

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

National Youth Advocacy and Resilience
Conference

32nd Annual NYAR Conference- Virtual (March
8-10, 2021)

Mar 8th, 10:20 AM - 11:20 AM

Postsecondary Access for Rural Youth: Multiple Connections Strengthen Community Engagement

Travis West

The Ohio State University, west.222@osu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/nyar_savannah



Part of the [University Extension Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

West, Travis, "Postsecondary Access for Rural Youth: Multiple Connections Strengthen Community Engagement" (2021). *National Youth Advocacy and Resilience Conference*. 5.
https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/nyar_savannah/2021/2021/5

This presentation (open access) is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences & Events at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Youth Advocacy and Resilience Conference by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Postsecondary Access for Rural Youth: Multiple Connections Strengthen Community Engagement

Travis West , OSU Extension – Vinton County

National Youth At-Risk Conference

March 8, 2021



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Objectives

- Learn how to develop a university level partnership with local university faculty
- Explore options for providing postsecondary education programming efforts in the county
- Understand the structure and logistics for replicating the postsecondary programs



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Background

- Vinton County
- Rural county
 - 13,228 residents
 - 80% forested
 - One school district
 - 6% adults with Bachelors
 - 5.3% adults with Associates
 - 78% of youth being raised as “economically disadvantaged”



Context

- Not unlike youths living in urban areas, youth living in rural areas are attending resource strapped schools, growing up in households with low adult educational attainment, and lacking access to supports for pursuing postsecondary education options.
 - *Bates, Anderson-Butcher, Niewoehner-Green, & Provenzano, 2019*
- Exposing youth to pursue higher education is important, as often low-income students view their ability to pursue postsecondary education as limited because of social context and family expectations.
 - *Tzenis, 2018*



The Beginning

- Emphasis from The Ohio State University to engage in college access for Ohio counties
 - ✓ Economic Access
- Meeting with guidance counselors and school administrators



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Design

College students are working
in the county over Spring
Break

- ✓ serve grades 3-8, 10, 11
- ✓ Over 1400 youth/ year
- ✓ in-school time
- ✓ each grade looks different on how students interact with college students



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Grades 3 - 5

- Science classrooms
- 4 Steps to Get to College
- Science inquiry-based activity



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

1 Be a pain! Tell everyone you know that you want to go to college. Tell your parents, teachers, counselors, coaches and family members. Don't stop until you find an adult who will help you. This step is essential. The next three steps become easier with a supportive adult, so get yours!

2 Push yourself. Colleges look for students who've taken classes that have challenged them. Study, complete your homework, participate in activities outside of the normal school day (sports, 4-H, church, scouts)

3 Find the right fit. There are more than 6,500 two and four - year colleges, universities and trade schools in the country, ranging in size from fewer than 100 to more than 50,000 students and offering thousands of courses, subjects, degrees and certificates. You have an extraordinary range of options. Find a school that matches your career interests and reflects your goals and personality.

4 Get your hands on some cash! There is money available to help you pay for college or trade school. Each year, Federal Student Aid gives eligible students over \$80 billion through grants, work- study programs and loans. You can also start saving your money from birthdays, Christmas, or doing household chores to plan for your education!

KnowHow2GO.org

Grades 6 - 8

- Social Studies classrooms
- Class selections/ planning now to prepare yourself for college
- People and resources
- Small group discussions



Grades 10

- Social studies classes
- What can you do now to get ready?
- What things should you do to prepare for college applications and scholarships



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Grades 11

- English classes
- How is my life going to be different as a senior?
- ACT Testing
- Tips for not getting overwhelmed with classes and this “college and graduation stuff”?



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Design (part 2)

College students get to learn about local culture and have some fun

- ✓ What is OSU Extension?
- ✓ Tourist attractions
- ✓ Local committees
- ✓ School Board
- ✓ Local college options



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Leveraging Resources

1. Extension Advisory Committee
2. 4-H Committees
3. Chamber of Commerce
4. Industry groups
5. School District

*It takes some work to manage all the logistics and nurture all the relationships, but it is all worth it to see youth who **NOW BELIEVE** college/ trade school are possibilities*



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Companion Programs

Buckeye for a Day

- ✓ Coordinated by OSU Social Change program
- ✓ Juniors/ Seniors
- ✓ 30 students spend a day on campus
- ✓ Shadow students that have similar major interests



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Companion Programs

Senior Breakfast

- ✓ Panel of college students
- ✓ Meet with high school seniors
- ✓ College challenges from peers



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Companion Programs

Viking Career Success Plan

- ✓ Monthly career touch point
- ✓ Assessments and further exploration at High School level
- ✓ Challenge to provide content for all teachers



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Companion Programs

STEM Career Exploration

- ✓ Afterschool program
- ✓ Highlight Careers
- ✓ 3rd – 5th grade students



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Program Success

- 2020 – 10th year in county
- 100% of the teachers and administrators indicate that students were excited following the ASB students' trip
- 86% of youth served had an increase in knowledge about postsecondary options
- 91% know someone that attended college and can answer their questions about college
- School District has adopted a Viking Career Success Plan for all students



Questions?

Travis West
west.222@osu.edu
740-596-5212



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

