



Dear High School Counselors,

We are very excited to tell you about a new collaboration that we believe will support you in your work and help your students in their college preparation and college applications.

We represent the newly formed Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success, a diverse group of more than 80 public and private colleges and universities around the country that have come together with the goal of improving the college admission application process for all students. The Coalition is in the process of developing new college planning and application tools that will allow students to begin planning for college much earlier in high school. The platform tools, which will include a digital portfolio, a collaboration platform, and an application portal, seek to recast the college admission process as a natural culmination of high school rather than a single senior-year transaction.

We believe this new set of tools will help you and your students to more effectively navigate the college admission process, and we do not intend that it will create extra work for you or your students. We are designing tools that are easy to navigate and are working to align them with your existing administrative processes.

Input from high school counselors will be critical to making this effort a success. We have already formed the Coalition Counselor Community, comprising 46 secondary school and CBO counselors representing 24 public schools, 19 private schools, and 3 community-based organizations. The Coalition Counselor Community will help us to test and improve the new tools and advise us on ways to strengthen these tools to better serve the needs of students and counselors. tools to better serve the needs of students and counselors.

Once we have sufficient feedback from counselors and others involved in our pilot efforts, we will share more details in a public announcement later this year. The online portfolio of college planning tools will be open to high school students starting in January 2016. Many Coalition schools will accept applications through the portal in the summer of 2016, while others are still deciding when and how to use the application feature of the new system.



---

More details can be found in on our website at [coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org) and in our announcement.

We look forward to collaborating with you!

Signed,

**The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success Board of Directors**

*Seth Allen, Pomona College*

*Kristine Dillon, Consortium on Financing Higher Education*

*Zina Evans, University of Florida*

*Tim Galbreath, Clemson University*

*Barbara Gill, University of Maryland*

*John Latting, Emory University*

*Lee Melvin, University at Buffalo*

*James Nondorf, University of Chicago*

*Jeremiah Quinlan, Yale University*

*Audrey Smith, Smith College*

*Paul Thiboutot, Carleton College*

