



Pathways to Success: Incline High School's College & Career Programs Empower Students for the Future

Incline High School (IHS) offers a comprehensive range of college and career support programs, designed to prepare students for a variety of post-secondary paths. With support from the Incline Education Fund (IEF) and the Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation, these initiatives provide targeted resources, mentoring, and practical skills to guide students, whether they're pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or exploring technical training.

For students aiming for college, IHS offers extensive support through workshops, individual counseling, and the EdPlanIt Boot Camp. This boot camp, a week-long summer program funded by the Duffield Foundation, takes place before senior year. During the camp, students work on essential application components, including identifying schools, understanding FAFSA, and crafting personal essays. At the end, they receive feedback on their essays from college admissions representatives, giving them valuable insights to strengthen their applications.

Year-round support is also available through IEF funding for the EdPlanIt college counselor to provide personalized guidance to seniors. Students explore a range of options from four-year universities, community colleges, and vocational programs, ensuring they have the resources to make informed decisions about their futures. Plans are to extend the programming to all students.

IEF also funds the Hispanic Outreach–Personalized Approach (HOPA) and the First-Generation College Advisory Scholarship programs. Led by Ana Porras and Lourdes Avenier, the HOPA program offers one-on-one mentoring from local community members to first-generation college students, helping them navigate applications and the transition to higher education. The College Advisory & Scholarship program offers dedicated,

in-depth guidance to selected, highly motivated first-generation students, helping them identify and apply to their dream schools and secure scholarships and grants to support their education.

Recognizing that college isn't the only path, IHS also offers the Personalized Learning Academy (PLA) of which there are currently two cohorts led by teachers, DJ Jackson and Adam Shoda and funded by the Duffield Foundation. This program allows students to explore careers through hands-on internships in fields like engineering, healthcare, and business, where they can earn industry certifications and build practical skills. These internships prepare students for immediate employment after graduation and provide real-world experience in their areas of interest.

This fall, IEF, EdPlanIt and IHS sponsored the STORY College Fair, which brought representatives from 26 renowned universities to Incline Village. Students and families had the opportunity to learn about various colleges, ask questions, and establish connections with admissions counselors, helping them make well-informed decisions. This event also raised Incline High School's profile at those universities.

Incline High School's college and career support programs go beyond conventional counseling by integrating academic guidance, community partnerships, and experiential learning. With the support of Incline Education Fund, these initiatives are empowering students to take ownership of their future and succeed in their chosen paths. Through a combination of strategic planning, mentorship, and skill-building, IHS provides a supportive environment that meets the unique needs of each student, fostering confidence and readiness for life beyond high school.