



Evidence Document

for Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation

Document Title: Razor COACH Program

Office of Origin: College of Education and Health Professions

Document Summary:

The Razor COACH Program aims to Create Opportunities for Arkansas's Career Hopes. The program motivates and supports NWA high school students to have easier access to career and educational opportunities beyond high school.

RAZOR C.O.A.C.H. PROGRAM

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The Razor C.O.A.C.H. program places career coaches in 15 Northwest Arkansas high schools. It is organized and funded through a partnership between the Walton Family Foundation, the University of Arkansas' College of Education and Health Professions, the Northwest Arkansas Council and the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative.

The Razor C.O.A.C.H. program aims to Create Opportunities for Arkansas's Career Hopes. The mission of the Razor COACH program is to motivate and support NWA students in grades 10-12, in order to increase their knowledge of and access to career and educational opportunities beyond high school. Razor C.O.A.C.H. interventions are focused on facilitating development of pro-academic behaviors, increasing self-awareness, exploring career and/or college options, and establishing future goals. All interventions are aimed to increase graduation rates, increase post-secondary enrollment, and improve the quality of the NWA workforce.

In the program's two years of operation it has served over 700 students and is currently partnering with Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Fayetteville, Gentry, Greenland, Lincoln, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Rogers-Heritage, Springdale, Springdale Har-Ber, Siloam Springs, and West Fork high schools.

The career coaches guide high school students and their families in pursuing a diploma and the students' best opportunities after graduation. The career coaches will be selected from graduate students enrolled in the counselor education master's or doctoral programs in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas. The coaches will work one on one with students on a weekly basis to discover interest and set goals. Students will engage in a number of activities including preparing for and enrolling to take the ACT or SAT, exploring careers and job shadowing opportunities, exploring and applying to colleges, learning about financial aid and completing FAFSA forms, and academic skill building. These activities will be specific to each student and guided by their own interest and goals.

Razor C.O.A.C.H. believes:

- That there are skills students can engage in to help them succeed in school and life.
- That developing strong relationships between students and a coach will help students succeed.
- That there is information and resources that will help students overcome barriers in their pursuit of education, careers and desired lifestyle.
- That students have the right to pursue their interests and dreams, both educational and professional.
- That there is more than one path after high school that students can pursue to achieve their goals.

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