



# BetterGrads

**Contact:**

Lisa Rau

Publicist

Ph: 818.730.1631

[press@bettergrads.org](mailto:press@bettergrads.org)

[www.bettergrads.org](http://www.bettergrads.org)

**Granada's College Prep Club promotes college-going culture, dispels fears about college**

*Granada High School students in the BetterGrads pilot eMentoring Program have created the College Prep Club 2012 to encourage their peers to think about college in an attainable way.*

LIVERMORE, Calif., May 2, 2011—Since its inception last fall, the BetterGrads eMentoring Program at Granada High School has galvanized as a student-created hub for advancing a college-going culture on campus.

The College Prep Club (CPC) 2012 consists of 23 juniors who mapped out college preparation goals through graduation. Each month is dedicated toward learning about a different important aspect of college. For example, in March, members of the group wrote resumes and learned how to highlight their strengths in scholarship and college applications. In April, the group researched different types of colleges, such as the difference between the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems.

Members are paired with a BetterGrads mentor, with whom they regularly communicate via phone calls, text messages, e-mails, video chats and monthly group calls with all mentors and mentees.

"We get together over Skype when we don't e-mail, and if I have a quick question, I can just ask him over text," said CPC member Grant Salk, whose mentor is BetterGrads co-founder Erhardt Graeff. "He answers any questions I have concerning any aspect of college—from the SAT to applications to the majors that colleges offer."

Salk is considering a major in the sciences and plans to apply for colleges within the University of California system and nearby out-of-state options in Oregon and Colorado. Questions he has asked Graeff range from "How did you study for the SAT?" to "What do you do at Harvard?"



# BetterGrads

The CPC has been involved in several college-themed activities, including SAT study sessions and College Planning "Expo" nights. Recently, students initiated the Pennant Project, for which club members collect pennants from Granada teachers' alma maters and ask them about their experience there. The pennants will be displayed in the Granada High School library and career center with the intent of further promoting college-going culture by connecting specific schools with students' teachers.

Starting in May through the end of their junior year, CPC members will discuss summer planning and financial issues, such as applying for FAFSA, college-related costs and scholarship searches. The BetterGrads "College 101" Blog recently launched a series titled "Scholarship Stories," which publishes stories from student and alumni scholarship recipients about their experiences.

"More students have become aware of the many colleges around them, and that attending college is an attainable goal," said Carina Novell, CPC president. "It was important to start the CPC because it allowed for high school students to become better prepared and more aware of what it takes to not only get into college, but to be successful in later life."

Novell pointed out that many members are the eldest sibling in their family and thus, the first to embark on the modern college experience. Coupled with a lack of availability of college counselors to meet the needs of thousands of Granada students, the CPC club fills the need for additional college planning resources.

For Fall 2011, the CPC plans to begin discussing specific college applications and essay-writing, with plans to begin discussing the college experience itself in the spring. Students have already begun brainstorming questions, such as on-campus parking, eating habits and what to bring.

## **About BetterGrads**

BetterGrads (founded in 2009) **connects alumni of public high schools back to their alma maters as mentors to current students.** By leveraging the collective knowledge and connections of past graduates, we help high school students reach their college potential and help high schools build permanent support networks, expand college and career-prep resources, and establish strong norms of college enrollment and peer mentorship. For more information, please visit [BetterGrads.org](http://BetterGrads.org).

*Lisa Rau contributed to this press release.*

###