Ideas for Creating a College-Going Culture

- Encourage staff and students to wear a college or university logo (t-shirts, buttons, beanies, etc) on designated days.
- Have AVID or ASB students make campus posters with names of universities attended by teaching staff or college info in general.
- Hold a door decorating contest with the theme “I’m Going to College!”
- Hold lunchtime activities for students:
  - College Trivia Game (prizes from colleges awarded for correct answers).
  - College logo sidewalk chalk drawing competition.
  - Contact local college representatives (MJC/SJDC, UCM, CSUS, and UOP) to present and distribute information on topics such as admissions and graduation requirements, to a wide variety of students, in small groups.
- Put daily college related topics in the school bulletin for a week.
- Introduce faculty and students to ‘college search’ computer programs or web sites such as [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) or [www.csumentor.com](http://www.csumentor.com)
- Have teachers take time to discuss college related issues, such as: correlation between education and income, importance of early college research, college applications, entrance requirements, costs of colleges, upcoming college fieldtrips, College Financial Aid workshops, and relationship of majors/careers.
- Create a “college culture” in each classroom. Hang college pennants, stickers, posters in all classrooms.
- Rename each classroom on campus—replace numbers with college names!
- Break the school into college “divisions” as in sports. Have each classroom identify their college division with a pennant and hold competitions between each division (most improved grades, best attendance, cleanest, etc).
Invite guest speakers (community members, high school alumni or recent graduates) to share their college experiences: academic, social, athletic, dorms, clubs, etc. Were they prepared and what they would do differently while in high school?

Encourage instructors to share their experience in college: academic, social, athletic, dorms.

Create classroom activities that encourage students to explore colleges, Financial Aid programs, admission requirements, etc., on the Internet.

Have students create their own college pennants.

Start a letter-writing campaign! Write to colleges to request information, posters, catalogs, pennants or stickers that can be displayed/used in classrooms.

Hang a poster with college eligibility requirements in EVERY classroom.

Take a field trip to a college campus!

Challenge students/families to create and sign an “I’m going to College Pledge”.

Present information about the admission differences between community college, CSU’s, UC’s and Private universities.

Discuss admissions and placement tests: EXPLORE, PSAT, ACT, SAT, SAT II, AWPE, ELM, EPT, EAP.

Discuss English (writing) skills in relation to personal essays for college applications.

Discuss junior year abroad offered by universities and colleges. Ask a returnee to speak about his/her experiences.

Discuss the importance of community involvement, volunteerism, service learning.

Participate as a class in a service-learning project.

Have students make children’s books about college. Share the books with a local elementary school.

Stress the importance of being involved in support programs such as EAOP, Talent Search, Upward Bound, and AVID, tutoring, etc. while in high school.

Encourage students to share stories of their siblings, friends, parents that have attended college.

Have students research colleges and create display boards with interesting information about the schools. Then, host an evening college-fair for the community during which the students take the role of college representative.

Display pictures of faculty, staff, and former students wearing college logos.

Contact alumni and ask them to donate items from their college alma-maters.

Create a scholarship fund!