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KEY FACETS OF COLLEGE READINESS

Dr. David T. Conley, founder of the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) and a nationally-recognized leader in the field of college and career readiness, identifies four key facets that define the process of becoming college ready. Following is an explanation of each of the four Key Facets:

1. At the core of his model is **Key Cognitive Strategies or Habits of the Mind**: the higher-order thinking and analysis that college-ready students engage in as they understand and create new ideas.
2. Moving outward from the center of the image below, the next facet is **Key Content Knowledge**: the solid educational foundation that students receive in school and in which they must become proficient in order to succeed.
3. The next ring in Conley's model of college readiness is **Academic Behaviors**, including self-monitoring and positive study skills.
4. All three of the model's areas impact the outermost ring: **Contextual Skills and Awareness**; this includes the life skills needed to navigate college life, such as admission, registration, tuition costs, and financial aid programs.

OUR RECORD NUMBER OF TEENAGERS MUST BECOME OUR RECORD NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES AND OUR RECORD NUMBER OF TEACHERS, SCIENTISTS, DOCTORS, LAWYERS, AND SKILLED PROFESSIONALS. **RUBEN HINOJOSA**

HELPING YOUR CHILD FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE

High school guidance counselors and college admissions counselors suggest that the best way to tell if a college is right for your child is to “Visit! Visit! Visit!” Seeing college life first-hand can provide insight regarding what type of atmosphere is “the right fit” for your child. To help direct your child’s college search process, explore these questions together:

Learning:

- What is the best learning environment for your child? Small classes with personal attention? Can your student be successful in large lecture classes of 100 or more students?
- What academic support services does your child need?
- What college major is your child most interested in? Which colleges offer that course of study?

Living:

- Does your student want or need to live at home and commute to college? Or would he/she prefer to live on campus in a dorm or rent an apartment near school?
- What is the distinctive culture of the college campus? Culture is a combination of many factors – social norms, student diversity, the college’s mission, the campus’s physical features, school values, and more. Your child may feel more comfortable at one college versus another. This is likely due to the college culture.
- What activities, sports or clubs interest your student? Which colleges offer these activities?
- Does your child feel most comfortable in a rural, urban or suburban area?

The conversation around these questions can help your child make an informed decision about applying to schools that best fit his/her own personality, goals and values.