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Subject: Proposal for Improving the Knowledge of Different Post Secondary Pathways for High School Students

Introduction

High school students aspire to study at the top universities in Canada such as University of British Columbia (UBC), Simon Fraser University (SFU), McGill University and University of Toronto. The decision to apply to various universities and colleges is overwhelming. Post secondary resources provided by high schools do not exhibit accurate and unbiased information for graduating high school students. If students are not given accurate information, they are likely making uninformed choices which impact their post secondary experience.

Statement of Problem

There is a pressure to perform, compete and choose the top universities without realizing that colleges can be a realistic and affordable pathway. High school students are blindsided by the prestigious reputation of universities. Secondly, resources about post secondary options are more favourable towards universities than colleges.

Proposed Solutions

One solution to this problem is to provide an event for high school students to listen to post secondary students from different universities and colleges. In this event, post secondary students can talk about their major and hear about their academic journey. High school students can ask questions and learn about student life from each college and university. Tours on college and university campuses to learn about student life before committing to a university or college.

Scope

To evaluate how to improve quality and accessibility of resources regarding colleges and universities for high school students, I plan to pursue six areas of inquiry:

1. What biases of major universities and colleges are displayed towards high school students?
2. What post secondary resources are given to high school students as they approach graduation?
3. What are some areas of concern when applying to a university or college?
4. How knowledgeable are students about financial assistance?
5. Do counselors set a realistic expectation regarding student life at post secondary?
6. How has the stigma surrounding colleges further placate success for students?

Methods:

The primary source will be obtained through online surveys to assess the types and quality of post secondary resources. Secondary sources will include news articles related to the differing opinions between colleges and universities.

My Qualifications

As a transfer student myself, I was aware of the stigma surrounding choosing a college over a university. My experience as a youth programmer and as a Young Adult Settlement Counsellor allows me to learn the concerns of graduating high school students. I have been working with high school students for three years and spoke to over 40 high school students a year regarding questions about post secondary. In my position, I am knowledgeable of the admission requirements of major universities and colleges.

Conclusion

There is a disparity between the reputations of colleges and universities reflecting how eager students will apply. Reputation is not the only factor that needs to be considered when applying to a post secondary institution. By evaluating the six areas of inquiry stated above, I can determine what areas need improvement to bring reliable resources and readily prepared high school students for post secondary. If the proposal is accepted, I will begin my research promptly.