

## PROGRAM:

McClure University

## OBJECTIVES:

Create awareness of college for students and parents at the elementary school level. This will help students prepare for success at an earlier age and connect their education experience to college and careers.

## LOCATION:

McClure Elementary School

## DESCRIPTION:

The McClure staff committed to a program to introduce college-going awareness to students and parents who have never had the college experience. Often parents are expected to discuss college or post-secondary education with their children when they are not informed or aware of the options. If parents are the first teachers of their children then school needs to provide parents information on college experience so that they can take the lead to initiate discussions at home and to participate in school activities that highlight career and college planning services.

The principal purchased university pennants for teachers to select from to use as their classroom identification. Each classroom was identified by a college or university name instead of by their room numbers. One idea was to depict the elementary school setting as a college setting by creating a bulletin board that introduced the school staff on the university campus background setting. Example: administration staff in university student services building, staff in college department buildings, and sports staff and school maintenance in football stadium.

When parents come to pick up students the office staff provided the appropriate room number and also referred to the selected university. Example: "Your child is in Room 5; that is University of Washington." Once a month (at minimum) teachers share college information with students. At parent events such as parent conferences, they share university information with parents. The school hosted a career information night and left the career posters in the hallway for students, parents and visitors to view as a reminder of what it takes to go to college.

The steps for implementing the program are as follows:

1. Each teacher selected a pennant and placed it outside their classroom; the teacher conducted basic research on that university to share information with students and parents.
2. Teachers initiated contact with the selected university to get more information from them. Some discovered student clubs at the university and shared information with students. They checked the website regularly to get ideas for student activities to implement locally.
3. Teachers received on-going information from the university to keep them informed on the university services and educational programs.
4. Teachers will retain the university name for their room for several years to project continuity of existence and to continue to share information with students and parents while they are in the elementary school setting.

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:**

**PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:**

This activity requires buy-in from all staff for it to be successful. The principal met with staff to develop the idea and plan activities to support a “college-going” culture that builds toward a future in post-secondary education.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:**

Staff reviewed the program goals at regular intervals and developed ideas for improvement.

**COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:**

The cost of this project is about \$120.00 to purchase a bundle of university pennants.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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