CLOSING THE GAP WITH EACH DEGREE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

GRADUATES

COLLEGE ACCESS

COLLEGE SUCCESS
Our mission at College Visions is to empower low-income and first-generation college-bound students to realize the promise of higher education by providing advising and resources to promote college enrollment, persistence, and graduation. College Visions advances equal access to educational opportunities in historically under-served communities.

Our mission

Letter from our Executive Director

I have the good fortune to speak to young people every day in the CV office. If you have seen CV students in action, you know they never fail to bring with them the contagious energy and great enthusiasm that validates the work we do.

This is a positive generation, but don’t mistakenly see them as carefree. Our students worry about the safety of their families and communities, and securing stable futures for themselves. They keep moving forward despite a national discourse that does not look favorably on first-generation, low-income, and undocumented students. At CV, we strive to change this narrative into one that defines these young, incredible students as essential contributors to a better and more hopeful future for all.

High school students arrive here with the desire to learn, but challenged by economic disparities and with a shortage of the resources needed to guide them through the college process. Yet, given the right tools they consistently prove their commitment to showing up and keeping up, while gaining the skills and knowledge they need for the path to success.

We are elated as students head off to college, and we realize this is only the first step. Trusting mentorships guide them in troubleshooting problems and accessing critical resources. We applaud their successes - big and small. And we celebrate the fact that our students graduate at more than three times the national rate for low-income, first-generation students. Each degree represents the fulfillment of a dream for a young person, a family, AND a community.

Every day our staff works hard to provide the best possible advising and support, while our generous Board of Directors, donors and volunteers dedicate the time and resources that bring energy and equity to our mission. Our outstanding outcomes are a testament to the teamwork it takes to create lasting impact on the future of young people in our community, and that team includes you.

Thanks to each and every one of you for making this important investment in our shared future.

Respectfully,

Nick Figueroa
Executive Director
College Visions
Our students are the first-generation in their family to attend college, arriving with great enthusiasm but limited knowledge about how to apply. Through highly personalized advising, together, we navigate the application and enrollment process as students gain confidence, perseverance, and the hope to pursue future dreams.

The College Visions model uses intensive coaching and mentorship to support students with a wide range of academic achievements. CAP advisors guide students and their families through the important steps of choosing schools that provide the best fit, support first-generation students, and offer generous financial aid.

How we do it:

1 on 1 Advising — Students meet with their advisors weekly to work on college lists, prepare for interviews, and develop polished application materials.

Workshops — Before the start of 12th grade, students attend intensive college preparation workshops to introduce the process and help manage expectations.

Campus Visits — Exposure to colleges through campus visits in Rhode Island and beyond supports student applications.

Family engagement — Workshops and individual meetings keep family members involved in the process and provide financial guidance, including completing the FAFSA.

Outstanding Outcomes:

100% of CV students earn an admissions acceptance, 98% enroll immediately after high school graduation.

- Compared with 44% urban RI students who enroll within 6 months of high school graduation

100% of CV students complete the FAFSA, an essential part of college financing for low-income students.

- Compared to 60% of Providence 12th graders

91% of student financial aid met on average for CV students

- In 2018, our students entering college took out an average of $2,837 in loans, and earned a collective $1,297,545 in grants and scholarships

“College Visions provided me with the tools to access college by helping me prepare for interviews, polish my admission materials, and narrow down the options I was fortunate enough to receive.”

— Estevan Feliz, Boston College ’21

Getting There...

College Access Program (CAP)

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Our Students

Latino 54%
Biracial/Multi-Racial 10%
Asian 7%
White 1%
Native American 1%

Median Family Income $24,951

First-Generation 94%

First in Family (to college) 63%

We currently serve 380 students; 65 12th graders, 315 college students.

High schools our students come from:

Academy for Career Exploration
Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School
Central Falls High School
Central High School
Classical High School
Cranston East High School
E3 Academy
Evolutions High School
Hope High School
Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex
Mount Pleasant High School
Charles E. Shea Senior High School
Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts

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Enrolling in college is a big accomplishment, but it’s only the first step toward a college degree. College Visions advisors provide reliable and consistent long-term relationships with students, checking in about academics and finances, as well as social and emotional health. Celebrating successes and troubleshooting issues, advisors support students to persist all the way through college and earn the benefits of a degree.

How we do it:

1 on 1 Advising — Frequent and individualized coaching sessions on campus, in our office, on the phone, and online, support students in problem solving. They are empowered to take advantage of campus-based resources and stay on track to graduate.

Transfer coaching — Many students enroll in community college as a first step towards earning a bachelor’s degree. Advisors help students select transferable courses and initiate the admissions process.

Financial advising — Helping students with budgeting, FAFSA completion, and providing small grants to cover unexpected expenses ensures students have the financial support they need throughout college.

Outstanding Outcomes:

- 66% of CV students graduate within 6 years.
- 94% of CV students return for the 2nd year.
- 98% of CV students renew the FAFSA on time to ensure continued financial aid.
- Compared with 21% of low-income, first generation students nationally and 37% of low income students in Rhode Island

“College Visions has played a tremendous role in my higher education. I had limited knowledge about the college process and it was great to have a personal relationship with my CV advisor who knew my strengths and interests.”

– Jaretta Konneh, Mount Holyoke College ’14, MEd Candidate Harvard University Graduate School of Education

National Recognition

In a national competition, College Visions was awarded a two year grant from the National College Access Network to help grow our innovative College Success Program.
Funding Interventions that Work

Our Emergency Grant Fund covers essential expenses up to $1,000 for students who have exhausted all other means of support. Providing for eyeglasses, a bus pass, textbooks, or even a grocery store gift card can make all the difference between a semester marked by struggle or academic success. Research confirms college students who have access to small emergency grants are more likely to complete degrees.

Supporting Undocumented and DACA Youth

College Visions seeks to work with students who have the most need for support on the path to and through college. We have always accepted students regardless of citizenship status. In 2017, we began working more systematically to increase our own knowledge to better support vulnerable students. Look for our Guide to College for Undocumented and DACA Youth in Rhode Island, which we will publish in 2019.

Building Workforce

College Visions students are motivated to earn degrees and meet Rhode Island’s need for more highly educated workers. Rhode Island has set a goal of increasing the percentage of adults with postsecondary degrees to 70% by employing “targeted strategies to close equity gaps” for Black and Latino residents. These are the students CV already serves successfully.

Creating Community

First-generation students who earn a college degree are more likely to find full-time employment, work locally, and invest in their community. College Visions graduates find more doors open to wider opportunities and are working in fields such as education, health care, law, art, and finance. They are giving back to their families, buying homes, paying taxes, and involved in civic life.

With your investment, College Visions will grow to support 450 students in 2020.

The Future of College Visions

College Visions ensures that young people who want to go to college actually get there. Our alumni excel in meaningful careers and see the benefits of an improved standard of living as a direct result of their college degrees.

With a dedicated full-time staff of advisors, we are equipped to serve students in ways that many high schools and volunteer run organizations cannot. But, because we are forced to turn away qualified students every year, we strive for sustainable growth to serve more students, while continuing to increase our knowledge and program effectiveness.

Goals

Growth — Advance our capacity to support an increasing number of students who seek out our services while maintaining a balanced staff to student ratio.

Advocacy — Act as a leading voice in the creation of policies and programs that enable college success for first-generation and low-income students.

Partnerships — Pursue new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships with educators and institutions in order to expand and strengthen college access and success strategies.
**FINANCIALS**

**REVENUE**

- Grants: $356,398.96
- Disbursement from Strategic Operating Reserve: $217,429.09
- Earned Income: $26,000.00
- Events and Sponsorships: $14,746.00
- Individual Donations: $80,490.64
- One Time Gifts: $5,250.00
- Other: $5,112.87

**EXPENSES**

- Personnel: $356,398.96
- Occupancy: $26,000.00
- Communications: $14,746.00
- Programs: $80,490.64
- Special Events: $5,250.00
- Professional Services: $5,112.87
- Capital Purchases: $8,966.27
- Professional Development: $7,174.38

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- Nancy Fisher Chudacoff, Of Counsel, Cameron & Mittelman
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- Shontay Delalue, Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Brown University
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- Rosa Ramos, Access Advisor

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- Benjamin Concepcion, Success Advisor
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- Joshua Greenberg, Operations Director
- Moira Hinderer, Development Director
- Tina Meetran, Access Manager
- Monephia Nembhard, Development Associate
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<td>$100–249</td>
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Our donors

“I love College Visions so much! Not only the program and all it does for us students, but as a community. It feels like a small family here and I appreciate it so much.”
– Calyia, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts
College Visions
131 Washington Street, Suite 205
Providence, RI 02903
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Being a first-generation college graduate means making history.

-Ayello Karbah, Guilford College ‘17