

Ramp-Up News

December 2016

For You:

Are you following us on Twitter ([@umn.RampUp](#))? If not, please do! I tweet out many college and career-related articles, and am always happy to retweet great things you are doing at your schools, too.

Have you heard about the MN Office of Higher Education “Summer Nudging” program? According to OHE, one in five students fails to matriculate to college in the fall. This program is designed to combat that statistic by assisting college-bound students so that they successfully enter college in the fall after high school graduation through weekly “nudges” via text. Any student who intends to go to a Minnesota college can participate, and parents, counselors, and guardians can sign up as well. Simply text COLLEGE to 651-243-9980. Participants can easily opt out by texting “STOP” or “CANCEL.” The Summer Nudging program has now reached 1800 students at 300 high schools across the state of Minnesota. For more info on the program, go to:

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/SummerNudging.cfm>

For Staff:

The Chronicle for Higher Education recently published a thought-provoking article called “When College Was a Public Good” that might be a worthwhile read for your staff. The article asks if it is merely a coincidence that as the population has grown more diverse, support for efforts like the GI Bill which opened doors to higher education, has diminished. Among other things, the article does a great job of laying out the arguments for an increasing college-going imperative. The article can be accessed here: http://www.chronicle.com/article/When-College-Was-a-Public-Good/238501?cid=wb&utm_source=wb&utm_medium=en&elqTrackId=eaff1eafcdb04225b55518b0c1f5c390&elq=c887061ffa344715bf84e9e670c1852e&elqaid=11614&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=4590. If you do want to have your staff read and discuss the article, I have provided a few dialogue-provoking questions for possible use.

For Parents:

For most parents, the idea of financing a college degree can be complicated and challenging. It is clear, however, that planning and saving money early can make a big difference for all families. Thankfully, there are some excellent resources for helping parents and students identify options for making college affordable. A video series that was produced with MN Private College Fund and the Office of Higher Education is one resource that is full of advice for parents on how to pay for college. The entire video is roughly 27 minutes long, but it has also been separated by shorter segments that would be helpful to show in a parent workshop so that quick bits of dialogue could be shared in between the parts of the video. The video series can be accessed here: <https://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/how-pay/paying-college-videos>