



COLLEGEBOUND FOUNDATION

To College. Through College.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CollegeBound Announces Commitment to Expand College Access at White House Event

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec. 4, 2014) — Today, the CollegeBound Foundation is joining President Obama, the First Lady, and Vice President Biden along with hundreds of college presidents and other higher education leaders to announce new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

The White House College Opportunity Day of Action helps to support the President's commitment to partner with colleges and universities, business leaders, and nonprofits to support students across the country to help our nation reach its goal of leading the world in college attainment.

Working closely with Baltimore City Public Schools, the Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC), and the Johns Hopkins University Graduate School of Education's Counseling Department, CollegeBound and its partners have committed to improving the college enrollment and completion rates of Baltimore City students.

"For 26 years, CollegeBound has focused exclusively on getting Baltimore City students to college and through college," said Cassie Motz, Executive Director of the CollegeBound Foundation. "Our longstanding partnerships with Baltimore City Public Schools, BERC, and Johns Hopkins University will be invaluable as we work together on new initiatives including a college match measure, sharing college trending data, and helping students better align their credentials with a college that fits their needs."

Today's participants were asked to commit to new action in one of four areas: building networks of colleges around promoting completion, creating K-16 partnerships around college readiness, investing in high school counselors as part of the First Lady's Reach Higher initiative, and increasing the number of college graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The President will announce new steps on how his Administration is helping to support these actions, including announcing \$10 million to help promote college

completion and a \$30 million AmeriCorps program that will improve low-income students' access to college. Today's event is the second College Opportunity Day of Action, and will include a progress report on the commitments made at the first day of action on January 14, 2014.

Expanding opportunity for more students to enroll and succeed in college, especially low-income and underrepresented students, is vital to building a strong economy and a strong middle class. Today, only 9 percent of those born in the lowest family income quartile attain a bachelor's degree by age 25, compared to 54 percent in the top quartile. In an effort to expand college access, the Obama Administration has increased Pell scholarships by \$1,000 a year, created the new American Opportunity Tax Credit worth up to \$10,000 over four years of college, limited student loan payments to 10 percent of income, and laid out an ambitious agenda to reduce college costs and promote innovation and competition.

About CollegeBound

For 26 years, the CollegeBound Foundation has helped low-income and first generation students realize their dreams of a college education. Today, CollegeBound operates in 18 Baltimore City public high schools, providing full-time college advisors, need-based funding through "Last Dollar Grants," and administering an annual scholarship portfolio exceeding \$1.5 million. For more information, please visit collegeboundfoundation.org.

Contact:

Luke Rettig

lrettig@collegeboundfoundation.org

Mobile: (410) 245-7883

300 Water St, Suite 300

Baltimore, MD 21202

###