

# College Mentors Speak Out

College Access Mentor Program



# Introductions

Elizabeth Burgess, Program Director

Janika Carney, Ooltewah High School

Saasha Jones, Howard School for Academics & Technology

Brittany Patton, Central High School

David Ruffin, Hixson High School

Jennifer Scott, Central High School

Greg Tate, Howard School for Academics & Technology

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# Overview

- Overarching goal– increase the number of students who complete high school and enroll in and graduate from college
- Grant from Tennessee Higher Education Commission as part of their College Access Challenge grant
- Started in the Spring of 2009 and will end in the Spring of 2010

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# Getting Started

- **Identify Schools**-- graduation rate, percent enrolling in college, demographics and total number of students
- **Identify Students**-- low income, first generation college students, GPA between 2.0-2.9 and PLAN scores between 15-19  
Students were selected by guidance counselor/college advisor
- **Identify Mentors**-- sophomore or a junior enrolled at the local university, alumni or Hamilton County HS graduate and guidance counselor recommendations

# Program Details

## ❖ College Bonanza at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga

- Admissions basics
- Panel of admissions counselors
- Campus tour
- College search
- Self-survey
- Financial Aid
- Meet your mentor

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- ❖ Monthly Meetings/Communicate weekly
  - Summer meetings
  - After school meetings
  - Meetings during ACT prep class
  - Communication through texting, e-mail and phone calls

- ❖ College Tours
  - Students participated in 2 college tours
  - Each tour visited 2 college campuses

- ❖ Career Program
  - Visited 8 businesses during the month of June
  - Students were paid a summer stipend

- ❖ ACT/Princeton Review Prep class
  - Students participate during fall of their senior year
  - Students will re-take the ACT in December
  - Students work on college and scholarship applications
  
- ❖ \$70/student for college application fees
  
- ❖ Students become mentors
  - Students will mentor an up-coming freshman during the spring semester
  - Students will share their experiences and motivate younger students

## ❖ Financial Aid and FAFSA

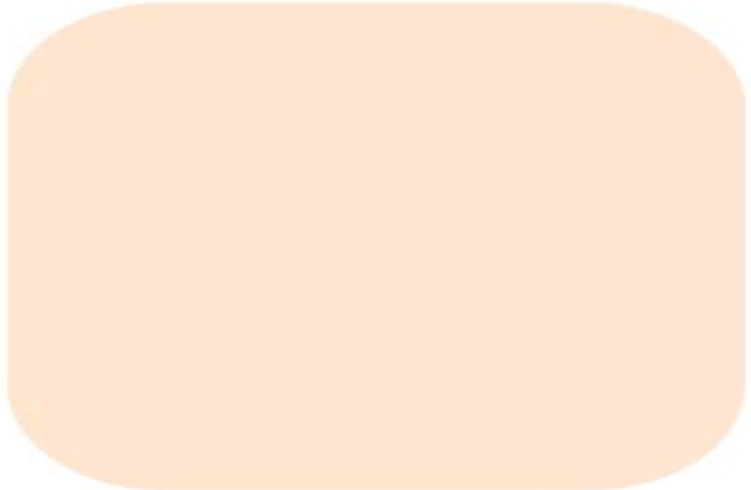
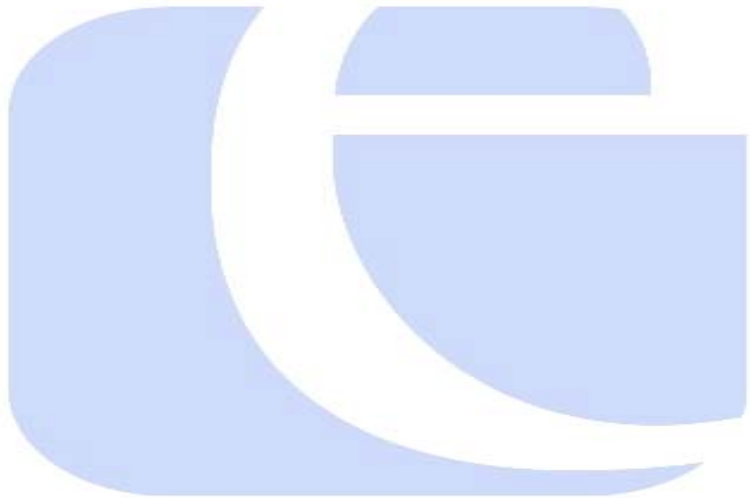
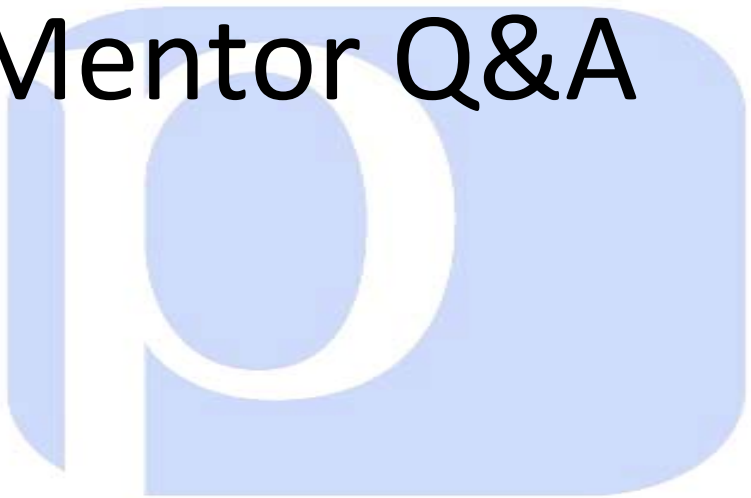
- College Advisors and mentors will hold workshops to assist students in completing their FAFSA forms

## ❖ End of the year celebration

## ❖ Summer follow-up

- Financial aid
- Orientation
- Class registration

# Mentor Q&A



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# Contact Information

Elizabeth Burgess

College Access Mentor Program Director

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[eburgess@pefchattanooga.org](mailto:eburgess@pefchattanooga.org)

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