

COACHING FOR COLLEGE e-Tip Sheet for parents who have a student preparing for college

March **INVOKE, PROVOKE, EVOKE**

Last year I had a chance to experience the wonder and exotic entertainment of Cirque Du Soleil. After a captivating performance, I browsed the gift shop and discovered a t-shirt I had to purchase. The front showed a colorful collage that reflects what the show is about, but I was especially drawn to the words on back. The 3 simple words were Invoke, Provoke, and Evoke.

What do these words have to do with coaching for college? This time of the year, summer, is all about go, go, go! We've waited for the sizzling heat of summer for days at the beach, hot games of tennis or golf, working up a sweat mowing the lawn or running to stay in shape. We love to be outside for any reason to embrace the season of hot sun, humidity and thunderstorms. Summer is really an exciting season that heightens our senses. The earth is alive and we want to be out there to experience it.

Naturally as a parent, if you have a high school student, they are probably busy with a summer job, sports, camp, travel or enrichment activities. All of these things are worth noting on their high school resume, *something I recommend and help students create for their future college applications*. Needless to say, the thought of going online to do college exploration or discuss college selection is a low priority for most students this time of the year. Yet, this is when they have a more flexible schedule and feel a sense of freedom to dream, explore, and think "out of the box" of the high school schedule. It's a season of creating possibilities; summer is dream time, time to create!

That brings me to the three words on my t-shirt... **INVOKE, PROVOKE, EVOKE** to suggest a perspective on summer and the task of college preparation and planning.

Invoke - College planning and preparation can be a long grind, busy work and hours of research and preparation. So, **invoke** their imagination...and see what they can conjure up with their exploration! It's their future! Encourage your son or daughter to embrace the aliveness of summer, to play in the sandbox or playground of college planning. Just like being at the park as a child, move around and experience all the playground equipment. Feel free to go online and explore college websites and see what they offer...freshman orientation, the academic plan, college majors, resident halls, study abroad, athletic involvement, etc. What is important to you? Then there are the nuts and bolts of getting admitted, tuition, campus size, and location. Does this campus feel or look like a place you could see yourself at for four years?

Feel your teen could use a jumpstart for the college planning process? Perhaps as the parent, you realize you could use a tune-up on your career path as well or want to prepare to become an *Empty Nexter*®. Contact Beckon Call and let's talk!

Coaching for College e-Tip Sheet© is written by Barbara Wulf. Send questions, comments, and article ideas to: bwulf@beckoncall-coach.com or call 920-725-2930.

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Provoke - This is more about encouraging them to take risks to find out more about what they want to do or be in the world. After all, we spend a lot of time at work, why not do something you like or love. So arouse their spirit of curiosity about what college life is about.

I'm convinced that some in life find out early what their calling is and others hear a whisper or get a glimpse but find it indiscernible or fuzzy. The latter are the ones who have to continue on a journey to continue to focus, listen, experience, refocus, and eventually find the clarity they are searching for. As Albert Einstein once said, "if not that I'm so much smarter than everyone else, it's just that I stay with a problem longer." Stay engaged in the process as the provoking question of "what is IT" longs for an answer or answers.

Evoke - the emotions of your high school student. This is their life. What do they want it to look like? When I coach high school students, I help them get in touch with who they are on the inside, the self-identity, the calling forth. For years, most have been trying to fit in or stand out with the right athletic shoes, fashion, hairstyle, cell phone, etc. Now, they are approaching the place where they become independent of their family, high school and hometown. Selecting a college or major is all about "YOU" and not their high school student body or peer group.

Parents, who is the young adult looking at you? What a ride parenthood offers us as we see our sons and daughters move from diapers to a diploma! **INVOKE, PROVOKE, EVOKE**...words that invite us to create the life we want. College Planning is a good place to launch the dream, the vision, the lifestyle we desire in adulthood and workplace!

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