Development of a Culturally Sustainable Universal Admissions Interface for First-Generation College Students

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Purpose
The project's purpose is to design a culturally sustainable web-based interface that will utilize community assets to empower high school students in the college admissions process.

Problem
- The college application process is complex and may require mentorship to be understood.
- Cultural and language barriers make the admissions process less accessible.
- Not all school systems are equipped to support and guide students through college admissions.

Storm Lake Context
- Population: 11,400 (1)
- Growing midwestern town because of low-skilled worker demand.
- Multilingual population: over 50%
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Asian and Pacific Island Languages. (1)
- Bachelor Degree or Higher: 16.3% (2)

Storm Lake Demographics

Design Takeaways
- Cultural Sustainability: Utilize the knowledge of the Storm Lake community.
- Language Accessibility: Usable for speakers of other languages.
- Growth Mindset: Encourage the college admissions experience to be a learning opportunity.

Empathy Workshop
- Students marked high school events based on emotions and when it occurred (image adapted from original artifacts).

Future Work
- Apply for a 4-year grant with Storm Lake.
- Iterate upon the prototype and maintain design takeaways.
- Create an active website for the community to use and contribute to.

Sources