

WINTER 2022

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THE COLLEGEBOUND CONNECTOR

NEWSLETTER



CASSIE MOTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays from the team at CollegeBound! This has been an exciting fall semester of expansion for CollegeBound. We now have full-time CollegeBound College Access Program Specialists (CAPS) in 20 Baltimore City high schools, advising 60% of the senior class city-wide. Our CAPS have been busy taking students on college tours; organizing college fairs in the high schools -- with over 30 college representatives from across the region; and providing crucial one-one-one financial aid and college application guidance. We have also expanded our advising to 2 middle schools this year. On the college side, our scholars continue to excel, despite the challenges of COVID. Our College Completion Program -- now in its 7th year -- is reaching close to 25% of Baltimore City Schools' graduates attending 4-year college with the assistance of a federal Pell Grant. Scholars in the College Completion Program are graduating from 4-year colleges at a 75% rate -- significantly outpacing their peers. (By comparison, the national college graduation rate for Pell Grant recipients is 41%; the Maryland public college graduation rate for Pell recipients is 54%; and the Maryland public college graduation rate for all students, across all income levels, is 71%.) As described later in this newsletter, our College Completion Program offers holistic support for college scholars, including continued advising and peer mentoring.

This year marks milestone anniversaries for two of our signature initiatives. In October, the Lawyers' Campaign for CollegeBound celebrated its 30th anniversary -- thanks to three decades of strong support from Baltimore's legal community -- at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum with a celebration and fireside chat with Judy Smith, the inspiration for the hit TV show "Scandal." And just a couple of weeks ago, we were at the National Aquarium to celebrate the winners of the 20th annual city-wide Kindergarten-8th grade College Awareness Month art/essay/poetry/spoken word contest. Because of your support, CollegeBound is able to expand to serve more of our city's great students. Thank you for investing in CollegeBound and in Baltimore's next generation!



CollegeBound Board Chair, Alicia Wilson, with guest speaker, Judy Smith, and students at the 30th anniversary of the Lawyers' Campaign for CollegeBound



Winners at the College Awareness Month 20th anniversary celebration at the National Aquarium with FOX 45's Tom Rodgers, event emcee, and CollegeBound Alumni Association President Darian Senn-Carter

OZZIE NEWSOME SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Steve Bisciotti & Ozzie Newsome with some of our 2022 scholars

CollegeBound is thrilled to announce the inaugural year of the Ozzie Newsome Scholars Program, established by Steve and Renee Bisciotti, owners of the Baltimore Ravens. Founded by the Bisciotti family in honor of Ravens senior executive and pro football hall of famer Ozzie Newsome, the scholarship is awarded annually to 20 Baltimore City Schools' graduates attending Maryland's four Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs) -- Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Over the course of the next four years, 80 students will receive this generous scholarship -- \$10,000 annually for up to five years of college, for a total investment of up to \$50,000 per scholar. The Ozzie Newsome scholars will also participate in CollegeBound's College Completion Program. The scholars will receive guidance from our college completion advisors, work with a peer mentor, participate in skill-building seminars, and interact with other scholars at our events such as our "transition to college retreat" during the summer between high school and first year of college. Mr. Newsome acknowledged the scholars at this summer's Scholars' Luncheon and congratulated them on entering the program. His video address is available now on the official CollegeBound YouTube channel.

COLLEGE COMPLETION PROGRAM EXPANSION



2022 Transition to College Retreat

The CollegeBound College Completion Program (CCP) has grown tremendously over the past three years, despite the challenges of COVID. This year, we have doubled the number of incoming freshmen from 75 to 150. All program participants are Baltimore City Schools' graduates and Pell Grant recipients.

In July, we welcomed all incoming freshmen in the program by hosting them at Towson University for a 3-day "Transition to College Retreat". The retreat gave students a taste of what to expect in college. Students were assigned roommates and Resident Advisors, current juniors and seniors in the program. Students attended multiple workshops focused on the idea of a "well-rounded student". This included mental health,

financial literacy, and internship seminars. The evenings were packed with fun activities including a bingo ice cream social and CCP Olympics with games and dancing. Our campus liaisons came from universities across the state to welcome new students to their schools as well as share their advice to the entire cohort.

CollegeBound stays with students throughout their undergraduate careers. Our College Completion advisors provide academic, financial, and social support in addition to connecting students with on-campus resources. They introduce students to their campus liaisons, collaborate with peer mentors, assist with FAFSA renewal, share career, internship, and volunteer opportunities, and check in with students several times per semester.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: ROSELANY MONTERO

Roselany Montero, Patterson High School '18, Stevenson University '22, is a member of the second graduating class of the College Completion Program. Roselany earned her Bachelors Degree in Counseling and Human Services. She participated in the alumni panel at this summer's Transition to College Retreat for graduating high school seniors entering the program. The alumni panel shared with incoming freshmen programs they recommend, achievements of which they are most proud, and advice on how to thrive in their first year. Roselany has started her career at her alma mater, Patterson High School, working in the school counseling office. Once gaining experience, she plans to attend graduate school to continue on her school counseling path. Roselany has a sister who is now a senior in high school whom she is urging to be a part of the CollegeBound College Completion Program.



Roselany speaking to the 2022 graduates at the Transition to College Retreat

COLLEGEBOUND ADVISOR (CAPS) SPOTLIGHT: ASIA BAILEY



Asia Bailey is a Baltimore native, graduate of Western High School, and CollegeBound alumna. After graduating from Western, Asia earned her Bachelors of Science from Benedict College. She then continued on to earn her Masters of Social Work degree from Walden University. Asia joined the CollegeBound team in 2021 as a College Access Program Specialist (CAPS) for her alma mater. At Western, she has been praised for her dedication to providing her students with exceptional postsecondary advising. Ms. Bailey often gets to know her students on a personal level during college advising sessions. Last year's CollegeBound city-wide Scholar of the Year, Ashley Estrada-Herrarte, is Asia's student

whom she recommended for the award based on her extraordinary drive and accomplishments. Asia is passionate about her role as an advisor at Western and has taken the initiative to go above and beyond as a CollegeBound team member. She is an active member on our newly introduced NCAA committee. Thank you for all you do at CollegeBound and for Baltimore City Schools' students, Asia!

READ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship readers evaluate scholarship applications submitted for CollegeBound's \$4 million scholarship portfolio. Each spring, CollegeBound receives hundreds of applications from Baltimore City Schools' students for scholarships based on criteria including academic merit, community service, and resilience.

First-time readers will attend a two-hour training session in February. Volunteer readers review applications online in March and April.

This opportunity requires 10-15 self-paced hours. Please sign up as a reader at collegeboundfoundation.org/volunteering.

Contact Andrea Ledbetter at 410-783-2905 x208 for more information.

SUPPORT COLLEGEBOUND!

CHARITY CAMPAIGNS

Please consider CollegeBound in your 2022 year-end giving plan. We gratefully accept checks, online donations, and stock gifts. For more information, please reach out to Courtney Dystant at 410-783-2905 x215.

CollegeBound participates in the following workplace campaigns:

Maryland Charity Campaign
521598921
United Way of Central Maryland
5666
Combined Federal Campaign
65583

To make a donation, visit:
www.collegeboundfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/donate-now

30th ANNUAL LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN

Ends December 31, 2022

Contribute to the Baltimore legal community's efforts to raise \$150,000 by December 31st. To learn more, please visit:
<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/lawyerscampaign30/>