



Preparing High School Juniors & Seniors to Succeed on Their Own!

Succeed addresses the top reasons Ohio State University Research says college freshmen do not make it through their freshmen year as well as YTN's qualitative research that points to Freedom, Loneliness and Culture Shock as primary factors in all three of Ohio States findings.

Ohio State Findings

- 1) Social Change
- 2) Change in Academic Protocol
- 3) Financial Management

Today Research Indicates that:

- **The year following high school graduation is the most dangerous in the life of a teen!**
- **50% of high school graduates struggle socially in the transition to college or life on their own.**
- **The suicide rate hits a peak in the year following high school graduation.**
- **High school graduates often set the course for their college career in the first 72 hours on campus!**
- **26% of college freshmen do not make it through their freshmen year.**
- **30% who start college graduate with a degree!**

As educators and parents we all want our students to succeed when they leave home! Research from Ohio State University, UCLA and YTN, the creator of Succeed, indicates that the vast majority of young people today are not prepared for the change, stress and responsibility of life on their own. Combined, these forces can result in compromise and failure as our students leave home and seek a place to fit in on campus or in the work force.

Youth Transition Network created **Succeed to help schools prepare parents and high school juniors and seniors** to understand the reality of the challenges of leaving home so that they are less likely to land in the many traps that snare our high school graduates today. This vital information has proven to help students manage the change they face socially, academically, and financially.



We spend countless hours and spend significant sums for activities, SAT and ACT preparation classes and college applications to *help our students get into the best college possible*, and we believe they are ready. We must help students see the reality of the changes they will face. YTN's research found that 90+ % of students believe the transition to life on their own or college will be easy, setting them up to fall prey to the challenges and stress.

Succeed Program Information:

Succeed is a fast paced event utilizing student videos and either live speakers or video presentations with live Q & A designed to open students eyes to the facts that the transition will be challenging. The decisions students make in the first days away from home will shape the direction of their first year of college and possibly their college career.

The event has 4 to 7 sessions depending upon the audience, format and time availability. that are designed to prepare students and help parents enter valuable conversations with their students.

Change, Challenges and Stress (Jeff Schadt)

This session addresses the social change, which according to Ohio State is the #1 reason freshmen do not make it through their first year in college. College student video segments combine with compelling content to help students understand the common forces graduates encounter: stress, change, grief and loneliness. These forces can lead to failure, culture shock and a desire to escape, setting students up to encounter failure on multiple fronts. Culture shock causes many students bond to the first thing that accepts them on campus, which is why many students unintentionally set a course within the first 72 hours of leaving home. Having students aware of the forces of change helps them navigate them productively.

Realities of the Research (Brian Raison)

This session challenges students by bringing the realities of the transition research from UCLA, Ohio State and YTN home to them. As students understand the percentage of students who struggle and the potential negative consequences graduates experience when they encounter freedom for the first time, they are motivated to chart a better course. This research session will set up the importance of the coming sessions for students who attend as they gain perspective on the various issues that will impact them.

Time Trap: Academic Success (Dave Weber)

Free time on campus is the number one killer of students both academically and socially. This session will bring forward the research that shows that the # 2 reason students drop out of their first year in college deals with setting priorities and managing their time. Dave Weber and a college student or video will set the stage for this challenge, offering a new perspective and skills needed for students to succeed when others are failing.



Money Matters (Chris Renzelman or other)

This session will make clear that money management is vital to avoid the third reason students do not make it past their freshmen year. College student videos will set up the challenge and the speaker will bring practical content related to the use of credit cards and the costs associated with borrowing, student loans, finances and the need for students to establish a budget with their parents help. Simple principles, such as the time value of money and their future credit rating, motivate students to look at the responsibility of money management differently.

College Student Panel (College Students)

College students will be on hand to answer questions from the audience related to the transition to college. Allowing students and parents to ask actual college students, trade school students and working high school graduates is vital to helping students understand and see the future accurately.

Great Expectations (Jeff Schadt)

Many students struggle with the sense of not measuring up to perceived expectations. This shortfall demotivates students in high school. The first two definitions related to expectations point to ones' own internal desire. This session will help students understand that once they walk out the door of their homes, they hold the reins to their success. It is their life and is no longer based upon their parents' or schools' expectations. They can chart a course for their own success or just run for the freedom.

Connecting for Success

It is often the relationships that students create in the days following graduation and leaving home that will set their course. Helping them understand the importance of connecting to clubs and activities that will support their goals for success is imperative so that the freshmen freedom train does not trap them. Helping them understand the types of places they can connect on campus and encouraging them to get connected before they arrive will give them options beyond freshmen orientation.

Program Schedule:

Each session is 35 to 40 minutes including time for Q & A with the students and parents. The event can be run in two evening sessions or in a single day format.