

# COLLEGE VISIONS

Enrollment | Persistence | Graduation

417 COLLEGE GRADS AND RISING! | SPRING 2022

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS!

With your support, College Visions (CV) students are maneuvering through the college admissions process with less stress, more resources and an amazing support system. Thank you!

*"Being a first-generation student means getting an opportunity to be able to choose my own destiny. It means being able to be free to choose a career that will truly make me happy and that I know I will look forward to everyday."*

*"To all the donors who have contributed to CV, I would just like to say thank you. You truly make a difference and your contributions truly don't go unnoticed. We appreciate you!"*

Emily Rojas Patzan, *Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College High School (RINI) '22*



98%

### ENROLLMENT

98% of CV students enroll in college compared to 55% of Providence high school graduates.

92%

### PERSISTENCE

92% of CSP students persist to their second year of college compared to 69% of Providence students.

68%

### GRADUATION

68% of CSP students graduate from college within 6 years compared to 41% of low-income Rhode Island students.

With the support of you, our community, College Visions has celebrated our 417th college graduate since our founding in 2004. Thank you for investing in the local pool of diverse, hardworking young people and their families!

## FIRST-GEN STUDENTS ARE STRONGER WITH SUPPORT

### COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM



“CV had a huge impact on me keeping up with my deadlines. Meeting every week before the application deadlines and working on the Common App together helped a lot. Also, my advisor is amazing! She is always there for me when I have questions. She was a huge help during the essay writing process and with the painful financial aid process that never seems to end. The application process was so much easier for me than my friends, because of CV. My friends would have a hard time keeping track of their applications and their deadlines. And sometimes they didn’t have someone to ask their questions to because the school guidance counselors are very busy, dealing with hundreds of senior applications. I am very grateful to have CV through this challenging admissions process.”

**Dilara Ozdemir, East Providence High School ‘22**

### COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

“CV has helped me so much with my College journey. Just from the beginning, I had no family besides my sister in the US and I didn’t know how to apply to college. CV helped every step along the way to get me into a college that fit my personality and finances. While in college, it was so nice to get care packages during a tough midterm week reminding me of the help I received and how far I came. But the biggest thing was how much help my mentor and CV provided me during the pandemic. I depended on being a RA and working to help pay for school and secure housing. But Covid caused me to lose my job and housing so I had to go from Airbnb to Airbnb while taking online courses with no money to pay for books. My advisor gave me the finances necessary to get my books and that helped me get through that tough semester till students could come back on campus.”

**Fareed Balogun, Computer Science, Howard University ‘22**



### COLLEGE VISIONS ALUMNI



“I give to College Visions because the organization invests their time, energy, and finances on those who don’t have the support or means to get professional help otherwise. When I give to CV, I think of all the value students receive: from the 1-1 time with staff, the college tours, interview prep-sessions, and financial support for application fees. I will continue to give to CV because I know from experience, the impact that CV can make in a young person’s life. I felt I had a tailored support system that listened to my needs and provided me with invaluable guidance. CV not only listens to their students, they let their voice and dreams be heard.”

**Abel Hernández**  
**BFA, Industrial Design, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**  
**MFA, Design Research and Development, The Ohio State University**

## YOUR SUPPORT LEADS TO DEGREES!

Thank you so much to all who are CV donors and funders! Your support does everything from provide direct support for students who need help buying textbooks to supporting CV staff evaluate and improve our programs. With your help, our organization and students are thriving!

Special thanks to the Rhode Island Foundation and our donors who give through the Foundation! Whether through individual gifts, strategic funding, technical support, scholarship programs such as the Carter Roger Williams Scholarship, or grants from funds such as the Black Philanthropy Bannister Fund, together, we are investing in the future of Rhode Island!



Below we are featuring donors George and Mindy Matouk who are generously investing in CV programs and program expansion through the Matouk Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation.

*Mindy and George live in Providence and run the Matouk company together. Mindy is the Creative Director and George is the CEO. We have three daughters: Chachi 18, Violet 16 and Margot 14. And a golden doodle named Aspen.*

*Mindy is from Augusta, Georgia originally and George is from New York City. We both love to read, play word games, spend time with the family and stream and binge-watch foreign tv series.*

*As residents of Providence, we want to help our youngest neighbors reach their full potential and achieve their educational dreams. Further, we want to do whatever we can to help students of color overcome structural disadvantages that our society has created for them. We work with the Rhode Island Foundation to direct our philanthropy and they were astute enough to make the perfect connection for us: College Visions.*

*We hope that all first year college students apply themselves and take full advantage of the educational and social experiences in front of them. But we also would want to remind them that learning is a life-long endeavor and the college experience should be looked at as a gateway to ambitious lifelong learning habits and not as a final educational step before embarking on a career.*

### WILL YOU MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT CV STUDENTS?

With your help, first-generation low-income students have a strong support system standing by them from college admissions application to college graduation! If you are able, we hope you will make a gift today! Please use the enclosed envelope or go online to [www.collegevisions.org/donate](http://www.collegevisions.org/donate)

Questions? Contact us at [collegevisions@collegevisions.org](mailto:collegevisions@collegevisions.org) or 401.490.3996



## FIRST-GEN CAREER SUMMIT FOR CV STUDENTS!

The Gateways to Opportunities Career Conference will be College Visions' inaugural career exploration conference for first-gen high school and college students. This year the conference will be limited to CV students with the hopes of opening up the event to all Rhode Island first-gen high school and college students in the future. Our goal is to introduce first-gen students to a diverse set of career paths and resources to aid their professional development, assist first-gen students in catalyzing their career pursuits and reflecting on their interests and passions, expose them to first-gen role models, help them broaden their professional network, and offer various skill-building workshops that will support their professional growth.

For more information, please reach out to Susan at [susan@collegevisions.org](mailto:susan@collegevisions.org)



## OUR 2022 STUDENT APPLICATION IS OPEN!

College Visions is a FREE program that provides low-income and first-generation students with 1-on-1 advising and resources to get in, succeed, and graduate from college. Beginning the summer before 11th or 12th grade, students are assigned their own CV advisor and work on college essays, resumes, scholarships, the financial aid process, and more. CV students participate in weekly meetings with their advisor, attend college visits, receive SAT fee waivers, and engage in workshops focused on the college process. Once admitted into college, our students receive support throughout their college career until they graduate.

### COLLEGE VISIONS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a current sophomore or junior in a public/charter high school in Rhode Island
- Must qualify for free/reduced lunch
- Must be a first-generation college-bound student (parents did not receive a Bachelor's Degree in the U.S.)
- Must not be participating in any other College Access Programs (College Crusade, Upward Bound, ETS, etc.)

**Apply at: [bit.ly/applytocv22](https://bit.ly/applytocv22)**

Questions? Please contact us at [apply@collegevisions.org](mailto:apply@collegevisions.org) or 401.490.3996

**SAVE-THE-DATE!**  
**THE 8TH ANNUAL**  
**ALUM GIVING CAMPAIGN**  
**WILL BE HELD IN APRIL**  
**ALONGSIDE 401GIVES!**

**401 GIVES**  
**APRIL 1, 2022**

powered by United Way of Rhode Island

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**401GIVES IS APRIL 1ST**

The real success of 401Gives will not be how much money we raise but the tremendous impact those dollars will have when nonprofits across Rhode Island put them to work! Join the giving on April 1st at [401Gives.org](https://401Gives.org)

Questions? Please contact Monephia at [monephia@collegevisions.org](mailto:monephia@collegevisions.org)



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