



TOP TEN IDEAS FOR LIBRARIES FOR COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK

1. **Three minutes, three ideas, three actions!** Parent/student evening in libraries with local speakers. Give students three minutes to write down three ideas for future careers, and then follow up with three actions, which can be done at home, at school, online, or in the library. For instance, they could talk to someone with a chosen job about their education/career path, check what is in the library about this job, ask a career guidance teacher for information. Suggest that each student keeps a folder with their CAW week information to help them when filling out CAO forms.
2. Host a **film night** with local speakers from businesses and community colleges giving a talk before a film about going to college, for instance, Good Will Hunting, The Social Network, etc.
3. Organise a **College Awareness Wall/noticeboard** with education life stories from librarians, teachers, local business people, sports personalities.
4. **Crafty Careers:** College Awareness Week focuses mainly on college – but college is not for everyone. There are many other ways to get a further education – through apprenticeships, for example. Consider inviting local skilled craftspeople to speak about their trade, how they chose it and trained for it. A stonemason, carpenter, sheet metal worker or tiler might inspire a new generation.
5. Encourage all individuals who come to College Awareness Events – parents, teachers, mature students, potential students and current students – to **get a library card**. It's one way to ensure a lifetime of education!
6. Have an evening for the local community where everyone is invited to come in, write their **education/career path on a blank badge**, and talk to prospective students.
7. Host a **college aware story hour/art corner** for younger children. In Blessington Library in 2014 children met 'Trinity Teddy' and read a book about Trinity. They then made college ID cards with their name, a selfportrait and the name of a course they want to do when they grow up. Libraries can customise this idea with a local college – Maynooth Moggie, Offaly Owl, Carlow Cat etc, making the soft toy as 'studenty' as possible with a book, ID card, etc. Stories could be about careers that need further education – a chef, teacher, vet, doctor, tailor, shoemaker, plumber etc.



TOP TEN IDEAS FOR LIBRARIES FOR COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK (CONTINUED)

8. The library is an ideal place for mature students to find information. **What worked before:** In 2014 Ardee Library hosted a public **workshop on the college application process for mature students** or those thinking of applying for college. The workshops were run by Louth Adult Education Information and Guidance Service (LAEGIS). Your local adult education centre or college access office could provide a speaker or two. You can also direct clients to www.studentfinance.ie for help with college finance.
9. Consider a **CAW exhibition/info table**, with titles from the library, booklets etc. **What worked before:** For CAW 2014 seven libraries around Cork displayed publications and info produced by the Cork Youth Information Centre on college courses, application procedures and 'Susi' grants. Check with your local YI centre for booklets and a possible speaker.
10. Don't forget the parents who are transitioning from parents of second-level to third-level students. **What worked before:** In 2014 Longford Library hosted an **information talk to prepare parents and students** to make the most of that first year in college. The speaker was Catherine O'Connor of TCD, Education Consultant and author of *Cracking the College Code* (www.crackingthecollegecode.ie). Catherine has also developed a free webinar series on the topic at www.lin.ie/sll. Career guidance teachers from local schools and careers offices of local colleges could provide speakers on this subject.

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