2019 Massachusetts College Application Celebration!

November 18th – 22nd or November 25th – 29th

***Your High School is invited to participate in the 8th Annual Massachusetts College Application Celebration!***

***Massachusetts College Application Celebration!*** (MCAC) encourages students to take a significant step toward college by providing assistance and building excitement for the college application process. Sponsored by **GEAR UP Massachusetts** (mass.edu/gearup), administered through the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education*,* the goal is to give every graduating senior the opportunity to complete at least one application by the conclusion of the week-long event. Hosting a College Application Celebration event builds a college-going culture and allows your high school the opportunity to ensure all seniors strongly consider pursuing a postsecondary education.

***WHAT IS THE MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE APPLICATION CELEBRATION?***

MCAC is part of the American College Application Campaign (<http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/American-College-Application-Campaign.aspx>), initiative sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE) with the goal of providing every graduating high school senior the opportunity to apply to college. Special focus is placed on assisting students who would be the first in their families to attend college, low-income students, and students who may have not otherwise seriously considered applying to college.

***Why one week dedicated to completing college applications?*** The application process can be daunting, even for students surrounded by a support system of caring adults, and often students cannot afford the application fee. Too often, high school seniors begin the college application process and get stuck or simply procrastinate on completing the requirements, resulting in the application never being completed or submitted. MCAC is designed to provide the guidance and support needed by students in addition to harnessing the positive peer pressure of a week of events culminating in the submission of a completed college application. Host sites will select either week (Nov. 18th – 22nd or 25th – 29th) that best fits their schedule (\**if another week or set of days works better for your school, we are flexible*\*)!

**HOW DID COLLEGE APPLICATION CAMPAIGN/CELEBRATION BEGIN?**

It began in North Carolina as College Application Day at a single high school in 2005 as a pilot effort of the GEAR UP program. Since then, many others, including Massachusetts, have joined the efforts. Activities now occur in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We piloted this program in 2012 at Lowell high school in Lowell, MA and 225 applications were completed. In 2018 we hosted 31 MCAC events throughout the Commonwealth where over 8,000 applications were completed by 3,612 students. Over 2,900 students were offered on the spot acceptances and over $16.5 million in scholarships! Every year we are looking to continue expanding the program outside of our GEAR UP high schools.

\*Check out more info on our website: <http://www.mass.edu/gearup/events/mcac.asp> & <http://www.mass.edu/gearup/videos/mcac.asp>

2019 Massachusetts College Application Celebration!

**HOST SITE EXPECTATIONS**

Massachusetts public high schools interested in hosting a MCAC event will be required to set aside time, space and access to computer labs **during the school day** for graduating seniors to complete **at least** one application for any university, community college or trade school that they are qualified for and interested in applying to. Assistance and encouragement for students and their parents will be provided by high school, college admissions representatives, financial aid professionals and corporate volunteers from the community. Schools must commit to tracking student progress (computer based data systems such as Naviance, MEFA Pathways, Excel, etc. are strongly encouraged) on completed college applications and reporting this data to the MCAC administrative team upon completion of the event. Additionally, host sites will spend the weeks leading up to MCAC helping students identify the right institutional fit, drafting essays, and securing all information needed to complete their applications during the event. The MCAC committee will provide a resource manual for all host sites to assist with the organization of the event, site coordinator training webinars, and provide assistance with volunteer recruitment.

**If you are interested in becoming a Massachusetts College Application Celebration host site, please complete, sign and email/send in the application form on page 3 (see below) by Friday, June 28th, 2019** (for best chance for college volunteers) – all others are due by **Friday, September 13th.** **Host sites will be notified within 2 weeks after application is submitted (resource manual will also be made available at that time).** Once you are selected as a Host Site, more information will be made available regarding Site Coordinator trainings, implementation and volunteer recruitment. On behalf of the 2019 MCAC committee, thank you for your consideration.

**2018 MCAC TIMELINE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date:** | **2019 MCAC Activity:** |
| **June 28th or September 13th** | Signed 2019 MCAC application deadline due at GEAR UP Mass. office by 5 pm |
| **July 31st** | Colleges early sign up deadline |
| **September 25th** | New Site Coordinator Training Conference call - required participation for new host sites to call (veteran sites may be asked to participate to discuss best practices) |
| **October 15th** | Colleges sign up regular deadline |
| **Nov. 18th – 22nd or 25th – 29th** | 2019 MCAC events held at Host sites |

**Massachusetts College Application Celebration 2019**

***Host Site Application: (due by June 28, 2019 for early action or Sept. 13th for all others)***

**High School Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Best week for event (circle): Nov. 18-22 Nov. 25-29**

**Other (please specify)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MCAC Host Site Contact (the person who wants to be contacted regarding the event):**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of guidance counselors at your school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do you use a database to track college applications? Yes No If so, please indicate which system is in use: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Below, list all College Access programs/partners that you will collaborate with (ex: GEAR UP, Talent Search)

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Data should be provided based on current ESE data***[*http://profiles.doe.mass.edu*](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu)

Anticipated size of 2020 graduating senior class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
2019 Graduation Rate (reported previous year’s grads): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2019 Anticipated College Enrollment Rate (please site source of data): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I understand as a host site, we will need to provide a location with computers and internet

access during school hours for our students to participate in MCAC.

I understand that as a host site, our guidance staff will need to participate in trainings sponsored

by GEAR UP Massachusetts program staff members as outlined in this agreement.

I understand I will be required to recruit enough volunteers to assist with students during the

designated application times.

 I understand our school will need to track and share specific aggregate data according to procedures established by the MCAC committee.

**Signature of school HS Principal:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of School Guidance Director:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of GEAR UP Mass. Regional Director:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Return completed form by email (preferred), fax or mail to:**  
GEAR UP Massachusetts  
Attn: Krista Callinan, GEAR UP Scholarship & School Initiatives Coordinator  
75 Pleasant St. 3rd Floor

Malden, MA 02148

Phone: (617) 391-6074/Fax: (617) 727-0667 or scan and email to [kcallinan@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:kcallinan@dhe.mass.edu)