



SHARE YOUR STORY
EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR HIGH QUALITY CAREER PATHWAYS

Oklahoma State Department of Education New Skills for Youth Academic Affairs and Planning

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Best Practice

Preparing students for college/career and life pathways after high school.
“The Next Step”- Senior Conference

Purpose

The purpose of the Mustang High School Senior Conference – “The Next Steps” was to allow students, in an independent off-campus conference setting, the opportunity to explore options and to get a “real” picture of the reality of life after high school. The conference began with a dynamic opening session intended to spark questions and enthusiasm in our students for developing a life plan. At the conclusion of the opening session, students were allowed the freedom to select four break-out sessions covering a variety of topics including the following: budgeting, buying/renting a home, military options, what it’s like to be a college athlete, etiquette, FAFSA help, writing for college scholarships, EMSA training, how to become a fire fighter or police officer, philanthropy, and a host of other student topics. A college and vendor fair was available throughout the day for students to gather information and ask questions. For many students this was their first experience with a conference setting – the choice to select their topic of interest, with no dismissal bells, a wonderful lunch, and real-life talk with engaging presenters. Holding this event off campus with all the bells and whistles of a state/national conference exposed students to the behaviors and processes necessary to navigate a professional conference. Check-in procedures, vendor freebies, a conference program of events, a quality

<p>lunch with time to interact with peers and discuss the morning events, was followed by breakout sessions and a closing ceremony. This event has ignited a curiosity about “the next steps” after high school among our senior students.</p>
<p>Grade Level(s) High School Seniors</p>
<p>Expected Results An inspired interest and quality discussion among senior students about “life plans.”</p>
<p>Evidence of Success</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Positive results on the student exit survey 2. Positive feedback from colleges, Chamber of Commerce members, and parents 3. Increased interest from students in questions related to career, college, and life choices
<p>Training None needed</p>
<p>Staff Needed Counselors, administrators, teachers, business leaders, college representatives, were breakout session presenters on topics needed/desired by students</p>
<p>Resources Needed Breakout session presenters, college/vendor representatives, free items from colleges, businesses, donations for lunch, and conference program or app, and any other extras to be provided to senior students</p>
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<p>Research</p>

