



# COLLEGEBOUND

Nurturing Student Motivation for  
College Persistence

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# AGENDA

1. Who We Are
2. Three ways CollegeBound builds/foster relationships
3. Successes, Lessons Learned, and Next Steps
4. Discussion & Questions

# WHAT IS

# COLLEGEBOUND?

"To College, Through College"

- Founded in 1988
- Operate on-site in 21 Baltimore City public high schools as college advisors
- Deliver need-based funding through "Last Dollar Grants"
- Administer an annual scholarship portfolio valued at \$4 million
- Provide academic, socioemotional, and financial guidance from middle school through college graduation

# COLLEGE COMPLETION PROGRAM

- Started in 2017 to offer wraparound services to students receiving CollegeBound scholarships
- Criteria:
  - Graduate from a Baltimore City public high school
  - Attend a 4-year college
  - Demonstrate financial need (Pell eligibility)
  - No selective academic criteria
- Cohort model, with CCP advisors serving as caseworkers

# CURRENT CCP ENROLLMENT

- 321 actively-enrolled students
- 20 in-state colleges/universities
- 10 out-of-state colleges & universities
  - 2 local community colleges\*
- 34% attend HBCUs

# COHORT 2022 DEMOGRAPHICS

- 155 onboarded students
- Demographics:
  - 6% AAPI, 82% Black, 10% Hispanic, 1% Multiracial, 3% White
  - Gender identity: 66% female, 32% male, 1% non-binary
- 55% attend PWIs, 45% attend HBCUs  
(highest-ever)



# 1 STAFF TO STUDENT

- Reputation in the community
- One-on-ones, office hours, virtual communication from College Completion Program (CCP) Advisor
- Pipeline for building internships and careers

CollegeBound has served Baltimore students for 35 Years. We have high school college advisors in 2/3 of all Baltimore City Public High Schools. We are the go to organization for helping students to and through college.

College Completion Program (CCP) Advisor to student ratio around 85:1. Our CCP Advisors help students navigate resources to address financial, social, emotional, and academic issues.

We host bi-weekly virtual Zoom sessions with local companies offering internship/career opportunities. Come July 1st, we will have a full-time person dedicated to working with local partners to develop internships specifically for our students that curate careers.

# 2

## CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS AMONGST STUDENTS

- 3 day overnight retreat for all incoming freshmen
- CollegeBound organized volunteer days with other non-profits
- All student End of Year Event
- Peer Mentor Program

The retreat is held at a local college and is meant to begin building a cohort connection through enrichment workshops and team-building exercises.

Freshmen are provided a junior or senior College Completion Scholar to be their peer mentor. This helps bond social connection and belonging as soon as they begin college.

CollegeBound organizes volunteer days with other non-profits to allow our students to connect with students across colleges and bond over giving back to their community.

We hold an event at the end of every academic year to bring our College Completion Scholarships together. This allows students to mix and mingle

# 3

## POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO STUDENTS

- Admissions Representative
- Campus liaisons
- Financial aid, bursar's office
- CareerBound

CollegeBound has MOUs with Maryland Colleges, providing us with support contacts. The admissions rep helps students get into college. Our campus liaisons help our College Completion Program Advisors assist college students with navigating resources on campus. Our financial aid contact helps us navigate any financial aid issues the students face. During the fall and spring semesters, we hold bi-weekly virtual sessions hosting local companies to present to our college students. The presentation helps bridge connections between local companies and college students for internship and career opportunities.



# Data to Back It Up

- 75% graduation rate
  - Compared to 41% national graduation rate for Pell-eligible students
- 98% of cohort 2022 returned for the spring semester
- 84% of cohorts 2021 and 2020 are still enrolled in college

# Lessons Learned

- One-on-ones are key
- Nurture campus relationships early and often
- Establish a cohort dynamic before college starts
- Different years need different mentor relationships
- Mental health is a growing concern
- Students are hungry for connection (but don't always take advantage of opportunities)

# Next Steps

- Improving evaluation measures and processes
- Linking early warning indicators to student supports
- Technology-assisted tracking from high school through college
- Expanding internship pathways
- Overhauling Peer and Professional Mentor Programs
- Sustainable growth

# DISCUSSION: BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

Consider:

- What types of relationships would your students benefit from most?
  - What opportunities are available through these relationships?
  - What are the barriers for developing or sustaining them?
- What are the barriers & opportunities to building relationships with other community resources?

# QUESTIONS?

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