Alumni Events: Overview of Practices

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1. Overview

Each year, the Alumni Program at each AF high school invests in planning and executing the following events:

* Summer Senior Send-Off BBQ for matriculating college freshmen (August pre-alumni departure)
* Alumni Homecoming for all AF current college students (January)

These events provide an important touch point for the Alumni Counselor, as well as an opportunity to build college-going culture.

2. Goals

We have set reasonable and measurable goals to define the success of the AF Alumni Program, of our matriculation work specifically, which are reflected in the College and Alumni Report Card:

* 100% of alumni will be engaged in the Alumni Program
* 50% of parents or families of alumni will engage in alumni related workshops, events and meetings with the alumni counselor.
* At any point in time, 85% of AFAHS alumni are enrolled in college
* 75% of alumni graduate from college in six years

These are shared network-wide goals that the Alumni Program at each AF high school will work toward. Individual AF high schools may elect to set additional school-specific goals.

3. Key Messages & Mindsets

Every member of the alumni support team understands and brings the following mindsets to our work in providing tiered support to alumni:

* Alumni homecoming is a critical part of the feedback loop for an AF high school community
* All faculty should prioritize attending the “Faculty feedback session” in order to hear about the college experiences of our alumni
* All alumni are welcome at this event but non AF graduates are not
* It is a particularly challenging day for alumni who have struggled in college and have come back to share their story; be supportive
* We hype the alumni events like crazy in order to achieve high levels of attendance.

4. Events

The alumni events that AF high schools conduct are the Summer Senior Send-Off BBQ in August and the Alumni Homecoming in January. Below are generic agendas for these events.

Agenda: Summer Senior Send-Off BBQ

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| **Time:** | **Agenda item:** | **Involved:** |
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**Alumni Homecoming:** Alumni homecoming is an annual event where all AF AHS alumni are invited back for a school day of celebrating the successes and sharing the challenges of college life. We believe:

* Current scholars greatly benefit from hearing about the college successes and challenges from alumni and therefore every scholar should have the opportunity to hear from our alumni via panels or other activities
* Seniors have already heard about alumni successes and challenges and should have a more nuanced activity with the alumni that is much more targeted to the college matriculation process, college academics and campus life
* Alumni and faculty interaction is critical to this day. Specifically it is critical for alumni to complete the feedback loop with faculty by sharing their experiences in some fashion.

Agenda: Alumni Homecoming

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| **Time:** | **Agenda item:** | **Involved:** |
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5. Roles & Responsibilities

The table below illustrates how the alumni counselor will work with others across the school to plan and execute these events:

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| --- | --- |
| **Owner** | Alumni Counselors |
| **Approves** | Network Director of Alumni Programs & Partnerships |
| **Participant(s)** | Alumni Counselors, students, teachers, other school staff, |
| **Informed** | Principal, College Counselor, Network Director of Alumni Programs & Partnerships, Dean of College |
| **Consulted** | Principal, College Counselor, Dean of College |