

Report Card

Improving the Odds

Once again, the need to elevate our commitment to the success of our children is in the news. An Oprah program segment recently was followed by a study by the Consortium on Chicago School Research reporting that only six of 100 high school freshman in Chicago will earn a bachelor's degree by their mid-twenties. As CPS CEO Arnie Duncan has pointed out, we can do better but it will take a lot of cooperation between CPS, area colleges, parents and state legislators to affect real change. To that list we add Scholarship Chicago and its many corporate and individual donors.

This year we received close to 400 applications representing 99 Chicago high schools from virtually every corner of the City. This represents a 70% increase over completed applications received last year. Over the next few weeks, we will interview 90 young scholars and select up to 50 to enroll in the Class of 2011.

The talent pool in Chicago is deep with academically ambitious and motivated young people who dream of earning their college degrees, and with your continued support we can increase the odds that these young people will cross the finish line.

In the last 10 years our graduation rates have risen to 96% from 86% due in part to the long-term commitment we value to help students finish their degrees. There are many ways to connect with Scholarship Chicago and support our students through scholarships, mentoring, summer internships, career coaching and workshops. Together, we can encourage these young people to become future leaders who will enhance Chicago as a great place to live, learn, work and raise a family.

"Building Community, One Scholar at a Time"

Scholar News



The month of May is one of the busiest for our high school seniors with graduation quickly approaching, senior proms and final preparations for summer jobs. Perhaps that is why the scholars flocked to two May workshops: Time Management: Living in a 24/7 World and a Budgeting Workshop offered by Money Smarts Week.

Led by mentor and Associate Board member Aaron Sharabaika and Associate Board Co-chair, Kim Nevels, the students learned tips and techniques on ways to set and maintain a schedule, the importance of setting realistic goals and time frames, as well as how to maintain a healthful lifestyle while juggling the demands of college.

At the Money Smart seminar, students learned about managing their money in college while still having spare money for a fun weekend off-campus. The event was sponsored by Economic

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College Bound! The Class of 2010 Makes Final College Selections



National College Decision Day was May 1st and today we are pleased to present the Class of 2010 and their college decisions. These young people have worked very

hard throughout their school careers to prepare themselves for their college journeys. As you will read, our scholars are a diverse lot who will be studying a wide range of majors and preparing themselves for interesting careers. It's been our honor to share the past year with them – and we are looking forward to reporting on their progress over the next four years as they earn their diplomas in 2010!

College Bound Class of 2010:

Rita Akyaa

High School: Martin Luther King
College: DePaul University
Major: Psychology
Dream Profession: Child Psychologist

Mariam Amad

High School: Steinmetz Academic Centre
College: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Major: Biochemistry
Dream Profession: Doctor

Michael Amofa

High School: St. Ignatius
College: Northwestern University
Major: Chemistry/ Biological Sciences
Dream Profession: Pharmacist

Daniel Arriola

High School: Curie
College: Augustana College
Major: Psychology
Dream Profession: Psychologist

Matthew Balducci

Awareness Council with real-life examples from college students.

Update:

With the help of volunteers, Board members, and staff we have identified 90 students from 387 applicants who will move on to the second round for the College Bound Scholarship Program. Over the month of May each candidate will be interviewed and of the 90 students, up to 50 will be enrolled in to the program.

The candidates are from a wide range of academic and ethnic backgrounds and are from high schools across Chicago. Enrolled scholars have access to college readiness programming and mentors during their senior year in high school as they prepare for college, financial gap scholarships, and paid summer internships.

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High School: Gwendolyn Brooks
College: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Major: Philosophy or Engineering
Dream Profession: Baseball Player

Gabrielle Bell

High School: De La Salle
College: Lewis University
Major: Psychology
Dream Profession: Social Worker or Psychologist

Vanessa Cordova

High School: De La Salle
College: DePaul University
Major: Psychology
Dream Profession: Psychologist

Daniel Crespo

High School: Lane Tech
College: Triton College
Major: Architecture
Dream Profession: Architect

Cindy Guitron

High School: Wells Community Academy
College: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major: Sociology or Psychology
Dream Profession: Criminal Psychologist or Lawyer

Courtney Horton

High School: Julian
College: Northwestern University
Major: Radio, Television, and Film

Stacey Kennedy

High School: Francis Parker
College: University of Chicago
Major: Biology
Dream Profession: Pediatric Immunologist

Yadira Leon

High School: St. Ignatius
College: Marquette University
Major: Business, Journalism

Celeste Lewis

High School: Michelle Clark
College: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major: Pre-Med
Dream Profession: Pediatrician

Catherine Mayfield

High School: Percy Julian

College: University of Minnesota
Major: Mass Communications
Dream Profession: Producer/Director

Edward Moore

High School: Hales Franciscan
College: University of St. Francis
Major: Journalism and Music
Dream Profession: Journalist

Colby Morgan

High School: Northside College Prep
College: Syracuse University
Major: Psychology, Pre-Med
Dream Profession: Criminal Psychiatrist

Lamanda Silva

High School: Noble Street Charter
College: Aurora University or Northeastern University
Major: Business
Dream Profession: Lawyer

Joseph Williams

High School: Rich South
College: North Park University
Major: English, Theology
Dream Profession: Writer