Ideas for Pre- and Post-Application Event Activities

Pre-Application Event Activities

- **College alumni panel**: Bring back high school alumni who are current college students. Ask them to talk about their college experience and provide inspiration and advice for current high school students.

- **College door decorating contest**: This could be done with groups of students, groups of teachers, or groups of students and teachers combined. Each team will decorate a door in college colors and paraphernalia. (Administrators can be asked to judge doors.) The group with the best door wins a prize.

- **College game**: Students could play a college trivia game during an advisory period.

- **College-themed events**: During the week before/of the CAES application event, a fun college-themed activity could be planned for each day. Events could include: relay races, scavenger hunts, etc.

- **Career exploration**: Students could participate in career exploration activities (career interest inventories, etc.) through Hawai'i Career Explorer: [https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer/](https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer/)

- **Speakers**: College and/or career speakers could be invited to talk to students about college and the connection between college degrees and careers.

- **College visits**: Students could be bused to visit a college campus.

- **Door Signs**: Post signs on teachers’ doors that say, “I am (name) and I graduated from (institution). Ask me about it!” Encourage students to talk to their teachers about their college experience. Teachers could take this up a notch by creating a college talk session with students, posting pictures of themselves in college on their door sign, or wearing college attire.

- **Senior buddy**: An underclassman could be assigned to a senior to remind them of college application deadlines (done at a K-12 school in another state with 1st graders).

- **Tailgate event**: This could be done before a sports event at your school. A tent (in college colors) could be set up at the event for students and families with college information packets and food.

- **Assembly or Pep Rally**: Hold a senior assembly or pep rally in advance of the event to communication expectations for the event, and to celebrate academic achievements and college aspirations.
Post-Application Event Activities

- Financial aid flyer: Pass out information to students about upcoming events related to financial aid, including Scholarship ‘Aha events and Financial Aid Nights.

- Scholarship research: Create a workshop or other activity to encourage students to conduct scholarship research.

- College map: On a large map of the United States, put stickers (listing college names) in states where students were accepted to college (and/or decided to enroll.) Hang the map in a hallway, the College Center, or another prominent location.

- Congratulatory letter: Draft a letter for the principal to sign and give to each student who participated in the CAES application event (thanking them for participating and encouraging them to pursue higher education.)

- Pep Rally: A pep rally could be focused around a college theme (e.g., “I’m Going to College!”). It could include food and fun activities to celebrate the students’ application completion and talk about next steps.

- College Color Day: Adults and students could wear college gear on Fridays.

- College Family Night: An evening parent night could be organized to raise awareness with parents on the benefits of a college education. This could include financial aid tips to illustrate how college can be affordable.