

Transcript of Admissions Podcast - Episode 1

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DENNIS MILLER: Brian Barden has been in the admissions business for nearly 25 years. He's talked with thousands of students and parents. He has a lot of information and advice to help you find the college that's right for you. Today we talk about what to look for in a small college or university.

Brian a lot of students come here because of the size of the university. Tell me a little bit about the size.

BRIAN BARDEN: Mansfield's at 3,400 students this year. So we're a smaller institution, and that translates into students being able to have contact with faculty and develop a relationship with faculty that will foster their educational learning, their career development, all of those kinds of things. And it's from those relationships that students really can launch out into the world.

DENNIS MILLER: I'm glad you said that because I'm talking with freshman students, and they're talking real to me, okay? And fortunately, what they're saying is exactly what you're saying. And one student was telling me he even goes biking with his professor, his psychology professor. So that is how small and how interwoven the community is.

BRIAN BARDEN: Exactly. It really boils down to a family. That, you know, you're coming to a community. So it's almost like going to a town and buying a house and residing there. You're going to a community, an educational community where there are a lot of students and a lot of faculty but they're all a part of the Mansfield family. And out of that community comes, you know, many opportunities. You know, recreational types of opportunities, certainly educational opportunities, social, cultural types of opportunities that really develop the character of the community. And in this case, developing the character of the Mansfield University campus.

DENNIS MILLER: Which has been here since 1857.

BRIAN BARDEN: That's correct. I have been here almost that long.

DENNIS MILLER: I know, I know, and people are wondering how much longer you can last. With that smaller community, what's the faculty-student ratio like?

BRIAN BARDEN: The faculty student ratio at Mansfield is 18 to 1. What that means is that you will know your faculty. And then the flipside of that is that the faculty will know you. So there's some accountability there, that's built into this whole process with a small community and a small campus. And really that's where the learning takes place is when you begin to interact with your professor and the other students in the class. And that to me is pure learning, that is where it really happens. Where you become this intricate part of discussions and activities and, be it in the classroom or outside the classroom.

DENNIS MILLER: Yeah, anytime I go up to Grant Science Center, even between classes, there's professors sitting there in groups with students talking about some experiment they've done or something they're working on. It's really informal.

BRIAN BARDEN: Yeah. Very informal. And I think that's one of the nice things about Mansfield. And again it translates back to that family atmosphere. Learning is much more than being in a classroom listening to a lecture. Granted, we have that here at Mansfield. That classroom experience ought to become the springboard for students to really, outside the classroom, to further explore what they're learning. And you know, you see that at Grant Science. Music, Music is another example, you know, if you walk around our music building there are little groups of students here, there, out in the hallway playing their instruments, you know, that type of thing. I think that's the kind of experience that really helps students tie into the university. Experience, you know, the learning opportunities and really from there look to a career and Dennis, that's what it's all about.

DENNIS MILLER: Yeah, preparing for a career.

BRIAN BARDEN: Yeah that's right.

DENNIS MILLER: Join us again next week for more tips on finding the college right for you.