

THE COLLEGEBOUND CONNECTOR

NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOLARS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

**CASSIE MOTZ**

Executive Director

SPRING EVENT UPDATES

POSTPONED: 8th grade Success Seminar previously scheduled for Saturday, May 9th at Johns Hopkins University. [Check our website](#) for rescheduled date.

POSTPONED: The Rising Senior Seminar previously scheduled for Thursday, June 18th at Morgan State University. [Check our website](#) for rescheduled date.

ON THE HORIZON: We are hoping that the CollegeBound headquarters office move will go forward on Saturday, May 30th. Our mailing address has already changed to Miller's Court, 2601 N. Howard Street, Ste. 210 Baltimore, MD 21218

STILL HAPPENING (AS OF NOW)!

I hope that you are and your families are staying healthy and doing as well as can be expected during this difficult time. Here at CollegeBound, our team has come together to support our high school and college scholars with the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic. Our college advisors - who normally work on-site in 21 Baltimore City public high schools - are using technology to guide students remotely. We are particularly focused on ensuring that high school seniors complete the crucial final steps in selecting a college and qualifying for financial aid and scholarships.

We are gratified that while Baltimore City Schools cancelled many contracts during the pandemic because of school closures, the school system opted to maintain its contract with CollegeBound to allow our team to work remotely with students. City Schools has set a goal that every senior graduate with a post-secondary plan. Our advisors are working very closely with the City Schools team to achieve this goal. In the coming weeks, we also will be directing our efforts to current high school juniors to prepare them for the months ahead.

As for our college scholars, our College Success team has been in direct touch with all current CollegeBound scholars and compiled a [COVID-19 resource guide](#) for them. As detailed later in this newsletter, many students have received support from the [CollegeBound Emergency Fund](#) and borrowed laptops for distance learning. Our team has been helping students navigate the resources and relief offered by colleges and the federal government - including refunds for room and board, laptop and wifi access, and continuation of federal work-study stipends for up to a year (even if students' places of employment are closed).

32nd annual Scholars' Luncheon on Wednesday, July 29th at the Hilton Baltimore. We are thrilled to announce former Baltimore Raven and current Baltimore philanthropist Torrey Smith as this year's keynote speaker. McDaniel College will be this year's title sponsor. We hope to see you there - [purchase a ticket or table here!](#)

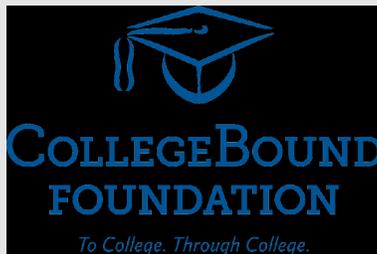
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The oldest students in our College Completion Program are current college juniors, all graduates of Baltimore City Schools. Of the students who started in this cohort, 91% are still in college. Our team is working hard to help students overcome barriers during this extraordinary semester to ensure that the college juniors in the program, and the students behind them, persist in earning their college degrees.

Please stay healthy and safe. Thank you for supporting CollegeBound and Baltimore City's great students.



College Completion Program Kickoff 2017. 91% of participants are still enrolled in college.

THE COLLEGEBOUND EMERGENCY FUND: MOBILIZING OUR RESOURCES IN TIMES OF NEED

Imagine going home for spring break only to be told that you could not return to your now-shuttered campus, nor live in the dorms, nor access your meal plan. On top of that, your courses for the remainder of the semester would be online. This is the unforeseen, tumultuous reality that college students now face. This sudden change in plans has led to a number of crippling financial situations as scholars scramble to secure technology, housing, and food while negotiating a new course format.

The [CollegeBound Emergency Fund](#) was created in 2018 to provide one-time assistance with unbudgeted financial expenses that could hinder a CollegeBound scholar from earning a degree. To date, 27 CollegeBound scholars have received emergency funding for COVID-19-related expenses.

Most requests have been for food support because scholars have lost their part-time jobs. (Scholars with on-campus work-study jobs will still be paid.) One scholar was stranded in Budapest while studying abroad. Her CollegeBound advisor helped her navigate the way home with the help of emergency funds to purchase her plane ticket. In addition, several scholars borrowed CollegeBound laptops before the announcement was made by Maryland universities to loan laptops to students in need.

CollegeBound scholars can rest assured that the emergency fund and CollegeBound advisors will be there every step of the way to ensure all students have access to additional resources to persevere through this difficult time.

Current CollegeBound scholars should email scholar@collegeboundfoundation.org for more information related to the emergency fund. If you are interested in replenishing the emergency fund, please [visit our website](#).

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: 2020 SCHOLARSHIP READERS

Over 100 volunteers from the community, including individuals and corporate groups from Allegis, BGE, M&T Bank, and MECU, have joined forces to read college scholarship applications from Baltimore City public school seniors. Thousands of applications were submitted this year for over 250 available scholarships. CollegeBound Director of College Success Jennifer Covahey is in her third year of leading the effort. Jenn notes, "There is no way that we could read all the submissions in a timely manner without the help of our volunteer readers. We have a wonderfully diverse group of individuals from a wide variety of professions who recognize how critical it is not only to get students to college, but to help them find a way to pay for it." Luckily, COVID-19 has had no adverse impact on the process since volunteer readers read and grade student applications online.

Thank you to all of our current volunteers who are juggling scholarship reading with so many other responsibilities during this unprecedented time! If you are interested in volunteering in the future, please email scholar@collegeboundfoundation.org.



Volunteer scholarship reader training at BGE Headquarters in early March.

We still hope to see you at
CollegeBound's 32nd annual Scholars' Luncheon
on Wednesday, July 29th!

[Reserve your ticket or table here!](#)

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

TORREY SMITH

PHILANTHROPIST
TWO-TIME SUPER BOWL CHAMPION
BA, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
PRESIDENT, TORREY SMITH FAMILY FUND

