Many students don’t know how to begin navigating the waters to college. Although those waters start as a shallow stream, they build to raging rapids during senior year, capsizing many students.

This series of hour-long student/parent sessions is designed to support the student in both high school courses and college planning to ensure success and minimize fear.

Presenters:
Dr. Scott McClanahan is the Director of Secondary Advanced Academic Services for Waco ISD.
Ms. Ashlee Duncan is the Assistant Director of Advanced Academic Services for Waco ISD.
Dr. Robin McDurham is the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education for Waco ISD.
Ms. Londa Carriou is the High School Pathways Coordinator for McLennan Community College.
Ms. Shawntee Reed is the College and Career Readiness counselor for Waco High School.
Ms. Brittany Davis is the Academic Advisor for University High School.
Robin Wilson is the Director of AVID for Waco ISD.
Ms. Destiny Fernandez, Ms. Renee Jacinto, and Mr. Cory Gropp are coordinators for Project Link.

Student/Parent Sessions designed to take the mystery out of the transition to Post-Secondary School

Sponsored by the Waco ISD Department of Advanced Academics in cooperation with Waco High School, University High School, McLennan Community College and Project Link
Session 1: Preparing for College Rigor: Success in Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses
This session will begin with general information about course expectations regarding time, homework planning, student-parent contracts, grading, and support. The meeting will then break out into question and answer sessions for students and parents separately to address the roles of each in achieving success.

Target audience: All high school students and their parents.
Date: September 13, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: UHS, 3201 S. New Road, Auditorium
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Dan Pfleging (UHS), Kathryn Hopkins (WH), Shawntee Reed (WH), and Brittany Davis (UHS).

MCC College and Career Night
Date: September 20, 2016
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Location: Community Services Building Conference Center
MCC staff will discuss the new Federal prior-prior year FAFSA policy and other financial aid topics. Various MCC departments will provide information and answer questions. A computer lab open for students to complete Apply Texas.

Session 2: College Essay Workshop Wednesday #1
This session will assist students in getting started on their college application essays, developing ideas and strategies for targeting those schools in which they are most interested.

Target audience: Seniors. (This is a student-only session)
Date: September 14, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:30pm
Location: Heart of Texas Goodwill, 1700 S. New Rd.
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Shawntee Reed (WH), and Brittany Davis (UHS).

Session 3: How do I get into college—and how do I pick one, for that matter?
This session will focus on the steps required for students to transition from high school to post-secondary education. Students will consider their programs of interests and areas in which they would like to study, learn about the application process and deadlines as well as other materials that will have to be requested and collected to make the process seamless.

Target audience: Juniors, Seniors and their parents.
Date: September 27, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy, 2401 JJ Flewelling Blvd.
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Shawntee Reed (WH), Brittany Davis (UHS), and Robin Wilson (AVID).

Session 4: Navigating the world of college testing OR Sorry, I Got My PSAT, ACT, NMSQT, STAAR, SAT, and TSI Confused.
This session will focus on the various assessments required during sophomore, junior and senior years, their various purposes, the advantages of doing well on each, the support offered for each test, and calendars of when to sign up and where.

Target audience: Juniors, Seniors and their parents.
Date: October 4, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: Greater Waco Advanced Health Care Academy, 7200 Viking Drive, Cafeteria
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Shawntee Reed (WH), Brittany Davis (UHS), and Robin Wilson (AVID).

Session 5: How do I pay for college? The world of financial aid, grants, and scholarships.
This session will focus on paying for college through federal aid and scholarships. The meeting with then break out to allow students to complete their Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FASFA) or their Texas Application for Student Aid (TAFSA). Information will also be provided about other scholarship opportunities.

Target audience: Juniors & Seniors and their parents.
Date: October 11, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: UHS, 3201 S. New Road, Auditorium
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Robbie Stabeno (MAC Foundation), Shawntee Reed (WH), Brittany Davis (UHS) and Robin Wilson (AVID).

Session 6: College Essay Workshop Wednesday #2
Students will meet again to discuss and refine their college essays for the fall application deadlines.

Target Audience: Seniors. (This is a student-only session)
Date: October 12, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: Heart of Texas Goodwill, 1700 S. New Rd.
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Shawntee Reed (WH), and Brittany Davis (UHS).

Session 7: Dual Credit? What is Dual Credit? Is that the same as ACCELERATE? and Why would I want to do that?
This session will explain dual credit—what it is, why it is beneficial, how to enroll, and key deadlines to ensure that students have the opportunity to participate. Summer dual credit versus regular year dual credit will be discussed. The ACCELERATE Early Degree program will also be explained in preparation for the December 1 opening of the application window.

Target audience: 8th graders, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and their parents.
Date: November 29, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: WHS, 2020 N 42nd St., Performing Arts Center
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Londa Carriaveu (MCC), Donna McKethan (WISD CTE), Shawntee Reed (WH), Robin Wilson (AVID) and Brittany Davis (UHS).

Session 8: What I learned in high school: How NOT to forget the lessons you learned.
This session will focus on reminding students about the most valuable lessons learned during high school so that they may apply that learning to the college environment, including establishing a good study plan, staying active on campus, monitoring and maintaining good grades, prioritizing, and building solid relationships with other students.

Target audience: Seniors and their parents.
Date: January 3, 2016
Time: 6:15-7:15pm
Location: UHS, 3201 S. New Road, Auditorium
Speakers: Scott McClanahan, Shawntee Reed (WH), Robin Wilson (AVID), Brittany Davis (UHS), and Jesus Carrera, 2016 UHS Valedictorian.

Light refreshments served prior to each session.