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Outreach Futures

Programs, Services and Resources

2016-2017

Programs, Resources and Services

Philadelphia Futures' Outreach Futures initiative brings the organization's skills, expertise, resources and networks to a broader community. Working in collaboration with high schools and community-based organizations, through workshops, one-on-one counseling, print and digital media, Outreach Futures offers critically needed information about the college admissions and financial aid processes to Philadelphia students who otherwise would not have access to these services. Key services within our Outreach Futures initiative include:

Step Up to College Resources

High School and CBO Collaborative Relationships

Workshops

Consulting Services and Program Management

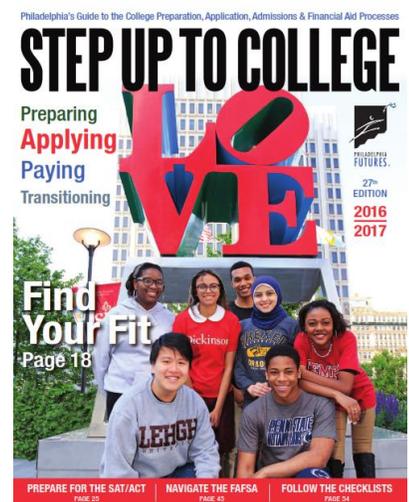
Step Up to College Resources

TARGETED AUDIENCE: High school students in Philadelphia and their families; guidance counselors; college-access professionals; and other youth-serving professionals.

PRINT EDITION: Designed with first-generation-to-college students in mind, the comprehensive *Step Up to College Guide* is tailored to Philadelphia's students in grades nine to twelve and their families, leading them through each stage of the college admissions process. Topics include preparing for college, selecting the college that is the right 'fit,' visiting colleges, applying to college, financial aid and transitioning to college.

More than 40,000 copies of the *Guide* are published and distributed annually — without cost — to public, public charter and parochial high schools. *Step Up to College* also can be found in libraries and many community-based organizations.

The 2016-2017 edition of the *Guide* will be available in October 2016. The 2017 *Summer Supplement* will be available in April 2017.



DIGITAL MEDIA: The digital copy of the *Guide* and collateral materials can be accessed at www.stepuptocollege.org. Companion videos are available for classroom, workshop and personal use. Video topics will include preparing for college, finding the college that is the right 'fit,' and navigating the college admissions process.

#1: PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

This video covers the following steps in preparing for college:

- Prepare Yourself Academically
- Become a Well-Rounded Student
- Impress for Success
- Set Smart Goals
- Assemble Your College Prep Team
- Get Ready to Take Standardized Admissions Tests — Conquering the SAT and ACT
- Make Your College Preparation Checklist



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#2: UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE FIT

This video covers the following steps to help students identify the colleges that are the right fit for them:

- Understand "Fit"
- Options for Continuing Your Education
- Do "Fit" Research
- Know Where You Stand
- Put It All Together



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#3: APPLYING TO COLLEGE

This video covers the following steps in the college application process:

- Understand College Admissions Options
- Identify the Key Criteria for College Admissions
- Review the Components of a College Application Package
- Become Familiar with College-Specific Admission Requirements
- Complete the Process



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Content from the *Guide* and timely updates throughout the year also are available via Facebook and Twitter.

 /StepUptoCollege  @StepUptoCollege



NEW THIS YEAR! Philadelphia Futures is launching the NEW Step Up to College mobile app. Students can download the app for free and enjoy the convenience of having the *Step Up to College Guide* with them whenever and wherever they go.

CLIENTS: Philadelphia's public, public charter and parochial high school students, parents, educational professionals, the Free Library of Philadelphia, JEVS Human Services, Police Athletic League, Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation, Temple University and University of Pennsylvania.

For information about Step Up to College resources, contact Bonnie Dugan at bonniedugan@philadelphiafutures.org or at 215-790-1666 ext. 422.

High School and CBO Collaborative Relationships

TARGETED AUDIENCE: High schools and community-based organizations that work with highly motivated, low-income, first-generation-to-college students.

SERVICES: Philadelphia Futures collaborates with high schools and community-based organizations to provide students with intensive, individualized college admissions information, guidance and support. Additionally, students receive a personalized admissions plan that will guide them as they apply to colleges that will be the right “fit” – socially, academically and financially. Collaborations with high schools and other organizations are ongoing partnerships that allow Philadelphia Futures to provide students with college-counseling expertise over an extended period.



CLIENT: Northeast High School, Ellis Trust for Girls

For information about Philadelphia Futures collaborations, contact Kimberley Lewis at 215-790-1666 ext. 447 or kimberleylewis@philadelphiafutures.org.



Workshops

TARGETED AUDIENCE: Students, parents and educational professionals.

WORKSHOP TOPICS: Philadelphia Futures’ workshops are offered to schools and other youth-serving organizations. Workshops cover the spectrum of topics related to the college admissions and financial aid processes. Sessions are interactive and generally an hour long but can be adjusted to meet specific audience needs. Workshop topics and the appropriate audience are listed below:

S=Students **P**=Parents **EP**=Educational Professionals

“Understanding College Fit”: Finding the best fit college is an essential part of future success. Students will learn how to research universities that will ultimately meet their academic, social and financial needs. This session will teach students about the benefits of “fit research” and how to create strong college lists. (S, P, EP)

“Insider Tips for Understanding the Common Application”: More than 500 colleges and universities are members of The Common Application. This workshop will help students to understand The Common Application sections and holistic admission practices. Staff will provide “expert tips” to help students navigate the Application with greater ease and to avoid mistakes. (S, EP)

“Summer Supplement: Eight Steps to Prepare for Senior Year”: Specifically designed for rising high school seniors, the *Summer Supplement* outlines eight steps to prepare students for the college application process. By following the action plan outlined in the *Supplement*, students will be prepared to navigate the application process. Students will receive copies of the *Summer Supplement* during the session. *Summer Supplement* workshops are offered in the spring. (S, P, EP)

“How to Get There: The Basics of the College Search”: This session will focus on the basics of the college search, providing the necessary foundation for families to understand fit, visits, interview preparation, types of schools, cost awareness and deadlines. Targeted at sophomores or juniors and their parents, this workshop is ideal for students at the beginning of their college search. (S, P, EP)

“Dollars and Sense: Understanding Financial Aid”: Students will learn about the financial aid process, including the difference between grants and loans, financial need, direct and indirect costs, and financial aid terms. The session will also cover types of aid, family responsibilities, the impact of student loans, financial need, forms and tax preparation. Additionally, the session will cover the best ways to apply for outside and private scholarships. The “Dollars and Sense” workshop is appropriate for juniors and seniors. (S, EP)

“Do You Have the Write Stuff?”: Essays are a key component of the college application process. Designed to be a working session, students will start drafts of college essays. Students will learn about the various types of writing samples required for the application process: personal essays, supplement essays and scholarship essays. (S, EP)

FAFSA Completion Night: Families receive assistance in completing relevant financial aid forms (FAFSA, CSS profile). (S, P, EP)

CLIENTS: Academy at Palumbo, The Attic Youth Center, Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia, Central Northeast, Constitution High School, String Theory Performing Arts Charter High School, West Catholic Preparatory High School.

For information about scheduling a workshop for your school or student group, contact Kimberley Lewis at kimberleylewis@philadelphiafutures.org or at 215-790-1666 ext. 447.

Consulting Services and Program Management

TARGETED AUDIENCE: Organizations and institutions that require assistance in Philadelphia Futures' areas of expertise.



SERVICES: Philadelphia Futures offers consulting and support services in areas including college guidance, scholarship and award programs, and college retention services.

CONSULTING FEES: Fees for services will be mutually agreed upon.

CLIENTS: Charles E. Ellis Trust for Girls, Annenberg School and Scholarship Fund.

For inquiries about our consulting services, contact Kimberley Lewis at kimberleylewis@philadelphiafutures.org or at 215-790-1666 ext. 447.