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I'm ready for college but I can't find my backpack!

Like most parents, you believe fiercely in your child's potential and want him or her to get into the best college possible. What most colleges don't want you to know that the acceptance letter does not guarantee college success. One in four college students don't make it past their first year. Only 56% graduate within 5-years. What's more, only 18% graduate in 4 years!

The good news: these statistics have nothing do with our kids' intelligence! Experts agree that a significant contributor to high dropout rates and prolonged graduation is the slow development of something most academic institutions don't properly address: Executive Function.

Executive Function is term used for a set of mental processes that help us to plan, organize, strategize, pay attention to and remember details, and manage time and space. For the majority of households, executive function until their child goes off to college.

In college, their external support largely disappears. Students who have succeeded in High School but have slower to mature executive function find themselves overwhelmed and struggling. Experts estimate that more than half of all college students with ADHD and executive function challenges are diagnosed only after they enter college.

Carolyn Carpeneti's son, Anthony, crashed in just six weeks of entering the college of his dreams. Out of desperation she tore apart his syllabuses and cobbled together scheduling, reminder, and check-in systems to get him back on track. Due to his dramatic turn-around his college administration asked Carolyn come to show them her solution. They told her that 95% of college freshmen would benefit from the support she gave her son. Now Anthony is thriving, a 3.0+ GPA, and on track to graduate. Carpeneti has created a product with her system, and it's now being Beta tested with dozens college students at leading institutions including Duke University, USC and the University of Arizona.

In her talk, Carpeneti will help you understand executive function and how it develops. She'll highlight the early-warning signs of under-developed executive function in college, and reveal three critical strategies to help these students succeed. Her mission is to bring greater understanding to the problem, illuminate the solution, and ensure all students receive the support they need so they can fulfill their greatest potential in college and beyond.

Background: Since he was an infant, Carolyn Carpeneti's son, Anthony, has had his eyes on the sky. While other kids carried stuffed animals, Anthony carried small airplanes. A single mom, Carpeneti spent countless hours with Anthony searching the horizon for aircraft. Airplanes have always been Anthony's passion and the counterpoint to the learning disability that he's struggled with all his life. Anthony's life was never easy. He had to work twice as hard as his peers. His learning difference made him "socially awkward", making friends was almost impossible. Carolyn was told multiple times that her son might not make it through high school and there was probably no hope for college. Thanks to Carolyn's diligence and

resourcefulness, and Anthony's exceedingly hard work, he was successful in high school and poised to move onto the college track.

In early April 2011, Anthony's lifelong dream landed in the mailbox. A fat envelope arrived from Embry-Riddle University, the top private aerospace and aviation college in the country. Anthony had been accepted.

Eight weeks into his freshman year, Anthony dream was crushed as he was flunking all of his classes.

When Carolyn learned that Anthony was failing in school, she called to find out why. After sitting in silence for 5 minutes, he quietly said, "I don't know what to do, and I don't know where to start." Carolyn jumped into action. She sought the expertise of an Educational Specialist and, over the next several weeks, devised an online daily system of schedules, a break down of assignments into manageable tasks, reminders and check-ins that would raise Anthony's grades to a C average his freshman year and put him on track to graduate. Today he is thriving. Carolyn saw beyond what looked like an unmotivated student, she saw her son, alone, scared and overwhelmed and immediately went to work to help create a solution. Carolyn's method put Anthony back on track.

After a year, Anthony's university encouraged her to write a book on the method she created. As she researched the problem, she realized the problem was far more prevalent than just the 10% of college students with diagnosed learning differences – and that it is a significant contributor to our low graduation rates and high drop-out rates. Inspired to provide a solution that could be used by any student, Carpeneti recruited three of Silicon Valley's top technologists to create an online, automated version of her manual system. CoPilot Systems was born. Carolyn left her lucrative executive recruiting business to pursue her personal mission: That all students receive the support they need to achieve their greatest potential in college and beyond.