

# P2P CAREER EXPOS



Evaluation Summary,  
2016-2020

*Project Briefing, October 14 2020*

# TODAY'S GOALS



Introduction

Why evaluate?

Summary findings for  
P2P Mississippi

# WHO ARE WE?



We work with organizations to find out if their work is making a positive difference.

# INTRODUCTIONS



**Sarah Mason, Ph.D.:** Director, Center for Research Evaluation

- Background: Evaluation, Education, International Development



**Hope Gilbert, Ph.D.:** Research Associate, Center for Research Evaluation

- Background: Epidemiology, Infectious Disease and Public Health, Evaluation

# INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM



Epidemiology



K-12 Education

Our team  
comes from a  
range of  
disciplinary  
backgrounds



Measurement &  
Evaluation



School  
Psychology



Higher  
Education



# INTRODUCTIONS

Who do we have in the (online) room?



# HOUSEKEEPING



Note taking, chat box,  
technical issues...

[hope@olemiss.edu](mailto:hope@olemiss.edu)

# WHY EVALUATE?

- #1 Evaluation helps maximize impact.
- #2 Evaluation helps organizations learn & improve.
- #3 Good intentions are not enough.
- #4 Evaluation is pragmatic.



# HOW WE SEE P2P EVALUATIONS



Our goal for P2P Evaluations are to help collect, understand, and use evidence about all aspects of the Mississippi Career Expos to maximize its impact.

# DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY 2016-2020

Each year, we collected 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- ✓ Pre-tests
- ✓ Post-tests

...including students who did and did not attend the Expo. Total number 8<sup>th</sup> grade post-surveys (2016-2020): **N=13,006**

9<sup>th</sup> grade & 12<sup>th</sup> grade follow-up (began 2018-2019)



## 7 KEY FINDINGS

1. P2P helps  
students  
**choose  
career  
pathways**

2. P2P helps  
students  
**boost  
confidence**  
about plans

3. P2P helps  
**increase  
knowledge**  
about career  
pathways

4. Students  
**enjoy**  
attending  
P2P Expos

5. Outcomes  
and  
experiences  
**differ across  
sites**

6. Many  
students  
**don't receive**  
preparation  
or follow-up

7. Career  
planning is an  
**ongoing  
continuum**

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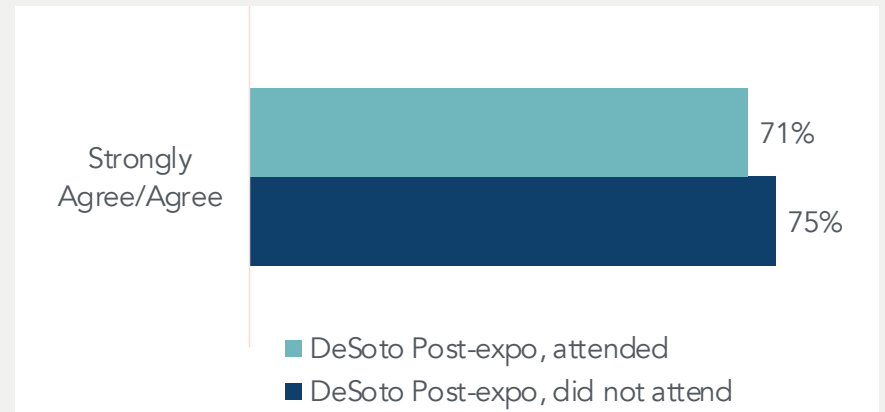
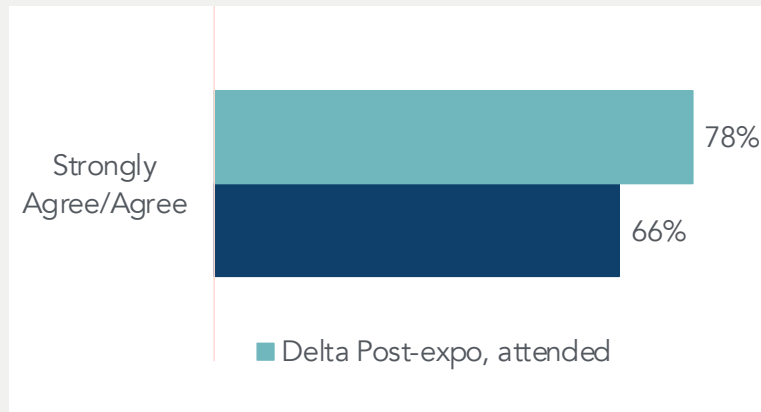
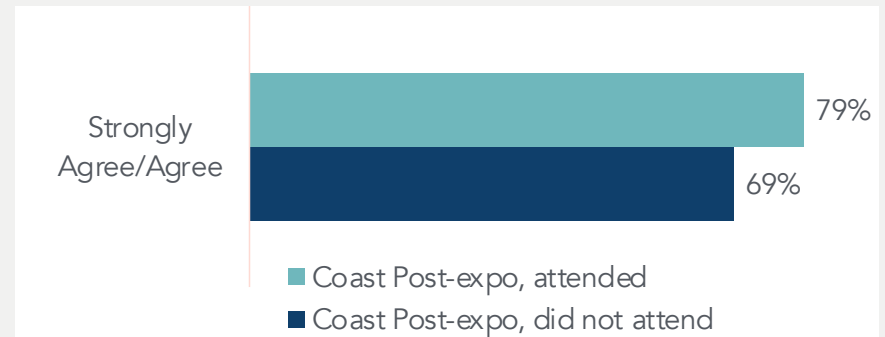
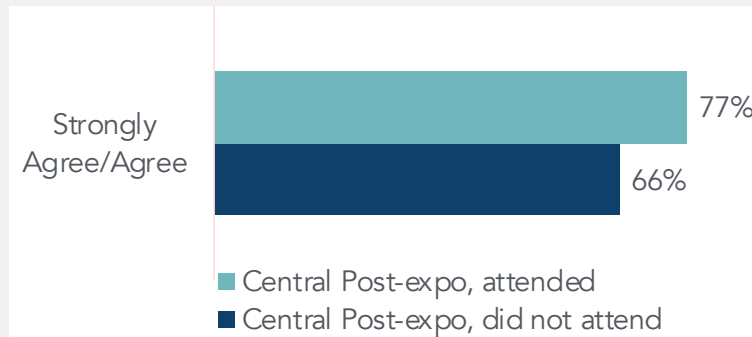
1

**P2P helps students  
choose career  
pathways**



# THINKING ABOUT CAREER PATHWAYS

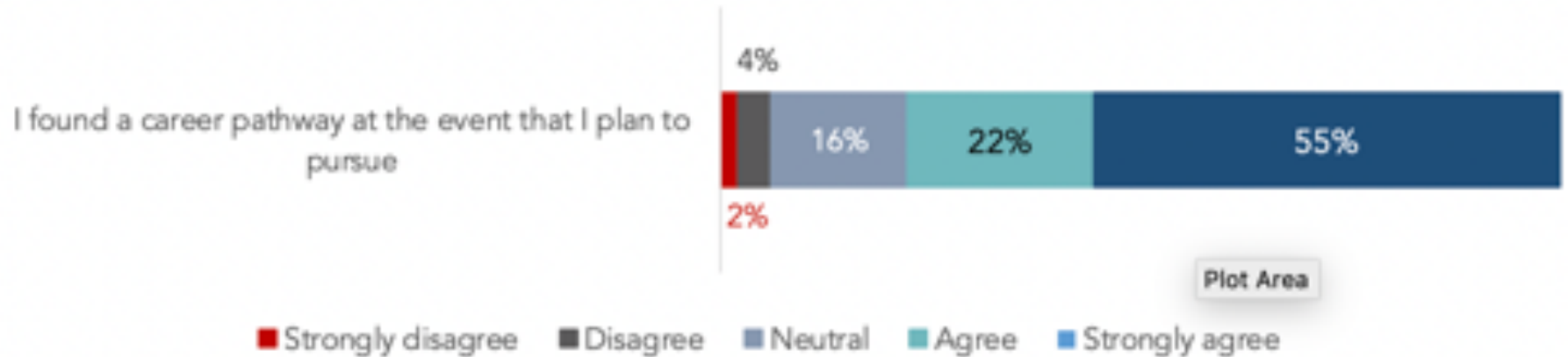
I have thought about a career pathway for myself.



*Scaled responses: 5-point scale ranging from strongly disagree=1 to strongly agree=5*

# FINDING A CAREER PATHWAY (9<sup>th</sup> GRADERS)

A year on, 77% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders said they found a career pathway they plan to pursue at the Expo.





# LONG-TERM INFLUENCE (12<sup>th</sup> GRADERS)

Mississippi Seniors: How Influential Do You Think the P2P Career Expo Was on Your Post-high School Graduation Plans?

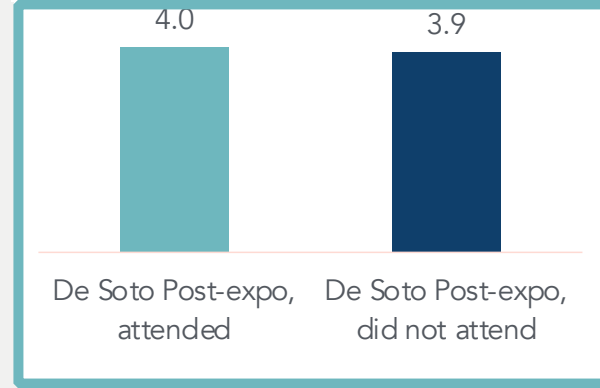
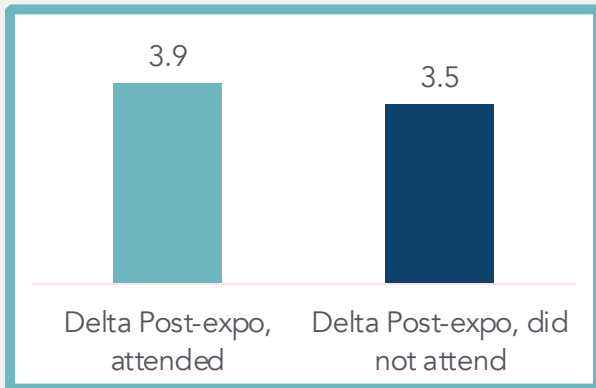
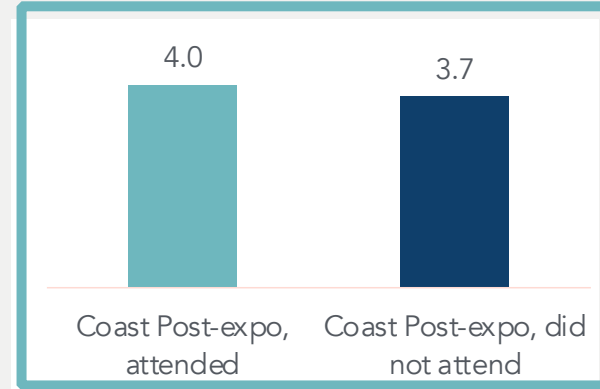
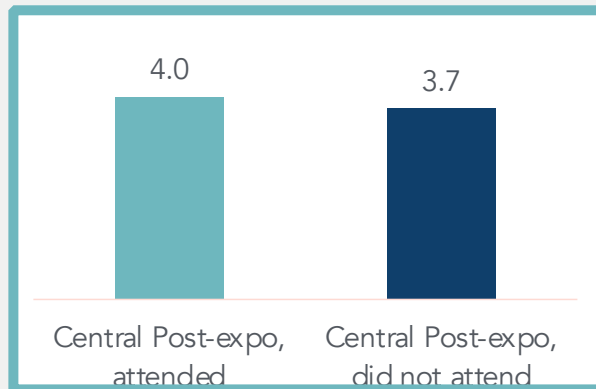
Most seniors, 70%, reported post-high school graduation plans being influenced as a result of attending the Career Expo in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



\* Observations, n=50.

# IMPORTANCE OF CAREER PLANNING

If I learn more, know my interests and abilities, know more about the education needs, and spend enough time gathering information about careers, I will make a better career decision.



*Scaled responses: 5-point scale ranging from strongly disagree=1 to strongly agree=5*

# KEY FINDINGS

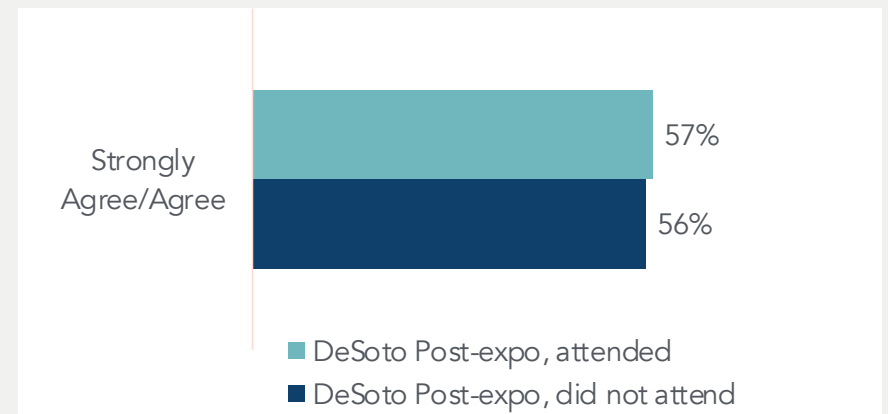
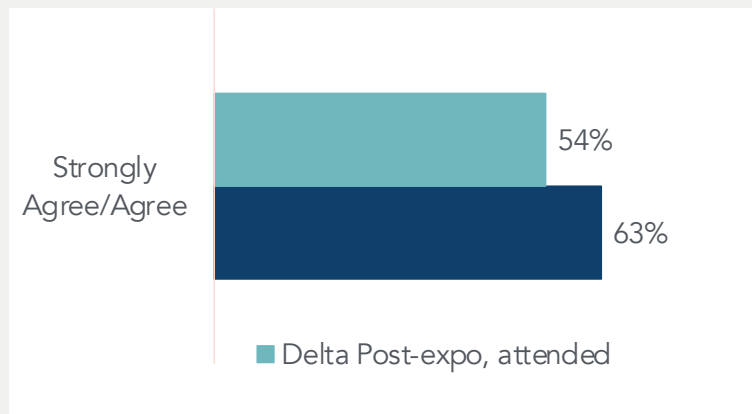
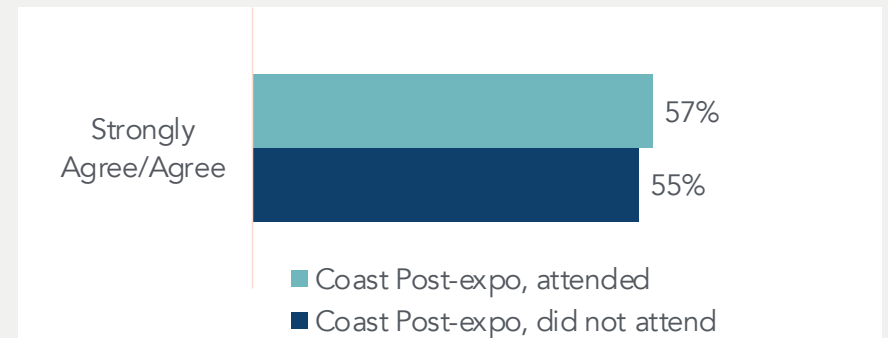
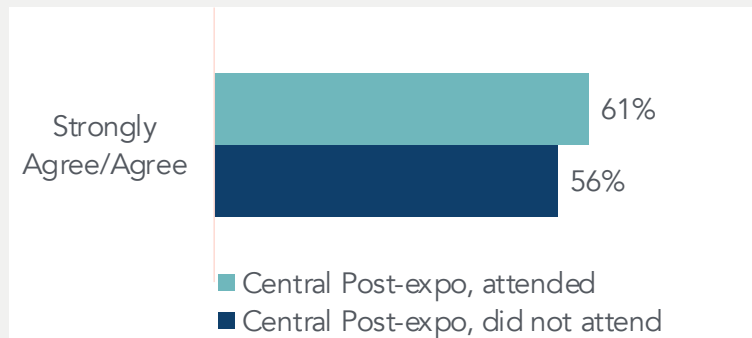


2

**P2P helps increase  
students' certainty  
about career plans**

# CERTAINTY ABOUT CAREER PLANS

I know what I want to do for a career when I am older.



Scaled responses: 5-point scale ranging from strongly disagree=1 to strongly agree=5

# KEY FINDINGS

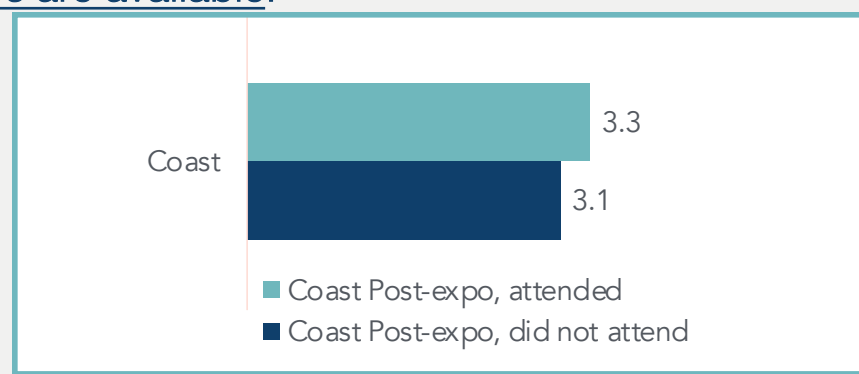
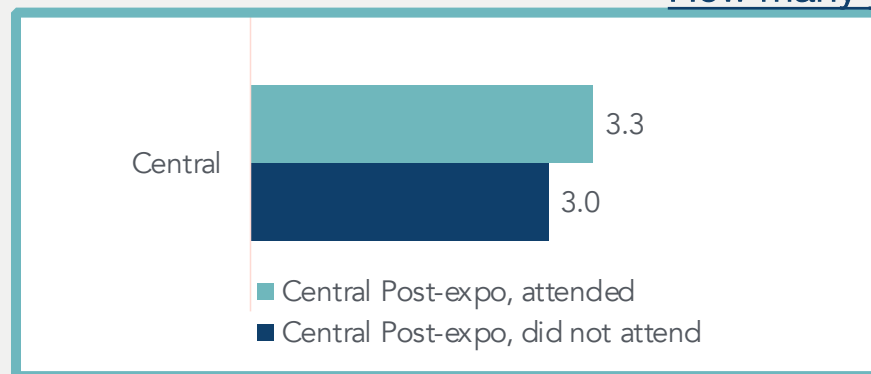
3

**Students say P2P helps them build knowledge about how to pursue career pathways**



# KNOWLEDGE OF JOB AVAILABILITY

How much do you know about the following topic and your chosen career pathway:  
How many jobs are available.

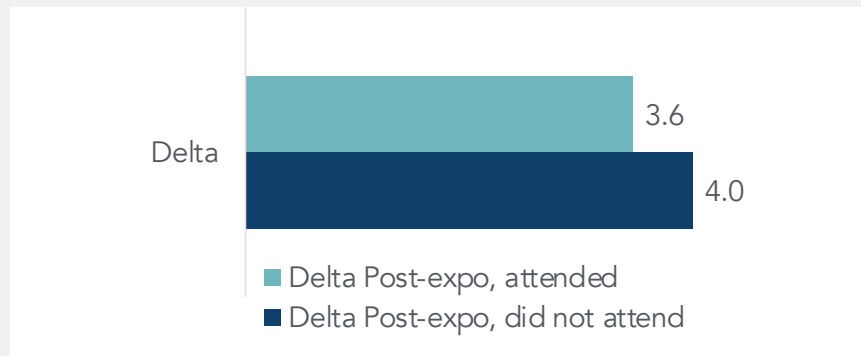


*Scaled responses: 5-point scale ranging from I know nothing about this topic and my career pathway=1 to I know a lot about this topic and my career pathway=5*



# KNOWLEDGE OF EARNING POTENTIAL

How much do you know about the following topic and your chosen career pathway:  
How much money I can make with my chosen career pathway.



*Scaled responses: 5-point scale ranging from I know nothing about this topic and my career pathway=1 to I know a lot about this topic and my career pathway=5*

# KEY FINDINGS

4

**Students enjoy  
attending P2P Expos**



## KEY FINDINGS

70%  88%

I enjoyed the P2P Expo.

56%  71%

I found a career pathway that interests me.

70%  86%

I enjoyed interacting with exhibitors

Proportions Agree/Strongly Agree across years 2016-2020

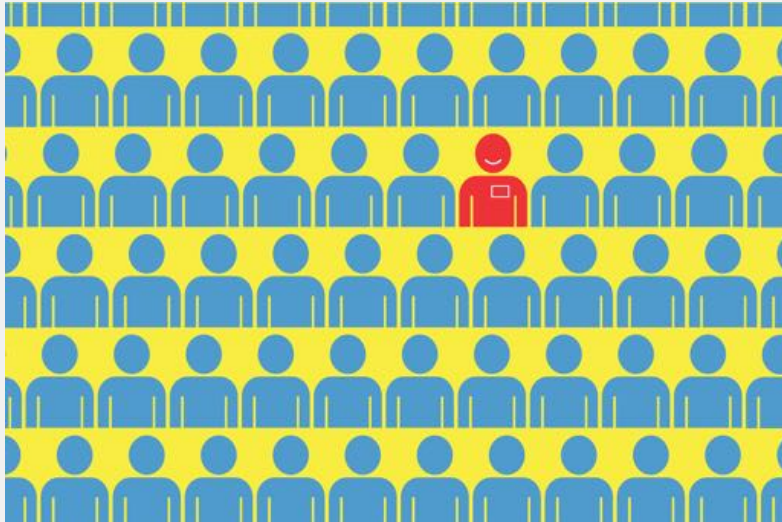
# HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES



Trying at least one hands-on activity was significantly associated with greater satisfaction at the Coast (75%) and Delta (56%) P2P Expos (data from 18-19).

# KEY FINDINGS

5



**Outcomes and  
experiences differ  
across sites**

# KEY FINDINGS

6

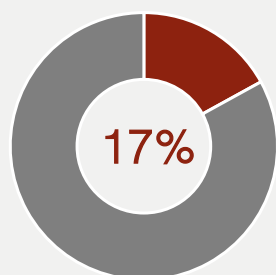
**Some students don't receive preparation or follow-up**



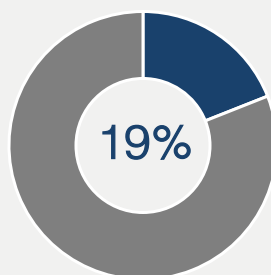


# PRE-EXPO PREPARATION

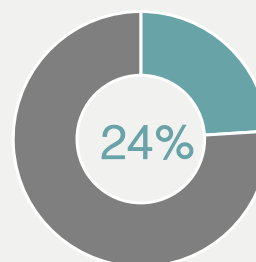
Proportion of 2019-2020 attendees who said their schools did not do any preparatory activities before the P2P Expo.



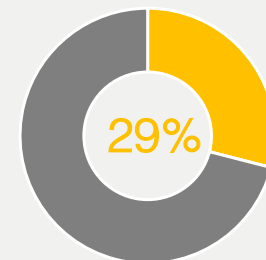
Central



Coast



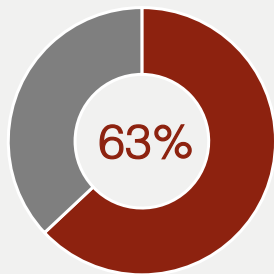
Delta



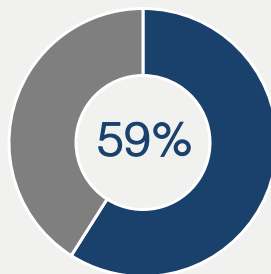
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# POST-EXPO FOLLOW-UP

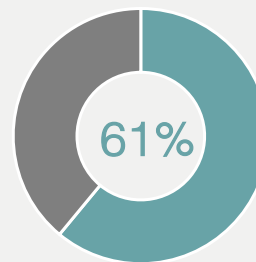
Proportion of 2019-2020 attendees who said they had follow-up conversations with a teacher about career planning after the P2P expo.



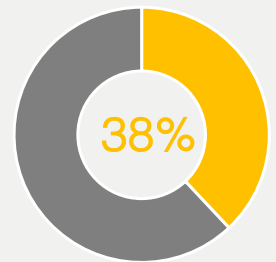
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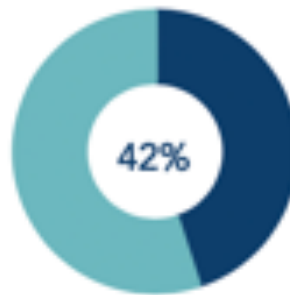
De Soto

# POST-EXPO FOLLOW-UP (9<sup>th</sup> GRADERS)

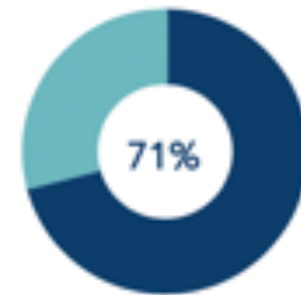
Many students who read the booklet did not speak with others about its contents.



... spoke with  
an adult family  
member about  
it



... of those who read the  
booklet spoke with a  
teacher/counselor about it.

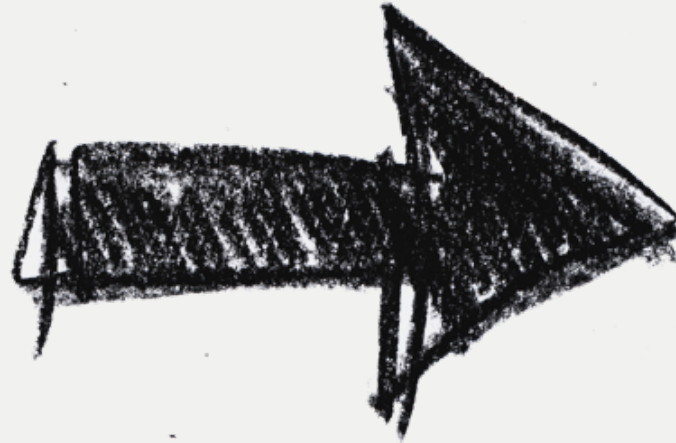


... of all students said they  
had classroom discussions  
about the Career Expo

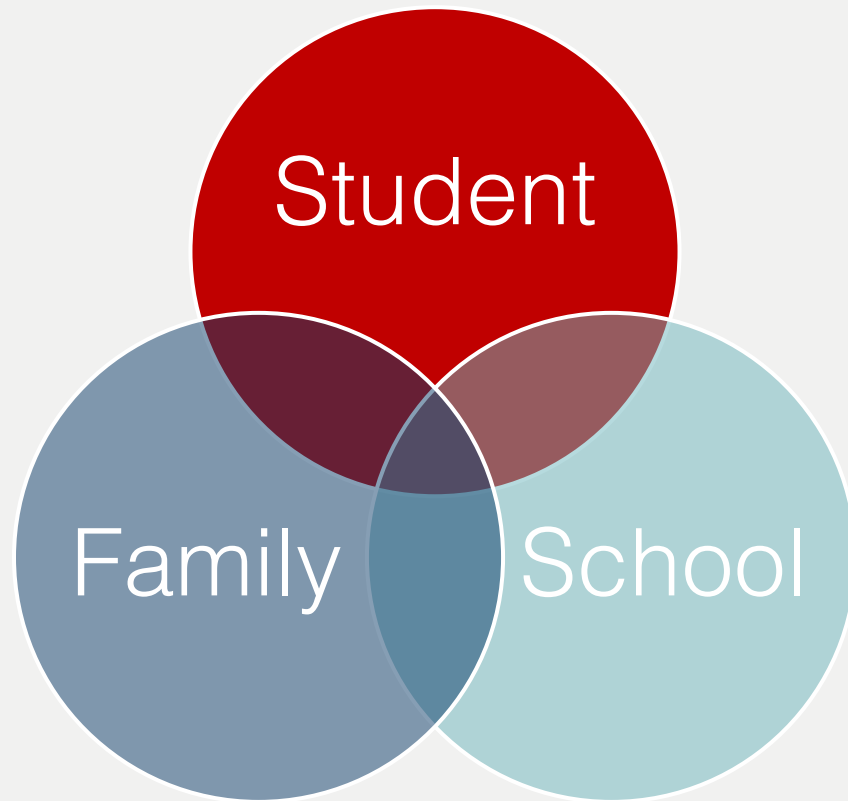
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7

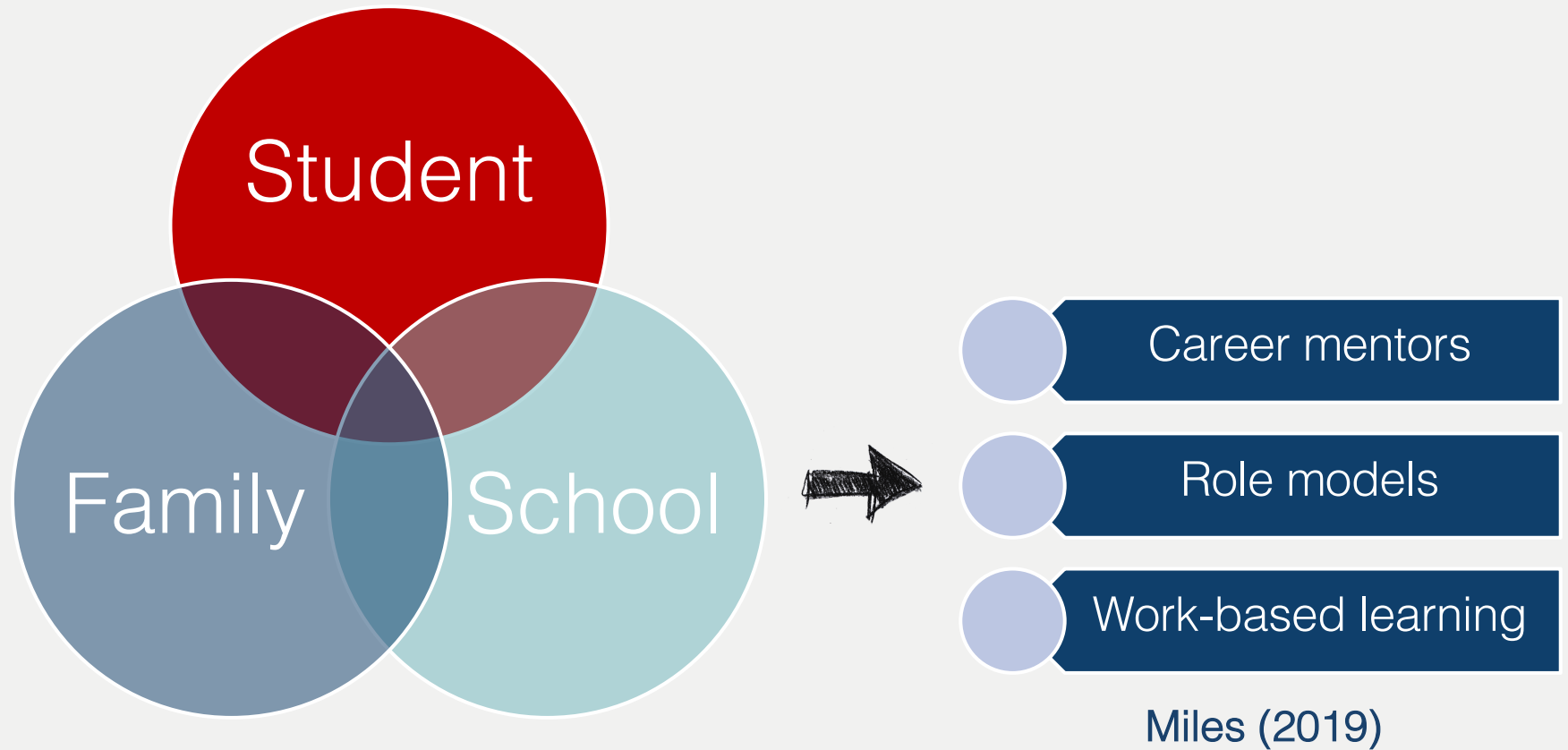
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continuum



# ONGOING CONTINUUM



# ONGOING CONTINUUM



## ONGOING CONTINUUM

Among our cohort of graduating seniors, 41% said they had not received any type of career planning support from their school.

Seniors who received support described these as somewhat helpful (mean=6.8 on a scale that ranged from 0=not helpful at all to 10=extremely helpful).

# CAREER PATHWAY INTERESTS

## MOST POPULAR

HEALTH SCIENCE

ARTS, AV TECH. &  
COMMUNICATIONS

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY,  
CORRECTIONS & SECURITY

EDUCATION & TRAINING



# CAREER PATHWAY INTERESTS

## MOST POPULAR

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LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY,  
CORRECTIONS & SECURITY

EDUCATION & TRAINING

## LEAST POPULAR

MANUFACTURING

ENERGY

MARKETING

TRANSPORTATION &  
LOGISTICS

# BARRIERS

Students identified these as barriers to pursuing their ideal career pathways:



# IN SHORT

THE P2P EXPO  
APPEARS TO SERVE AS  
A LAUNCHPAD FOR  
STUDENTS' CAREER  
PLANNING



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Work with school communities so they utilize preparatory materials and follow-up activities.

2

Work with school communities to create multiple, repeated opportunities to engage with career planning after the P2P Expo.

3

Maximize opportunities for hands-on activities.

4

Collect data on student perceptions of (currently) low-interest career pathways so that exhibitors can design experiences to counter pre-existing views.

# QUESTIONS, COMMENTS?



# CONTACT US

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