

D211POST: COLLEGE INFORMATIONAL SEMINARS TO GO VIRTUAL SEPT. 30

Township High School District 211 will hold two of its college information seminars, the Directions College and Career Fair, and the First-Generation College Symposium, virtually September 30.



DIRECTIONS College and Career Fair Wednesday, September 30, 2020

The Directions College and Career Fair is designed to provide every student with access to academic and a career-oriented opportunity after high school and equip every student with the knowledge they need to succeed after graduation. The event is run through the combined work of District 211, Barrington Community Unit School District 220, High School District 214, St. Viator High School, and Harper College.

This year's Directions College and Career Fair will begin with committee introductions at 6:00 p.m. and will include a resource review and live question and answer session. For more information on this event, visit www.directionscollegeandcareerfair.org.

VIRTUAL FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM



Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 30TH. 7:00 - 8:10 P.M.

I'm First! logo designed by I'm First organization www.imfirst.org

This program is supported through Title I/ESSA Funding

District 211's annual First-Generation College Symposium is designed to help parents whose students will be the first in their family to attend college, however it is open to all District families. This year's event will include video presentations and live panels discussing topics ranging from financial aid and grade level presentations to benefits of different types of colleges. Videos and panels will be available in both English and Spanish. Representatives from District 211 schools, Harper College, Elmhurst College, Monmouth College, Southern Illinois University, Michigan State University, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be participating in the various interactive question and answer panels.

The First-Generation College Symposium will begin with a welcome and introduction at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit adc.d211.org/Page/7910.

[D211 POST: 5TH ANNUAL FIRST-
GENERATION COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM SET
FOR SEPT. 26](#)



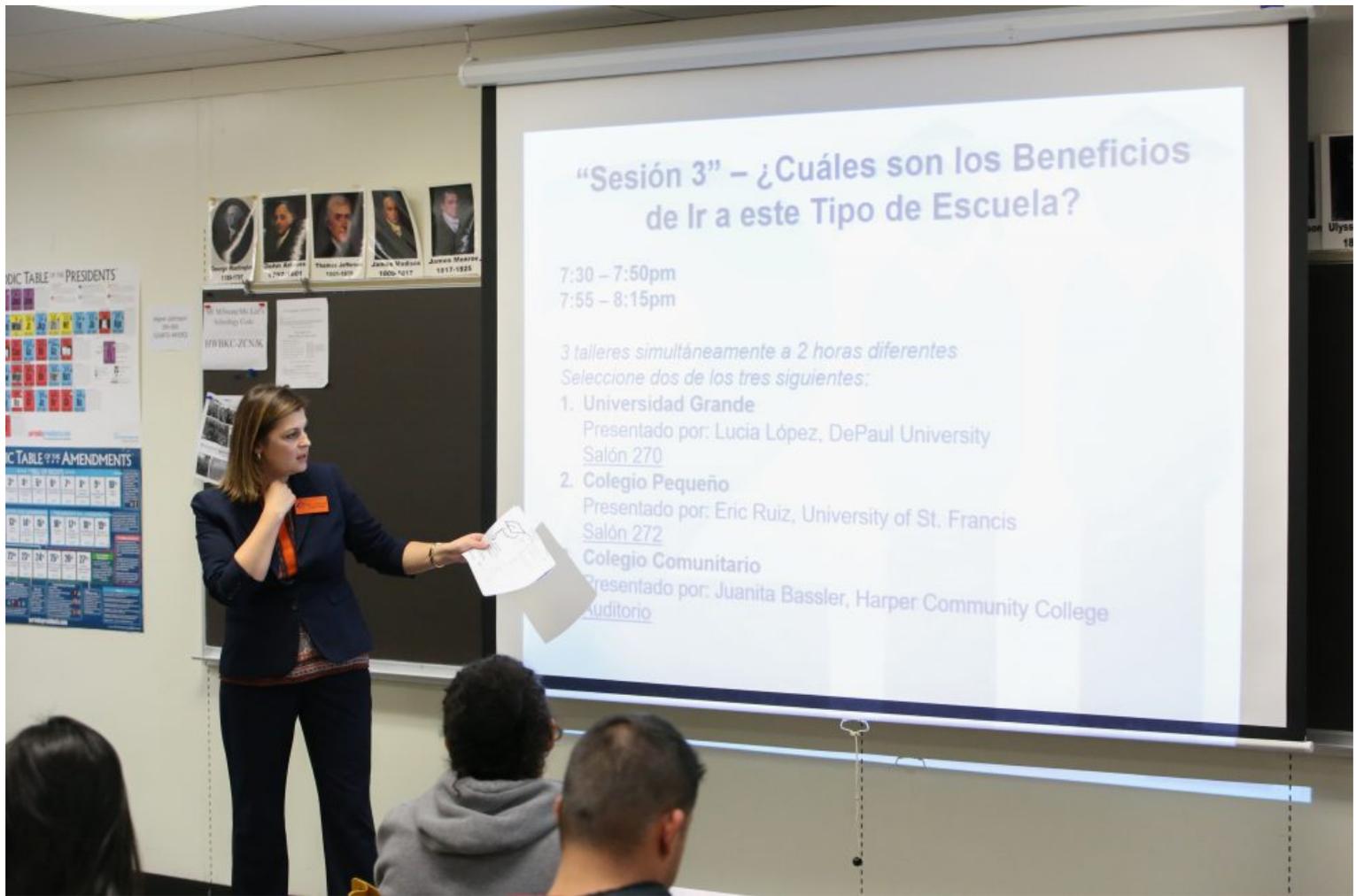
FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Free Day Care available from 6:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Township High School District 211 will hold their 5th Annual First-Generation College Symposium September 26th at Palatine High School from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Child care will be available for attendees from 6:15 until 8:45 p.m. The symposium is designed to help parents whose students will be the first in their family to attend college, but is open to all District 211 families.

Like previous years' symposiums, parents and students will have the opportunity to explore differences in attending various styles of colleges with representatives from schools including Harper College, Elmhurst College, National Louis University, and University of Illinois Chicago in attendance. Representatives from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will return to discuss financial aid options and sessions will again be hosted in both English and Spanish.



One change for this year will be the elimination of the final session. Palatine High School Student Services Secretary said this was done to expand the other three sessions.

“At the end of the financial aid session last year, we didn’t have enough time to answer all of the questions,” she said. “By expanding the sessions, we can focus on answering more questions and better preparing our first-generation students.”



First-Generation College Symposium is part of a series of events designed to help parents and students navigate the college application and preparation process. It will continue with the District 211 College Night October 23, at Palatine High School.

[D211 POST: DISTRICT 211 HOSTS FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM](#)



Township High School District 211 will host its 4th annual First-Generation College Night at Palatine High School September 19 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Childcare services will be available at the school from 6:15 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. The symposium, open to all District 211 families, is designed to educate families whose student will be the first to attend college after high school. Discussions will range from the application process to financial aid and will include representatives from a number of two and four-year colleges and universities.

The symposium is broken into four primary sessions, opening with a parent of a recent District 211 graduate, whose student was the first of their family to go to college. Following the introductory comments, students and families will be broken into groups based on the student's year of school. In those groups, families will learn how to navigate various aspects of the college application process. All sessions will be conducted in English and Spanish.

During the third session of the evening, representatives from colleges including University of Illinois Chicago, Harper College, DePaul and St. Francis will discuss and compare the college experiences of large, small, and private schools. The symposium will serve as a bridge for the District's College Night which will be held at Palatine High School October 10.



Palatine High School Director of Student Services Secretary Claudia Sierra-Sokop said the First Generation College Symposium is designed to ease the college preparation.

“We want to make the college application process as easy as possible for everyone,” she said. “We give them every resource we can allowing them to reach out with any specific questions they may have.”

D211 POST: PARENTS AND STUDENTS LEARN TO NAVIGATE COLLEGE PREPARATION EXPERIENCE



Students and parents listen to a presentation about college financial aid during the First Generation College Symposium at Palatine High School Sept. 27.

More than 600 parents and students learned how to navigate the sometimes-complicated process of preparing and applying for college during Township High School District 211's First Generation College Symposium at Palatine High School Sept. 27.

Over the course of the evening, the attendees listened to presentations which ranged from what to expect in attending large colleges to applying for financial aid. Sessions were conducted in both English and Spanish.



A presenter discusses the benefits of attending community college during the First Generation College Symposium at Palatine High School Sept. 27.

Claudia Sierra-Sokop, one of the event coordinators, said people were very thankful for the event.

"A lot of people had their questions answer," she said. "Questions that were posted to the website were answered."

Sierra-Sokop said it wasn't only parents of first generation college students who were thankful.

"We had parents who went to college that came because so much has changed since they went," said Sierra-Sokop.

She said the staff is continuing to monitor the website for questions.

"Any questions which were posted after the event ended, should have answers by Monday," she said.

[PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM SEPT. 14](#)



*Logo courtesy I'M FIRST
<http://www.imfirst.org/#!>*

District 211 will host a First Generation College Symposium for students and their parents on Sept. 14, at Palatine High School, 1111 N Rohlwing Rd. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m., and will include important information for first generation college students and their families. Students from all District 211 schools can participate and the event is free.

Last year was the first year Palatine High School hosted the event and more than 850 people attended the First Generation College Symposium.

This year, students and parents will hear a welcomes session as well as information about financial aid. Attendees will then participate in breakout sessions on important topics pertaining to their graduation class. The class of 2020 and 2019

session will be about identifying college prep courses. The class of 2018 will hear about the timeline of college related events. Students in the class of 2017 will learn about the application process.



Last year was the first year Palatine High School hosted the event and more than 850 people attended the First Generation College Symposium.

Breakout sessions will include important topics that discuss the benefits of going to either a private or public university, or community college. Additionally, the final session will get attendees ready for the District 211 College Fair in October. The sessions will be presented concurrently in English and Spanish.

For more information about the event or questions regarding the event, please contact Palatine High School Director of Student Services Fred Rasmussen at (847) 755-1626 or frasmussen@d211.org.