

The background of the slide features a light blue sky with the dark silhouettes of a crowd of graduates. Many are holding their black graduation caps high in the air, and some are holding rolled-up diplomas. The overall mood is one of celebration and achievement.

Youth Activation: The Untapped Source to Increase College & Career Access & Success Youth

Florida College Access Network

Talent Strong Florida Summit

May 10-11, 2022

A group of diverse graduates in black caps and gowns are celebrating outdoors. They are smiling and looking upwards, with some holding rolled-up diplomas. The background is filled with lush green trees under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Broward County Public Schools School Counseling & BRACE
Advisement Department

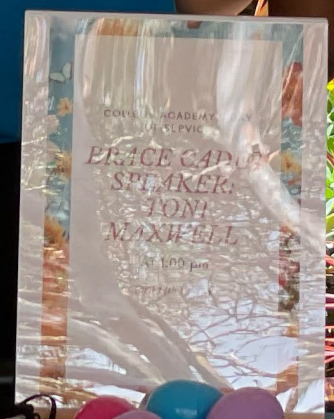
Carol M. Lopez, Supervisor, College, Career, & Life Readiness

Yvonne Green, College & Career Readiness Specialist

Ask me about
Naviance

Ask me about
Scholarships

Ask me about
College
Readiness



BRACE Cadets: The Opportunity



State of college and
career readiness in
Broward County



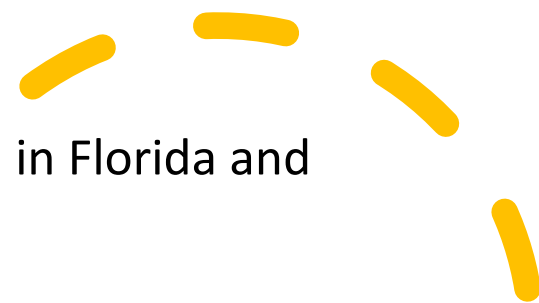
Obstacles



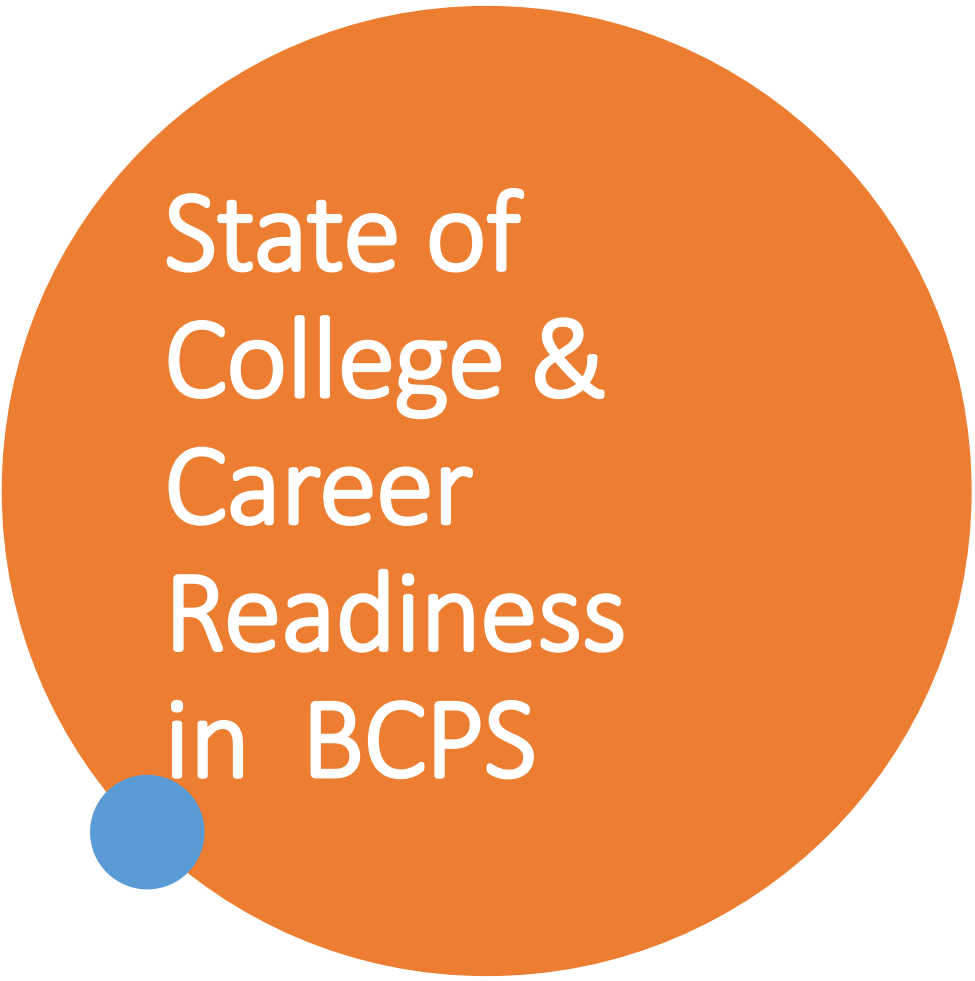
Opportunity



Vision



State of College & Career Readiness in BCPS



- BCPS – 2nd largest school system in Florida and 6th largest in nation
- 268,000 students across 241 schools - includes 32 high schools
- Increased college and career readiness is priority in strategic plan
- 63% of graduates completed at least 1 AP, IB, AICE or Dual Enrollment course (FLDOE 2018)
- 93% take the SAT (FLDOE 2018)

CCLR Challenges

- 68% of students- free & reduced lunch (2021)
- 47.3% FAFSA completion rate (June 2021)
- 550:1 student-to-counselor ratio
- 55% of counselors' time is spent on "other duties" = ratio of 1000:1



The Opportunity: Strategic Convergence

- Strategic Plan
- Millage Referendum
- Naviance
- Acceleration
- Gates Foundation
- Data



Vision

- Build a robust college and career going culture in which more students enroll and complete post-secondary education
- Use data to inform and measure success
- Make students part of the "army" that builds the college & career going culture

The Inspiration

- PeerForward
- Students are 2nd most powerful influencer on peers
- Leverage the strength of peer influence for good



BRACE Cadets



- College and career readiness peer mentors
- Design and implement special projects to help their peers take action to prepare for college, career
- High school students

Social Media Cadets



- College and career readiness peer mentor
- Use social media to promote college & career readiness
- Scholarships, FAFSA, college application, career exploration, inspiration & motivation
- Run social media for BRACE Advisors & district @bracecadets



Qualifications of a BRACE Cadet

- GPA 2.3 & above
- Public & charter
- Good standing – no behavior or attendance problems
- Wants to help peers get ready for post-secondary life
- Complete what they start
- Already taking action to prepare for life after high school

Recruitment & Selection Process

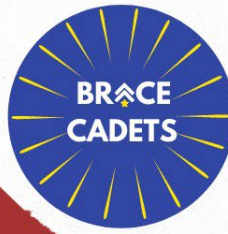
- Canvas, Naviance, IG, BRACE Advisors
- **Application process simulates the BC experience**
 - Time sensitive
 - Evidence of preparing for post-secondary life- screenshots
 - Online application
 - Video interview
 - Implementation Plan
 - Social Media cadets submit posts



Expectations of a BRACE Cadet

- Mandatory trainings- Summer, fall, winter
- Design & implement 2 projects linked to the priorities
- Reports on projects
- Have fun and do something you are passionate about
- \$500 stipend
- Special projects

**VIRTUAL EVENT:
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 AT
6:00 PM**



QUESTBRIDGE TALK

**FEATURING:
QUESTBRIDGE MATCH
RECIPIENTS FOR BROWN
& PRINCETON
UNIVERSITIES**

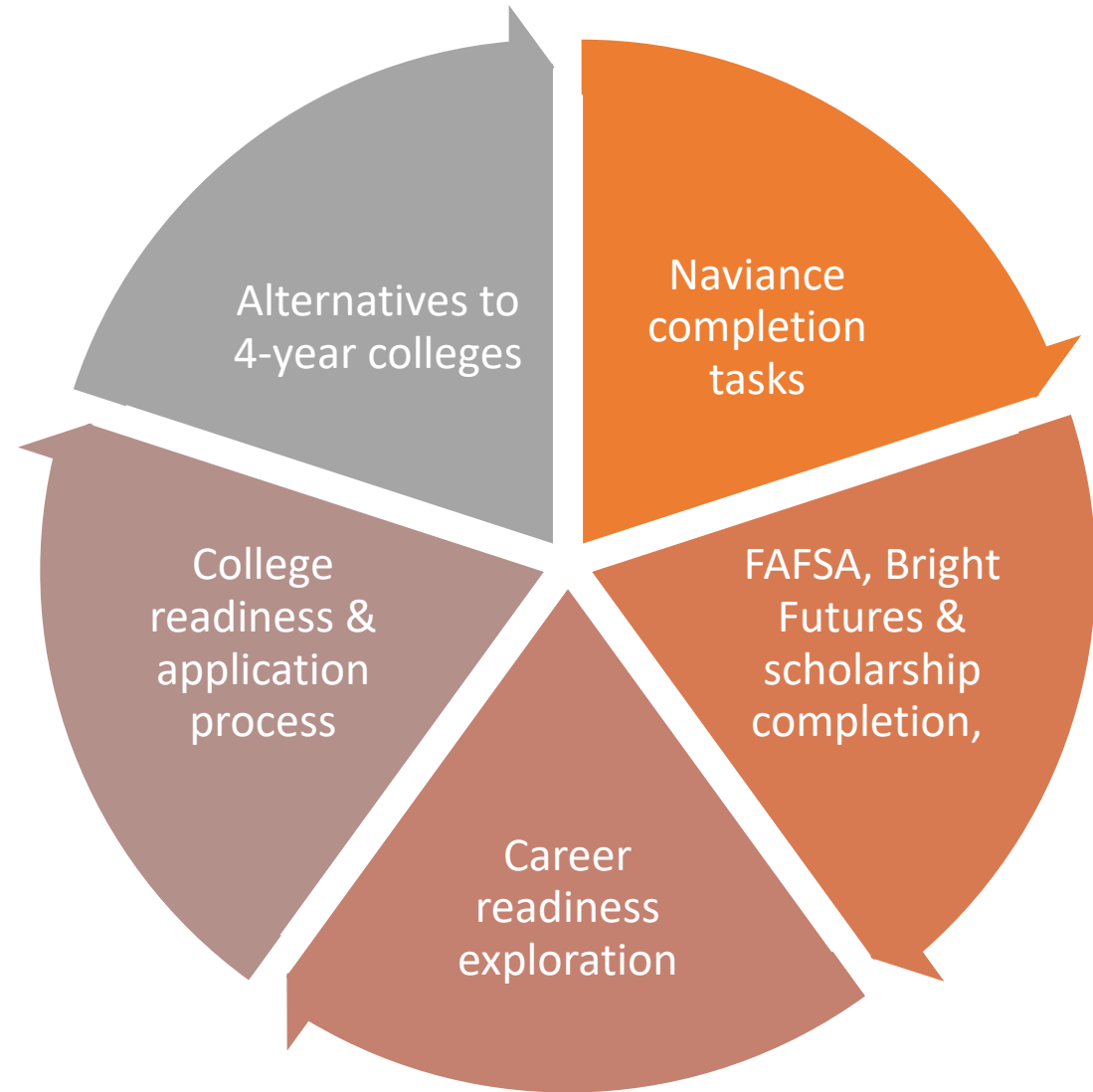


How We Prepare BRACE Cadets To Succeed

- Create a winner's identity
- Summer training - 4 days; fall & winter training
- College readiness; financial aid, career readiness
- Data on FAFSA & other college readiness metrics
- BRACE Advisor as a great resource
- Individual planning meetings



FIVE PRIORITIES



Projects Implemented By BRACE Cadets

- Financial aid – *Finance Fighters*
- SAT Tutoring – *BRACE for Testing*
- Career exploration- *Healthcare Careers Aid*
- College application-*Project College*
- Naviance – *Career & Course Navigators*

ATTENTION RISING JUNIORS & SENIORS!

SenYOUR Year Meeting

**Monday, April 18th, 2022 from
6-7PM**

**JOIN OUR WEBINAR TO LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSES TO TAKE, AND
INFORMATION ABOUT THE SAT/ACT**

**Follow us on instagram: @SYBRACE and Register for the
meeting using the link in our bio.**

Make sure to Join our remind to stay updated: @SJBRACE

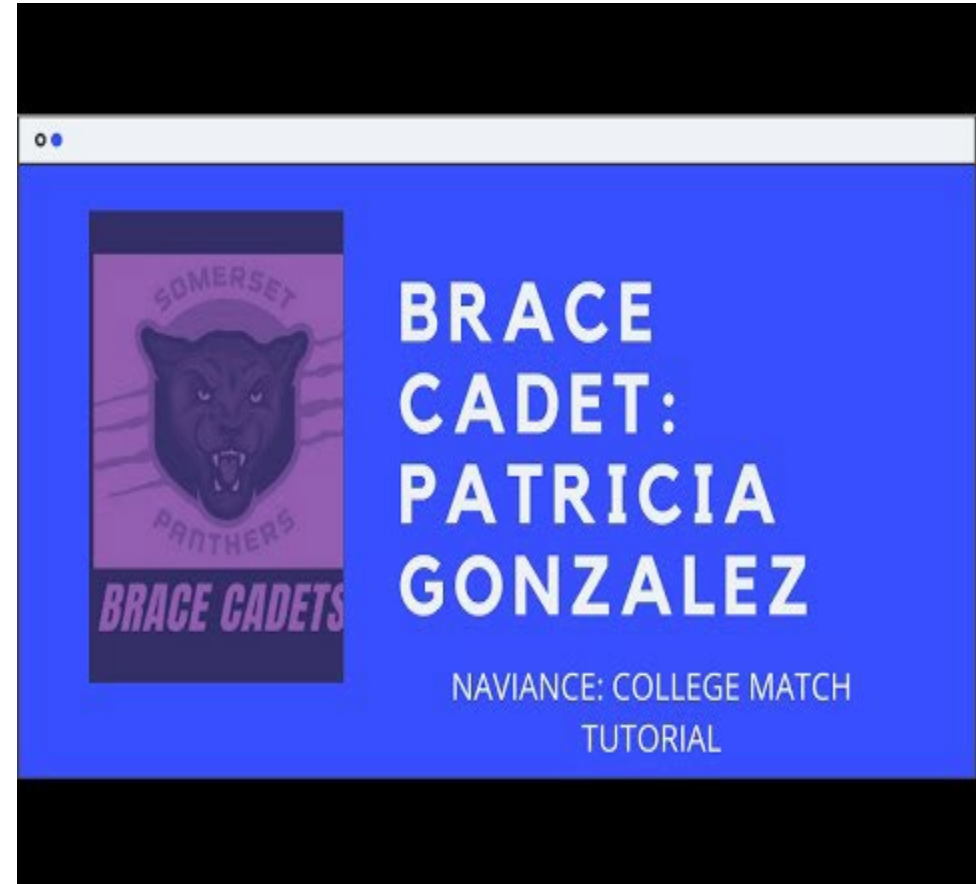
Projects Implemented by Social Media Cadets

- Promoting HBCU
- Naviance
- Mental health
- Career exploration
- Scholarships
- College readiness – AICE, Cambridge, Dual enrollment
- Campaigns – FAFSA, Decision Day
- Twitter **@bracecadets**
- Instagram **@bracecadets**
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bracecadets/>
- YouTube- **BRACE Cadets**

Sample Work of BRACE & Social Media Cadets

College section

Some information on the colleges includes graduation rate, acceptance rate, their next application deadline, student life, studies, costs, and much more.



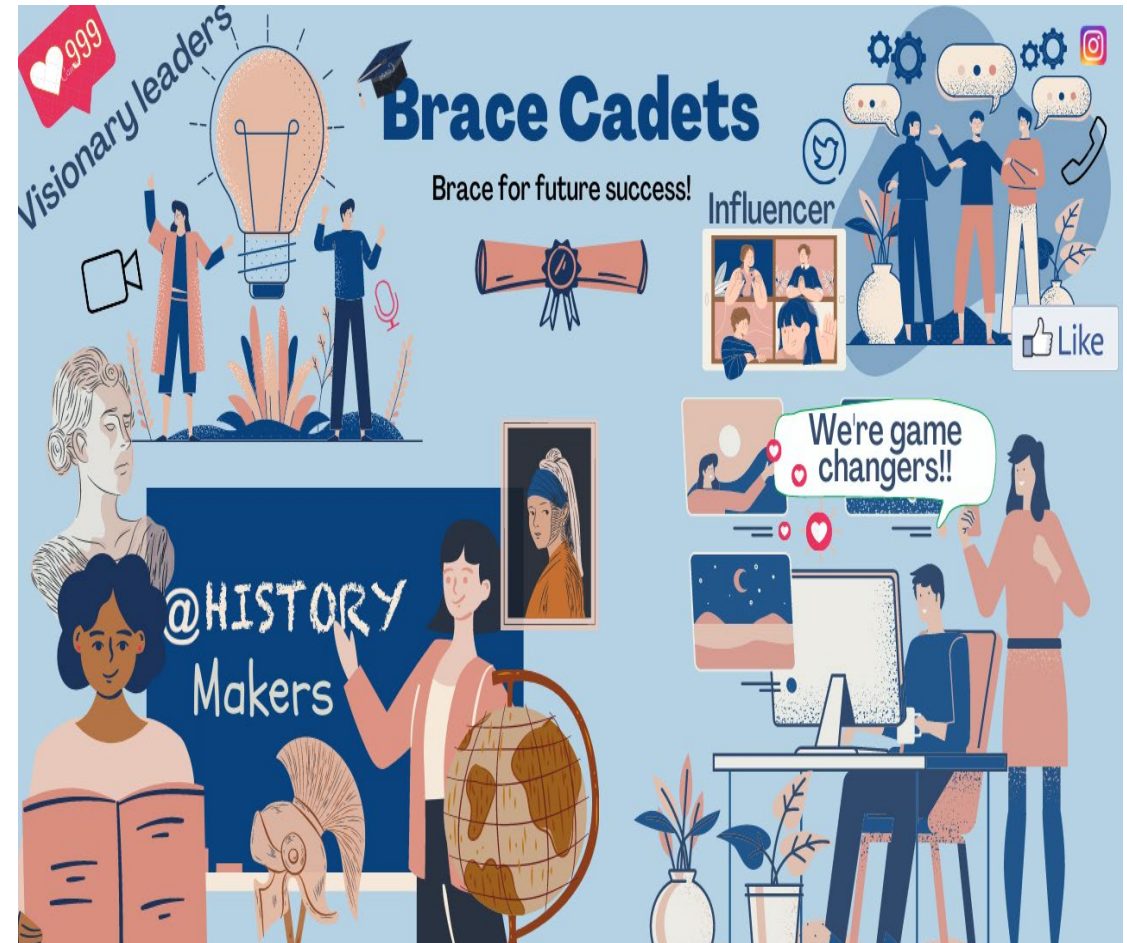
Success Keys – District Level

- Articulate *Possibilities not Problems*
- Engage decision-makers & influencers early
- Dedicated staff
- Create a high value brand
- Budget
- Highlight successes

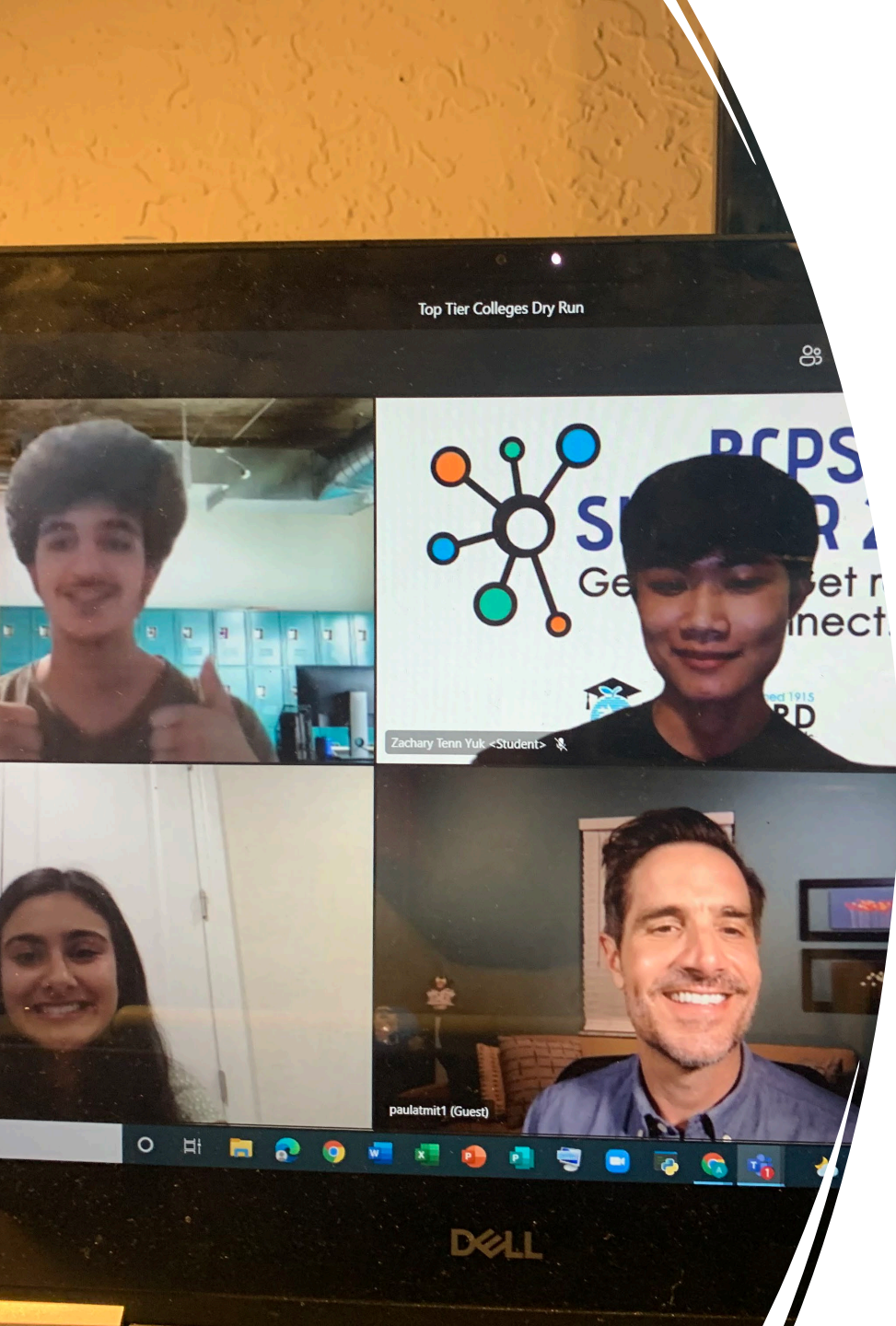


Success Strategies – School Level

- Create a strong, positive, fun, brand & winner's identity
- Produce quantifiable & meaningful results
- Elevate and make champions of those adults who produce results
- Embed in the schools –BRACE Club, BRACE Advisors



Success Strategies - Students



- Provide high quality training for & with students; build mastery
- Leverage student's altruism and idealism
- Have Yes in your heart for student projects
- Support students' personal growth & goals
- Celebrate, nurture & encourage often

Partnership with Bridge2Life (LCAN)

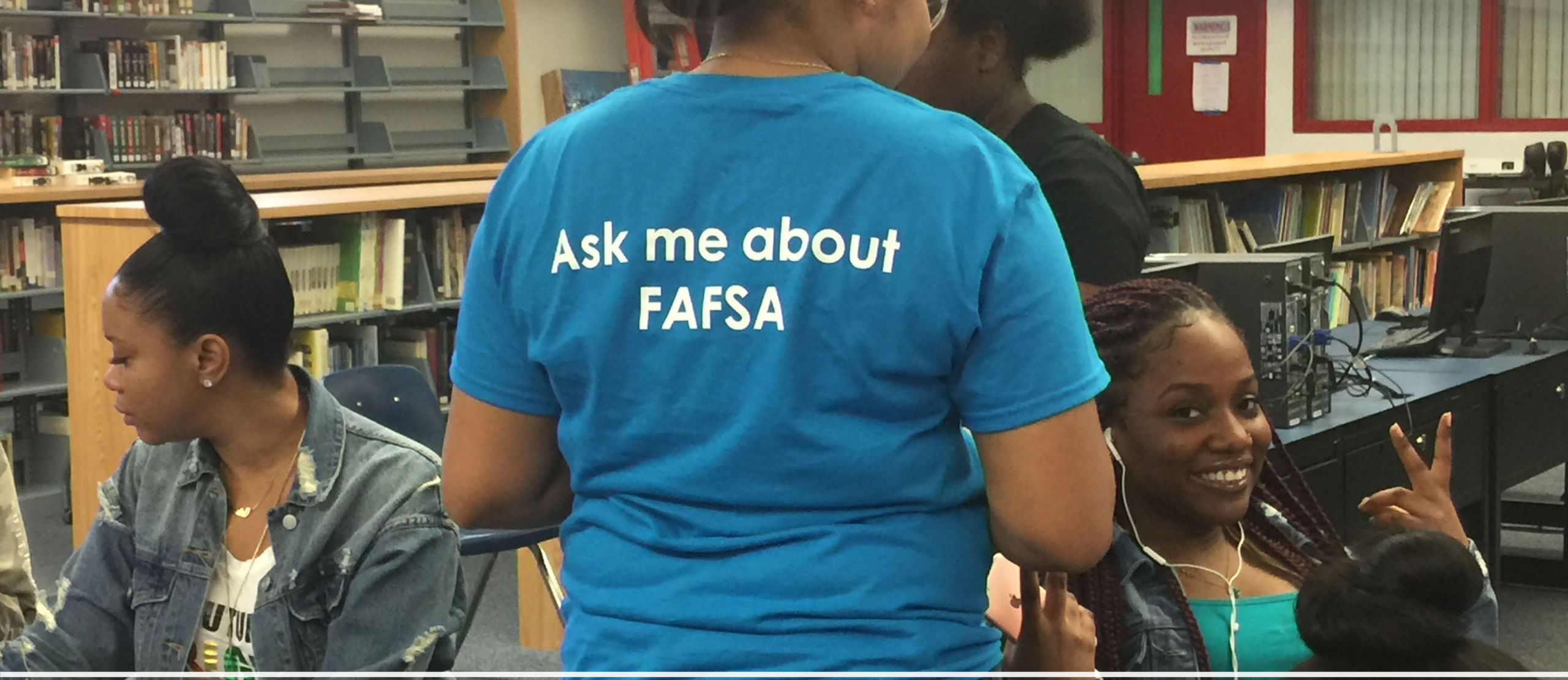
- B2L Student Success Network
- Students move from BC to B2L
- Promote each other events
- BRACE Cadets support B2L events – B2L launch, B2L events



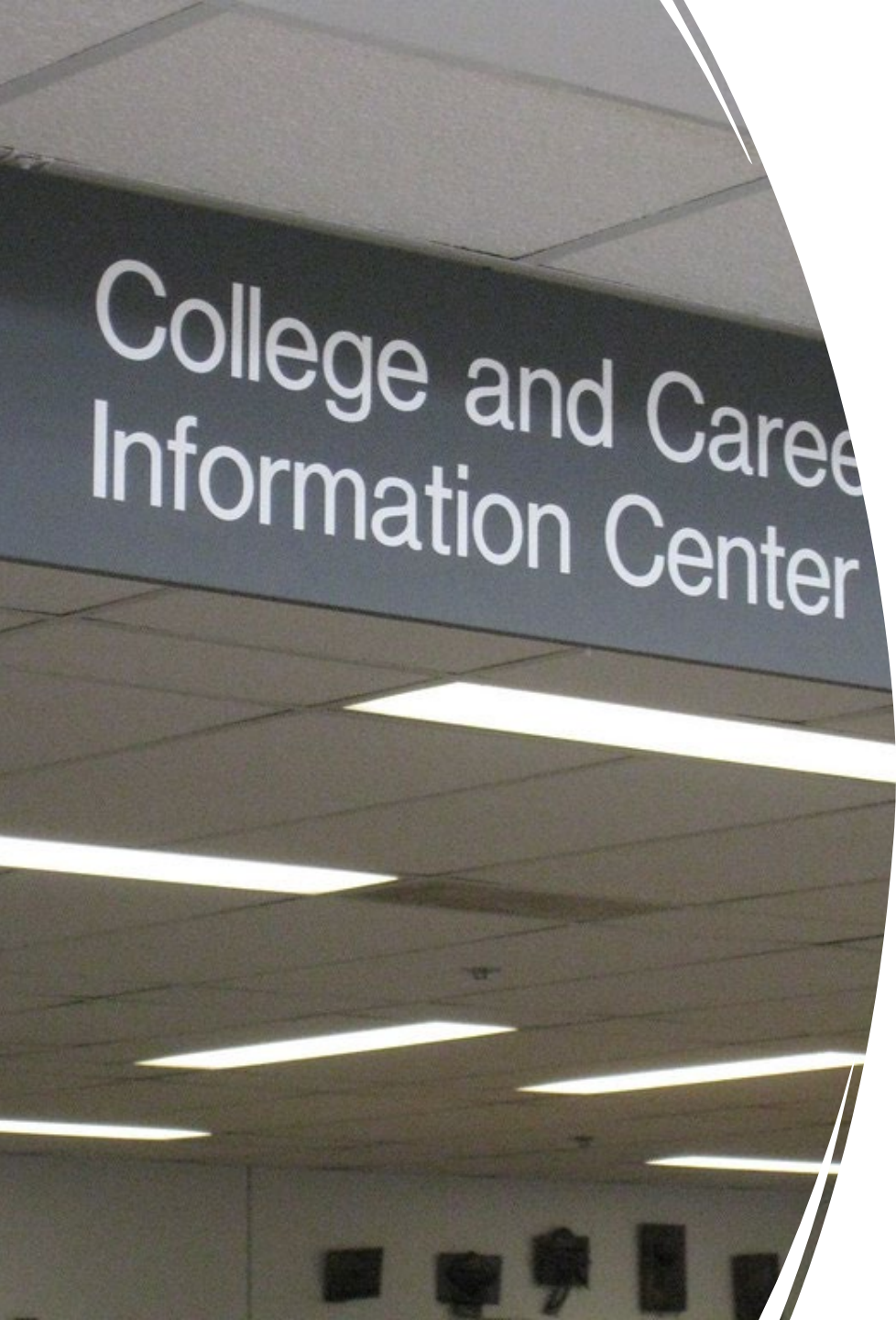
District Impact of the BRACE Cadets Program

- College & career going culture
- Increased capacity for District
- Leverage youth leadership
- Top tier college enrollment
- More students taking action
- Create new energy & buzz





“I accomplish a lot more using BRACE Cadets, than I do on my own.” *BRACE Advisor*



IMPACT Of BRACE Cadets

- Top tier college bound seniors
- FAFSA, Bright Futures, Scholarships
- Naviance
- College readiness
- Career readiness

Contact us:

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- Follow us: @bracecadets

