT and ACT exams between the average scores of economically disadvantaged students and the whole student group.

*The mission of the Round Rock ISD Guidance and Counseling Program is to provide a comprehensive, developmental counseling program addressing the personal/social, academic and career development of all students. School counselors are professional school advocates who provide support that maximizes student potential and academic achievement. In partnership with other educators, parents or guardians and the community, school counselors facilitate the support system to ensure all students have access to the counseling program and are prepared with the knowledge and skills to contribute at the highest level as productive members of society.*

