

Helping Students Go To College
Since 1988



ACCESS COLLEGE FOUNDATION



The National Perspective



Educational Attainment

⌘ According to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, Americans are completing more years of education. Between 1970 and 2008:

☑ Adults 25 years of age and over who completed high school/high school equivalency or more rose from 55% to 87%

☑ Adults 25 years of age and over who completed a bachelor's degree or higher increased from 11% to 29%



Challenge

⌘ The U.S. ranks 10th among 25-34 year olds with a two-year degree and above. Our global neighbors are outpacing the U.S. in the educational attainment of adults *(Source: Achieve - American Diploma Project Network)*

⌘ Obama Administration's Goal: By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world



Overarching Issues

⌘ Equity: Gaps exist between the college-going and attainment rates of students by income and race

⌘ Economic and workforce development:
Recommitment to our investment in education—specifically for low-income students and other underserved students—is the key to securing our nation’s best future



The Role of College Access



Need for College Access

- ☒ Students from low-income families least likely to graduate from high school or pursue postsecondary education
- ☒ Students from families where no one has pursued education beyond high school lack understanding about the college process and are overwhelmed by the amount of forms and paperwork



Guiding Principles of College Access

- ❖ Expectations
- ❖ Academic Preparation
- ❖ Information and Planning
- ❖ Affordability



How Are Access Programs Funded?



Funding Opportunities

- ❖ Federally funded through GEAR UP, TRIO and other initiatives
- ❖ Combination of federal, state and private funding
- ❖ Privately funded through businesses, individuals and foundations



The States' Response



State Initiatives

- ❖ 23 states and the District of Columbia participate in the Early College High School Initiative (www.earlycolleges.org)
- ❖ 15 Statewide College Access Networks affiliated with the National College Access Network (NCAN) www.collegeaccess.org



State Initiatives

- ❖ In Virginia, we developed a statewide network similar to what other NCAN programs have done. Our network is VirginiaCAN www.virginiacan.org and we provide:
 - Annual Conference each December
 - Annual Advocacy Day at the Virginia General Assembly
 - Drive-in Training in different regions
 - Toolkit for Program Replication



One Region's Response



ACCESS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Helping Students Go To College Since 1988



ACCESS fulfills its mission by employing ACCESS Advisors to serve all 29 public high schools in South Hampton Roads, 19 middle schools and 10 college campuses



ACCESS College Foundation Programs

- ❖ High school program for students in grades 9 – 12
- ❖ Early Awareness Program for middle school students in grades 7 and 8 who attend schools with the greatest number of students receiving the federal free or reduced lunch program
- ❖ College Success Program for our Scholars who attend select college campuses



ACCESS Services

- ❖ All ACCESS Services are free
- ❖ ACCESS Advisors help students identify and apply to four-year colleges, two-year community colleges, apprentice and certificate programs as they are all valuable investments in education.
- ❖ We also help students identify and apply for all forms of financial aid and scholarships.



What Has ACCESS Accomplished?



High School Program Results

⌘ Over 22 years: 1988 – 2010

| | |
|--|---------------|
| ☑ Students assisted with the college process | 32,500 |
| ☑ Total financial aid received | \$268 million |
| ☑ ACCESS Last-Dollar Scholarships | \$5 million |

⌘ School year: 2009 – 2010

| | |
|--|--------------|
| ☑ Students assisted with the college process | 3,250 |
| ☑ Total financial aid reported | \$32 million |
| ☑ ACCESS Last-Dollar Scholarships | \$500,000 |



Highlights from the Early Awareness Program

| | Two Districts |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Number of Schools | 12 |
| Students Served | 4745/6189 76% |
| Number of Events Held | 60 |



Highlights from the College Success Program

(Overall Retention 374/400 or 94%)

| | 2007 Cohort | 2008 Cohort | 2009 Cohort |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Our Retention | 112/127 88% | 127/134 95% | 135/139 97% |
| National Average | 55% | 63% | 75% |



Questions?

ACCESS College Foundation
7300 Newport Avenue, Suite 500
Norfolk, VA 23505
(757) 962-6113
www.accesscollege.org



Helping Students Go To College
Since 1988



ACCESS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

