

College Orientation Programming by Peter Van Buskirk

"Getting From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be™"

Getting from where you are to where you want to be is a task that can prove monumental whatever the objective or the obstacles to be overcome. When the objective is higher education and access can determine the quality and direction of future opportunities, suddenly the stakes are even greater. "Getting there" is the task faced by thousands of young people each year as they apply to colleges.

In "Getting From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be," Peter delivers the following five-point plan to assist students in achieving their educational goals.

- 1. Know yourself
- 2. Know what you are getting into (what colleges want)
- 3. Make good choices
- 4. Tell your story
- 5. Believe in yourself

Peter illustrates to students the importance of finding schools that value them for who they are, what they have done—and will continue to do once in college. In doing so, he urges them to put themselves on competitive playing fields as college applicants so they will have a better chance of gaining admission *and* acquiring the financial assistance they may need.

Special emphasis is placed on self-awareness, finding a good college fit and the consequences of decision-making throughout high school. Topics covered by the five-point plan include course selections in high school, testing in the admission process and the importance of demonstrating interest in colleges.

A high-energy, high-impact program, "*Getting*" is approximately one hour in length. It is not uncommon for a Q&A period of 30 minutes to follow. The program content is appropriate for a mixed audience of students and parents and is effective content for school assemblies.

At a time when economic challenges have created greater uncertainty and changed many of the assumptions about educational access, Peter Van Buskirk brings candor, clarity and humor to what can otherwise be a grim and clinical process. A former Dean of Admission and father of three young adults, Peter's teaches families how to think about college access in a manner that enables them to make better choices. His engaging approach has helped more than 100,000 students and parents worldwide create productive and less stressful strategies for finding and getting into the colleges of their choice.

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