

## Class of 2021 Midyear Symposia Agenda

[February 4th](#)

[February 11th](#)

[February 18th](#)

[February 25th](#)

Weekly symposia will take place from 1:00 - 3:30 PM Eastern Time, and will be preceded by an optional CollegePoint Cafe session from 12:30 - 1:00 PM ET.

Visit [collegepoint.info/midyearsymposia](https://collegepoint.info/midyearsymposia) for more information

### Thursday, February 4th: The Impact of COVID-19

12:30 - 12:55 PM

#### CollegePoint Café (optional)

##### Topic 1: How test-optional policies have affected college admission

*Facilitators: Romessa Shaikh + Edwina Koch, College Possible  
Marlene de Zarraga + Yingying Jin, ScholarMatch  
Hannah Andrusko-Starks, College Possible + Kiya Walker,  
College Advising Corps*

##### Topic 2: Inequities in technology pre- and post-COVID

*Facilitators: Destiny Talley + Hannah Williams, College Advising Corps*

1:00 - 2:00 PM

#### Impact of COVID-19 Panel Presentation

**Seth Allen**, Vice President for Strategy and Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid, Pomona College

**Kelly Waggoner**, Associate Director of Recruitment and Outreach, Indiana University

**Khristina Gonzalez**, Associate Dean of the College and Director of Programs for Access and Inclusion, Princeton College

Moderated by **Adam Rabinowitz**, Communications Manager, American Talent Initiative

2:00 - 2:30 PM

#### Break

2:30 - 3:15 PM

#### Breakout Sessions (Advisors + Staff only)

##### Getting to the Finish Line

Building a toolkit to help students get to the finish line with college and financial aid applications and enrollment decisions.

##### Gap Year Resources for Students

How can we help CollegePoint students consider the value of enrolling in college vs. taking a gap year?

##### Equipping Students for on/off Campus Life

**Xavier Martinez**, Stanford University '23, CP '19

**Isabeau Burnett**, University of Chicago '24, CP '20

Moderated by **Many Correa**, CollegePoint Intern

*CollegePoint alumni discuss how they navigated college life in light of COVID-19. Advisors will collaborate to create a student-facing infographic or one-page resource with top 5 tips for transitioning to college during a pandemic.*

## Class of 2021 Midyear Symposia Agenda

3:15 - 3:30 PM

**Wrap-Up**

### Thursday, February 11th: Navigating Financial Aid Conversations

12:30 - 12:55 PM

**CollegePoint Café** (optional)

**Topic 1: Supporting Undocumented Students as They Navigate Financial Aid Offers**

*Facilitators: Romessa Shaikh + Edwina Koch, College Possible*

**Topic 2: Is Education Signaling or Skill Building? ([watch for context](#))**

*Facilitators: Taylor Wertheim + Sarah Braden, College Possible*

1:00 - 2:00 PM

**Navigating Financial Aid Conversations**

**Mer Curry** and **John Tamrat**, Moneythink

2:00 - 2:30 PM

**Break**

2:30 - 3:15 PM

**Breakout Sessions**

**[Swift Student](#) Demo**

**Abigail Seldin**, CEO and Co-Founder of the Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation

**[DecidEd Award Analyzer](#) and [Advisor Dashboard](#) Demo**

**Mer Curry** and **John Tamrat**, Moneythink

**Student Conversations Cheat Sheet**

**Maya Baker-Freid**, CollegePoint Program Coordinator, College Possible

Develop a cheat sheet that catalogues common student financial aid circumstances with corresponding specific resources/discussion points

3:15 - 3:30 PM

**Wrap-Up**

## Class of 2021 Midyear Symposia Agenda

### Thursday, February 18th: Higher Education Policy Landscape

12:30 - 12:55 PM	<p><b>CollegePoint Café</b> (optional)</p> <p><b>Topic 1: The Achievement Gap</b> <i>Facilitators: Romessa Shaikh, College Possible + Huijun Huang, Matriculate</i></p> <p><b>Topic 2: Importance of School Name</b> <i>Facilitators: Pinar Taylan + Katie Congdon + Theo Wolf, ScholarMatch</i></p>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	<p><b>Higher Ed Conversations Fireside Chat</b></p> <p><b>David Burge</b>, Vice President of Enrollment Management, George Mason University  <b>Courtney McAnuff</b>, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, Rutgers University  Moderated by <b>Kim Cook</b>, Executive Director, NCAN</p>
2:00 - 2:30 PM	<b>Break</b>
2:30 - 3:15 PM	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b> (Advisors + Staff only)</p> <p><b>The Biden Administration Education Agenda</b> What could the Biden Administration Education Agenda mean for students in CollegePoint’s target demographic?</p> <p><b>CollegePoint Schools Resources</b> Begin what will become an ongoing project to compile a school-specific resource guide for incoming students organized by CollegePoint School (i.e. grant for winter clothing, emergency grant programs, etc.)</p>
3:15 - 3:30 PM	<b>Wrap-Up</b>

### Thursday, February 25th: Educational Equity

12:30 - 12:55 PM	<p><b>CollegePoint Café</b> (optional)</p> <p><b>Topic 1: DACA and higher education</b> <i>Facilitators: Sonja Lind, ScholarMatch</i></p> <p><b>Topic 2: NYC Selective HS Admission + Segregation</b> <i>Facilitators: Pinar Taylan + Tali Natter, ScholarMatch</i></p>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	<p><b>Educational Equity</b> <b>Dr. Angel B. Pérez</b>, CEO, National Association for College Admission Counseling</p>
2:00 - 2:30 PM	<b>Break</b>
2:30 - 3:15 PM	<b>CollegePoint Updates</b> (Advisors + Staff only)
3:15 - 3:30 PM	<b>Wrap-Up</b>