

What to do at a College Fair...

By Karen Mason, President, PACAC

Prepare For the Fair

- Establish your criteria for the search
 - Complete an on-line college search
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.petersons.com
 - www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
 - Talk with your parents and guidance counselor about your criteria
- Compare your on-line search results with the list of college fair participants
- Identify the schools you want to investigate at the fair
- PRINT ADDRESS LABELS TO STICK ON COLLEGE INFORMATION CARDS AT THE FAIR. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, FULL ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE, HIGH SCHOOL, YEAR OF GRADUATION, INTENDED MAJOR, EXTRACURRICULAR INTERESTS.**

Bring to the Fair

- YOUR LABELS!
- A small notebook and pen to take notes
- A bag to collect brochures, business cards, etc.
- A list of questions that you want to ask

Determine what questions you want to ask representatives at the fair

- 1) Tell me about the **LOCATION**
 - Is it in a rural, suburban, or urban setting?
 - Are there restaurants and shops in walking distance?
 - Are students allowed to have cars? Is campus parking available?
 - How safe is the campus?
- 2) Tell me about the **ACADEMICS**
 - What are the most popular majors?
 - What is the average class size?
 - Do graduate students teach classes
 - How accessible are professors?
 - Are there learning support services such as tutoring?
 - Are there opportunities for undergraduates to do research?
 - Do you offer/require internships, co-ops, or abroad programs?
- 3) Tell me about **HOUSING**
 - What % of students reside on campus?
 - What types of housing do you offer? (traditional dorms, apartments, suites, special interest housing)

HOUSING cont'd

Is housing guaranteed for all four years?

How do people access dorms?

Can I live off campus?

4) Tell me about **ACTIVITIES** and **STUDENT LIFE**

What % of students remain on campus on weekends?

What levels of athletics are offered: varsity, intramural, club

What % of students participate in athletics?

What % of students are involved in Greek Life?

What are some popular clubs or annual events?

What cultural opportunities exist on campus?

What are the campus crime statistics?

How are the sports facilities, arts facilities, student center?

May I keep a car on campus?

5) Tell me about the **ADMISSION** process

Describe the profile of admitted students.

When is the best time to visit campus?

How can I arrange a campus visit and what will happen on a visit?

Do you offer alumni interviews?

Will I increase my chances for admission if I visit the campus and

"demonstrate my interest in the college? Will I hurt my chances if I do not?

What are the deadlines for applications and financial aid?

Do you require standardized testing? If so, what scores do you want to see?

6) Tell me about **COST**

What is the cost of attendance (Tuition, Room, Board)?

What is the financial aid deadline?

What % of students receive financial aid?

Do you offer merit aid as well as need based aid?

What % of students work?

Do international students receive aid?

7) Tell me about **RETENTION** and **FUTURE PLANS**

What % of freshman return for their sophomore year?

What % of students graduate in four years?

What % of students pursue graduate or professional school

What % of graduates find jobs in their chosen field?

After the Fair

- Review your notes and look through the brochures you collected
- Identify colleges that you would like to visit and/or research further
- Email admission representatives with questions or to thank them for their time (email addresses are on the business cards)