

# TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE FAIR



## BEFORE YOU GO:

- Make sure you pre-register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JVQFB85>
- Review the list of colleges and universities that will be attending. You can get this from your coordinator or at <https://ibmidatlantic.org/Fair.html>
- Highlight the schools you are most interested in. Do a little research ahead of time so you know the basics about the school.
- Consider the type of school you are looking for. Consider size, location and distance from home. But, be open to new possibilities
- Make a list of questions
- Create an email address that you can use specifically for college and university admissions and scholarships – make it appropriate
- Bring a small notebook, something to write with and a bag to carry what you collect

## DURING THE FAIR

- Pick up a map of where the different schools are located (if not available ahead of time)
- Make sure you are asking questions that are specific – not general information readily available on their website.
- Introduce yourself and where you are from
- Be sure to get the reps name and contact info
- Pick up only what you need – that bag will get very heavy
- Be open to exploring schools that weren't on your original list
- Consider attending one of the special topic seminars offered during the fair. Time and location will be available when you arrive (if not ahead of time)

## AFTER THE FAIR:

- Review your list – have you added or deleted any schools from your initial
- Organize all the materials collected and recycle what you don't need
- Review your notes
- Explore the websites of the schools you are most interested in
- Write thank you notes/emails to those schools you are most interested in
- Plan ahead for some visits or tours

Your trip to the IBMA College Fair is the beginning—not the end—of your college search...make the most of it!

## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

### PRIOR TO THE FAIR:

- Do I want to attend a large, medium, or small school?
- What major do I wish to study?
- Do I want to attend an urban, suburban, or rural school?
- Do I want to attend a two-year, four-year, single-sex, or religiously-affiliated school?
- Do I want to participate in athletics, clubs, fraternities, sororities, or special programs such as study abroad or cooperative work placement?

### DURING THE FAIR:

- How does completing IB courses or the IB Diploma impact admission?
- Are there special considerations for full IB Diploma applicants? Admission, special scholarships, etc.
- Does the school give credit for Theory of Knowledge or the Extended Essay?
- Does the representative have a copy of the school's IB credit policy with them?
- What does the rep like most about their school?
- Engage in a conversation, don't just grab and run. If the rep is busy, listen to what others are discussing and ask your question when the opportunity opens.

If you are a freshman or sophomore attending the Fair for the first time, it's ok to just hang around a table and listen. You will be coming back next year and you will be even better prepared with what type of questions to ask.