College Talk Indicators

1. All teachers teach with the assumption that all students can and will go to college.
2. U.S. Map displayed prominently indicating where the school faculty and staff went to college and (if high school) where high school graduates went to college.
3. Faculty/staff displays their diplomas in their classroom. One counselor even has a picture of the car she owned at the time, next to each corresponding degree.
4. Each teacher displays a sign which states “Mr./Ms. . . . went to . . . If you have any questions about this school, come and ask me.”
5. Displaying college banners and college information such as exam dates and deadlines, financial aid information and deadlines, etc.
6. Having a well advertised and easily accessible college career center or college space where students can access information and materials.
7. For elementary students, pictures can be taken of them in a cap and gown and display them as the “Class of . . .”, the year they would be expected to graduate from a four year university.
8. Using a curriculum, like “Realizing the College Dream”, which has college knowledge as the main focus.
9. Naming each classroom after a specific college and displaying it’s banner, information, etc. inside that classroom.
10. Having a specific day, maybe during homecoming week or during a month where college is being emphasized, where everyone wears college gear.
11. Having a college night/college fair and invite students and their families.
12. Having a financial aid night
13. Posting the A-G poster with the school’s course list in each classroom and in strategic places around the campus.
14. Using resources, like the FFWD newsletter, short college activities, booklist, etc., which are available from SUP, to spark conversation and interest in college-going in the classroom.
15. Do the Educational Journey exercise and share your Ed Journey experience with your students. Staff and faculty can post their Ed Journey in the classrooms and around the school, as well as on the school website.
16. Display that your school is a “College-Going Community” either on a banner and/or school website.