

# POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS COLLABORATIVE



## Building Partnerships to Expand College Success

For too many students in too many communities the steps to college are not clear and the support and services to get there are either invisible or unavailable. In 2008, Citi Foundation launched the Citi Postsecondary Success Program to put higher education within reach for more students.

Now called the Postsecondary Success Collaborative, the initiative is strengthening and building local partnerships to help communities identify and provide the tools that all students need to succeed in college. More schools and partners are getting involved and the work is poised to expand to additional communities.

### At a Glance

**Launched:** 2008 by Citi Foundation with \$5.1 million grant

**Local matching funds:** \$1.8 million

**Sites:** Miami-Dade County, Philadelphia and San Francisco

**Reach:** 10 pilot high schools, 6 higher education institutions, dozens of community-based organizations and some 12,000 students

### Partners

The Education Fund (Miami-Dade County); Philadelphia Education Fund; San Francisco Education Fund; OMG Center for Collaborative Learning



## Building Pathways to College Success

The Success Collaborative works in communities where college success rates have been low. By identifying and connecting existing resources with all students, especially students who need them most, the Success Collaborative increases local capacity to make college a realistic goal. Here's how:

- Schools use the Postsecondary Success Asset Map to inventory existing resources, set priorities and build action plans aligned with school improvement goals.
- Local partners work with schools to raise academic rigor, expose students to college and career opportunities, and support student and family action around college milestones.
- Beginning in 9th grade, schools work with students to start planning the academic and extracurricular pathways to postsecondary success.
- Local colleges and universities invite students to campuses, support the financial aid process, and collaborate with educators to align practice.
- Families receive support filling out and filing the FAFSA, and throughout the admissions process.

## Increasing College Success is a National Goal

Our nation will not achieve its economic or educational goals unless more people enroll in and complete some form of postsecondary education. To get there, we must eliminate barriers to college success for low-income students, students of color and first-generation college students. The Success Collaborative is creating an affordable, evidence-based model for college access by leveraging and making better use of existing community and partner resources.

Citi Foundation



san francisco **education** fund

# Fast Facts:

**65%** of jobs will require a postsecondary education or training beyond high school.

While **62%** of White students who sought a four-year degree in 2004 and earned a bachelor's degree within six years, the rate was **50%** for Hispanic students and **40%** for Black students.

## Success Collaborative Outcomes

**National:** Across all Postsecondary Success Collaborative schools there was a 12% overall increase in college enrollment from 2009-12. Especially successful were five schools with strong implementation of a set of core strategies that raised college enrollment 26% for all students and 39% for African American and Latino students.

**Miami-Dade:** From 2009-12, college enrollment for black students increased 69%; for Latino students by 25% and for English language learners by 23%.

**Philadelphia:** The high school graduation rate for students who entered the 12th grade trended upward from 2009-11 to 82%, or five percent above the district average.

**San Francisco:** From 2009-11, college enrollment rates for three participating non-charter public high schools exceeded district rates, increasing 36% for black students and 14% for Latino students.

*Local analysis conducted by the OMG Center for Collaborative Learning. Denominators were of 12th graders only. Philadelphia data are from 2009-11.*

## Postsecondary Success Collaborative

Over the past five years the Success Collaborative has **seen real and growing results:**



**College enrollment rates are higher** in Success Collaborative schools versus similar schools and their districts.



**Year-to-year** Success Collaborative persistence rates in college outpace district rates for students of color.



**The number of students** who complete and submit financial aid forms is rising.



**Students who enter 12th grade** in Success Collaborative schools often graduate at higher rates than students in schools with similar demographics.



**The OMG Center** for Collaborative Learning is tracking the progress of Success Collaborative high school graduates through their second year in college and will update findings in 2014.

### Learn More:

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“ I can honestly say that we now have a college-going culture. We have moved from asking students if they are going to college to asking them where they are going to college. ”

– Debora Carerra, Principal, Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts (Philadelphia)