

**College Fair
October 13
6:00-8:00
HCC ARCC**

The College Connection

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2010

Creating a College-Going Culture in WCPS



The College Message

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PSU Facts

Location
State College, PA

Undergraduate enrollment
37,485

Mascot
Nittany Lion

Cost of attendance (out-of-state)
\$35,960

Middle 50% SAT 1750-1990

Majors
Over 160

www.psu.edu
www.collegeportrait.org

What kinds of messages do our students receive about their lives after high school? What do they see and hear at school, at home, in the community, and from the media? Do they consider themselves "college material"?

All staff can use college talk to reinforce the message to students and parents that college is not only desirable, but also attainable.

At our June workshop, WCPS teachers, counselors, and administrators generated a number of ideas for spreading the college message:

⇒ When speaking with stu-

dents and parents, talk about "when" a student goes to college rather than "if" s/he goes.

⇒ Connect curriculum to college; e.g., when studying Maryland in Grade 4, discuss Maryland's colleges and universities.

⇒ Use students' interest in college sports as a springboard for exploring schools.

⇒ Talk about your alma mater, your major, and your college path.

⇒ Use bulletin boards to make a connection between curriculum, college, and careers.

A consistent message from kindergarten to college can make a difference.



Website of the Month

With its slogan, "I'm Going," College.gov encourages all students to pursue the college dream. This interactive site allows students to create their own college roadmaps, upload original videos, and connect to related sites on Facebook and YouTube. Topics include *Why Go*, *What to Do*, and *How to Pay*. Resources for parents, teachers, and counselors are also offered.

Check it out!

College of the Month

The Pennsylvania State University tied for 15th place nationally in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2011 list of Top 50 Public Universities. A multi-campus research university, Penn State has 20

undergraduate campuses with University Park in "Happy Valley" as its largest. WCPS SAT takers in the class of 2010 sent more of their scores to Penn State (18%) than to any other out-of-state



institution, a figure that has increased by 8% in the last five years.

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The College Connection

School Spotlight: CES

This month's spotlight is on **Conococheague Elementary School**, where homeroom clusters and reading groups are named after college teams and college logos are displayed in classrooms. College "brag boards" with teachers' degree information are posted throughout the school (see Mr. Pinkham's below). Thanks to Principal Ryan Hensch for these photos!



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Send your college-going-culture photos and activities to Lori Parks-Murphy for publication in future issues of *The College Connection*.

