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College Week coming up for Gateway HS

Huntington – The half-week leading into the Thanksgiving Recess will again be “College Week” at Gateway Regional High School. College and career-related activities will be taking place throughout the week.

On Monday, Gateway seniors may elect to receive support for their online “Common Application” (used for admissions to many colleges) and may sign up to interview for instant admissions to American International College, Springfield Technical Community College and Western New England University. Also on Monday, all students have the opportunity to take a resume writing workshop and to take part in mock interviews for college or jobs.

Gateway seniors will have two workshops on college financing on Tuesday. The first will offer assistance in seeking financial aid. Also, during Advisory, seniors will attend a Scholarship Workshop and receive a booklet of local scholarships assembled by the Guidance department. All Gateway students have the opportunity to attend an information session by Asnuntuck Community College, a technical school in Enfield, CT that has programs such as welding, manufacturing, and technology studies. Additionally on Tuesday there will be a special workshop, “How to become involved on a college campus”, led by Jeanne LeClair (LeClair is the Gateway Hilltowns Economic Development Director and also leads an Entrepreneur Club at Gateway, for students wishing to start their own business).

At 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, all students will gather in the auditorium for a special MCAC assembly (Massachusetts College Application Celebration), where seniors who have applied to college up until this point in their senior year will be called up to sign the “I applied to college” banner. Last year marked the first year of MCAC; at Gateway, 27 seniors completed 43 college applications, with 12 receiving instant admissions to Western New England University, 8 to STCC, 5 to American International College, and 12 to Holyoke Community College. Students also received support completing applications to Westfield State University (3) and Mildred Elley (3). All students were accepted to the schools they participated in instant admissions with and a number were offered on-the-spot merit based scholarships from the four year colleges.

The week culminates with the Annual Alumni College Fair on Wednesday, November 22. Numerous colleges—many represented by Gateway alumni—will be on hand to visit with high school students and answer questions about their college or military option.

College Week is an annual tradition at Gateway that continues to grow every year. In June 2017, 7% of Gateway seniors reported being first generation college students in their family, a rate that has been rising steadily among graduates thanks in part to these programs.

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