Only 9% of low-income students in the United States will earn a postsecondary credential by age 26.
COLLEGE FORWARD WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY 2040.
MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & CEO

When Doreen Wise and I founded College Forward in 2003, we dared hope that we could help a few underprivileged high school students get into college. More than 90% did, in fact, matriculate, but they quickly encountered new challenges on the road to degrees. We decided to stay with them, in the process launching one of the first college completion programs in the country. Our early focus on the student experience fueled the development of innovative and highly-successful program models that address the full spectrum of academic, financial, and socio-emotional barriers too often encountered by underserved students.

For eight years College Forward focused on expanding geographically to serve additional schools and cities. But by 2011, we realized that the magnitude of the higher education crisis—more than 9 million students dropping out of college every year—can never be solved by an individual nonprofit organization, no matter how large its ambitions. We needed to take a radically different approach.

Our goal was clear—success for every student—but we would have to take bold steps to get there. We conferred with the best minds in the industry on a new strategy. Direct student services, our focus for 11 years, could no longer be our end game. We have transformed our Central Texas and Gulf Coast operations into laboratories for experimentation and innovation. College Forward will design solutions for the school districts, colleges, collective impact initiatives, and other nonprofits who collectively reach every student in need.

Lisa Fielder, CEO
MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

More than a decade of obsessing about the problem has paid off. College Forward works. Our student outcomes are testament to this fact, and a recently commissioned randomized controlled trial evaluation will confirm it. But no solution is viable in isolation. College Forward is working to share our tools and resources with as many partners—serving as many students—as possible.

The initiatives outlined in this document are the first steps of this strategy. They are an open call to action to school districts, colleges and universities, nonprofits, state agencies, and elected officials who share our passion for student success. By combining energy and experience, crossing sectors and geographic boundaries, and focusing relentlessly on solutions, these partnerships can change the narrative of underserved students in higher education.

College Forward is fomenting a movement focused on student success. We have already placed our solutions into the hands of practitioners across the country, and our campus-based partnerships are increasing student retention at an extraordinary rate. When we are finished, every student, regardless of family background, will have the support they need to achieve their college dreams and enter a life of success.

Austin Buchan, Executive Director
College Forward is a Texas-based college access and success program. Our intensive, culturally-appropriate mentoring programs propel low-income students to collegiate success and remunerative careers. In 2014–2015, we served 5,037 students at 16 Texas high schools and over 115 colleges and universities around the country with our award-winning college success programming. Our students’ outcomes illustrate the effectiveness of our program.

**MISSION**

College Forward coaches underserved, motivated students to achieve the benefits of higher education and a college degree.

**VISION**

College Forward will lead by building and sharing the most effective, most efficient, and fun college access and completion programs in the country by 2018.

99% of College Forward students apply and earn college acceptances.

90% matriculate within a year of high school graduation.

49% complete postsecondary education, 2.5 times the rate of disadvantaged students in Texas.
“College Forward was the best place to find information about college options, scholarships, and test preparation, and without it, I don’t think I would have made it this far.”
—Alejandra Lopez,
Scarborough High School

“The unbelievable support I received from my College Forward coach showed me that there are other people who care about you and believe in your capability to succeed.”
—Araceli Rangel,
Lehman High School

“College Forward’s CoPilot has helped us track and identify our students at a level that we have never been able to do before. We can easily track student data in one place instead of multiple databases and spreadsheets.”
—College Possible,
CoPilot Partner
### A BRIEF HISTORY OF COLLEGE FORWARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>• College Forward begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• College Access program is launched.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>• College Completion program begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>• Lisa Fielder named Local Hero by Bank of America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• College Forward receives Greenlights’ Nonny Award for Innovation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>• Awarded Best Education Nonprofit from Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>• Awarded the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>• Celebrates its first college graduates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>• Awarded Greenlights’ Excellence in Innovation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Included in “Transforming Communities Through Service: A Collection of 52 of the Most Innovative AmeriCorps Programs in the United States,” a publication of America’s Service Commission and Innovations in Civic Participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>• Selected as the first community partner of Innovation+.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lisa Fielder named Social Entrepreneur of the Year by E&amp;Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Awarded Best Education Nonprofit from Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Received the National College Access Network’s Award of Excellence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>• CoPilot launched internally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>• Invited by New Profit, Inc. to join college success council along with 15 of the nation’s leading organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–2015</td>
<td>• Success Partnerships launches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CoPilot becomes available on the Salesforce App Exchange.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Invited to the White House College Opportunity Day of Action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rural Pipeline Initiative begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Advocacy efforts begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Wins national competition to begin a longitudinal randomized controlled trial evaluation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"I have personally witnessed the profound impact College Forward has had on our students and community. College Forward has been the catalytic force behind our thriving, vibrant college-going culture in which all students feel championed in their college ambitions."
—High School Counselor, Stony Point High School

**COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM**

Through our college completion program that begins in high school, College Forward provides intensive, one-on-one mentoring to underserved students beginning in the eleventh grade and continuing until they successfully join the workforce.

**College Access**

In “high-touch” after school classes, College Forward mentors high school students through the college application process and motivates them to secure scholarships, grants, and financial aid.

**Parent Workshops**

Parents play an enormous role in their child’s postsecondary success. College Forward hosts bilingual workshops to clarify the college application process, demystify financial aid, and encourage parents to become effective champions of their children in college.

**College Completion**

Our students’ challenges don’t end with a college acceptance, and neither does our program. With data-informed interventions aligned to every student’s goals, College Forward provides whatever/whenever support so that students can focus on excelling academically, graduating, and transitioning quickly into meaningful careers.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Ruby

“My whole life people told me, ‘If you go to college, you could really be somebody.’ But no one in my family knew how to help me get there. That’s why I joined College Forward. My College Forward coach always keeps me motivated and is always there for me. I always knew College Forward would help get me to college, but I didn’t imagine they would get me to the White House!”

—Ruby Rodriguez-Segobiano
Texas State University, Dell Scholar
Lehman High School Graduate, Class of 2015

AMERICORPS COACH SPOTLIGHT

Meet Michael

“During my time with College Forward, I confirmed that I love building relationships with students and providing them with the resources to better themselves and take full advantage of all the amazing things that a college education has to offer.”

—Michael Massad
Admission Counselor, Southwestern University
College Forward AmeriCorps Coach, 2014–2015
2014–2015 PROGRAM IMPACT

Student Demographics
96% of our students are first-generation college students and economically disadvantaged.
Student Milestones

Total Students Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>05037</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,527 College Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,041 College Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>469 Success Partnerships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

608 Community Service Events

1,473 College Acceptances

2,456 FAFSA applications completed

$4,303,028 Total scholarships and counting!

Coach Milestones

73 Coaches

In 125,136 combined work hours, our coaches made 35,975 connections.

10,444 contacts with students

2,197 in-person meetings

10,342 phone calls made

9,802 text messages delivered

3,190 emails sent
WE ARE EXPANDING OUR IMPACT, NOT OUR ORGANIZATION.
We're sharing our resources and knowledge with school districts, colleges, universities, nonprofits, state agencies, and elected officials to solve the problem. Learn more about these exciting initiatives.
SUCCESS PARTNERSHIPS

In collaboration with colleges and universities, College Forward implements intensive campus-based student mentoring programs that increase retention, persistence, and graduation. Our wrap-around services embody the solutions campuses need to increase college success for their most vulnerable students.

In 2014–2015, Success Partnerships students at Lone Star College—North Harris achieved a 37% increase in persistence.

"We already had student retention services in place but could see that College Forward coaches bring freshness, energy, recent successful experience, and can be more helpful."
—Dorothy Dixon, Dean of Academic Success Initiatives, Lone Star College—North Harris

"College Forward coaches have enhanced our first year mentoring services. They provide one-on-one support, encouragement, guidance, and they also have fun!"
—Program Manager, Student Success, Lone Star College—North Harris
COPILOT
College Forward’s industry-leading student information system, CoPilot, provides a 360-degree perspective on the academic, financial, and social well-being of students. In 2014–2015, CoPilot enhanced data collection and program delivery for nine partner organizations across the country, impacting more than 20,000 students.

“The CoPilot app is an excellent out of the box solution for tracking and reporting on college advising data. We are a new college access organization and needed a way to track our advisers and their student data in a streamlined way.”
—Matriculate

“The CoPilot app has allowed us to organize all our student data in one place. Because of College Forward’s excellent training and support, I was able to go from having no experience with Salesforce to transitioning over ten years of data in a few weeks.”
—Project GRAD—Houston
RURAL PIPELINE INITIATIVE
Driven by the needs of low-income students in rural Texas, College Forward has created program models that teach school districts how to replicate our services and achieve our outcomes. In 2015–2016, in partnership with Sul Ross State University, College Forward will begin building a student success pipeline with the Alpine and Marfa independent school districts to facilitate postsecondary access and increase educational outcomes across the West Texas region.

ADVOCACY
Legislative action has serious implications for both students and institutions, yet their concerns are often the last to be considered. College Forward is mobilizing our students to share their personal stories and concerns with state legislators, senators, and aides. At the national level, College Forward is a charter member of America Forward, a legislative advocacy coalition founded by New Profit, Inc.
## FINANCIALS

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Grants</td>
<td>1,063,998</td>
<td>2,910,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>958,472</td>
<td>901,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>296,456</td>
<td>30,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>72,078</td>
<td>222,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12,804</td>
<td>5,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,403,808</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,071,249</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>2,867,932</td>
<td>2,351,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>209,634</td>
<td>182,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>416,434</td>
<td>287,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,494,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,821,403</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>2,982,656</td>
<td>1,732,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>1,892,464</td>
<td>2,982,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$(1,090,192)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,249,846</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

College Forward was fortunate to receive numerous multi-year grants in 2014. Due to IRS reporting rules, we are required to report this revenue in the year it was received, accounting for the apparent decrease in revenue in 2015.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2014–2015 PARTNERS

Foundations
Anonymous Foundation
Applied Materials
Bank of America, Austin
Bank of America, Houston
Greater Texas Foundation
Houston Endowment, Inc.
J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation
James R. Dougherty Jr. Foundation
KLE Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
The Long Foundation
The Meadows Foundation
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
OneStar Foundation
The Powell Foundation
RGK Foundation
Rachael & Ben Vaughan Foundation
Robert & Janice McNair Foundation
The Roy F. & JoAnn Cole Mitte Foundation
The Simmons Foundation
Texas Pioneer Foundation
TG
USA Funds
The Webber Family Foundation

Our sincerest thanks to our many individual donors.

High School Partners
Austin
Connally High School
Crockett High School
Del Valle High School
Eastview High School
Jack C. Hays High School
Lehman High School
Manor High School
Manor New Tech High School
Stony Point High School
William B. Travis High School

Houston
Channelview High School
Eisenhower High School
Goose Creek Memorial High School
Robert E. Lee High School
Ross S. Sterling High School
Scarborough High School

Higher Ed Partners
KIPP—Austin
Lone Star College—North Harris

CoPilot Partners
College Possible
First Generation College Bound
Higher Edge CT
Linda Lorelle Scholarship Fund
Matriculate
Partnership for the Future
Project GRAD Houston
University of Texas at Austin, Division of Diversity & Community Engagement

Board of Directors
Tracy Benedict
Paul Brownell
David Cabello
Dennis Cavner (Chair)
Mike Fitzpatrick
Bill Forsberg
Elsa Hinojosa
Monte James (Secretary)
Meg Moore
Jerry Sun
Doreen Wise
Ken Womack

College Forward is proud to be an AmeriCorps Texas program.
BECOME A PARTNER

Contact our team at info@collegeforward.org to learn more about how you can get involved.
Austin
505 E. Huntland Drive, Suite 315
Austin, TX 78752
(512) 452-4800

Houston
2180 North Loop West, Suite 210
Houston, TX 77018
(281) 628-7506

www.collegeforward.org