Counseling Collaboration: Many Hats and Many Relationships

Session C
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Sonia Arora, Co-Director of College Guidance, The Archer School for Girls
Marissa Carroll, Director of College Counseling, Villanova Preparatory School
Craig Carroll, English 9 Teacher, Villanova Preparatory School
About the Presenters

Sonia Arora

Sonia Arora has been an Associate Director at The Archer School for Girls in Los Angeles for two years and will begin her third year as Co-Director. Prior, she worked in the college counseling offices at Brentwood School and Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn, where she also taught English and History. Before moving to Los Angeles, Ms. Arora traveled to California and admitted students from the region when she was an Assistant Director in the University of Chicago's Office of College Admissions.
About the Presenters

Marissa Carroll

Marissa Carroll has been the Director of College Counseling at Villanova Preparatory School since 2015. She earned her Bachelor’s in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 2007, her Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School in 2011, and her Certificate in College Counseling from UCLA in 2016.

After spending some time in Social Security Disability law, she transitioned to private counseling for families in the South Bay region of Los Angeles. She joined the Villanova Preparatory School counseling team in January of 2015 and has been enjoying every moment since.

Her personal mission when working with students is to encourage their academic, emotional, and strengths development. Her philosophy in working with students is “Love all, find the good in each, and give up on none” Marissa also serves as the Co-Director of the Villanova Summer Academy, which allows her to collaborate with all parts of her school community.
About the Presenters

Craig Carroll

Craig Carroll has been a member of the faculty at Villanova Preparatory School since 2015. He earned his Bachelor's from CSU Long Beach in English in 2005, a Master's in English Literature from UMass Boston in 2007, a Master's of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from CSU Long Beach in 2010, and a Master's in Education from Loyola Marymount University in 2017.

After spending some time teaching college level English at El Camino College Compton Center, Craig joined the Villanova Preparatory community full time. He still teaches English at Ventura College and Moorpark College in the evenings.

In his teaching, he relies on Flexibility, Intellectual Curiosity, and Vast Knowledge. His personal philosophy when working with students is “Two things: read for discovery and be humble” Craig also is the Co-Director of the Summer Leadership Academy and the Extended Essay Coordinator for the IB Program at Villanova.
Villanova Preparatory School
*Unitas, Veritas, Caritas*

- Started in 1924 by the Augustinian Order
- Boarding and international population
- First served only boys, went coed in 1970’s
- 260 students, 90 boarders
- 14 different countries, 35 different middle schools
- 60% of students on some form of financial aid, 10% first generation students

- In transition with respect to a collaborative academic environment
- International Baccalaureate program is promoting interdisciplinary discussion and planning

Western ACAC ~ Est. 1967
Artur

Interested in studying vocal performance. Fine Arts Department Chair, professor at U Michigan

Family hired agent/independent counselor to help with college process. Resident Staff, Independent Counselor

Transfer Student. Director of Admissions, Academic Support team

College Planning Seminar. English Department Chair, English 11 faculty, Headmaster

Low Incoming English language development. Academic Support Teacher, TOEFL coordinator

Western ACAC ~ Est. 1967 www.wacac.org
Domestic Day Student Conor

Interested in NROTC program.
Alumni Coordinator, connections from our network

Strong faith connection and involvement.
Director of Campus Ministry, Director of Activities

Came to school with IEP.
Disability Coordinator, Parent, faculty members

Interested in competitive surfing in college. Athletic Director, Surfing Coach

First generation college student.
Faculty on campus who are first generation
The Archer School for Girls -- “Ambitious, joyful learning”

Our school culture promotes collaborative approaches to student support:

- Size
- Organization of space in our building
- Teachers all wear multiple hats and are on the front lines
- Focus on interdisciplinary projects and classes in the curriculum
- “FLY” groups, formal faculty mixing
- We’re a small, young, and social faculty
- Philosophy of empowering girls to independence
- Focus on internal outcomes -- we track internal progress closely

“The DNA of a girls’ school”

A culture of good citizenship
Basic Student Support Structure

- College Counselors (assigned mid-junior year)
- Learning Support Specialist
- Social Emotional Support Counselor
Student: Angelika Archer

9th Grade:
Faculty members, advisor, learning support specialist

10th Grade:
IDEAlab (STEM/engineering) director, advisor, faculty members, academic dean

11th Grade:
College Counselor, IDEAlab (STEM/engineering) director, essay support from English faculty, learning support specialist,

12th Grade:
college counselor, advisor, essay support from English faculty, learning support specialist, academic dean, social/emotional support counselor, outside therapist
Examples of collaboration around the college process:

- “Counseling suite”
- Pre-college advising: Advisors and Academic Dean
- Performing arts and Visual Arts Teachers
- Athletic liaison to College Guidance department
- X block: “College Knowledge”
- Human Development 11 Curriculum
- English teachers
- X block: On-campus test prep through Compass
- Clubs on campus
- Spanish speaking families
- Human Development 12
Approaching Teachers

What’s on our minds all the time

Differentiation

Scaffolding

National, State, and School standards
Have a Conversation

What are your students learning in your class these days?

Are there any students for whom differentiation is a struggle?

Let’s talk about the range of student aptitude in your class.

If I came to your class to present, is there anything you would like me to mention?

How do college and career goals come up in your classroom?
Teacher Takeaways

We are in a different world

Always connect your presentation to what is going on in that particular classroom

Know calendar, scheduling, and planning habits

We do want to help students in the college process!
Contact Information

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