



**11th Grade College Prep**

**Fall Semester**

- Career Assessments
- Career Exploration & Research
- Relating Careers to College Majors
- Resume Writing
- Summer Programs

Which topics are you interested in learning more about?

What comes to mind when you hear “college”?

How about “College admissions”?

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**In this October 2021 Issue:**

- 1. On their Way to "Best Fit" College and Fulfilling Career – DDC's Customized College and Career Success Program**
- 2. Class of 2022 Reviews the College and Career Success Program**
- 3. All Things ALUMNI**

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**1. On their Way to "Best Fit" College and Fulfilling Career – DDC's Customized College and Career Success Program**

The College and Career Success program redesigned its 11<sup>th</sup> grade College and Career Portfolio to include every step of the process, from personality/career interest assessments to college comparison worksheet to trackers for internships, scholarships and colleges. This comprehensive and dynamic resource is now a one-stop compendium that takes each student through all activities and items necessary to develop the right transition plan to the “best fit” postsecondary education and career. Designed by DDC Counselor Jessica Yip, this

umbrella portfolio is the latest tool in DDC's systematic approach to increasing college access and success for low-income and first-generation students.

*The "best fit" college matches the student's personal, academic, and financial fit, while the "best fit" career aligns with the student's strengths, values, and skills. This approach puts the student in the center of the equation and increases the chances of long-term success, says Jessica. The portfolio makes it easy for the student to engage in and track all the program activities.*

The portfolio also covers DDC's social emotional learning (SEL) activities led by Kristan Rosenthal, Assistant Director, Healthy Minds and Bodies. *Research shows that well developed socio emotional skills are crucial to a successful college experience, says Kristan. We incorporate SEL competencies such as healthy decision-making across DDC's programming, so that students develop the skills they need to be successful in all areas of their lives.*

Many low-income first-generation youth have limited career awareness and are discouraged from applying to college because the process is unfamiliar and overwhelming for them and their families. Those who do enroll are at higher risk of dropping out in part because they lack role models or peers to navigate the college social environment. They often experience a lower sense of belonging, anxiety about communicating with faculty and peers, and less confidence in their efficacy as learners.

DDC's comprehensive approach to college readiness helps students meet all these challenges. The program:

- builds students' ability to complete the process for all applications, from internship to college to scholarship;
- broadens career awareness and trajectories through career panels, workshops, and internships, enabling students to make informed decisions about their career pursuits;
- addresses the "whole student" through SEL to develop healthy coping mechanisms in college and beyond;
- assigns each student a College Success Mentor – a volunteer college student – who provides guidance and support in the journey to post-secondary education.

*Too often, students choose a college and a career based on the feedback they receive from friends, family and/or the media, says Jessica. By contrast, our programming reflects research-based practices and expands students' professional awareness and competencies so they are well-positioned for their "best fit" career pathways.*

*DDC is unique in the way it integrates SEL in its approach to college readiness, says Kristan. Our classes and workshops offer students the opportunity to practice skills like conflict management, communication, and self-reflection with adults and peers they trust before they encounter challenging situations in the real world.*

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## **2. Class of 2022 Reviews the Career and College Success Program**

### **Ashley M., Class of 2022**

*It is so important for students to figure out their college wish list before they start their senior year. Last year, I was very anxious about the college application. I am the first person in my family to go to college and frankly, I had no clue!*

*DDC Counselors in the College & Career Success program gave me the knowledge I needed and guided me every step of the way to my “best fit” colleges. Without this program I would not have known what to do or what to expect for the future.*

*I recommend this DDC program to every 11<sup>th</sup> grader. Go through all the workshops and college advisement sessions, the DDC Counselors are there to assist you, they look out for you and they give you personalized attention.*

### **Tiana O., Class of 2022**

*I am a first-generation college student so no one in my family knows how to apply to college, let alone pay for it. I had decided that if I could not pay for college, I would not even try to enroll.*

*My DDC Counselor was a huge help. She showed me that there was a lot of financial assistance available out there, and she explored with me so many options for colleges and programs. That really broadened my perspective and gave me opportunities to grow and advance in life. And the College and Career portfolio made it so much easier to keep track of everything and maneuver my way through this complicated process.*

*My DDC mentor also made a big difference. She was familiar with the college process and the pressure that goes with it, she became a friend who was rooting for me.*

*I think that 11th graders should take a maximum number of courses and internships in this program. This is how you understand how rigorous college really is.*

*One last thing: Another reason I go to DDC is because it's such a welcoming community and I absolutely adore being there!*

### **Christopher A., Class of 2022**

*I had no idea how time consuming and complicated the whole college application process*

really was! I worried about paying for college and writing a personal statement. DDC answered all my questions about scholarships and my DDC mentor taught me how to write the perfect college essay.

I found the portfolio very useful. I went through all the activities covered - personality/career interest assessments, college comparison list, etc. – and I am now using it to track college and scholarship applications.

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### **3. All Things ALUMNI**

The Alumni Questionnaire was sent to the Alumni this month. We have received a whopping 210 responses from you! Thank you to those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. Your responses have helped me work on what resources you need to help you succeed in your current endeavors and they have helped me see how YOU can help our current students and other alumni! Please stay tuned for our various opportunities/ events this semester.

If you are still interested in filling out the questionnaire please email me at [yh3254@columbia.edu](mailto:yh3254@columbia.edu). You have until November 1st, 2021 to fill it out.

#### **Opportunities and Events:**

##### *1. The DDC College and Success Mentor Program:*

Every year, the 11th grade students are paired with college undergraduate/graduate mentors to help them navigate their studies, summer opportunities, and their college and career research. The program starts in the spring but recruitment has just begun. Please take a look at our information session video and PowerPoint presentation to learn more:

- [https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/rec/play/hHXu9foYK\\_LQVoKmFzOmDiAKWiwkDvyYUuYvAVymkiP1wIDoZK8YXfg\\_NJdqwODSBPmqdBE-I7dseKh7.bkPo5KojGozY8ADW?autoplay=true&startTime=1634319293000](https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/rec/play/hHXu9foYK_LQVoKmFzOmDiAKWiwkDvyYUuYvAVymkiP1wIDoZK8YXfg_NJdqwODSBPmqdBE-I7dseKh7.bkPo5KojGozY8ADW?autoplay=true&startTime=1634319293000)
- [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1P4qbk-9yKPPt2-ppwx773smvpNhPi\\_3PKUVxf8Mmq9E/edit#slide=id.geb05e15024\\_1\\_6](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1P4qbk-9yKPPt2-ppwx773smvpNhPi_3PKUVxf8Mmq9E/edit#slide=id.geb05e15024_1_6)

If you have any questions or concerns, please email:

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Faatima Johnson- [fj2292@columbia.edu](mailto:fj2292@columbia.edu)

##### *2. Graduate School Test Prep:*

If you are interested in obtaining test prep for the GRE, MCAT, LSAT, or GMAT, please email me. I am in the process of obtaining a contract with a major test prep organization to provide you with resources for these exams. Please email me with your name, graduation year, and what test you are interested in.

**\*You must be in your 3rd year of college and beyond!\***

##### *3. Financial Literacy Workshops with Chase Bank: **Open to DDC Parents and Alumni***

Session 1: Nov 3rd at 6pm. This session will cover SMART Goals, Budgeting, and Saving for the Unexpected.

Session 2: Nov. 18 at 6pm. This session will cover Credit Scores and Utilization, Tips to Improve your Credit, and Managing Your Credit Wisely.

Sessions will be virtual.

**Session 1 Registration:** <https://chase.surveymonkey.com/r/MR3CXS8>

**Session 2 Registration:** <https://chase.surveymonkey.com/r/RLXC7MF>

Please send any questions about this event to Aisha Haynes, [ah3039@columbia.edu](mailto:ah3039@columbia.edu).

**CHASE**  **DDC** THE ROGER LEIBCKA Double Discovery Center at Columbia University

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
DOUBLE DISCOVERY CENTER,  
CHASE BANK PRESENTS:

## FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS

For DDC Families

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A TWO PART SERIES:

**SESSION 1 - 11/3 AT 6 PM**

- SMART GOALS
- BUDGETING
- SAVING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

**SESSION 2 - 11/18 AT 6 PM**

- WHAT'S IN A SCORE
- CREDIT UTILIZATION
- TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR CREDIT
- HOW TO MANAGE CREDIT WISELY

Session 1-11/3



<https://chase.surveymonkey.com/r/MR3CXS8>

Sessions will be virtual.  
Register here:

Session 2-11/18



<https://chase.surveymonkey.com/r/RLXC7MF>

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**Double our Discovery, Double our Impact!**

**Partner with us to offer the gift of education!**

Click Here to [“Change a Life”](#)

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**Calling all DDC Alumni and Former Volunteers!**

**We want to hear from you!**

Click [Here](#) to reconnect!

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