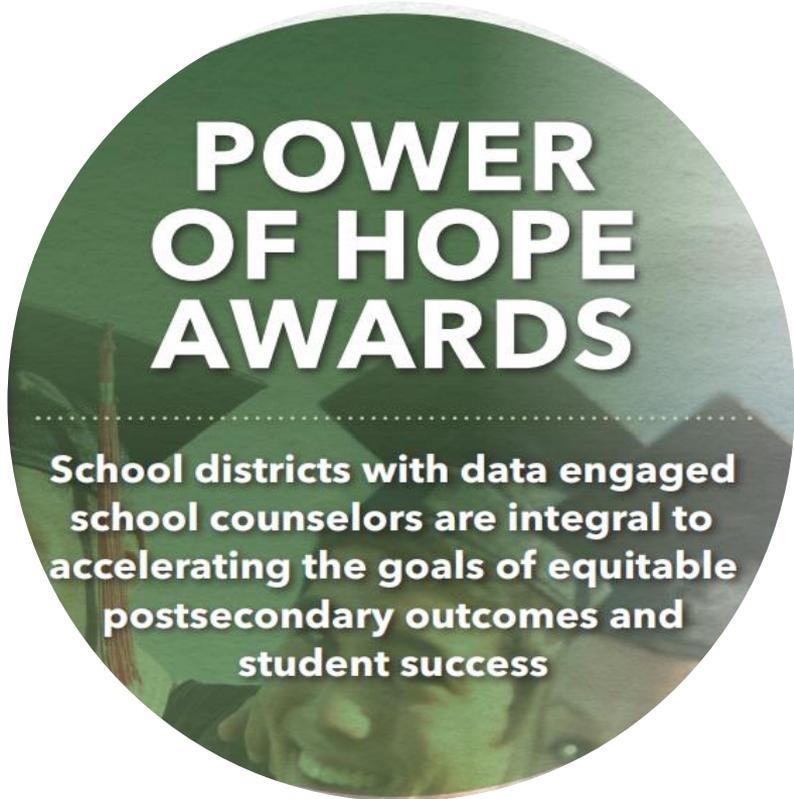


## **INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR**

**Thursday, October 15, 2020  
12:00 PM CST**

**Presenters:** Joyce Brown, Greg Darnieder, Stephanie Sprow-Owens



# **POWER OF HOPE AWARDS**

**School districts with data engaged  
school counselors are integral to  
accelerating the goals of equitable  
postsecondary outcomes and  
student success**

# Webinar Platform

- Please mute your phone until Q & A section.
- If you have questions during the webinar you can enter them in the chat box (please find chat box at the bottom of your screen).
- You can raise your hand (raise hand function is at the bottom on your screen).

# AGENDA

1. Background Information
2. Overview - Power Of Hope Award
3. Review Application Components

# National Postsecondary Strategy Institute



National Postsecondary  
Strategy Institute



Greg Darnieder



Joyce Brown



Kelly Sparks



## NPSI Partners

### Who We Are:

The National Postsecondary Strategy Institute (NPSI) supports districts to solve problems of practice through devising strategies and interventions that close attainment gaps across race and income, around a framework of leadership, a data strategy and **school counselor engagement**.

# ABOUT NPSI

The National Postsecondary Strategy Institute (NPSI) supports districts to solve problems of practice through devising strategies and interventions that close attainment gaps across race and income, around a framework of **leadership, a data strategy and school counselor engagement.**

This model is rooted in NPSI's leadership team's work as founders of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) postsecondary success strategy from 2003 to 2009 which has led to improved postsecondary outcomes for CPS students over a 12-year period: college enrollment increased from 43% to 68% and BA degree completion went from 6% of entering high school freshmen to over 20%.

In our first two years of launching, NPSI has engaged over 150 school districts of all sizes, and many have reported significant increases in postsecondary success measures after implementing NPSI strategies.

# OUR REACH HIGHER PARTNERS

## Stephanie Sprow-Owens

*In January 2019, the Common App united with Reach Higher, the college access and success campaign started by former First Lady Michelle Obama during her time at the White House. Its core programming, includes Better Make Room, UpNext, College Signing Day, Beating the Odds, school and school counselor support.*



# THE POWER OF HOPE AWARD ADVANCING THE REACH HIGHER VISION STRENGTHENING SCHOOL COUNSELING AND COLLEGE ADVISING



**In 2015 Former First Lady  
Launched REACH HIGHER**

1. Exposing students to **college and career** opportunities
2. Understanding **financial aid** eligibility that can make college affordability a reality
3. Encouraging **academic planning** and summer learning opportunities
4. Supporting **high school counselors** who can help more kids get into college



- In an emotional address that marked her [final official remarks as first lady, Michelle Obama praised the nation's school counselors on Friday](#) as education "heroes" who help legions of young people find their way from uncertainty to prosperous, confident futures.
- Flanked by the counselors of the year from every state at a White House ceremony, the first lady praised them for reaching into their own pockets to help students make ends meet, for sticking with students "in their darkest moments, when they're anxious and afraid... [showing] them that they have something to offer," no matter who they are.

# NPSI and REACH HIGHER

**The Power of Hope Awards advances the work of NPSI and Reach Higher, supporting the vision that all students can achieve educational and career goals.**

- **NPSI Belief** – School districts are the unit of change to ensure viable postsecondary pathways for all students.
- **The Power of Hope Award** will recognize multiple school districts across the country and bring national of school districts that engage school counselors as leaders and provide data to measure and improve student outcomes.

# Acknowledging The Vision Of HOPE

“the belief that something better is always possible if you’re willing to work for it and fight for it, that we strive to instill in all children, especially across districts with large percentages of low-income minority students.”

**School counselors** are integral to accelerating this goal—serving as key stakeholders to facilitate and implement proven school district academic and career pathway strategies. Utilizing data to inform the strategic use of resources and personnel is central to overall

# THE POWER OF HOPE AWARD

*The POWER OF HOPE award is built on the belief that the nation's economic growth is dependent upon continuing to significantly increase the percentages of low income and predominantly minority students' successfully completing postsecondary pathways.*

The Power of Hope Award will **honor districts with data engaged school counselors that are integral to accelerating the goals of equitable postsecondary outcomes and student success with at least a 50% FRL population.**

# SUPPORT SCHOOL COUNSELORS

*To accelerate the goal of equitable postsecondary pathways for all students, school counselors must serve as key stakeholders to facilitate and implement proven school district academic and career pathway strategies, utilizing data to inform the strategic use of resources and personnel.*

**“Counselors are the ones who----**Track students down who don’t think they’re college material, or who don’t think they can afford it, and they shake them up and they tell them, You have what it takes, I believe in you, now fill out those FAFSA forms and sign up for those AP classes, get started on those college essays.”

-Former First Lady – Michelle Obama

# SECTION 2

## OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

**Submit Questions In The Chat Box**

# APPLICATION GUIDELINES

## Application Period

October 5 – December 15

## Winners Announced:

Districts and their counselors will be announced at the National Postsecondary Strategy Institute (NPSI) national virtual conference, March 1-5, 2021.

All applications must be submitted electronically, by 11:59 p.m. CST on December 15, 2020.

## Who should apply:

School districts across the country with at least **50% FRL populations and where school counselors use research-based data elements and implement college and career readiness programs**, are encouraged to apply for the Power of Hope Award. Multiple districts will be recognized. The application period opens **October 5, 2020 and extends to December 15, 2020**.

1. District leadership can identify school counselors who are engaged as postsecondary advising leaders.
2. School counselors can submit applications in collaboration with district leadership.

# ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

## Who Should Apply?

1. School districts must have a minimum of 50% Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students.
2. Have school counselors that use research-based data elements to lead and implement FAFSA completion initiatives and other grades 6–12 college and career readiness programs.
3. Demonstrate evidence that a college/career organizational structure has been or is in the process of being established.
4. Submit evidence of significant increases in FAFSA completion rates attained and maintained for two of the past three school years.
5. Submit evidence of significant progress in at least two of the 20 research-based college and career metrics recognized by NPSI. (If other college/career metrics have been established by the state within which the district resides, a waiver to substitute such criteria will be considered.)
6. Submit evidence that school counselors are integral to the postsecondary advising process in the district.
7. Schools classified as rural or located on a Native American reservations are highly encouraged to apply.

# HOW DO I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

1. All applications must be submitted electronically through the application form [here](#).
2. If needed, the direct link to the application form <https://npsi.wufoo.com/forms/zyfky4q0ux36zv/>
3. The metric sheet can be found at the end of the application.
4. The Power of Hope application will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.
5. Please prepare your electronic submission by securing the following information prior to completing the application.
6. You will be unable to save answers.

# WHAT INFORMATION DO WE NEED TO HAVE READY PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM?

**The online application form is comprised of four parts.**

The following slides will provide an overview of the application you should have ready prior to submitting the online application form.

The application must be completed in one session, so plan to prepare your information for submission prior to completing the form.

# HOW TO APPLY - STEP 1

## **PART 1: DISTRICT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- School district name
- School district mailing address
- Contact person (name, email, phone)
- Student Population Size
- Number of Seniors
- Percent of Students Qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch
- Number of Elementary School Counselors
- Number of Middle School Counselors
- Number of High School Counselors

# HOW TO APPLY - STEP 2A

## **PART 2: POSTSECONDARY MEASUREMENT - Section A – FAFSA Completion**

Please Submit FAFSA completion data for the following reporting years.

- 2018 Number of Seniors
- 2018 FAFSA Completion Rate
- 2018 Data source used to verify FAFSA results
  
- 2019 Number of Seniors
- 2019 FAFSA Completion Rate
- 2019 Data source used to verify FAFSA results
  
- 2020 Number of Seniors
- 2020 FAFSA Completion Rate
- 2020 Data source used to verify FAFSA results

# HOW TO APPLY – STEP 2B

## Section B – Additional Data Indicators

Using the two most recent years for which data has been reported, please report indicators that have resulted in significant increases over the past two years.

### Step 1

- Select two additional data indicators from the following list or provide additional metrics being measured by your state.

# NPSI DATA INDICATORS

## Step 2 – Data Indicator 1

Complete the following information for Indicator 1:

1. Description
2. Reporting Year
3. Percentage/Rate
4. Increased from previous year
5. Data Source

## Step 2 – Data Indicator 2

Complete the following information for Indicator 2:

1. Description
2. Reporting Year
3. Percentage/Rate
4. Increased from previous year
5. Data Source

# PART 3: COUNSELING NARRATIVE

1. Briefly describe **postsecondary strategies implemented** (or in the process of being developed) at each grade level. (250 Words).
2. Briefly describe how school counselors were engaged in increasing the FAFSA and two other data indicators from the NPSI Aligned Metrics list. (250 Words)
3. List five specific college and career activities and practices led by school counselors during the 2019-2020 school year that have been central to the outcomes you have attained in positioning students for success in college, the workforce, or the armed services? (50 Words Per Activity)

## **(Optional Response – Respond Only If Applicable)**

4. Please list collaborative partnerships (higher education institutions, college access organizations, non-profits and businesses) that have supported school counselor postsecondary implementation activities.

# PART 4: ADDITIONAL NPSI ALIGNED METRICS

Refer to the NPSI ALIGNED METRICS and identify any additional metrics being used within your district supporting postsecondary attainment goals.

- Attendance rates
- On-track to graduation indicators (middle grades and high school)
- 9th graders passing algebra
- % of students participating in college visits
- % of students enrolling and earning college credit in dual enrollment courses
- % of students demonstrating AP potential
- % of students participating in employment, internships, and job shadows
- Rigorous course enrollment (Honors, AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, Cambridge)
- ACT/SAT registration completions
- College applications completed per senior

- FAFSA completion rates
- High school graduation rates
- College enrollment immediately following high school
- College remediation rates College persistence College completion
- Postsecondary participation rates (2-year college, 4-year college, postsecondary certificates)
- Postsecondary completion rates
- Employment rates and earnings
- Percentage of counselors earning advanced degrees

# THE NPSI CONFERENCE

Click [Here](#) To Sign Up For Information

A graphic with a dark, starry background. On the left, the words "SAVE THE DATE" are written in large, bold, red capital letters. To the right, the NPSI logo (a square with "NP" in red and "ST" in green) is followed by the text "National Postsecondary Strategy Institute" in green. Below that, "National Virtual Conference" and "EQUITY at the Practice Level" are written in white. The dates "March 1 - 5, 2021" are in a green box. At the bottom, "NPSI will be virtual this year!" is written in white.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**NP** National Postsecondary  
**ST** Strategy Institute

National Virtual Conference  
EQUITY at the Practice Level

March 1 - 5, 2021

NPSI will be virtual this year!

# Contact Information



**For Additional  
Information And  
Questions Contact:**

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(224) 288-9934**