

## Spring Senior Parent Night Panel Questions

### 1. Preparing for college

- In what type of summer college orientation did your child participate?
- How did your child go about choosing a college? What was most helpful in making the final decision?
- How can I help my child think about a career?
- What can my child do outside the classroom to prepare for college?
- What are your thoughts, or suggestions, for the “drop-off” day? What “do’s and don’ts” do you have?

### 2. College expenses

- What are the realistic expectations for college freshman expenses? Were there any surprises?
- How do I get my child involved in paying for college?
- Did you establish “who-would-pay-for-what” in advance?
- Do you have any special hints on housing issues?
- What advice do you have regarding phone calls/bills?
- Do you have any suggestions how to keep the cost of college down?
- Who can help my child budget their expenses while in college?

### 3. Financial aid

- Do you have any tips for the financial aid application process?
- Did you have to negotiate your “financial aid package?”
- What about scholarships?
- What happens to my child's financial aid award if they receive additional outside assistance?
- How do I compare financial aid packages from different colleges?
- Who can I turn to for more information? Are there any good resources you can recommend?

### 4. Transition period

- What can I do to move my child successfully from high school to college?
- What do you think were the key emotional issues for you as a parent during the college transition period?
- What were the key issues for your student (emotional or otherwise)?
- What are your thoughts and/or recommendations on the number of times for “coming home” during the first and second semesters?
- What suggestions and/or thoughts about the first holiday home and the summer after the freshman year do you have? What are some of the main issues — and solutions?
- Did your student work during the first year? What advice do you have on that topic?
- For parents with “in-town” and “in-house” freshmen: What are the unique issues about having your college student in town/in the house? What issues were associated with your child during the time when many peers were leaving town in August? What are your top three suggestions for parents who have children going to college in town?
- What, if any, were issues that came up due to your student's dating relationships?

### 5. General

What last words of wisdom would you share with these parents of seniors on the brink of high school graduation?