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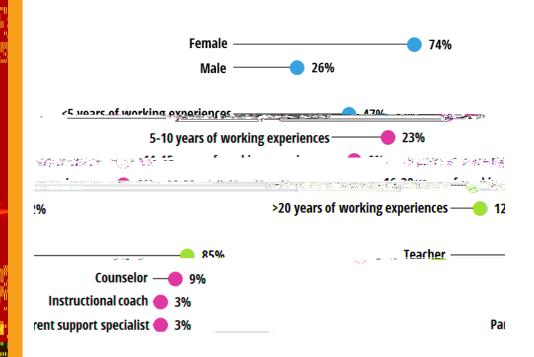
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Austin 2019 Spring Staff Focus Group Results Summary

Introduction

he (ustin ndependent chool istrict evaluation team conducted focus groups with staff at (aining arly wareness and eadiness for ndergraduate rograms middle schools in the spring of 19 articipants in focus groups were th grade staff (eg teachers counselors instructional coaches and parent support specialist at five middle schools: obie ulmore endez aredes and ebb n total staff participated in the focus groups n average seven staff participated in each focus group

he purpose of the staff focus groups was to gather information about their perspectives on the program their experiences with the program and their support for student college preparation articipants were asked to provide feedback in the following areas: (a understanding of the program (b roles of the facilitators (c activities (d professional development activities (e teacher expectations and (f teacher preparation education

Characteristics of Focus Group Participants

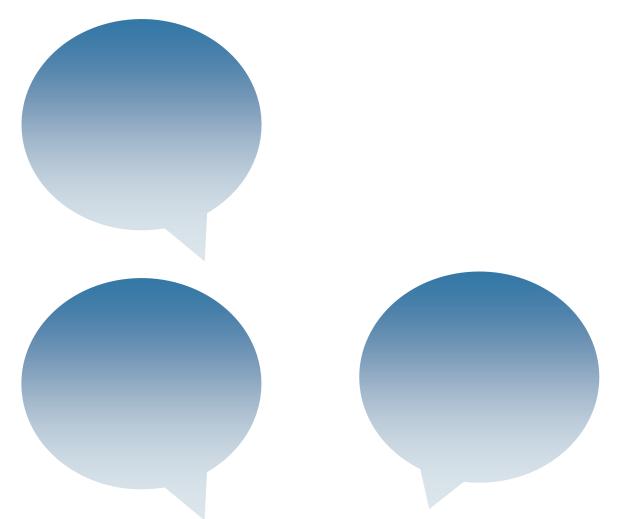


Department of

Summary of Findings

activities

taff who participated in the focus groups across five campuses consistently recognized the role of the program in preparing students for college and career articipants emphasized that the program opened up college and career options for students hey identified various supports the program provided for students including academic support emotional support and field trips xcerpts of staff comments about the program included:

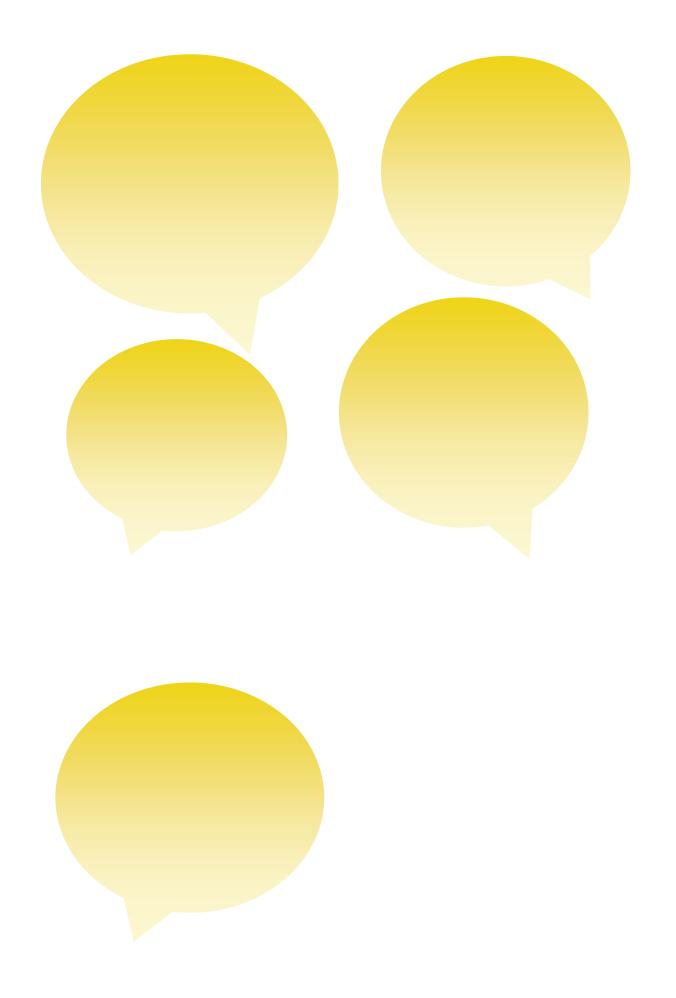


ost of the staff

facilitators supported students in college preparation in various ways including reported that tutoring counseling lunch bunch ¹ and college visits taff indicated that the facilitators were helpful in facilitating their teaching by co teaching or implementing college readiness activities during class time staff stated that facilitators provided emotional

support to students and helped students through hard times (ang taff described how students relied on 19 rr

¹ Lunch brunch refers to a workshop during lunch which may include tutoring career speakers or other college readiness facilitators when they had a rough day and needed someone to talk to xamples of participants about the facilitators included:



APIE is an independent, nonprofit organization created through a partnership between the AISD and the Austin Chamber of Commerce. By leveraging

hen asked to comment on the most helpful

activity that prepares students for college many staff

Naviance is a college planning and career readiness assessment software that helps students align their strengths and interests to postsecondary goals. taff also recommended a variety of activities they thought would be helpful in preparing students for college hese recommended activities included:

- hecklist of tasks students need to do for future education
- < ollege application process
- inancial aid information
- <
- isits from professionals college students
- xperience in a college class college life
- ollege students as a mentor
- reparation for high school transition
- dvocacy of early college programs

xamples of staff recommendation on helpful activities included:

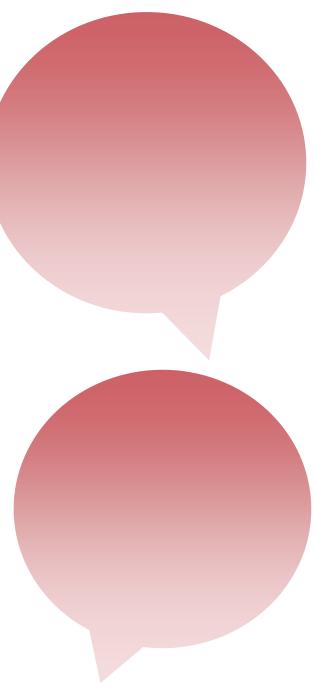
taff who

knew aboutfor family engagement were most knowledgeable about family nightsfollowed by phone calls and home visitstaff provided examples of successful family nightshey praisedthe informative nature of family nightshey reported that family nights were

understanding of financial aid stating that parents gained exposure to it when the facilitator walked them though the financial aid process on the website taff also mentioned phone calls and home visits provided by the

facilitators as helpful in engaging parents in student learning xamples of staff comments about family engagement support provided by the program included:





development activities included:





xcerpts of staff comments about professional

staff comments about their limited knowledge about the program included:

Conclusion

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xamples of

Austin Partners in Education: Annual evaluation report, 2013-2014

Gaining Early A wareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) A ustin: 2018 fall student focus group results summary

