

# College Portfolio PACE Parent Presentation

Danya N. Berry, M. Ed.

# What will we cover tonight?

- It's never too early to begin college planning
- Always look for opportunities to build your portfolio
- Summer programs give you a lot what you need to fulfill these requirements

# When Do You Need a Portfolio

- ◉ When applying to a school of art and design
- ◉ Ivy League schools may request
- ◉ To pull documentation necessary to complete scholarships and college admissions materials

# Freshman Year

- Volunteer! Make a high school goal of the number of hours you want to complete by the end of high school.
- Take challenging classes
- Get involved early (student government, sports, key club, debate club etc.)

# Freshman year continued...

- ◉ Do well in your classes!
- ◉ Document it all
- ◉ Begin your portfolio now-it will be difficult to remember all of the activities you participated in 3-4 years ago when its time to apply to colleges
- ◉ Apply for summer opportunities at the end of the year.

# Sophomore Year

- ◉ Keep tracking your volunteer hours
- ◉ Go for the leadership positions in the clubs in which you are involved
- ◉ Gates Scholarship wants to see that you have gone above and beyond the minimum

# Sophomore year continued...

- At the end of the year, apply to more summer programs to explore various career fields or to explore the one that interests you the most
- Add all documented awards, honors, volunteer hours etc to your portfolio

# Junior Year

- ◉ You must have a game plan for this year!
- ◉ Volunteer and track hours
- ◉ Attend college fairs in the fall
- ◉ Research schools that have your interested major

# Junior Year continued...

- ◉ Arrange for a spring visit to the top 3 schools in which you are interested
- ◉ Look at the HBCU tours that are offered during the spring
- ◉ Attend college tours as offered by your school counselor/counseling staff

# Junior Year continued...

- ◉ Visit your school counselor to discuss a plan for your senior year
- ◉ Get to know a few teachers, club advisors or counselors well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation
- ◉ Take the PSAT during the fall of your junior year- get a preparation booklet from your guidance counselor

# Junior Year continued....

- ◉ Check with your guidance counselor for ACT prep booklet
- ◉ Prepare for the ACT or SAT online, prep classes offered through community agencies or on your own through library sources
- ◉ Take the 1<sup>st</sup> round of ACT or SAT tests during the Spring of your junior year

# You should have the following in your portfolio:

- A current resume- outlining all activities, awards, honors and work experience
- A list of colleges you've researched to this point (make sure to include cost of tuition, scholarship opportunities and other fees)
- 2 letters of recommendation (for early scholarships)
- Draft of 2 college essays (commonapplication.com has several topics listed that do not change from year to year—there's generally a topic of your choice)
- ACT/SAT and or PSAT Scores

# Senior Year 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

- ◉ Relax....but not too much!
- ◉ Senioritis sometimes hits with a vengeance at the most inconvenience times
- ◉ Take the September ACT if necessary
- ◉ Select your top 3-5 schools-visit if you've not done so already

- ◉ Update your resume with all of the activities for the past 3 years outlined (you can give this to the following people)
- ◉ Ask a counselor, teacher, advisor or community member to write one of two letters of recommendation on your behalf

- ◉ Keep up with all of your school work this semester! Don't get overwhelmed and allow your senior year grades to suffer
- ◉ Begin applying for the national scholarship programs, if you're interested

# Senior Year 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

- ◉ Continue working hard and collecting information to add to your portfolio
- ◉ Apply to local scholarships (i.e. PACE, Dayton Montgomery County Scholarship)
- ◉ Don't to forget to apply for a pin to complete your FAFSA!
- ◉ Graduate!!!

# Helpful websites

- ◉ [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- ◉ [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- ◉ [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- ◉ [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov)
- ◉ [www.daytonfoundation.org](http://www.daytonfoundation.org)
- ◉ [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

# Questions?

Danya Berry, M. Ed.

[danyaberry@gmail.com](mailto:danyaberry@gmail.com)