HOLISTIC SUPPORTS TO HELP STUDENTS CONNECT, THRIVE, AND PERSIST IN COLLEGE

Pathways to Adult Success Solution Forum
Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Education
March 1, 2022
Welcome and Agenda

• Future Grads, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (California):
  • Monique Gagnon, Senior Director, Measurements and Impact
  • Esme Ortiz, Vice President, High School and Postsecondary Programs

• Achieve Atlanta Scholars:
  • Susanne Diggs-Wilborn, Vice President for College Success

• Open Discussion and Resource Sharing

• Upcoming Events
Organizing Our Discussion

• We have a large and diverse group of people and organizations participating in today’s session (K-12, Higher Ed, Non-Profits, State Depts. of Ed.).

• Please share ideas, resources, and ask questions via the chat function.

• One of the moderators will read each question or comment out loud, and then ask for responses via the chat function.

• The moderator may ask the participant to respond verbally for elaboration or clarification.

• After the session, we will send out all resources shared and add to the Solutions Forum webpage on the PAS website.
Building Pathways to Adult Success for and with all students has never been so crucial

- The pandemic has disrupted existing student support and guidance systems.
- Uncertainty is the norm.
- Momentum to and through postsecondary is being impacted.
Impact of Pandemic on College Students

• COVID-19 has raised new barriers for many postsecondary students, with heightened impacts emerging for students of color, students with disabilities, and students who are caregivers, both for entry into higher education and for continuing and completing their studies.
Momentum Matters for College Completion

**Figure 5**
Few Students Who Stopped Out Completed a College Credential

*Degree outcome, by fall enrollment status, for 2010–12 CPS graduates who stopped out*

- Immediate 2-Year College Enrollees (N=10,387):
  - 10% finished 4 years or more with a bachelor’s degree
  - 88% finished 2 years or more with an associate degree
  - 7% completed associate degree or certificate
  - 7% did not complete any degree

- Immediate 4-Year College Enrollees (N=11,571):
  - 7% finished 4 years or more with a bachelor’s degree
  - 87% finished 4 years or more with a bachelor’s degree

**Degree Outcome:**
- Completed Bachelor’s Degree within 6 Years
- Completed Associate Degree or Certificate within 6 Years
- Completed No Degree within 6 Years

**Note:** Stopping out refers to leaving college for at least one term, regardless of whether students return to college or not. Percentages may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.
Future Grads

Monique Gagnon, Senior Director, Measurements and Impact
Esme Ortiz, Vice President, High School and Postsecondary Programs
Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP)

Future Grads Program
Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP) partners with families, schools, and school districts to close the gap and provide our students with expanded learning opportunities through after school, summer, and school day programming.
Serve about 3,000 students in Kindergarten – Post-Secondary

At schools we serve, 90% students on free/reduced lunch

Average cost of 1 bedroom apartment: $3,000/month
Future Grads supports students to and through college graduation.

Future Grads is open to any student at our partner high schools.

Serve students at both 4-year and 2-year institutions.
Focus on 4-year and 2-year students.
Future Grads Program Pillars

- College Systems
- College Preparation
- Self-Advocacy
- Networking
- Gratitude
Future Grads Program Model

10th Grade
- **Summer Academy**
- Academic & Life Skills
- Relationship-Building

11th Grade
- College Tours
- Personal Statements
- College List

12th Grade
- College Applications
- Financial Aid
- Post-Application Support

Postsecondary
- **Postsecondary Retreat**
- Academic Advising
- SE Support
- Career Readiness
Post-Secondary Program

• Postsecondary education planning based on college system
• Academic advising
• On-campus resource connections
• Transfer application support
• Financial Aid renewal
• Career Preparation
• Social-emotional support
• Cultivating first-gen community
## Future Grads Participants

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Future Grads
Post-secondary Class 2016-2021
Holistic Supports to Help Students, Connect, Thrive and Persist in College

March 2022
The Context
Who We Are

Achieve Atlanta’s mission is to help Atlanta Public Schools (APS) students access, afford, and earn postsecondary credentials, so that Atlanta becomes a city where race and income no longer predict postsecondary success and upward mobility.
Scholar Profile

4,468 Scholars

94% Scholars are Black or Hispanic

Attending
319 different colleges

1/3 of graduating Atlanta Public Schools seniors become Scholars

96% eligible for Pell Grants
Scholar Data Findings

• For every 1-point increase in high school GPA (100-point scale), a student’s likelihood of persisting to second year of college increases by 12%.

• Students who are absent more than 15% of senior year of high school are roughly a third less likely to persist than those missing fewer days.

• High school GPA continues to impact persistence to year 3 of college.

• Factors such as work hours, credits accumulated, and campus involvement start to show statistically significant impacts on persistence to years 3 and 4 of college.

Source: Internal logistic regression using APS academic data, AATL Scholar survey responses, and past college persistence outcomes.
What Scholars are Saying…

**Lack of Sense of Belonging and Campus Support**
“(I) felt like an outsider at this private PWI and only other minorities were on football team; my grades slipped, football was challenging, and I was too different from everybody else.”
- Cohort 2017 Scholar

**Remote Learning**
“It was a struggle. I feel like if it was in person, it would have been less challenging. When I was in high school, I had a lot more help. When it is online, you can't really get the help.”
- Cohort 2020 Scholar

**Working to Support Families**
“My mom lost her job due to COVID so I quit school to get a job to help pay the bills.”
- Cohort 2020 Scholar

**Not Academically Prepared**
“A lot of students are not prepared for the college-level work or academic freedom that college gives you.”
– Partner Coach

Believe. Expect. Achieve.
achieveatlanta.org
How We’re Tackling the Challenges
Persistence Likelihood Rating to help partners tailor coaching and recognize students most at risk of stopping out

Emergency grants to reduce the likelihood of unexpected expenses (medical, transportation, housing) derailing our Scholars’ college journeys

Providing Scholars’ and their families with access to behavioral health services to address acute needs
Partnership Support Practices
APS Students

Introduction of match & fit concepts and important college search factors during junior year; supporting juniors to build balanced college lists through the Match & Fit List Builder

New training and capacity building on college affordability for school teams: comparing financial aid awards; supporting verification and aid appeal processes
Open Discussion and Resource Sharing
Announcements

• Upcoming PAS Solutions Forum Dates:
  • Mar. 31, 2022, 2:00pm ET
  • Apr. 26, 2022, 2:00pm ET

• Coming Soon:
  • Designing Education podcast hosted by Robert Balfanz
Thank You, Be Well, & Onward!

We will follow up with a recording of the session, slides, and a list of references and materials shared today.