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On Behalf Of:	ASPIRE
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Being a part of a brand-new high school is truly an exciting opportunity. As the sole school counselor at Dallas Community High School, my goal is to ensure that our students have access to the most up-to-date resources, tools, and supports to engage, explore, and be empowered in their learning. Our mission is aligned with our E3 framework, which encourages students to engage with their education, empowers them to explore future career paths, and equips them to make informed decisions about their future after high school.

With 17 years of experience as a school counselor, I've had the privilege of working with some incredible high school programs and have developed a strong understanding of how to build a college and career culture. However, I am incredibly grateful for the ASPIRE program. I first discovered ASPIRE through a refresher course on FAFSA hosted by OSAC last fall. During this course, the trainers were very receptive to my questions and needs, connecting me with an ASPIRE access specialist. Within a month, I was collaborating with the specialist, and the experience has been nothing short of amazing.

The ASPIRE program has provided invaluable support. The specialist not only guided me with program development but also provided updated resources, staff training, workshops for both students and parents, and financial support. These resources have been crucial in helping me build and strengthen the career and college culture at our school.

One of the most beneficial aspects of working with ASPIRE is the ability to access a wealth of resources without having to spend time navigating them independently. Through the ASPIRE tools and conversations with our specialist, I've been able to create a comprehensive career and college program calendar. This calendar has allowed me to plan and organize career-related learning experiences, classroom engagements, career and college speakers, field trips, and school-wide events. In January, our school moved into a new building, and over the past month, I've focused on creating the ASPIRE Career Center for our students and families. Thanks to ASPIRE's grant funding, I've been able to paint and outfit the new center to create a welcoming and functional space for our students. With these funds, we've also been able to support student mock interviews, college field trips, and invite a professional counselor to speak with students on topics related to self-discovery. We're excited to continue building on these initiatives next year.

ASPIRE has truly become the foundation of our career and college program at Dallas Community High School, and we look forward to the continued impact it will have on our students.

