

# Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success Newsletter

January 31, 2020

Volume 1, Number 1

*Increasing Equitable and Accessible Pathways to Postsecondary Success*

There are three ways  
to ultimate success...  
The first way is  
*to be kind.*  
The second way is  
*to be kind.*  
The third way is  
*to be kind.*

*Mister Rogers*

## Ongoing CPRS Projects

**01.** Michigan Online Training

**02.** DC Middle School Visits

**03.** Naviance Evaluation

## College and Career Professional Competencies

The Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success will begin conducting focus groups with K-12 school counselors and college access professionals to review and share feedback on the College and Career Professional Competencies. CPRS has identified the following focus group locations: Baltimore, MD., Boca Raton, Fl., Chicago, Il., San Francisco, CA., and Washington DC.. The center is also working with NCAN to host a virtual focus group. If you have any suggestions or a network that could assist with this review process virtually or face to face, please email us to bridge that connection.

## Raise DC and DC-CAP High School to College Transition

CPRS partnered with [Raise DC](#) (college access non-profit) and the [DC College Access Program \(DC-CAP\)](#) on their [Summer Melt Texting intervention](#) by providing virtual advising support to 2700 rising DC college freshman and 800 rising DC college sophomores. The goal was to increase the number of DC students transitioning to college from high school and college freshman to their sophomore year. AU graduate students replied via text message to DC student responses to the automated text messages and offered personalized support regarding the key tasks students must complete to remain on track for fall matriculation. They also provided support and information about the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DC-TAG) and the Last Dollar Scholarship.

Upon completion of the summer project, CPRS continued ongoing support to the current college freshman class. Dr. Owen and her students continued to support the students throughout their sophomore year of college and the summer transition to their junior year of college which ended this past September (2019). Dr. Owen is currently working on a paper outlining the lessons learned and Jasmine Byrd, CPRS research assistant, will present the findings at the [American Educational Research Association](#) (AERA) in San Francisco (April 2020).

## Community Based Research Scholars CBRS

CPRS partnered with [CBRS](#) to learn how DC students prefer to receive college and career information. AU students conducted student surveys and focus groups at four high schools in DC. and then analyzed the data and presented their findings to staff at all four schools. Dr. Owen and Dr. Jane Palmer, director of the CBRS program, are working on a joint paper regarding this collaborative work. Their paper will be presented at AERA in April 2020.

## Looking for partners!

Please let us know if you are interested in collaborating on any projects.



[Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success](#)

American University

4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington DC 20016

[cprs@american.edu](mailto:cprs@american.edu)

202.885.3694

# CPRS is excited to announce a new partnership with the Michigan College Access Network to provide online professional development to Michigan school counselors beginning Fall 2020.

## DC Middle School Student Visits

1. 200+ students from [Hart](#) and [Kramer](#) middle schools visited AU's campus Fall '19
2. The students attended the [AU Steam Faire](#), and received a campus tour.
3. They also engaged in activities at AU's makerspace, learned about college admissions and met with [AU LEAD](#) students to learn about ethical decision making.

## National Career Development Summit

Dr. Owen assisted William Symonds from the [National Coalition for Career Development](#) with the first [National Career Development Summit](#) held in Washington, DC on January 8, 2020 where she led the "Transition from K-12 to Post-Secondary Education" session and facilitated the ensuing conversation. She shared the recommendations from the transition session during the closing session of the summit.

## Upcoming Conference Presentations

- **Strategies to Fund Your Research Agenda.** Research Day, Evidenced Based School Counseling Conference. Boca Raton, FL.
- **High School Student Preferences for Receiving College and Career Information.** Evidence Based School Counseling Conference. Boca Raton, FL.
- **Promoting A School Counseling Culture That Supports Black Students' Success.** A Dream Deferred: The Future of African American Education College Board Conference. Chicago, IL.

## American Educational Research Association Conference (AERA)

- **Pebbles in A Field and Other Nuggets Learned from Four Text Messaging and Advising Interventions.** Symposium Chair, AERA Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- **School Counseling and College Advising: Cross Sectional Partnerships That Support All Students.** Symposium Chair, AERA Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- **Building A Collaborative Approach to Support Students on Their Postsecondary Path.** AERA Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- **School Based Text Messaging and Advising to Improve College Enrollment and Success: Lessons Learned.** AERA Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- **Community-Informed, Collaborative and Action Oriented Partnerships: How Students Prefer to Receive College and Career Advising.** AERA Conference. San Francisco, CA.



The [Journal of College Access](#), in collaboration with CPRS, recently published its largest issue to date and features 4 scholarly works, 4 book reviews, a report critique and a guest perspective. CPRS Director, Laura Owen, Timothy Poynton, U-Mass Boston, and Rael Moore from The ACT Center for Equity and Learning have an article on Student Preferences for College and Career Information in this JCA issue.