

“It takes a village to raise a child,” the old proverb says. And getting a child to college takes just that—everyone.

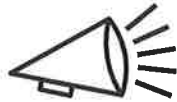
The Village is the families, the educators, the counselors, the youth workers, and the other community members within and beyond our schools—everybody who comprise the potential support system in a student’s life.

The Village is the external force that reflects or rejects what students think about themselves and their prospects for college and life well beyond it.

At its best, the Village reminds students that college is a crucial and collective venture; one that they do not have to navigate alone.

The Parent

Paul



*“I see my kids being responsible adults
that are really successful because as a
parent, I want them to go beyond me.”*

I have five kids total, but I have two left in high school—a senior and a junior. They are trying to become college and career ready. They are also in band. They are involved in their church and their community. They are exceptional girls that I'm proud of.

I grew up here. There has definitely been more resources for my kids than when I was in high school. I graduated from here in '91. There's way more. There's so many ways they can go for their education. I didn't hear about GEAR UP when I was in high school. And there seems more of a push for them to get ready.

I went to Eastern Kentucky University for two years. I was undeclared, though I did have help because I was in the Upward Bound program. I was in the first year of that, and they kinda helped me through the process of what I needed to do to get to college. When I grew up, I never had anybody that ever went to college. I was the first to go to college. I have five other siblings, and none of them ended up going to college.

My daughters weren't really kids that I had to discipline much at all. They always pretty much listened. They had goals, and they wanted to impress their teachers. They didn't really want to get in trouble or anything like that. They would want to just stay in their books and study.

When they took the ACT test last Saturday, they told me that they felt they did well this time compared to the last time. They are at around a twenty-two or twenty-three. I don't know if they weren't feeling well last time they took it, or they just didn't do too well. They did say something, that they went to a room at school and they had some prep. They didn't really explain too much more about it. A lot of times, I'm not home, and they'll tell my wife. They're independent.

Basically, my kids know the cost of college. Well, we both do. If they kept their grades up, they would get their scholarships. They're trying to get their grades up for scholarships. Whatever we can help with, we'll help with. I feel like they're still in the process of completing the FAFSA. Is that what it's called? I don't know—it was just recently they started to fill it out. You know we give them the information they need to send to, but as with everything, it's stressful. You do what you gotta do.

Schools should give us more information to read through, any information that would help us make a smoother transition with our kids to college. I can't really find any other way. I haven't really talked to any other people to make it a smoother transition for the paperwork so they can get their financial needs taken care of. I mean, they have counselors at the school.

College is for them to get their education and try to find a job that they can do that they're going to appreciate. You're not just going for nothing. You're going for something, so you can advance that career that you're leaning towards and open up doors that would make it harder if you didn't go to college.

I see my kids being responsible adults that are really successful because as a parent, I want them to go beyond me. I really believe they're going to be responsible. They could be world changers. I really believe it.

COLLEGE TRIPWIRES

READY OR NOT

Stories from the Students Behind the Statistics



STUDENT VOICE TEAM

PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

With a Foreword from

Dr. Vicki Phillips

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