“Put Me in Coach, I’m Ready To Play!”
- **Parents and Caregivers Are Not Spectators in their Child’s Future**

Presented by

**Waukegan to College**

*First-Generation Success*
Outcomes

● You will learn about our family-centered strengths-based approach for involving parents and caregivers.
● You will learn how Waukegan to College involves parents in consistent, two-way, and meaningful communication that results in higher engagement and capacity to support their student’s academic journey.
● You will participate in an activity to help you understand how we involve and engage parents and caregivers from the beginning.
Involvement & Engagement
- Families not just students
Awareness to Action: Promoting Equity in Education and Careers
Involvement growing into engagement

...from the very beginning
the parent’s voice is essential

Awareness to Action: Promoting Equity in Education and Careers
Involvement at the Very Beginning...

Application

Interview

Welcome

What are your expectations for your student, yourself, and the program?

**Awareness to Action: Promoting Equity in Education and Careers**
...Leads to Engagement

Family Education  Volunteering  Leading

Awareness to Action: Promoting Equity in Education and Careers
At Waukegan to College

**WHY**
- First-Generation Students
- Parents don’t have the knowledge or skills to help
- Don’t understand the US public school system
- Under Resourced School District
- Cultural Sensitivity

**HOW**
- Cohort Advising (college readiness sessions)
- 1:1 Advising
- Work Together as a Team (annual family forums)
- Encourage Leadership
- Give Parents a Voice (surveys)
- Incentives

**WHAT**
- Learning with their children
  - College visits and college fairs
  - Summer camps and career fairs
  - Student success plans
- Leadership & helping other parents
  - Parent mentor committee
  - Serve on WTC Board
  - Encouragement (Let go...)
  - Provide transportation or interpretation
- Volunteering - open house, interviews, outreach events, chaperone

**Awareness to Action:** Promoting Equity in Education and Careers
Parents are not Spectators

They
- Serve on boards and committees
- Mentor other parents
- Encourage participation
- Are active at their child’s school
- Tell other families about our program
- Help their children find resources
Parent/Caregiver Education Program

Awareness to Action: Promoting Equity in Education and Careers
Cohort Advising - Student AND Parents/Caregivers

Meet our Family Educators

- Scarlet Mencia - Waukegan to College Alumna
- Martha Padilla - Waukegan to College Parent

They are helping parents and caregivers learn how they are players in helping set educational goals for their child.

Awareness to Action: Promoting Equity in Education and Careers
What we hear from families...

- We are creating a family environment of trust and belonging
- We are helping to build confidence in their child’s
  - learning
  - future
  - success
- Parent and caregivers have agency in their child’s educational goals
- Parents and caregivers want to learn more
Our Impact
Meet Brian Botero
● Joined WTC in 6th grade
● Now a freshman at the University of Richmond

How Brian’s mom engages in our program
● Interpreter
● Bus driver on field trips
● Outreach
● Attends advising, workshops, special events
Lorenzo, a Cristo Rey St. Martin senior, joined our program in the 6th grade. He has worked hard to follow his dream and just learned he received early acceptance to Northwestern University, where he plans to study engineering and a scholarship worth more than 200,000!
Activity - The Interview
Can you help us?

Did you know?

Parent engagement drops by 75% when students enter middle school.

At Waukegan to College we’re proud that...

71% of parents are engaged in programming

We want to engage more of our high school parents...

We welcome your advice!
Reflections

What is one new idea that you learned today?

What is one learning you will put into practice or try when you go back?
To learn more contact Laura Rios at laura.rios@waukegantocollege.org