

## Reminders for Parents



*Trying to figure out where you want to attend college or what branch of the military you want to join can be overwhelming for your student. Here are a few tips to help you during this process.*

- Let your student be in the driver's seat for this experience. Remember, your student may not want to attend the same college/university/military branch you did. They have different interests than you do. They still need your help, even if you didn't attend. They still value your opinion.
- Provide history – it is ok to share your experiences with your student. They will gain a lot of insight from you. Just remember, those issues may no longer exist at a school. Processes have changed.
- Attending a fair should be a part of the "DREAM" process. You or your student may have thought a certain campus was too far out of their reach. It is still ok to visit that table. Maybe there is a financial aid package to help or they may find out they can attend a different campus first then transfer to this campus to finish up their degree. Most dreams can become reality.
- Remember to do your homework! Many campuses specialize in different majors. The campus you want your student to attend may not be the best for the future they are looking for. Doing some pre-fair or post-fair research may be in order.
- It is ok and encouraged to apply for admission to more than one school. Students should try to narrow their choices down to a few schools. Keep in mind that there may be application fees so look for application waivers to keep the cost manageable.
- When students apply for financial aid, they can list up to 10 schools to receive their financial information. Each of those schools will provide a financial aid award that identifies the student's eligibility for scholarships, grants, loans and student employment. The student should then compare aid packages as well as pros and cons for each school. Once a final decision about where they will attend has been made, they should request that their admission be withdrawn at the other schools where they applied. This allows aid to be cancelled and perhaps awarded to another student.
- Visit, visit, visit – on paper, a campus could seem like a dream. Most students don't know if they truly like a campus until they are actually standing amongst the buildings. Contact the school and take a tour. This will really help to determine if they can see themselves as a student there!
- It doesn't hurt ask! When you are on a campus visit it doesn't hurt to ask those deal breaker questions. Your student needs to know everything at this point. Do they have co-ed housing? Are single rooms available? Can we see some housing options? Is there public transportation? How close are the local grocery stores? Etc.