

## PROMISING PATHWAYS

Building Promising Pathways to Postsecondary Education



### The Vision...

As a member of the local community, Fredonia is committed to helping identify and communicate transformative pathways to post-secondary educational opportunities. Connecting the community to resources that are important to future career success allows us to build a college-going culture together within the Chautauqua County and the surrounding regions.

### What is a College-Going Culture?

*“College-going culture refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and their families to obtain the information, tools, and perspectives to enhance access to and success in post-secondary education.”*

- University of California, College Tools for Schools

### Why is this important?

Studies show that post-secondary education is linked to greater lifetime earnings, better health outcomes, and more engaged community members, just to name a few of the positive impacts (How College Shapes Lives: Understanding the Issues, October 2013). Individuals, families, and communities all benefit from the ripple-effect of a more educated and skilled society. We can work together to improve our region and our communities by continuing students' strong educational foundations beyond high school.

## Build the path...

Let's build a partnership and develop experiences to communicate the mindset that all young people can prepare for and successfully pursue education beyond high school. These efforts should begin early in a student's life and span throughout their journey to adulthood. By providing resources for families and community groups, together we can support student growth and help students make informed decisions.

### Identifying opportunities that encourage a College-Going Culture

#### PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Instill the idea that school does not end with high school and why education is important. Emphasize "When you go to college..." rather than "If you go to college..."
- Talk with your child about different careers (you can start as early as preschool!). Ask them questions that encourage them to dream about their future.
- Talk your child to events or open houses on local college campuses.
- Create a college savings fund to which you and your child can contribute. Recent studies suggest that a child with a college savings account is seven times more likely to pursue higher education (Center for Social Development, Washington University).

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Have leaders initiate a discussion with staff and faculty around the following questions: Do you believe all students can, if they choose, go on to higher education? In what ways is our school preparing them for studies beyond high school?
- Promote the importance and value of college by hanging college banners or signs throughout the school, putting up a U.S. map that shows where staff and faculty went to college, having staff and faculty display their diplomas and/or pictures of them in college with signs saying, "Ask me about where I went to college!"
- Host college and career readiness staff at parent/teacher conferences.
- Offer workshops or computer lab space for college planning and financial literacy.
- Dedicate a day during homecoming or spirit week to focus on future careers or colleges.

## Resources & Digital Toolkits

We have compiled examples on our website of easy, low-cost ways to reinforce the importance of education beyond high school and spark exploration of future options. Our website also provides a variety of preparation checklists, resource applications, links to digital planning tools, and opportunities to directly connect with campus. **Learn more at [students.fredonia.edu/ess/pre-college-outreach](https://students.fredonia.edu/ess/pre-college-outreach)**

**Office of New Student & Transition Programs  
Pre-College Outreach**

609 Maytum Hall

State University of New York at Fredonia

Phone: (716) 673-3271

Email: [Rebekah.Conti@fredonia.edu](mailto:Rebekah.Conti@fredonia.edu)