



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### New department helps prepare students for life after graduation

The time between that first day of pre-K and the last day of high school passes all too quickly, and suddenly the decision about what to do after graduation looms before each student. To help prepare students for college and careers, Goose Creek CISD initiated a new department, in conjunction with the Guidance and Counseling Department, for the 2013-2014 school year.

The College and Career Readiness Department will work with students from pre-K through 12th grade to ensure that they have a plan for the future.

According to Dr. Precious Reimonenq, former College and Career Readiness coordinator, the number one goal of the department is to ensure that all seniors have a plan for life after graduation. Starting with a survey called Rock Your Future, asking seniors to answer questions concerning how prepared they are for college or the workplace, Reimonenq and the College Transition Team, comprised of College and Career Readiness Counselors from each high school, their assistants and Lee College staff, generate activities for the students. Seniors are given a Senior Checklist to help them be aware of the activities and goals they should accomplish before they graduate, such as filling out the ApplyTexas college application form.

The second goal of the College and Career Readiness Department is to ensure that juniors are well-prepared and on track before they enter their senior year.

“Our ultimate goal is to provide activities from pre-K through 12th grade to prepare students for college or careers. All students should have a plan and be exposed to the various opportunities that are available to them,” said Dr. Reimonenq.

Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success (GCPASS), a partnership between Lee College and Goose Creek CISD, is working on alignment of the curriculum to assist with high school to college transition. Presently, the Math Professional Alignment Council (MPAC) and the English Professional Alignment Council (EPAC), including Lee College instructors and Goose Creek teachers, meet to analyze the curriculum to determine if high school students are receiving the rigor they need to be successful in college. Later this year, the Social Sciences and the Science councils will be organized.

“Lee College personnel are more than willing to help our students enter into the college or university of their choice,” said Dr. Reimonenq.

In addition, GCPASS is providing resources so that all juniors may take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the ACT (formerly called American College Testing) in April 2014. Earlier in the fall, Goose Creek CISD provided funding for all District sophomores to take the PSAT, a pre-assessment to determine readiness for the SAT. Scores received in December will be used to assist students with planning.

To provide information for parents about college basics, financial aid, researching colleges, and how to start early to prepare students for college, GCPASS holds Saturday sessions monthly.

“Parent College 101 is a class designed to help parents learn more information about college so they can assist their students with these decisions,” said Dr. Reimonenq.



Ayanna Trinh, Goose Creek Memorial High School senior, collects information at Goose Creek CISD's recent College Fair Night.

Goose Creek CISD also will step up the use of Naviance, a software program that increases student engagement, assists with improving academic performance and encourages college and career readiness. Starting in 6th grade with an implementation plan, students will work on activities, such as goal-setting, college research, college applications and success planning.

Eighth grade students will complete the Naviance Career Cluster Finder, which will assist them in selecting endorsements required by House Bill 5, a post secondary readiness bill, as they transition into high school.

“Dr. Reimonenq and the College and Career Readiness staff in the schools, assisted by Lee College personnel, are off to a tremendous start in providing our students and their parents with the information they need to make college and career decisions,” said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, GCCISD superintendent. “Due to their efforts, we expect to increase the number of Goose Creek CISD students who take the SAT and ACT, fill out ApplyTexas applications and enter college.”

\*Dr. Reimonenq has recently been named the director of guidance and counseling for Goose Creek CISD.

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