



THE PROBLEM: Increasing college and career readiness and employment for high school students in Philadelphia

ONE APPROACH: Philadelphia Futures

January 15, 2016

Philadelphia Futures' Mission:



To provide low-income, first-generation-to-college students with the tools, resources and opportunities necessary for admission to and success in college.

Philadelphia Futures' Vision:



We will transform lives by breaking down barriers that have historically excluded low-income, first-generation-to-college students from college success.

Guiding Principle

A college education is the key to economic self-sufficiency and a rewarding and successful life.

Philadelphia Futures Programs and Services

Direct Service:

- Sponsor-A-Scholar
- College Connection

Philadelphia Futures Programs and Services

Community Outreach:

- Workshops and Presentations
- *Step Up to College Guide*
- Ellis Trust for Girls

SAS and College Connection: Our Approach

Our direct service programs provide long-term, comprehensive services and resources.

We combine services with financial resources (direct and indirect).

SAS and College Connection: Our Approach, *cont'd.*

Our mantra: We want our students to...

- find the college that is the right fit – socially, academically and financially;
- graduate college with manageable debt; and
- graduate college prepared to enter the workforce.

SAS and College Connection: Our Approach, *cont'd.*

We leverage relationships with volunteers and colleges and universities.

We hold students to high standards.

We have an experienced, professional staff.

We are information and data driven.

Program Components



Direct Service Program Components

Services for high school students include:

- long-term, one-to-one mentoring
- Financial incentives
- Intensive, personalized, college guidance, placement and retention services
- Year-round academic enrichment
- Gender specific programming
- Clubs and activities
- Staff support



Direct Service Program Components

cont'd.

Services to collegians include:

- Individualized academic and personal support and counseling
- Financial support – including \$6,000 to help with college-related expenses
- Graduate school preparation
- Career counseling
- Paid internships



Direct Service Program Components

cont'd

College Partnerships:

- Collaboration in Admissions Process
- Full-need financial aid
- On campus support in partnership with Philadelphia Futures' staff.



Philadelphia Futures

Results

- **98%** of our students have matriculated into college.
- Our college graduation rate is now averaging between **60%** and **70%**.

The Impact of Enhanced Services A Comparison of Graduation Rates





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