## The UTSA Institute for P-20 Initiatives

### Family Engagement Program Session Description

#### 2019-2020

**WORKSHOP OVERVIEWS:**

### “Our Family” Poster Board Presentation

**Objective:** Families will work together to develop a poster that describes who they are as a family. What do they value as a family? How do they spend their time and what are some of the words and pictures that makes them special and unique as a family? Materials will be provided and families are encouraged to bring their own magazines or magazine photos with them to add to the poster. Families will share this poster with others in a brief informal presentation. This session requires a minimum of 1 hour depending on group size.

**Targeted audience:** Families

### Civic Engagement: “Exploring Spheres of Concern and Influence”

**Objective:** Parents are leaders in their community. We will discuss our communities as we facilitate a class discussion. Together, we will explore “spheres of concern and spheres of influence” in order to discuss practical solutions to real community issues. The culmination of this discussion will be to identify one issue that the parent/student groups will each address from their perspective as a group project. Each group will have an opportunity to share their strengths and use the skills and knowledge to collaborate and present their community based action plans to the class. This session requires a minimum of 2 total hours to complete with the group project or 1 hour without the group project.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with middle school and/or high school students

### Leadership Development: True Colors

**Objective:** A good leader not only knows their own strengths but is able to identify the strengths of their colleagues to build a stronger team. This can be true for families and students as well. Through this activity, individuals will become aware of their personality styles and to begin to understand the preferred personality styles of others. Participants will also consider how these different personality styles may influence everything from career choice to family dynamics. This session requires a minimum of 2 hours.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with middle or high school students
### Academic Success Planning - High School Graduation Plans

**Objective:** National research has indicated parent involvement as a strong predictor of student success. Empowering parents to action through knowledge will further enable parents to have a positive impact on their child’s future. Discussion will cover crucial topics in successful academic planning and will cover House Bill 5 and the current high school graduation plans that include endorsement pathways. This session will require a minimum of 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Parents with late middle school and/or high school students

### Leadership Development: Communication Basics

**Objective:** National research has indicated parent involvement as a strong predictor of student success. Empowering parents to action through knowledge will further enable parents to have a positive impact on their child’s future. Discuss the basics of communicating effectively as a leader in your community and as an advocate for your child’s academic success. This session will require a minimum of 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with elementary, middle and/or high school students

### College 101-Promoting a College-Going Culture

**Objective:** National research has indicated parent involvement as a strong predictor of student success. Empowering parents to action through knowledge will further enable parents to have a positive impact on their child’s future. What can you do to help promote a college going culture for your children in elementary, middle and high school that will encourage them to reach higher? What do other families do to encourage this? Discuss this topic to learn some practical ideas and share your own ideas. This session will require a minimum of 45 minutes to 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with elementary and early middle school students

### College 101- An Overview

**Objective:** National research has indicated parent involvement as a strong predictor of student success. Empowering parents to action through knowledge will further enable parents to have a positive impact on their child's future. College awareness discussions can help families overcome the fear of the unknown. This session gives an overview of basic college information such as why higher education is beneficial, what are the different types of college degrees and different types of higher education institutions. How can a family afford to pay for college and what does it take to get a college scholarship? These questions and others will be addressed and discussed at this session so that gains an understanding of the fact that “College completion is possible.” This session requires a minimum of 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Families of first generation college students of all ages
**College 101- Financial Aid/Scholarships**

**Objective:** The transition from high school to college can be a challenging one, especially if a family is unfamiliar with the college access and awareness information. Parents can help their students ease their transition by learning more about how to pay for college through financial aid and scholarships. What are the financial aid deadlines? Should everyone apply for financial aid? These questions will be addressed and discussed at this session so that parents gain an understanding of the fact that “College completion is possible.” This session will take 45 minutes to 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Parents with high School Students

**College 101-Scholarships- Building Your Portfolio**

**Objective:** The transition from high school to college can be a challenging one, especially if a family is unfamiliar with college access and awareness information. Parents can help their students ease their transition by learning more about what college is like. Learn how your student can begin to build a portfolio that will make applying for college scholarships easier. The earlier they begin the process in their high school career, the better their portfolio can be. What do scholarship committees look for when awarding scholarships? These questions will be addressed and discussed during this session which will require 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with middle school and high School Students

**College 101-The UTSA Admissions Process and UTSA Ready**

**Objective:** The transition from high school to college can be a challenging one, especially if a family is unfamiliar with college access and awareness information. Parents can help their students ease their transition by learning more about how to access college. Learn how your student can apply to UTSA and about a program designed to help them to be better prepared college students. What are the UTSA Admission requirements and what can you do to help your student to be UTSA Ready and avoid college remedial courses? These questions will be addressed and discussed during this session which will require a minimum of 1 hour.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with high School Students

**College 101-The Transition from High School to College – Letting Go**

**Objective:** The transition from high school to college can be a challenging one, especially if a family is unfamiliar with college access and awareness information. Parents can help their students ease their transition by learning more about what college is like. Learn how you can help your student prepare for the transition and how you can be better prepared. What can you expect during their senior year in high school or their freshman year in college? These questions will be addressed and discussed during this session which will require a minimum of 45 minutes.

**Targeted Audience:** Families with high School Students
Engaged Families : Home Math and Literacy Practices

Objective: National research has indicated parent involvement as a strong predictor of student success. Empowering parents to action through knowledge will further enable parents to have a positive impact on their child’s future. Parents are a child’s very first teachers and your home is your child’s first classroom. What can you do at home to support your child’s success in literary and mathematics? How can you encourage learning at home while making it fun? What do other families do to encourage this? These questions and others will be addressed and discussed in this session. This session will require a minimum of 1 hour.

Targeted Audience: Families with elementary school students

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