

FALL | WINTER 2019

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THE COLLEGEBOUND CONNECTOR

NEWSLETTER

THE SCHOOL YEAR IS OFF TO A STRONG START!



CASSIE MOTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been a busy fall at CollegeBound! We have CollegeBound advisors in 21 Baltimore City public high schools, working with 70% of City Schools' high school seniors on financial aid and college applications. Our advisors have taken students on 21 college tours across Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. Representatives from 37 colleges, the military, and other employers visited CollegeBound-staffed high schools for our annual high school-based fall fairs. Now in its third year, our College Completion Program supports Baltimore City Schools' graduates attending four-year colleges across the state. In addition to receiving a need-based grant from CollegeBound, students continue to work closely with a CollegeBound advisor during their entire college career to troubleshoot any financial, academic, or social issues that may arise. After participating in a transition to college retreat in August just before college begins, each student is connected to a peer mentor (an older student in the program) and a campus liaison. Of the 161 students in the program, 93% are still in college, compared to 61% of students still in college who receive only funds and no extra support.



FALL 2019 COLLEGE FAIRS

SAT PREP SUMMER PILOT PROGRAM YIELDS **PROMISING RESULTS**

Over the summer CollegeBound partnered with Streamline Tutors, a local test prep company, and YouthWorks, Baltimore City's summer jobs program, to prepare students for the SAT. Twelve Baltimore City public school rising seniors attended an intensive 8-week Streamline Tutors SAT course as their YouthWorks summer commitment. The results are encouraging. On average, the students achieved a 177-point increase over their junior year PSAT and a 123-point increase over their best-ever PSAT or SAT score. The College Board publishes "college readiness benchmarks," intended to predict a student's success in introductory level college courses. Using the best-ever SAT/PSAT before the summer program as a baseline, 58% of students met the verbal benchmark before the summer test prep program; 100% of the students met the verbal benchmark after the program. For the math college readiness benchmark, 33% of students met the benchmark before the summer test prep program; 75% met the benchmark after the program. We are seeking to expand the program next summer.

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MENTOR/MENTEE PROGRAM

Two years ago Nathaniel Alston and Bob Hillman were paired as a mentee and mentor through CollegeBound's College Completion Program. Nathaniel, now a business major in his junior year at McDaniel College, and Bob, a retired lawyer, both say they have learned from each other. Bob says, "Nate is a young man of great potential. Watching him mature reminds me how much a little boost can do to help someone along the way. I look forward to being at his graduation."

Nathaniel says, "What has surprised me most about Mr. Bob is how natural our relationship is. Getting to know Mr. Bob over the years, I see he is genuinely invested in making sure that I am successful, including helping me get my first paid internship." The two have dinner together several times a year, and they keep in regular touch via phone calls and text messages.

COLLEGEBOUND ADVISOR CREATES CITY-WIDE "MALE INITIATIVE" FOR 10TH GRADERS



When he started working at CollegeBound four years ago, advisor Michael Walden saw a particular need to support the young men in his high school. The first in his family to graduate from college, Michael teamed up with other CollegeBound advisors to create the "Male Initiative." Now in its third year, the Male Initiative selects a few tenth graders from every CollegeBound-staffed high school. The students aren't necessarily the young men with the highest GPAs, but they are the influencers, the students others try to emulate. The group meets with elected officials, takes trips to colleges and sporting events, and mentors elementary school-aged boys in the city through a local mentoring group, Mentoring Mentors.

A member of the 2017 group recently emailed Michael, "When you all chaperoned me it opened my eyes to what college life would be like and what to look for when searching for the right college. I am now a freshman in college running track and field as a walk-on."

The young men have enjoyed getting to know students from other neighborhoods and high schools, as well as the opportunity to see life outside of Baltimore. They are creating a network of young leaders across the city. Michael explains,

"To get something you've never had, you have to do something you've never done. I try to encourage the guys to step outside of their comfort zone and create a path to success by setting goals for themselves."

Michael recently presented about the Male Initiative to his peers in the region at the Potomac & Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling (PCACAC) conference.

CollegeBound Foundation participates in the following workplace campaigns: 521598921 - Maryland Charity Campaign | 5666 - United Way of Central Maryland | 65583 - Combined Federal Campaign

The CollegeBound Foundation is grateful for its many champions throughout the Baltimore area and beyond who generously support our work with Baltimore City public school students each year. Please consider making a gift this season as we look ahead to another year of guiding City Schools' students to and through college.

#BMORECOLLEGEBOUND

2020 SAVE THE DATE
SCHOLARS' LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020
HILTON BALTIMORE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

EVALUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Volunteers will have the opportunity to read a number of scholarship applications from Baltimore City Schools' graduating seniors. Volunteers will attend a two-hour training session and have five weeks from March 12, 2020 to April 21, 2020 to review and evaluate scholarship applications. All scholarship applications are available online and can be read anywhere with internet access.

[HTTP://BIT.LY/READ_SCHLR](http://bit.ly/read_schlr)

COLLEGE COMPLETION MENTORS

CollegeBound's College Completion Program is seeking mentors for Baltimore City Schools' graduates who will be rising juniors or seniors at a Maryland four-year college or university in the 2020-2021 academic year.

[HTTP://BIT.LY/CCP_MENTOR](http://bit.ly/ccp_mentor)

For more information on CollegeBound's volunteer opportunities, please email Andrea Ledbetter, aledbetter@collegeboundfoundation.org, or call (410) 783-2905 ext. 211.

WE'RE MOVING!

MARCH 30, 2020

Miller's Court

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