



## Investing in the *Success* of Wisconsin's Students



### Supporting What Works

Great Lakes believes that education has the power to change lives for the better. Through our philanthropic efforts, we seek to help successful college access programs in Wisconsin sustain, grow, and replicate their efforts.

By providing the funding that sustains many of our partner programs, more disadvantaged and first-generation students are put on the path to college. The programs we support not only demonstrate a passion and commitment to increasing access to higher education, but also the ability to produce meaningful—and measurable—results. College access research consistently shows how pre-college bridge programs, college campus visits, and standardized test preparation all increase the likelihood of disadvantaged youth attending college.

We're proud of all the programs we support and the work they do to prepare students and families for success in higher education. To give a better idea of the impact these programs can have on the lives of the students they serve, we've highlighted three shining examples. >>





### University of Wisconsin-Parkside Summer Scholars Bridge Program Kenosha

The transition from high school to college can be especially tough for at-risk and first-generation students. The Summer Scholars program recognizes that this transition is made all the more challenging when the freshmen entering college require remediation of their academic skills. Great Lakes provided the funding that enabled 15 at-risk students to participate in a four-week residential program that offered academic credit in a small class setting featuring tutoring and structured study sessions. Summer Scholars not only gave the students the opportunity to get a jump start on their academic careers, it also helped them with improved self confidence, social support, and the chance to connect with an academic advisor and peer mentors. The success of the Summer Scholars Bridge Program is undeniable. All 15 participants completed the program and attended UW-Parkside in the fall of 2009. And better yet, all 15 returned in the spring of 2010.

### Nehemiah Community Development Organization College Campus Visits Madison

Having the opportunity to visit college campuses is often a key determining factor for first-generation and low-income students as they make decisions about whether or not to pursue education beyond high school. Great Lakes' funding of the Nehemiah Community Development Organization's On Ramp College Tour 2010 program allowed 24 students from Madison East and Madison West high schools to visit historically African American college campuses throughout the southern United States. Students were given the opportunity to meet with admissions officers and tour classrooms, dormitories, bookstores, computer labs, and athletic facilities. They also ate in the cafeterias and socialized with current college students who answered questions and shared their own college experiences. For many of these students, this was the only chance they had to experience a college campus. As for results, the general consensus from students who took part in the tours was that seeing college life firsthand helped them picture themselves as college students, and encouraged them to continue to take steps to get there. In other words, the trips made college "real" for them.



### Admission Possible Standardized Test Preparation Milwaukee

Study after study indicates that students who receive help preparing for the ACT or SAT are more likely to complete the other steps necessary to go on to a postsecondary education. And because student ACT and SAT test scores are such a critical part of the college admissions decision-making process, Admission Possible strives to "level the playing field" by ensuring the scores of low-income students accurately reflect their true aptitude for higher education. Funding from Great Lakes allowed Admission Possible to bring their nationally recognized program to 75 low-income juniors and seniors at South Division and Milwaukee School of Languages high schools for the 2009-2010 school year. Participants spent the year intensively preparing for the tests, including taking four full-length practice exams prior to the "real" tests in April. The program exceeded its goal of raising the juniors' average ACT score by 12 percent; actual improvement averaged 15 percent.

### Moving Forward

As we continue to support programs serving disadvantaged students and families, we also strive to better understand which elements are making the biggest impact in getting more students into college. Our goal is to share this information to generate additional support within the affected communities and to help other communities embrace similar programming to help their students in need. By working together, we can all make an investment toward the success of Wisconsin's neediest students and families.

To learn more about Great Lakes and our support for college access initiatives, contact Amy Kerwin, Chief Guaranty Officer, at 608-246-1785.

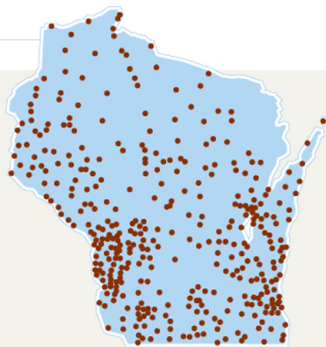




## Making a Difference in Wisconsin

Great Lakes is committed to the students, families, and the State of Wisconsin. Especially now when the fastest growing portions of our state's population—the underprivileged—are the least likely to go on to college, let alone graduate with any kind of college credential. With the National College Access Network reporting that only approximately 20 percent of low-income, underrepresented students in higher education are completing a bachelor's degree within six years of starting school—the time to do something is now.

That's why over the last year alone we provided over \$2 million in funding, support, and resources to programs in both rural and urban communities to help get more Wisconsin students in need into college and increase their success rate. This brings our cumulative commitment to college access in Wisconsin to over \$58 million.



## FOR THE BETTER

Doing the right thing. It's the way we serve and support students and families—today and every day—to help them succeed through higher education. We hold ourselves to this high standard so that together, we can change lives for the better.



# Wisconsin Programs We Support



## Admission Possible

African World Festival  
Back to School Program

Asset Builders of America, Inc.  
Money Conference & Finance and  
Investment Challenge Bowls

## AVID/TOPS

Beloit College  
Help Yourself Program

Boys and Girls Club of Dane County  
College Club Program

Boys and Girls Clubs of  
Greater Milwaukee  
Horizons Initiative

Boys and Girls Club of  
Washington County  
Youth Math and Science  
Achievement Program

Carmen High School of Science  
and Technology

Carver Academy

CEO Leadership Academy

CESA District 3  
Reality Check

Common Wealth Development, Inc.  
Youth Financial Education Program

Coulecap, Inc.  
Skills Enhancement Program

DeForest Area School District  
Reality Day

Department of Public Instruction  
Eau Claire After School Tutoring Program

Edgewood College  
Community Mentors Program

Forward Services  
Encourage, Motivate, Prepare Program

Good Hope Economic Development  
Corporation, Inc.

Hmong-American Partnership  
Fox Valley, Inc.  
Youth Program

Indianhead Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Wisconsin Fresh Start Program

Junior Achievement Milwaukee  
Career and Financial Literacy Education

Madison Area Technical College  
Foundation Smart Future Campaign

Make a Difference Wisconsin  
Financial Literacy

Medical College of Wisconsin, Inc.  
Apprenticeship in Medicine Program

Money Smart Week Wisconsin

Nehemiah Community  
Development Organization  
On Ramp College Tour

Operation Fresh Start  
Pathways Program

Pearls for Teen Girls, Inc.

People Helping People  
Relevant Instruction for  
Successful Employment

Science I.D.O.L.S.  
Individuals Discovering Opportunities  
for Leadership Success

Shalom Zone, Inc.  
Dream Chasing Academy

Simpson Street Free Press, Inc.  
Voices of Wisconsin Youth

Southwest Technical College  
Snapshots for Success Program

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Educational Opportunity Center

University of Wisconsin  
Extension-Dunn County  
The College Transition Program

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Life Impact Program

University of Wisconsin-Parkside  
Summer Scholars Bridge Program

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Upward Bound Program

University of Wisconsin-Stout  
ASPIRE Summer Bridge Living Learning  
Community Program

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
Upward Bound Program Summer  
Enrichment Tour

Urban League of Greater Madison  
21st Century Careers Program

Waukesha County 4-H Youth Development  
Lead to Succeed Program

Western Dairyland EOC, Inc.  
Skills Enhancement Program

Wisconsin Association of Independent  
Colleges & Universities  
Student Access Initiative

Wisconsin College Access  
Challenge Grant Program

Wisconsin Educational  
Opportunity Program  
Think College Conferences

Wisconsin Foundation for  
Independent Colleges, Inc.  
College Readiness 21

Workforce Resource, Inc. of  
West Central Wisconsin  
Youth Career Laddering Program

YWCA of La Crosse  
Teen Services Program

