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## CAW Event Ideas & Tips from Site Coordinators

### Before CAW:

- Advertise the event during sports games as a great way to reach both students and parents.
  - Ariel Cochran, Brown, Carver High School & Simon G. Atkins High School Anarrah Ross, Monroe High School & Anson High School
- Ask admissions counselors from local colleges and universities to volunteer during your event.
  - Amy Longstreth, Clyde A. Erwin High School
- Contact local colleges about donating items (pens, highlighters, cups, posters, etc.) as give-aways for students and/or items to decorate the school with.
  - Michelle Graybeal, James Hunt High School
- Create your CFNC Professional Center account. I cannot wait to have access to this come CAW. I can already tell that it is going to save me tons of time and hassle being able to access my student login information and update/change passwords, all at my fingertips!
  - Christy Clark, Cherryville High School
- Organize a team at your school to assist with all things CAW.
  - Teresa L. Oats, Harding University High School
- Have the art classes and/or art club create eye-catching posters for the event.
  - Ariel Cochran, Brown, Carver High School & Simon G. Atkins High School Anarrah Ross, Monroe High School & Anson High School
- Please make sure your students research schools and their application process prior to College Application Week. Applying to a school for the sake of applying is not benefitting the student or the college/university. Also, some applications will ask for a personal statement so make sure your students come prepared for this.
  - Ashley Postlethwaite, College Application Week Coordinator
- Make sure you have your CFNC Professional Center set up once school starts. It is best to have your students update their CFNC accounts to ensure they are correctly connected to your school (and thereby to your CFNC Professional Center account) as well as updating the information in their profile that will auto-populate their applications.
  - Ashley Postlethwaite, College Application Week Coordinator

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**During CAW:**

- Provide seniors with a “College Cupcake” that the food department makes. The cupcakes are hand decorated with college logos and all seniors who come to the event receive a “College Cupcake.”
  - Amy Longstreth, Clyde A. Erwin High School
- I always have door prizes/drawings for those students that actually participate. The prizes are items that area colleges donate such as cups, pens, pencils, book bags, tee shirts, etc. I usually have enough for about 15-20 winners! I buy gift bags from the Dollar Tree in our school colors and fill them with the goodies. The bags are then displayed for the students to see until the drawing.
  - Michelle Graybeal, James Hunt High School
- During CAW, there is a different college themed event every day like, Face Paint Day: show your school spirit by having your face painted.
  - Stephanie Leibowitz, Garner Magnet High School
- Encourage faculty, staff, and students to wear college sweatshirts during CAW.
  - Ariel Cochran, Brown, Carver High School & Simon G. Atkins High School  
Anarra Ross, Monroe High School & Anson High School
- My principal approves for all staff to wear jeans at least one day during the week, IF they also wear a t-shirt, sweatshirt, hoodie, etc. from their college. This generates all kinds of great conversations among teachers and students about minority presence funds, college majors, masters' degrees, etc. Plus, it is fun for us to have an excuse to wear our jeans!
  - Rachel Bostic, East Montgomery High School
- Call each homeroom to the computer lab to participate (usually generates about 20 seniors at a time). We get that homeroom started, and then call another [this helps with the flow of the event].
  - Amy Longstreth, Clyde A. Erwin High School
- I tried a door decorating contest. This got our whole staff involved! I was amazed at the number of teachers who participated. The doors had to be decorated using some type of college theme. Of course, many of them had their students to help. My Principal and I were the judges. We judged on Thursday afternoon and announced the winners on Friday. The winning teachers received Starbucks gift cards and some of the college items that were donated to the school.
  - Michelle Graybeal, James Hunt High School
- Host a “mini” college fair one day where local college and university representatives come to campus and meet with students.
  - Stephanie Leibowitz, Garner Magnet High School
- Host an after school event one day during CAW for parents and students.

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- Ariel Cochran, Brown, Carver High School & Simon G. Atkins High School  
Anarra Ross, Monroe High School & Anson High School
  - As students complete applications, they sign huge banner listing the colleges where they applied. We display this banner prominently, and of course, kids love those "I applied to college" stickers!
    - Rachel Bostic, East Montgomery High School
  - If a senior has already applied to all their colleges and universities, we still invite them to come to the computer lab and let us know where they applied and provide positive reinforcement for the other students.
    - Amy Longstreth, Clyde A. Erwin High School
  - One of the local colleges gave me so many pens and highlighters I decided to share them with our teachers. I created a little message, "Happy College Application Week," and attached it to the pens/highlighters and then put them in their boxes at the beginning of CAW.
    - Michelle Graybeal, James Hunt High School
  - Having an "I Applied" celebration where seniors fill out "I applied to..." posters with the names of the schools they have submitted applications to. The posters are then displayed in the main lobby for everyone to see.
    - Stephanie Leibowitz, Garner Magnet High School
  - I schedule every senior a time to meet with me during the week, and send schedule out to faculty, so that they can plan ahead.
    - Rachel Bostic, East Montgomery High School
  - Having a door decorating contest for the third block classes. The class with the winning door wins a classroom prize (think food) from Student Services.
    - Stephanie Leibowitz, Garner Magnet High School
  - If possible, I try to also schedule at least one evening session, so that parents who work can come in to meet with me. I also ask students who have graduated from my school and are now in college to come back to visit with students during this week.
    - Rachel Bostic, East Montgomery High School

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**After CAW:**

- After CAW, I calculate the amount of money students saved in application fees. I wanted to give our teachers and administrators an idea of the impact that CAW has on our current seniors. I thought the dollar amount was meaningful and unique to CAW. It took a bit of time to compile the numbers, but our staff and particularly our principal were very pleased when he heard the final dollar amount.
  - David Edwards, Hibriten High School
- In the late spring host a school-wide event to recognize the seniors who have been accepted to college. Have the principal speak and give certificates of accomplishment to these seniors.
  - Precious Barnes, Northwest Halifax High School
- Make sure you run your CFNC Professional Center reports at the end of CAW (Friday at 5:00pm) to ensure accuracy and timely delivery of your students' participation numbers. This will allow you to report your numbers to your faculty and staff much sooner than in previous years. If you still want a report sent to you, please request one via email to [CAW@northcarolina.edu](mailto:CAW@northcarolina.edu). The reports will be sent out in February only to those who requested them.
  - Ashley Postlethwaite, College Application Week Coordinator

**Do you have a CAW event tip or idea you would like to share? Send it to [CAW@northcarolina.edu](mailto:CAW@northcarolina.edu)!**