

Increasing Understanding and Applications using the Financial Aid Lessons

Narrator: CaliforniaColleges.edu, Discover. Plan. Launch. Increasing Understanding and Applications using the Financial Aid Lessons, featuring Melina Gonzalez, AVID counselor, Perris Union High School District, Megen Anspach, counselor on Special Assignment, Garden Grove Unified School District, and Dr. Cristian Miley, principal, Delhi Unified School District. Megen Anspach, counselor on Special Assignment, Garden Grove Unified School District. January 31st, 2022.

Megen: I was very excited to see the financial aid lessons. This is already created. There's nothing we have to do in addition to it. It's a built-in, user-friendly system.

Narrator: Melina Gonzalez, AVID counselor, Perris Union High School District.

Melina: I was able to click on it with the students. We did it together. We did those first two modules, which took 20 minutes, I mean, with questions and answers.

Narrator: Dr. Cristian Miley, principal, Delhi Unified School District.

Cristian: Our students often comment, "That was easy", and that's really the best commentary that we can get. We want them to feel like, wow, you know what? That was every bit as smooth as I hoped it would be.

Narrator: Megen Anspach, counselor on special assignment, Garden Grove Unified School District.

Megen: We don't have to create separate materials. There's already videos on there, so it saves that classroom component and instruction.

Narrator: Melina Gonzalez, AVID counselor, Perris Union High School District.

Melina: The financial aid plan takes them to the steps that they can do, and the to dos was really nice, because the kids actually clicked on there, okay, I did that. Okay, you can't click it if you haven't done it.

Narrator: Dr. Cristian Miley, principal, Delhi Unified School District.

Cristian: You're not searching around, saying, okay, I got to go to this website. Let's go to fafsa.gov. We're in one central place with all of the essential pieces and all of it linked

together.

Narrator: Megen Anspach, counselor on special assignment, Garden Grove Unified School District.

Megen: I think that's a huge benefit. The lessons already built in and their self-paced, and it's intuitive for the students.

Narrator: Melina Gonzalez, AVID counselor, Perris Union High School District.

Melina: Everybody says it was really clear, it's to the point, that it made sense, and it was their language. It wasn't too wordy, and it was specific, which made sense for the students.

Narrator: Dr. Cristian Miley, principal, Delhi Unified School District.

Cristian: The financial aid tools really support counselors and make their jobs easier by putting everything into one centralized place.

Narrator: Megen Anspach, counselor on special assignment, Garden Grove Unified School District. Megen: This has a lot of potential for us, especially with the FAFSA or the Dream Act mandates that everyone has to complete.

Narrator: Melina Gonzalez, AVID counselor, Perris Union High School District.

Melina: But the reports are easier, too. I pull reports every week. I think it was super easy. I didn't even get trained this year.

Narrator: Dr. Cristian Miley, principal, Delhi Unified School District.

Cristian: We can run regular reports to drill down and see where our students are in the process. I can now click on a specific student and get specific information on just that one kid.

Narrator: Megen Anspach, counselor on special assignment, Garden Grove Unified School District.

Megen: It saves counselors a lot of time, which of course is always going to be a benefit to our very, very busy site counselors.

Narrator: Melina Gonzalez, AVID counselor, Perris Union High School District.

Melina: I have 520 students on my caseload, so I have a hundred and something per

grade. It just made it so much easier. I'm just so glad for this, because this should be happening with all students. I think this should be all districts doing this from day one, freshman year.

Narrator: Learn more at CaliforniaColleges.edu.

End of: Increasing Understanding and Applications using the Financial Aid Lessons

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