



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: College Access Now

ADDRESS: 3211 Martin Luther King Way S., Suite A, Seattle, WA 98144

CONTACT: (206) 400-6886; <http://www.collegeaccessnow.org>

GENERAL GOALS: Empower students from low-income families to access, enroll, and graduate from college at rates equal to their more advantaged peers.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

Funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund last year helped us to provide high-quality college access and completion services to underserved students in our communities. We are grateful for your support, and look forward to continuing our partnership in the years to come. Together, we can ensure students from low-income backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve their highest education potential.

For more information please see the attached report from College Access Now.



3211 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S.
Suite A,
Seattle, WA 98144-8005

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Report on Activities
Academic Year 2015-16
August 25, 2016

College Access Now (CAN) is pleased to provide the following report on activities for the previous academic year (2015-16) for our College Access and Completion Services.

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CAN's Program Success

We are pleased to report the success and impact of our programs in the 2015-16 academic year. CAN's High School Services supported 693 students at seven high schools to achieve the following:

- 96% of 11th grade students took college entrance exams (SATs/ACTs);
- 99% of 12th grade students completed initial FAFSA/WASFAs;
- 97% of 12th grade students were accepted to at least one college; and,
- Of those students who were accepted to college, 100% are planning to attend.
- A total of \$2,165,228 in financial aid was awarded to our 319 graduating 12th grade students.



CAN's College Services have continued to support students that formerly received our High School Services. We are pleased to report that CAN students are exceeding regional averages for students in college enrollment and persistence. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of CAN's High School Class of 2015 have initially enrolled in college within 12 months of high school graduation, with 63% of those students enrolled in a Bachelor's program and 37% enrolled in an Associate's/Technical program.

By comparison, in the Road Map Project region of South King County, only 60% of all students—regardless of income—enrolled in college within 12 months of graduation. And, CAN students are persisting from their first year to their second year at much higher rates than their high-income peers: 84% of CAN's High School Class of 2014 have persisted (of all the CAN students pursuing Bachelor's degrees, 91% persisted; and, of all the CAN students pursuing an Associates/Technical Degree, 71% persisted). By comparison, in the Road Map Project region of South King County, only 52% of all students persist from their first year to their second year of college.



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CAN's Organizational Growth

In the 2015-16 academic year, CAN's College Access and Completion Services served more than 1,600 students with both its High School Services and College Services. The following table summarizes these key organizational and programmatic results.

| A Summary of CAN's Growth Over the Years | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
| Total High Schools Served | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Total Number of High School Cohorts* | 5 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 20 |
| Total Number of AmeriCorps Members | 9 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Total Number of High School Students Served | 154 | 484 | 502 | 502 | 693 |
| Total Number of College Students Served | 0 | 150 | 400 | 650 | 930 |
| * cohort = 35 students | | | | | |

The 2015-16 academic year also provided CAN the opportunity to implement the next phase of our High School Program Expansion. In May 2016, CAN successfully secured a contract with the Corporation for National Service to expand our AmeriCorps program from 20 to 30 members in the 2016-17 academic year. This will allow us to further deepen our impact in the schools, while maintaining a cost-effective program model. Additionally, this year CAN implemented a new College Services staffing model to transition from AmeriCorps Coaches to permanent, full-time staff in order to provide our college students the expertise, stability and consistency they need to graduate college.

High School Services: During the 2015-16 academic year, CAN expanded into two new high schools in the Highline School District: Mount Rainier and Highline High Schools. CAN added four new cohorts to its High School Services to serve an additional 140 11th and 12th grade students.

Beginning in the 2016-17 academic year, CAN will implement the second phase of our High School Program Expansion to four new high schools in Renton School District (Lindbergh and Hazen High Schools) and in Federal Way Public Schools (Todd Beamer and Decatur High Schools) to serve an additional 350 students, for a total of more than 1,000 high school students served in the 2016-17 academic year.



CAN continues to implement and find success with its School-Wide Initiative at Franklin High School where all 9th and 10th grade students receive college access services, including individual student connections, school-wide events and broad school communications. The goals of the School-Wide Program are: 1) to engage student early and consistently in the college access process; 2) to encourage students to articulate comprehensive plans to support their higher education and career goals; and 3) to create a college-going culture in the communities we serve. Currently, we are engaging with more than 600 students from 9th and 10th grade classes at Franklin High School.



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College Services: In July 2015, CAN hired three full-time staff for the College Services Team, including two College Support Coordinators and one Enrollment and Engagement Specialist. One College Support Coordinator is focused on serving students pursuing Associates and Technical Degrees, while the other College Support Coordinator focuses on serving students pursuing Bachelor's degrees. CAN's Enrollment and Engagement Specialist supported CAN's data analysis and student progress measurements. Each member of CAN's College Services Team brings professional experience in college admissions from institutions such as Western Washington University and Central Washington University.



Pictured above are College Support Coordinators Jibran and Catrena along with four of our College Student Mentors, from left to right, David (South Seattle College), Helen (North Seattle College), Jasmine (University of Washington, Bothell) and Bereket (Seattle Central College).

Furthermore, the addition of three new, full-time staff members has enabled CAN to implement a refined College Services model that includes the following additions and improvements:

- 1) *The creation of Campus Ready!, our summer support series for first-year college students.* This past summer, CAN supported the High School Class of 2015 through a series of summer events, known as "Campus Ready!" At graduation from high school and during the summer preceding college, 117 students attended CAN's Campus Ready! Program. This series of 13 events and workshops are designed to build student confidence and community and ensure each student successfully transitions to their first term in college. This includes CAN student orientations on 2-year college campuses and social emotional skill building events.
- 2) *The improvement of our Professional Mentoring Program.* The Professional Mentoring Program pairs upperclassmen with community volunteer mentors and supports CAN college students in their continued career discernment by connecting them with professionals in their field of interest/study to foster the growth and development of skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century workforce. In turn, this positively impacts the communities where students return to, provides mentors with an opportunity to support the future workforce, and strengthens our collective commitment to educational equity across sectors.
- 3) *The expansion of our "peer learning community" model on 2- and 4-year college campuses in Washington State.* This year, CAN developed Peer Learning Communities on five 2- and 4-year college campuses where the majority of our students attend, including: University of Washington-Bothell; North Seattle, South Seattle, and Seattle Central Colleges; and Bellevue College. To promote positive connections and relationships for CAN students on campus, we recruited five existing CAN upperclassmen to serve as College Student Mentors on the aforementioned college campuses to provide critical peer-to-peer support for newly enrolled CAN college students.



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CAN's Operational Success

In addition to the programmatic accomplishments CAN has achieved over the past 11 months, CAN also moved offices in November 2015 and completed the search for a new Executive Director and a new Director of Development and Communications.

CAN's new office is in the heart of Rainier Valley, across the street from Franklin High School. Our new office space provides the organization more room for staff, team meetings and community space.

Dr. Sheri Ranis became CAN's new Executive Director in March 2016. Dr. Ranis is an early pioneer in the college access field with more than 20 years of experience on both the service provider and funder sides of the social sector, including roles at the Lumina Foundation, the Bell & Melinda Gates Foundation, and at the College Success Foundation. In May 2016, CAN also welcomed Lacie West in the role of Director of Development and Communications. Lacie joined CAN following eight years at the United Negro College Fund.

Success Story

This year, CAN is working with 34 juniors and 36 seniors at Garfield High School. Aden is one of these seniors.

Aden's parents came to this country from Somalia. According to him, they are really strict and want only the best for him. They want him to have the education they weren't fortunate to receive. When they came to the United States, Aden's parents took classes to learn English and worked hard to study for the test to become citizens. Once Aden and his parents became citizens of the United States, they pushed him even harder in school.



"I was thinking about college for a long time," he said, "But I didn't have the knowledge or resources about how to get in or where to go. I was by myself."

Then, he heard about CAN and what the organization does to help students with college applications, financial aid, and how to get into the college. His AmeriCorps College Coaches, Josh and Cole, encouraged him every day to persist in the college application process.

"There was a time that I gave up, but Josh and Cole, kept encouraging me to keep going and not stop because they wanted me to achieve my goals. Josh contacted me and told me that CAN is good for me, and they would help me finish my applications. I realized that I had the help I needed here at CAN. I'm going to Bellevue College in the fall to study Business."



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Conclusion

CAN is so grateful for the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund as our work continues to evolve and we work to increase the number of low-income, first generation students receiving a college degree. We would not have been able to achieve the impact we have over the years, without you! Thank you!