
Senior Swarm

Cindy Aguilar-Castaneda
Monday, August 20, 2019



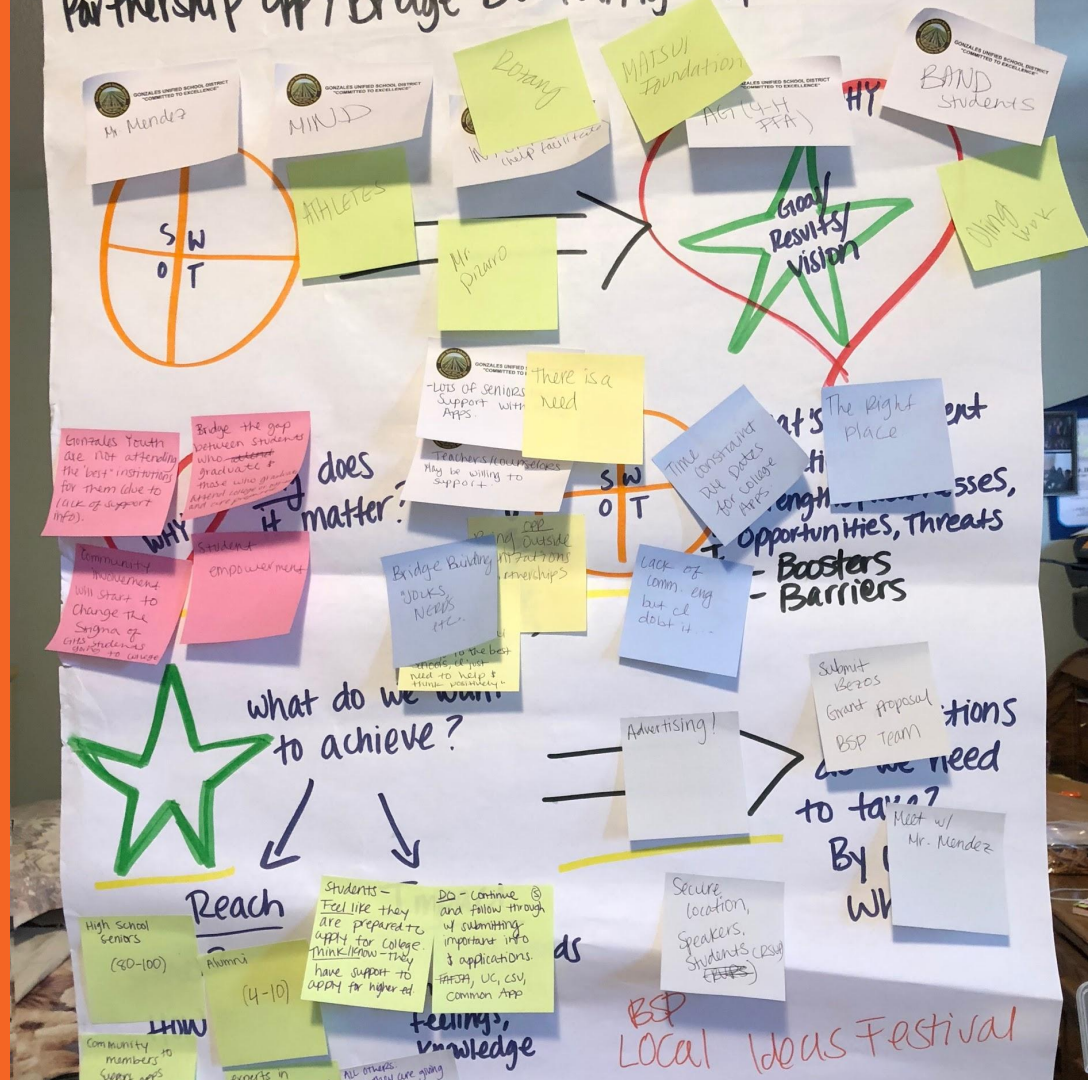
Where it all Started: Background

- Bezos Scholars Program
 - Aspen Ideas Festival
 - Meeting many influential people
- Local Ideas Festival
- Senior Swarm was the “Sweet Spot” between our passions
- Collection of student experiences as a First-Gen



Our Senior Swarm Journey...

Planning, Overview, and Next Steps!



Gonzales High School Senior Swarm

Our mission is to mobilize Gonzales High School Seniors to pursue higher education through information, community engagement, and relationship building with great #LoveCareConnect, the #GonzalesWay.



Overview:

- Community Involvement
- Funding
 - Bezos Family Foundation Grant
 - Community Action Grant
- Student Incentives
 - Making up Tardies and Food!



Outreach Approach:

- Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)
- KICK KIOSK
- Emails
- Announcements during Lunch
- Classroom presentations
- Gonzales Tribune!



SENIOR SWARM

All workshops will be from 5pm-8pm @GHS Library

November 15, 2018
CSU/UC/COMMON
APP

January 17, 2019
FAFSA & GOAL
SETTING

February 7, 2019
SUBMITTING
FAFSA!

March 21, 2019
JOB READY
(RESUME/INTERVIEW
PREP)

JOIN US FOR "SENIOR SWARM" WORKSHOPS TO:

Receive guidance on your college applications, build relationships with community members, enjoy snacks, win prizes, learn from inspiring individuals, and clear some tardies :)

SENIOR SWARM

WED, JANUARY 23

5PM-8PM @GHS RM 52



FOCUS: FAFSA AND GOAL SETTING

**MAKE-UP TARDIES, ENJOY
FREE FOOD, AND PREPARE
FOR YOUR FUTURE!**

CHROMEBOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

SENIORS, DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS?

JOIN US FOR 'SENIOR SWARM'

To learn more about and work on:

How to effectively complete college applications and
craft your Personal Statement

You can clear tardies

11.15.18 FROM
5PM-8PM
GHS LIBRARY

SNACKS, INCENTIVES, AND INSPIRATION WILL BE PROVIDED



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

SENIOR SWARM CELEBRATION!

WED, MAY 22, GHS LIBRARY, FROM 5:30PM-7:30PM

LUIGI'S WILL BE SERVED FOR DINNER. ANY GHS
SENIOR (CLASS OF 2019) IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.
YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR COLLEGE GEAR!

Please RSVP by completing the
following short form online:











Scan this QR code on your phone
camera!



OR type this link into your search bar

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/5qi3BU2oapagZeBr9>

Guest Speakers and Adult Allies:

- City Manager Rene Mendez 
- Diana Dietrich, Educator at La Gloria Elementary 
- Frank Lopez, Hartnell MILE Leader 
- CSUMB students
- Mr. Ignacio Aguilera
- Michelle Slade
- Alexandria Cervantes 
- Board Member Araceli Flores
- Mayor Maria Orozco
- Hartnell Support Team
- Harold Wolgamott 
- Mr. Miguel Ocampo 
- Ms. Candice Camacho 
- Ms. Virginia Brown 
- Ms. Juanita Zuniga
- Ms. Sita Ayala
- Cesar Ayon 
- Nurse Grace
- Mr. Malagon
- Hortencia Vargas 





Reach

- **5 Events**

- Workshop 1: Writing Personal Statements (College Apps)
- Workshop 2: FAFSA and Goals Setting (Financial Aid and Life Skills)
- Senior Panel: Q & A session with incoming GHS Freshmen
- Workshop 3: How to Choose Your College (Financial Aid, Budgeting, Decision Making)
- Senior Swarm Celebration: Appreciation for Senior Swarm Participants and College Celebration

- **37 students attended Senior Swarm Events**

- 10 out of 37 attended ALL 3 workshops
- 8 out of 37 attended 2 out of 3 workshops
- 11 out of 37 attended 1 out of 3 workshops
- 8 out of 37 ONLY attended the Celebration

- **4 Volunteers**

- Interact members (underclassmen)

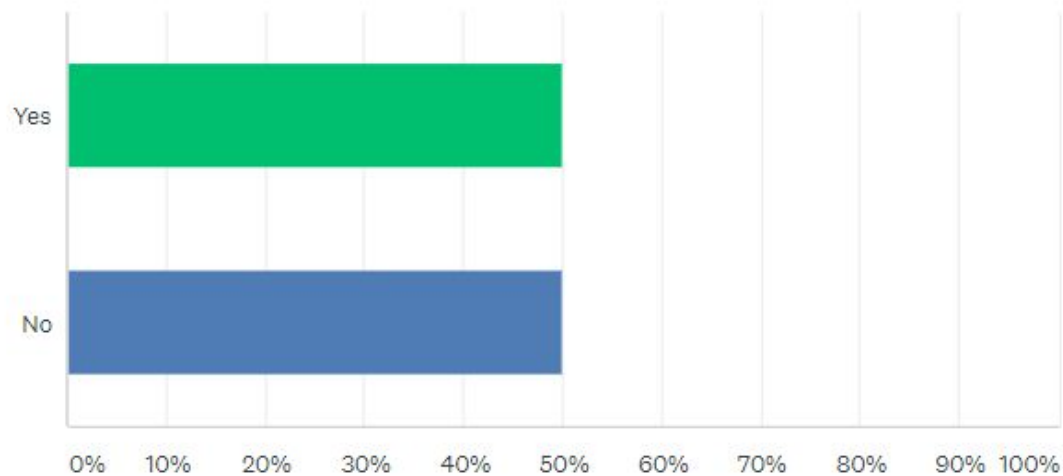
Impromptu Senior Swarm Workshop:

- CSUMB Scholars helped us review our Personal Statements the week UC Applications were due.
- Starbucks
- Students brought their own laptops



Have you visited a college or university through Gonzales High? (Please DO NOT include university/college trips that you have taken with ETS, Migrant, Dream Academy, Ivy League Project, or other programs. ONLY INCLUDE THOSE MADE POSSIBLE BY GHS.)

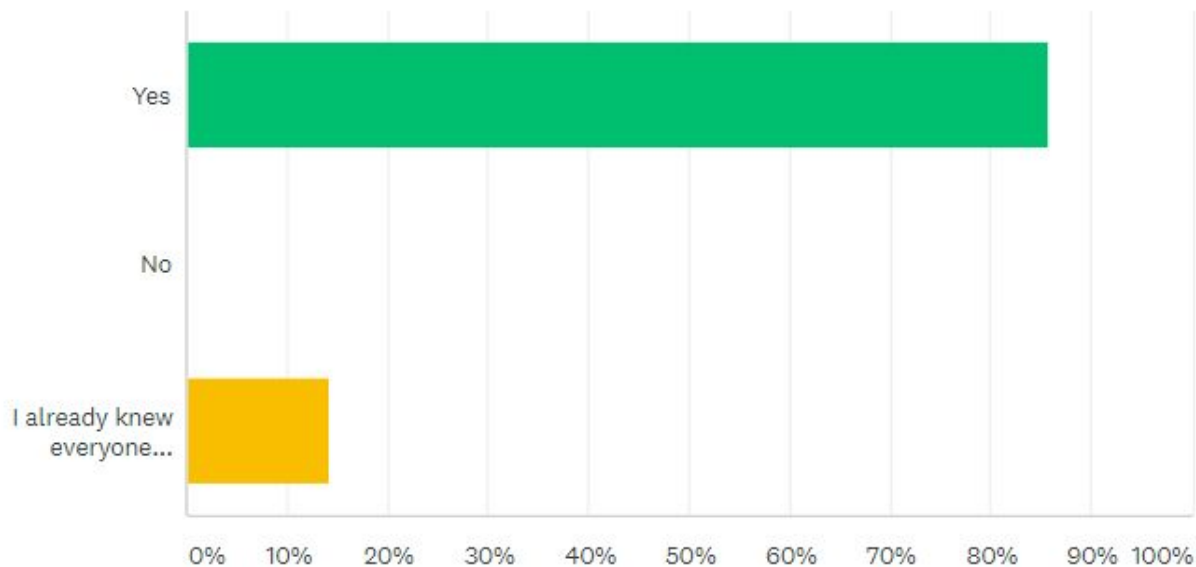
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0





Did you meet at least one new person (student/community member/staff) during the event?

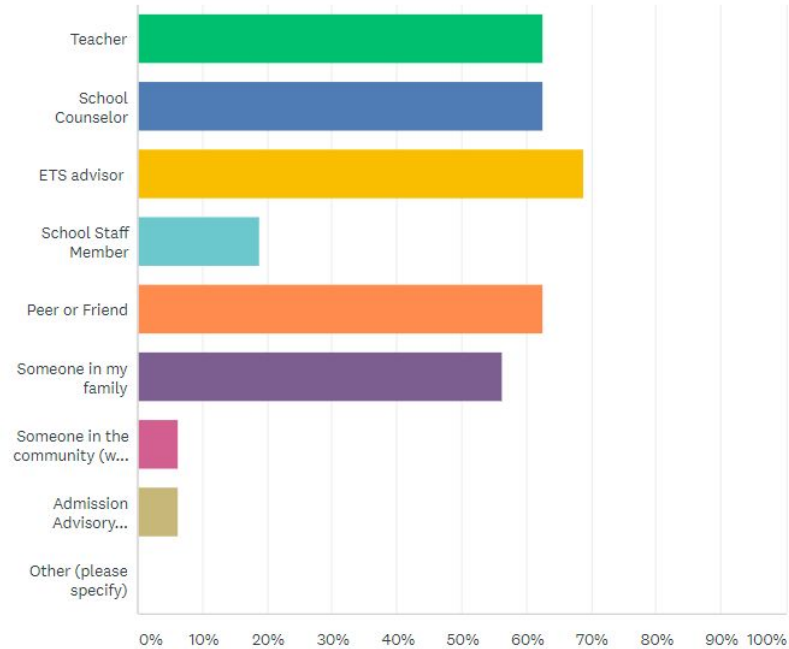
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Who have you gone to when you needed help with your college application(s)? Select all that apply.

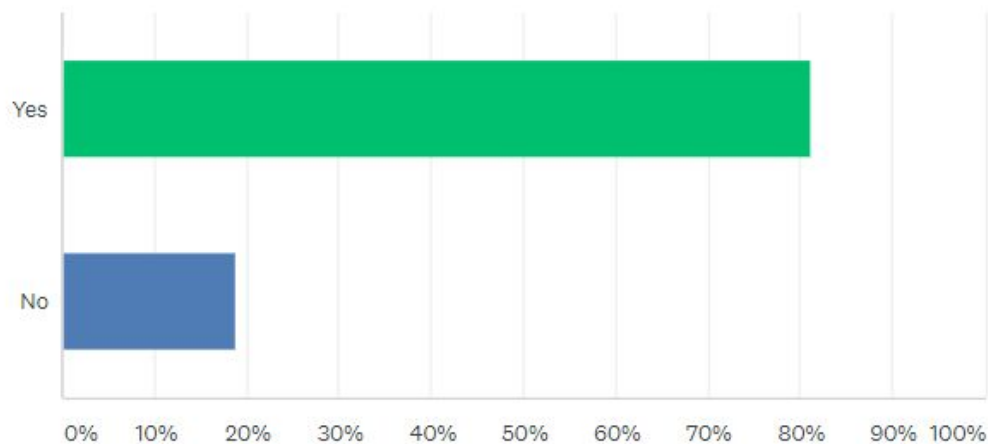
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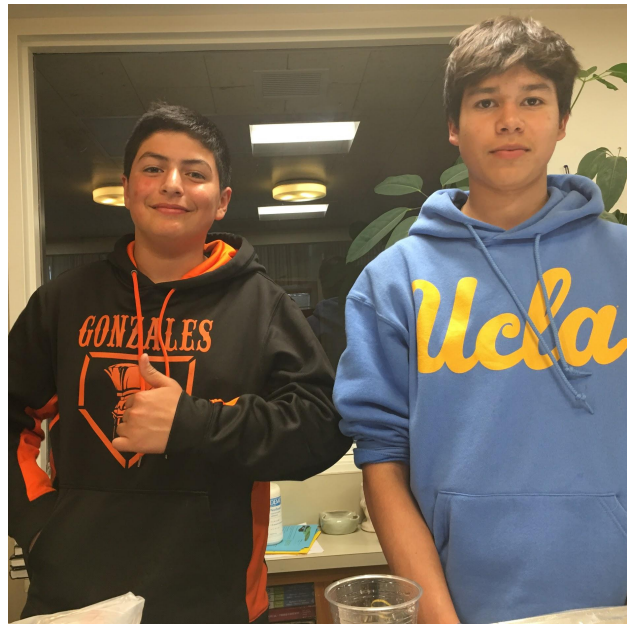
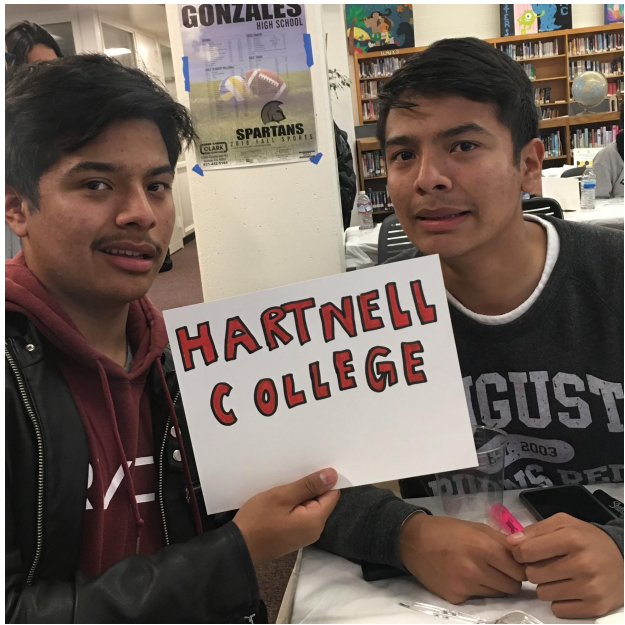


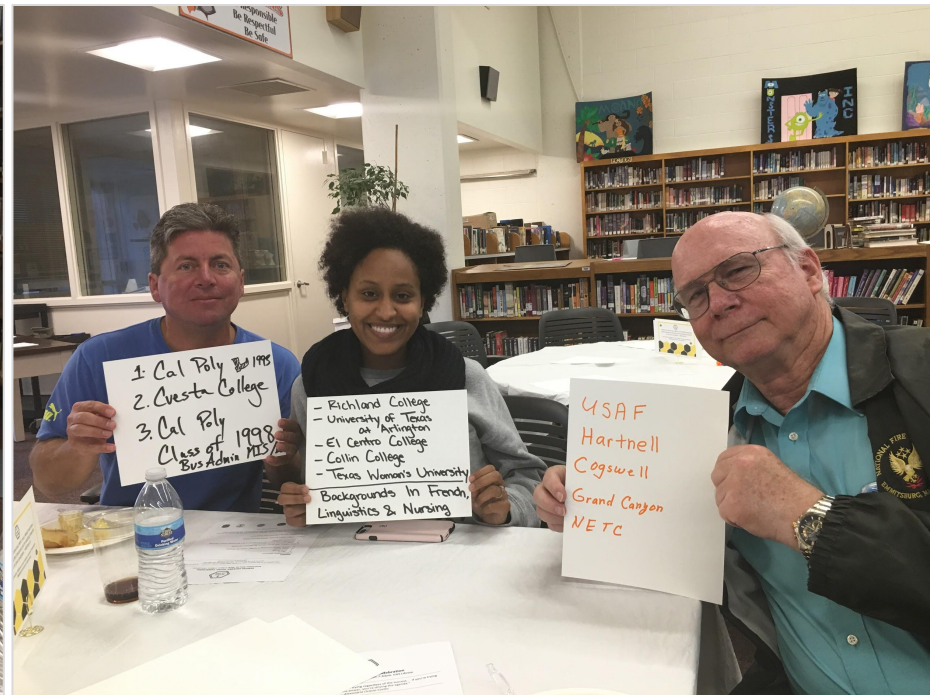


Has anybody on campus (teacher, administrator, custodian, or other staff member) ever given you words of encouragement (for example, "you're so awesome!", "I am so excited to see how you are going to change the world", "you're going places", or "I am so proud of you")?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

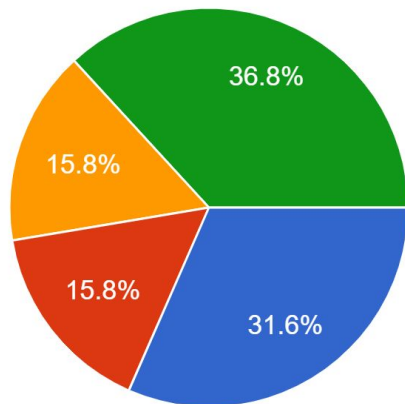






Which workshop was the most helpful to you:

19 responses



- College Apps, Personal Statements (November 2018)
- FAFSA and Goal Setting (January 2019)
- Choosing Your College: Navigating Financial Aid offers (April 2019)
- I have not attended any workshops prior to this.

Key Takeaways

- Learning by doing.
 - Figuring out how to support my peers while dealing with and navigating the same questions and problems they were going through.
- There is a high demand for support and clarity around college.
 - Qualitative Data: No clarity around what “we’re going to college for” (e.g. different types of degrees, programs, non-traditional pathways etc)
- We need more adults and champions to help keep this project going.
 - BFF grant can be renewed for 2 more years,
 - Community Action Grant can be applied to EVERY year.
 - It really is not a “money” problem, workshops are not expensive.
- Will be asking Gonzales Youth Council with support for the following years.
 - Willing to be a mentor and of support to whoever wants to lead this project next year.
- Appreciative of all the community members who stepped up



**"[SENIOR SWARM]
WAS GREAT AND THE
SPEAKERS WERE VERY
INSPIRING AND
HELPFUL."**

-MIGUEL ARREOLA CAMACHO, SENIOR @GHS

**JOIN US JANUARY 17, 2019, FROM 5PM-8PM,
FOR THE SECOND WORKSHOP OF SENIOR
SWARM!**



**"[I REALLY ENJOYED] BEING ABLE TO
TALK TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO
EXPERIENCED WHAT I WILL SOON BE
GOING THROUGH."**

- JERUSALEN VALDEZ, SENIOR @GHS

**JOIN US FOR THE NEXT WORKSHOP ON WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 23, FROM 5PM-8PM @GHS RM 52**

“I appreciated all the help and advice, didn’t even know the definition of FAFSA till the first Senior Swarm meeting. I give this experience overall 5 giraffes with shorts necks out of 5, would definitely recommend.”

“I believe they would be better if there can be individual time with someone who majored in the same or similar major as us.”