

1/10/2016 - First Selectman Visits Janet Rosier's College Consulting Business

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Janet Rosier's Educational Resources, a college consulting business, demystifies the process and debunks the myths of the college application process.

First Selectman Ellen Scalettar recently visited Janet Rosier's Educational Resources to learn more about Ms. Rosier's work. The First Selectman has been visiting local businesses to highlight them as part of the "*Shop Woodbridge, Dine Woodbridge, Try Woodbridge*" campaign. The visits are designed to highlight Town businesses and to foster economic development in Woodbridge. Additionally, the Town's Economic Development Commission has been inviting new and expanding businesses to its monthly meetings in order to learn about those businesses and why they chose Woodbridge.

Rosier's Woodbridge office is located in her home, in what used to be the family's music room. Now the walls are covered in college pennants and a U.S. map showing the locations of colleges.

Rosier got her start in the college consulting business when her son was getting ready to go to college. She "handed him off" to a friend who was in the business. In the process she started to work with her friend and receive training from him. Rosier hung out her shingle as an Independent Educational Consultant in 2003. Since then she has earned a graduate certificate in College Counseling from UCLA and continues to take classes in specialty areas. "There is always something new to learn in this business."

Her clients come from all over Connecticut, out of state and some international students as well. These students attend public, private, boarding and parochial schools. Rosier stays in contact and works closely with her students through meetings, phone calls, Skype and email.

Ideally, she says, she'd start working with a student in the 9th grade to help them choose their high school curriculum and tailor it to their skills and interests. "It's important to balance a rigorous curriculum with good grades and *sanity*," she says. Most of her clients begin in their

sophomore or junior year. “They need to be ready to hit the ground running in their senior year,” she says. Some colleges begin reviewing applications in the summer before senior year and other colleges have deadlines as late as February.

In addition to helping choose high school curricula and monitoring academic progress, Rosier helps students develop a list of colleges for them to visit. After the visits she debriefs the student and tweaks the list. Later, she will prepare students to write their essays, and then critique the applications and essays.

“My goal is for students and families to feel like they are making informed decisions all the way through so that they don’t feel like they learned the rules of the game when it’s over,” Rosier said.

“Choosing the right college is important,” observed Scalettar, “but I’m sure students would be happy at several places and shouldn’t feel that there is only one ideal place to be.”

“I absolutely agree,” said Rosier. “I relieve them of the burden of the myth that there is just one school for them.” The trick, she says, is to put their emotional energy into target schools, not just dream schools.

Rosier visits about 25 college campuses a year, and when Scalettar visited, was preparing for a trip to Virginia to tour colleges and attend a conference. She is a member of Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) and National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC). There are no state requirements for college consultants, but there are rigorous standards for these associations. Additionally, Rosier is a Certified Educational Planner, a distinction that only about 200 IECs in the US have achieved.

“There’s a lot of strategy involved in the application process and my students and their families receive the benefit of my experience and expertise,” Rosier said. “I have used my resources, access and time to obtain a wealth of information about college admissions, the colleges themselves and the specifics of many majors.”

For more information about Janet Rosier’s Educational Resources, visit www.janetrosier.com