

Free ‘Discover Your PATHe’ Event to Give High School Students a Feel for College Experience

Pinellas County rising juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to experience campus life and learn about options for higher education this summer at a free, three-day event hosted by USF St. Petersburg and St. Petersburg College.

The event, called Discover Your PATHe, will be held July 9-11 on the USF St. Petersburg (USFSP) campus. It will include workshops and presentations for students and their families, providing guidance on aspects of higher education, such as financial aid and course selection. Students will stay in a residence hall to get the complete campus experience.

Interested students can apply with a short video and essay. Applications are now open at www.usfsp.edu/discover.

“We’re looking for rising juniors and seniors who want to experience what it’s like to be on a college campus,” said Sandy DeCarlo, a PATHe counselor at USFSP. “During this event students will be able to talk with college students about their experiences and ask questions about what it’s like to attend a university.”

By the end of the event, students will better understand college admissions, develop a plan for how to apply, identify strategies to use on admissions tests and practice principles of time management. Fun activities will be mixed with more technical learning lessons. Perhaps most importantly, students will establish connections with other students from local high schools, USFSP and SPC.

“Making friends is often high on the priority list for students, so there will be plenty of time for students to connect with fellow students,” said DeCarlo.

PATHe stands for Pinellas Access to Higher Education and was launched to help increase accessibility of college and university degrees for students from Pinellas County. PATHe counselors work closely with students to create individualized plans to transition into higher education, whether that is a state college, a four year university or technical college.

“PATHe’s goal is to inspire, support and guide students, their families and community members in Pinellas County about all the resources available for post-secondary education,” said Carolina Nutt, director of COMPASS Student Experience at USFSP. “This at times can be an overwhelming process, so we are trying to simplify the process by providing a comprehensive service to help all Pinellas County students reach their goals and potential.

Through PATHe, students and families can get a better understanding of what it takes to successfully pursue a degree.

“Our counselors are able to provide resources and advice regarding the college admissions process, choosing a particular institution and major, and financial resources,” Nutt added. “This program is unique because it allows us to get to know students individually and really understand their circumstances to craft a plan that will work for them.”

To learn more about the Discover Your PATHe program, please visit usfsp.edu/discover.

