



COLLEGE POSSIBLE

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College Possible is a nonprofit organization making college admission and success possible for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support. Our services include:

- + academic support through ACT/ SAT test preparation
- + college application assistance
- + financial aid consulting
- + guidance in the college transition
- + support toward college degree completion



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The Service Solution: Creating a College Success Corps



Learn more:
CollegePossible.org/TheServiceSolution

College Success Corps Coalition

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| + Blue Engine | + College Possible |
| + Bottom Line | + College Track |
| + College Access Now | + Democracy Prep Public Schools |
| + College Advising Corps | + iMentor |
| + College Bound | + National College Access Network |
| + College Forward | + OneGoal |

College Possible is leading a coalition ready to bring our proven approach—AmeriCorps coaching through college that leaves students ten times more likely to graduate—to more students across the country.

Along with 11 peer organizations, College Possible is advocating for a dedicated “College Success Corps.” A pilot program could serve 240,000 students annually, more than ten times the number College Possible now serves. **At scale, a College Success Corps could close America’s degree divide in one generation**, creating hope that the cycle of poverty can be interrupted for hundreds of thousands of promising low-income students.

Help us spread the word. Visit:

CollegePossible.org/TheServiceSolution

Potential for Impact

Piloting a College Success Corps has the potential to completely transform the college landscape for America’s low-income, first-generation students.

- + \$100 million investment
- + 5,000 service members
- + 240,000 students served annually
- + \$80 million in extra tax revenue from increased wages
- + America benefits from more college graduates

THE GATE

TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE POSSIBLE
VOLUME 2 • WINTER 2015 • **OPEN A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY**



Beavers break down dams for low-income students

One way College Possible increases impact is by partnering with local colleges and universities to provide fully-funded campus visits to low-income students. Oregon State University is the most recent Explore Partner, delivering on their mission to ensure college is open to all Oregonians.

“Oregon State University has a history of educating first-generation students and understanding the resources and attention that are needed for them to receive an education and the experiential learning opportunities that will lead to graduation and prepare them for careers,” explains Dr. Ilene Kleinsorge, Dean of the College of Business at OSU.

Thirty-seven College Possible students visited the OSU campus in November, and for many it was their first time on a college campus. Allison, a junior at Sam Barlow High School,



Rain or shine, College Possible students are eager to learn about the OSU campus.

reflects on her experience, “I like how it feels like home, as well as the welcoming attitude you get from students and faculty”.

College partnerships are vital to the success of our students, and Oregon State University is helping to pave the way. Dr. Kleinsorge explains why these partnerships are important to the university, too. “Moving away from home, finding the resources to attend college and integrating into a new community can be overwhelming for any student but when there are organizations like College Possible, we can work together to assure a student’s success is a win-win for everyone.”

“I like how it feels like home, as well as the welcoming attitude you get from students and faculty.”

- Allison, College Possible student, Sam Barlow High School

Department of Education invests in College Possible

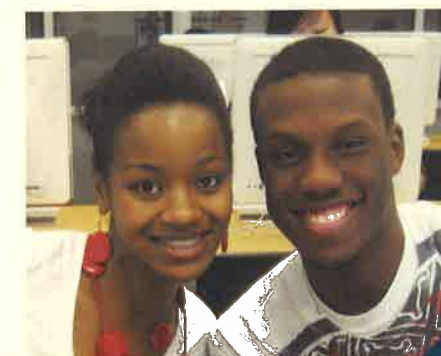
College Possible has received its largest grant ever, which will allow us to multiply our impact in the coming years!

The US Department of Education is awarding College Possible a \$3 million grant from its “Investing in Innovation” (i3) competition, which is aimed at developing innovative approaches to improving student achievement.

The five-year i3 grant will support

programming in Portland high schools and nationally and evaluate the impact of College Possible coaching on students’ motivation, persistence and resilience.

“These programs are changing the landscape of education in this country by supporting innovative ideas and scaling up what works,” said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “This round of i3 grantees is poised to have real impact in areas of critical need.”



i3 will support programming in 19 partner high schools nationally.

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+ From the Desk of Executive Director

Suzanne Geary

I start each year with the best intentions, full of optimism and goal setting in areas I want to change. Unfortunately, one startling fact is still true year after year: upper-income students are earning degrees at 10 times the rate of their low-income peers. This year, I resolve that we change that statistic forever.

With the odds seemingly stacked against them, College Possible Portland students are full of hope for a better future and are working tirelessly to turn that hope into action. Our first-ever graduating class of seniors has spent their winter break working to complete countless scholarship and college applications, including Kaylee, from David Douglas High School who has applied to nine colleges!

This winter, their hard work is already starting to payoff in the form of that coveted acceptance letter. College Possible Portland students have received over 85 acceptances to 25 colleges across the country including a significant first: our first student admitted to college from Portland earned a scholarship to Harvard University. In fact, Josh is the first student in College Possible's history to



earn admission to Harvard.

In addition to Josh we have so much to be proud of in Portland. So far, our students have earned admission to Colorado College, Oregon State University, Pomona College, Portland State University and Willamette University, among many others.

As our students are working hard to create a brighter future for themselves and their families, I want to thank you for providing your hope and support, and giving them the opportunity to succeed.



The AmeriCorps and VISTA members of the Portland team wish you a wonderful 2015!

College Possible
is supported by
AmeriCorps and
AmeriCorps VISTA.



Catching up with Frida: Acceptances, confidence and dreams to teach



With your support of College Possible, Frida's future is filled with hope! Frida was accepted to Portland State University and College of St. Scholastica in Minnesota. "In College Possible I have learned to not doubt myself - I shouldn't worry about not getting accepted. There is a perfect fit for everyone, there isn't a need for negativity. I am just excited that I am getting accepted into schools."

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THE OREGON
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Here for Oregon. Here for Good.

Portland's MLK Day



This Martin Luther King Jr. Day 125 students from our five high schools gave back through our partnership with Oregon Campus Compact.

Our students participated in school clean ups, gardening, painting, sorting and organizing supplies and building raised garden beds in the community.

Donor Spotlight

James F. & Marion L.
Miller Foundation

The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation supports educational programs which lift and strengthen student achievement. According to Executive Director Martha Richards, the Foundation has been impressed by the strength of the evaluations of the College Possible program, the staff and results, particularly in the first few years of College Possible in Oregon.

As a testament of their support, the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation recently awarded College Possible Portland \$300,000 over the next three years!

Thank you to the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and all of our other donors for your support!