



****MEDIA ADVISORY****

CollegeBound Foundation selects Dr. Tracey L. Durant as the inaugural recipient of the CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award

Baltimore, Md. – Dr. Tracey L. Durant, Director of Equity and Chair of the Strategic Equity Taskforce for Baltimore City Public Schools, has been selected as the 2019 CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Dr. Durant is a graduate of Western High School with degrees from Sojourner-Douglass College (BA, business administration), Coppin State University (MA, adult education), and Morgan State University (EdD, higher education – community college leadership). In addition to serving in multiple board capacities across the city, she has led the CollegeBound Foundation Alumni Association as Executive Board President since its inception. Dr. Durant will be recognized as the award recipient and serve as this year’s alumni speaker at CollegeBound’s upcoming Scholars’ Luncheon.

The CollegeBound Foundation will celebrate its 31st annual CollegeBound Scholars’ Luncheon on Friday, July 26th at 11:45 a.m. at the Hilton Baltimore. Each year at the CollegeBound Scholars’ Luncheon, Baltimore area leaders in education, business and government gather to honor recent Baltimore City high school graduates, current college students, and recent college graduates. This year’s luncheon will be the largest gathering in CollegeBound’s history, with 1,000 guests expected. The event will be very scholar- and alumni- focused, highlighting the achievements of Baltimore City public schools graduates over the last 31 years.

- WHAT:** CollegeBound 31st Annual Scholars’ Luncheon – 1,000 guests expected
- SPEAKERS:** Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, Engineer, STEM Advocate, Higher Education Leader
Dr. Tracey L. Durant, 2019 CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award recipient
Mauricio Velazquez Rodriguez, CollegeBound Scholar of the Year
Dr. Sonja Santelises, CEO, Baltimore City Schools
Alicia Wilson, CollegeBound board chair and alum
- WHEN:** July 26, 2019 at 11:45 AM
- WHERE:** The Hilton Baltimore. 401 W Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21201, 2nd floor Key Ballroom
- MEDIA:** The luncheon is Open Press: *Media interested in attending -- please contact Cassie Motz, at cmotz@collegeboundfoundation.org or 202-494-5469, by July 25th at 5 pm.*



Additional Background:

For 31 years, CollegeBound has worked exclusively in Baltimore City public schools to help students navigate the path to and through college. Founded in 1988 by Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) and the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC), CollegeBound has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of Baltimore City public high school students. Over the last 31 years, CollegeBound advisors have given financial aid and college access presentations to over 275,000 Baltimore City public school students, and have assisted over 70,000 students in one-on-one advising sessions.

CollegeBound administers an annual \$3 million scholarship portfolio for local public school students. More than 200 students each year receive CollegeBound need-based grants and scholarships. CollegeBound's need-based Last Dollar Grant recipients graduate from college at 2.5 times the rate of students from similar socioeconomic backgrounds nationally.

CollegeBound also currently staffs CollegeBound College Access Program Specialists, or CAPS, in over half of Baltimore City public schools to encourage and assist students to pursue a post-secondary education.

For more information about CollegeBound, please contact Cassie Motz, Executive Director, at 202-494-5469 or cmotz@collegeboundfoundation.org or visit www.collegeboundfoundation.org.