

## EDUCATION ASSET RESOURCES FOR IDA PRACTITIONERS

The education community offers a plethora of resources from which IDA practitioners can draw as they support their clients in asset-specific training. Below you will find an annotated list of internet resources on preparing for college. Most of these resources are for youth aspiring to go to college. We will break down the websites according to topics: Benefits of going to college, classes to take in high school, tests, choosing a school/admissions process, and applying for financial aid.

### BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE:

#### U.S. Department of Education:

The U.S. Department of Education webpage has a link to college.gov, that addresses reasons to go to college. Subjects discussed in that section include boost your earnings, find your passion, prove your potential, grow with help and support, and lift your family. Each of these subjects has a page or two of resources. This website also provides information on aspects of attending college, from preparing in middle school and high school (including college and financial aid checklists) and choosing a college from the site's nationwide listing to navigating the financial aid system, and ultimately choosing a career. IDA practitioners should download the many resources available from this site.

<http://www.ed.gov/students/landing.jhtml?src=pn>

#### Solutions for Our Future:

This site was developed by the American Council on Education, the major organization for higher education which represents the majority of colleges and universities across the country. This is the definitive source for college-bound students in middle and high school. This site provides information about the advantages of going to college. They also provide information about the social and public benefits of attending college, which can be helpful in developing educational partnerships. For example, nonprofits and higher education institutions can use the facts described on this website can be used to develop a compelling message to help obtain state and federal grant money as well as funds from private foundations.

<http://www.solutionsforourfuture.org/site/PageServer?pagename=individual>

#### College is Possible:

This website has a host of resources about college knowledge, college costs, college preparation, and financial aid. The site also provides frequently asked questions and dispels myths about going to college. The College is Possible website was also developed by the American Council on Education.

<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=CIP1>

#### Pathways to College Network:

This is another authoritative resource for IDA practitioners which has information about increasing access to college and financial aid as well as background on other organizations across the country focused on college access. In addition, the site has publications and resources about college access which can be downloaded and purchased. Among its most valuable features, the site provides marketing materials about attending college, which IDA practitioners might use with their clients. The site suggests ways in which nonprofits may partner with other organizations to increase college attendance. It also provides fact sheets on college going statistics that can be useful for applying for funding:

<http://www.pathwaystocollege.net/pdf/FactSheet.pdf>

<http://www.pathwaystocollege.net/>

## TERI:

This site provides information about the benefits of attending college. They also have publications on preparing for and paying for college available on their website.

<http://www.teri.org/about/index.asp>

## Publications on the value of a degree:

Reaping the Benefits: Defining the Public and Private Value of Going to College - IHEP

<http://www.ihep.org/assets/files/publications/m-r/ReapingTheBenefits.pdf>

The Value of a College Degree - Kathleen Porter, ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education Washington DC. <http://www.ericdigests.org/2003-3/value.htm>

## CLASSES TO TAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL:

### Know How 2 Go:

This website is part of a national public service campaign to enable young people to make their college dreams a reality. On this website students can quiz themselves on how much they know about college and learn what they need to be doing now to prepare for college later. The Know How 2 Go website campaigns' second step to preparing to go to college is to take the tough classes. For example, algebra 2, a foreign language, and biology are three college prep courses mentioned. High school students can also take Advanced Placement courses, which can help them earn college credit in high school. This website is also helpful for high school students who are preparing to begin the college admissions process.

<http://www.knowhow2go.org/>

## TAKE THE TESTS:

### The College Board:

This site has information about planning for, choosing, and ultimately paying for college. In addition to information on college entrance exams, there is also a large section on scholarships and other useful resources for students and educators. Because the College Board offers many of the college entrance exams and because it conducts research which is the source for many publications and resources related to college access and attendance, it is an invaluable resource for IDA practitioners. As an example, see the *College Pays* publication, which provides rationale for why it is important to go to college which can be used with clients:

[http://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/press/cost04/EducationPays2004.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/press/cost04/EducationPays2004.pdf).

Much of this information is already synthesized in our report and is available on our website:

[http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/IDApays/resources/education\\_important.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/IDApays/resources/education_important.pdf) - *Why is education important for your future and how can education IDAs help you reach your educational goals?*

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

### ACT:

This site also has information about planning for, choosing, and paying for college. They also have a section on career planning and a student blog where colleges' aspiring individuals share information. The ACT offers college entrance exams and has information about these tests as well as preparation for taking the test. <http://www.actstudent.org/college/>

## CHOOSING A SCHOOL/ADMISSIONS PROCESS:

### Economic Diversity of Colleges:

This site provides college and university data including enrollment numbers, income, race and ethnicity, number of financial aid applicants, and the number of students accepting Pell grants and student loans. This site can be helpful when looking for colleges that serve low-income students.

<http://www.economicdiversity.org/>

### Center for Student Opportunity's College Center:

This website is a college guide made specifically for low-income, first-generation college aspiring students. Their website has a national database of colleges and universities active in the recruitment and retention of first-generation and historically underserved students. IDA practitioners will also find publications on various higher education topics.

Other college guides can be purchased to help students in evaluating their options and choosing a college. For example, there are The College Blue Book, The College Handbook, Peterson's Two-Year Colleges and Four-Year Colleges, and Profile of American Colleges. These guides present an overview of colleges across the country. However, most of this information is available for free on each college's website. What those sites will not contain, though, is evaluative information, which may make it necessary to buy guidebooks.

You may also want to purchase general preparation or planning guides for college to have in your office such as The College Handbook Planning Guide or How to Get Into College. However, most of this information is available for free on the U.S. Department of Education website and the sites listed in this document. <http://www.csocollegecenter.org/>

### AB540 undocumented students:

This document is a college and financial guide for undocumented students.  
[http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/pdf/AB\\_540\\_final.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/pdf/AB_540_final.pdf)

## APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID:

### National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators:

This site provides a free and comprehensive guide to student financial aid. It also includes information on scholarships, loans, and other types of aid. <http://www.finaid.org/>

### Federal Student Financial Aid Home Page:

This website is a U.S. Department of Education website that gives free information about funding college. They also have resources on preparing for and applying to college.  
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

This website is where students can fill out the application for financial aid. It provides students with information about how to start the process and how to follow up once they have completed the process.  
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

### Scholarship.com:

This is a comprehensive website on finding the right scholarships for students. They even have an educators section, a blog, and tons of resources. This is a website to check out!  
<http://www.scholarships.com/>

### FastWeb.com:

This site is the largest and most complete source of scholarships available. They also have information on choosing a college and finding internships and jobs.  
<http://www.fastweb.com/>

### Sallie Mae:

As the nation's leading provider of student loans, Sallie Mae provides a website for students to familiarize themselves with the process of getting a loan and paying back a loan. The website also has a large section of planning and preparing for school.  
<http://www.salliemae.com/>

Lastly, also visit our website to review more resources for practitioners offering education IDAs:  
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/IDApays/resources/>.

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Our project focuses on how IDAs can be used to increase low-income students' access to and retention in postsecondary institutions through partnerships. For more information on IDAs visit the Assets for Independence website at [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/afi/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/afi/) and for a further description of our research project and to view other papers and tools we have written from this study, visit our website at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/IDApays/>.

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*About CHEPA*

The Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA) is an interdisciplinary research unit led by Director, William G. Tierney, and Associate Director, Adrianna Kezar. The Center was established to engage the postsecondary-education community actively, and to serve as an important intellectual center within the Rossier School of Education; it draws significant support and commitment from the administration. The Center's mission is to improve urban higher education, strengthen school-university relationships, and to focus on international higher education, emphasizing Latin America and the Pacific Rim. Working on fulfilling that mission are the Center's faculty, research assistants, and staff.

Over the last decade we have received funding from the Ford Foundation, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the James Irvine Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Trust, Lumina Foundation for Education, and the Haynes Foundation.

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Lumina Foundation for Education, an Indianapolis-based, private, independent foundation, strives to help people achieve their potential by expanding access and success in education beyond high school. Through grants for research, innovation, communication, and evaluation, as well as policy education and leadership development, Lumina Foundation addresses issues that affect access and educational attainment among all students, particularly underserved student groups, including adult learners. The Foundation bases its mission on the belief that postsecondary education remains one of the most beneficial investments that individuals can make in themselves and that society can make in its people. For more details on the Foundation, visit its Web site at [www.luminafoundation.org](http://www.luminafoundation.org).

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