

WINTER 2023

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THE COLLEGEBOUNDED CONNECTOR

NEWSLETTER



CASSIE MOTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays from the CollegeBound team! It has been a busy fall. Our high school College Access Program Specialists (CAPS) have taken 1,073 Baltimore City Schools' seniors on 19 in-state college tours and helped 1,213 seniors apply to college. In addition, we took 2 busloads of students to 2 out-of-state HBCU college fairs in Virginia and New Jersey, where students received 78 college acceptances and \$646,000 in scholarship offers. We also partnered with Maryland state Senator Cory McCray to take 54 students on a full-day tour highlighting local apprenticeship opportunities. CollegeBound hosted college fairs in high school gyms and cafeterias in 11 schools across the city, enabling 1,651 students to meet representatives from 32 colleges. In addition, thanks to our contractual partnerships with four local non-profits, our CAPS are working with high school students at Harlem Lacrosse, the University of Maryland, Baltimore CURE Scholars program, Urban Alliance, and the Y. Throughout the fall semester, CollegeBound has provided training to our community-based partners on topics such as scholarships and early college awareness.

Our 665 College Completion Program scholars — all Baltimore City Schools' graduates attending 4-year college with the assistance of a Pell Grant and a CollegeBound scholarship — continue to excel. Even during COVID, our students have graduated from 4-year college at a 73% rate, higher than the overall statewide public 4-year college graduation rate. Throughout the semester, our students have met on-campus with their CollegeBound advisor and peer mentor to make sure they're on track academically and financially. Students have also have the opportunity to learn about — and apply for — paid summer internships, thanks to our growing partnerships with Baltimore-area employers.

Not only are we expanding our scope to seek paid internships and permanent jobs for our college scholars, we also have a growing middle school program. We currently work with 7th and 8th graders at 3 local middle schools and have hosted high school choice fairs and a college and career week. We have also partnered with Morgan State University and University of Baltimore on programming for these middle schoolers.

In January, we look forward to helping our scholars navigate the newly-revised Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply for Maryland state aid and \$4 million of CollegeBound scholarships. During winter break, we will be hosting our mandatory Winter Workshops for our college scholars, covering topics such as time management, professional communication, financial literacy, bouncing back from a bad grade, mental health, and career exploration.

Thank you for supporting CollegeBound and the great Baltimore City students we serve. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

RECENT AWARDS



CollegeBound staff accepting the National College Attainment Network's "Partner of the Year" award

2023 has been an award-winning year for the CollegeBound team! In September, The Daily Record recognized the CollegeBound Foundation as one of the winners of its inaugural Empowering Women Award. This award recognizes companies and organizations that show a strong commitment to supporting and elevating women in Maryland by showcasing tangible and innovative efforts to advance women in the workplace and community. Currently, 89% of our senior staff leadership team are women, most of whom were promoted from entry-level positions, and our staff is predominantly women.

Additionally, in October, CollegeBound was named Partner of the Year by the National College Attainment Network (NCAN)! NCAN has thousands of members across the country and is the national trade organization for organizations like CollegeBound. Five members of our team accepted this award at NCAN's national conference in Dallas. The CollegeBound team was selected to give presentations on "Adjusting your Program to Match College Students' Evolving Needs" and "Building the Bridge from High School to College to Graduation."



2023 Scholars' Luncheon

For the past 35 years, the CollegeBound Foundation has guided Baltimore City public school students to and through college. This year, we are particularly focusing on assisting students with job readiness, paid internships, and permanent employment.

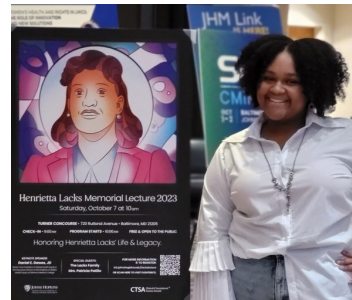
Starting in October, we relaunched our virtual CareerBound series. This new Career Accelerator Speaker Series is designed to set our scholars up for success while they're in college. Topics include using your school's career development office and building your brand, as well as career-focused sessions in STEM, healthcare, business, and education. Guest speakers range from professionals in higher education, human resources, finance and more. The monthly series kicked off on October 4 and will

continue to occur on the first Wednesday of the month through April 3.

We are continuously looking for partners to feature in the series. We are also interested in partnering with local employers who have paid internships and permanent job opportunities for college graduates who attended Baltimore City Schools. For more information on CareerBound and Strategic Partnerships, please contact Melisa Hypolite at MHypolite@collegeboundfoundation.org or visit bit.ly/CareerBound2024.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: Keanna Johnson

Keanna Johnson, CollegeBound College Completion Program scholar, was recently honored as the 2023 Henrietta Lacks East Baltimore Health Sciences Scholarship recipient. Established in 2011, this scholarship of up to \$40,000 is awarded annually to one Paul Laurence Dunbar High School student whose goal is to pursue a career in science. Keanna graduated from Dunbar in the spring where she earned full funding for her academic achievements. She is now a first-year student at Loyola University Maryland majoring in biology on a pre-med track. The ceremony was held at Johns Hopkins University's Turner Auditorium.



Keanna being awarded the Henrietta Lacks Scholarship

FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

This year, we had our most successful Giving Tuesday ever! We raised \$18,528, which was matched by an additional \$10,000 by generous CollegeBound board members, for a total of \$28,528. These funds will support a new Student Opportunity Fund. Today, students must come into the working world with internships and life experiences on their resumes in order to be competitive in today's job market. For many Baltimore City public school graduates, activities like study abroad and unpaid internships may seem out of reach due to the financial burden. This fund helps ensure that CollegeBound scholars are able to take advantage of these enriching opportunities.

We're excited to announce that the CollegeBound Foundation is being featured in the Target Circle community giving program! Now through December 31, Target shoppers, through the Target app, can earn and cast votes for their favorite local nonprofits.

Every 90 days, Target features 5 nonprofits doing good in the local community. As one of the featured organizations, CollegeBound is hoping to shed light on the successes of Baltimore City Schools' students and how we can grow to do more for them. For more information on Target Circle and how to vote for CollegeBound, visit target.com/circle.



Staff members at Target while filming a promo video

READ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship readers evaluate scholarship applications submitted for CollegeBound's \$4 million scholarship portfolio. Every year, 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.

SUPPORT COLLEGEBOUND!

CHARITY CAMPAIGNS

Please consider CollegeBound in your 2023 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**

It's time for our ANNUAL LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN

Ends December 31, 2023

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/lawyerscampaign31/>