

From Breakbeats to Breakthroughs:

Remixing College Counseling Practices

Presented by:
Dr. Nate Nevado
Kim Davalos
DJ Bitesize

September 12, 2025
College of San Mateo

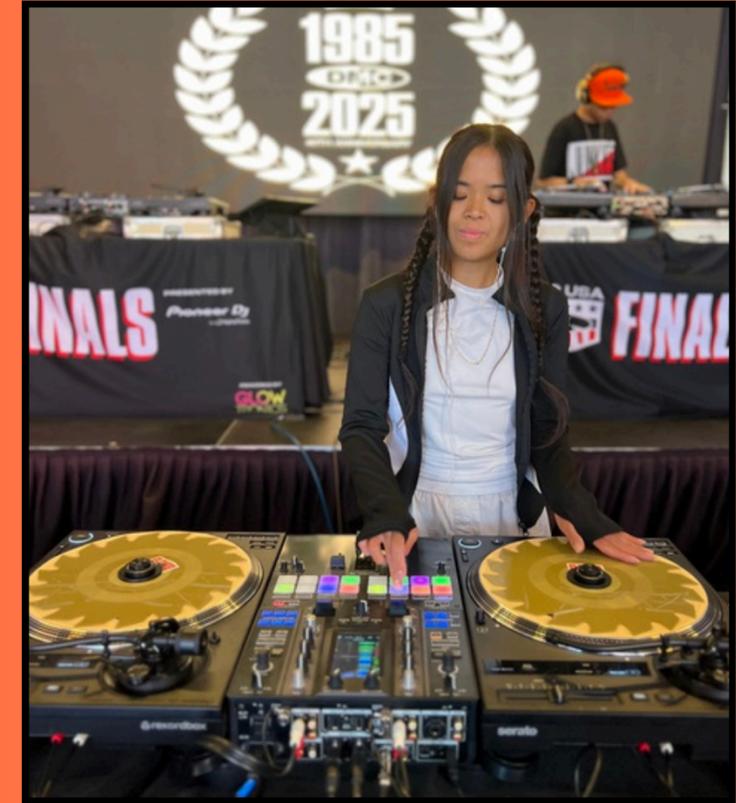




Dr. Nate Nevado
General/CIPHER
Counselor
CIPHER Coordinator
Rock The School Bells
Coordinator
Black and Brown
Scholars Program
Coordinator



Kim Davalos
Promise Scholars
Counselor
Poet/Author



DJ Bitesize
World-Renowned DJ
2025 DMC US Open
Champion
BAYFC Soccer DJ
DJ Instructor
Wedding & Corporate DJ

Agenda Track List

Track 1: Hip Hop as an Equitable & Transformative Counseling Practice

Track 2: A Conversation with DJ Bitesize: Exploring the Parallels of the Art of DJing to Equitable Counseling Practices

Track 3: Sampling Student Stories: Remixing Student Success

Track 4: Outro, Q&A, & a Closing Set by DJ Bitesize



Hip Hop as Equitable & Transformational Counseling

Traditional

- Standardized processes for all students
- Counselors as authority figures
- Focus on academic requirements, gaps, and/or remediation
- One size fit all advising

Transformational

- Relationship-centered interactions
- Challenging traditional power dynamics
- Valuing students' strengths, stories, and lived experiences
- Co-created counseling experiences



Reflection Questions

- How do I currently build relationships with students in ways that center their voice and identity?
- Do my counseling practices help students navigate barriers—or transform them?
- In what ways can I draw from students' cultural knowledge to co-create a more equitable experience?



Hip Hop Aesthetics

Keepin' It Real

Authenticity in student interactions; acknowledging systemic barriers while celebrating strengths

Show and Prove

Demonstrating commitment to student success through actions, not just words

Politics of S P A C E

Creating welcoming environments where students feel they belong and are valued; their voices matter; and calls for counselor **self reflexivity**

Remix/Sample

Drawing from students' experiences to co-create personalized success plans

From “ways of being” and “ways of doing” to “ways of deeper understanding”

- Performance Artist/Writer, Robert Karimi (2006) calls this “sampled consciousness” from his poem, “how I found my inner DJ.”
- Hip Hop culture is about appreciating and honoring the old and creating the new.
- Hip Hop culture adopts a both/and mindset highlighting multiple truths and perspectives (Anzaldúa, 1987)
- Shift in sampled consciousness – moves from traditional to transformational approaches to counseling



A Quick Convo
with **DJ Bitesize**:
Exploring the
Parallels of the
Art of DJing to
Equitable College
Counseling

Slido Question

In what ways do you see parallels between the roles of DJs and college counselors?



DJ & College Counseling Parallels

Reading The Crowd

Just as DJs must read their audience to create the right energy, counselors must attune to students' needs, adjusting their approach based on verbal and non-verbal cues.

Needle Drops & Silence

Strategic pauses and emphasis create powerful moments in music sets. In counseling, knowing when to pause, listen, or emphasize key information is equally important.

Creating a Set List

DJs carefully plan their music selection based on their audience; similarly, counselors must prepare resources and approaches tailored to each student's background, histories, strengths, and lived experiences.

Remix/Sample

DJs blend different tracks to create something new; counselors integrate various resources and approaches to support each student's unique journey.

Sampling Student Stories:

Remixing For Student Success

Purpose: To help counselors understand how, like DJs sampling from different records, they can “sample” elements from a student’s lived experiences, strengths, and culture to co-create a personalized success plan.



DJ Bitesize Demo & Discussion

What elements were carried over from the original? What changed? How did the sample give the track new meaning for a new audience?



Sampling Process

Original Song = Student's past experiences, culture, strengths

Sampled Track = Equitable counseling approach that builds from those experiences

Just as a DJ doesn't erase the source but elevates it, a counselor honors the student's past while integrating it into future goals.

Small Group Remix Challenge

Identify "Samples"

Examine student case stories to identify 3-4 key elements: strengths, skills, community ties, passions, and cultural assets.

Create Your Remix

Using the Student Profiles Remix Plan, transform these samples into a tailored student success plan.

Share Your Creation

Present your "remix," explaining which samples you utilized and how they informed your approach in creating the success plan.

Reflection Questions

- How does the sampling analogy shift your thinking about integrating student history, lived experiences, and strengths into counseling?
- What are potential challenges and/or barriers we face that may impact our ability to provide equitable services for our students?
- What are strategies to ensure that these student success plans are supported? What are some examples of best practices utilized at your campuses?



CIPHER Hip Hop Counseling Resources



Contact Information

Dr. Nate Nevado

nevadon@smccd.edu

@rocktheschoolbells

@cipherskylinecollege

@skyline.bbs

Kim Davalos

davalosk@smccd.edu

DJ Bitesize

booking.djbitesize@gmail.com

@dj_bitesize

