

College Access Challenge Grant 2009-2010 Annual Report



Successfully Preparing
Wisconsin Students for College



The state's fastest growing portions of the population are the least likely to go on to a higher education of any kind. This makes the importance of the CACG services clear—give Wisconsin's future workforce the tools necessary to make higher education a reality.

The Goal

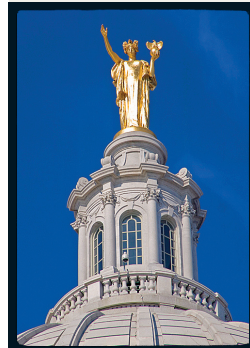
The primary goal of Wisconsin's College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) is to motivate Wisconsin high school students to attend college and to help them prepare both academically and financially.

About the CACG

Since October 2008, Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation (Great Lakes) has been collaborating with college access organizations and high schools across the state, with priority given to the more than 120,000 ninth through twelfth graders attending schools in low-income communities. Our team of College Access Advisors provides services and hands-on support, including workshop and event hosting, and personal assistance for students and families.

The \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education is administered by Great Lakes on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Great Lakes also contributed an additional \$918,000 in matching funds over the two-year grant period to help make over \$2.7 million in free services available to students and families in Wisconsin.

We're pleased to share the results of the second year of the CACG and the work accomplished to help students and families plan, prepare, and understand the options for paying for education beyond high school.



BUILDING Brighter Futures ONE PIECE AT A TIME

386

Counselors and advisors attended workshops

College Access Advisors hosted 92 workshops for school counselors and advisors. These workshops provided attendees—who are often pressed for time given their schedules and responsibilities—the latest information on financial aid, completing the FAFSA, and admission testing, as well as noteworthy regulation and policy changes.

4,068

Student registrations for ACT and SAT preparation

Test Prep is a free online resource that helps get students ready to take the ACT and SAT. Available on KnowHow2GOWisconsin.org, Test Prep provides practice sessions, test taking tips, and progress monitoring, and is personalized to each student's ability.

208

High schools served by College Access Advisors

All high schools are eligible to take advantage of CACG services, with priority given to schools serving disadvantaged students. 183 of the schools served by advisors this year had priority status under the CACG.

3,571

Students served by one-on-one counseling

In face-to-face meetings, College Access Advisors provided students with answers to their financial aid questions as well as help completing and filing the FAFSA. Through both scheduled and walk-in appointments, more than 1,609 hours of counseling were provided.

57

FAFSA Week events held

Students who need money for college "hafta FAFSA." That was the message of the campaign that culminated with the Governor proclaiming February 15-19, FAFSA Week. College Access Advisors instructed nearly 500 students on how to apply for financial aid.

12,456

Students attended free workshops

Conducted by our College Access Advisors, these hands-on workshops helped high school students and families across the state.

525

Workshops conducted for students and parents

Designed to benefit students and families of all backgrounds, workshop topics included:

- Financial aid
- Scholarships
- Award letters
- FAFSA advising and completion
- ACT and SAT test preparation

2,725

Students attended College Goal SundaySM

College Goal Sunday provides free assistance to families completing and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This two-day event held at 25 statewide locations had an increased attendance of 18% over last year.

128,720

Student success guides distributed

A perfect complement to a school's ongoing efforts with the students and families they serve, these engaging materials include our Collegeland series. Developed to speak to students, these free, award-winning pieces help them make sense of college preparation and financial aid.

Contact Us

For more information about how the College Access Challenge Grant supports students and families throughout Wisconsin, please contact Maria Bundy, Director of College Access Advising, at 877-214-2667 or by email at mbundy@glhec.org.



MULTIPLYING THE IMPACT: 1,000 More Students Aspiring to College

On May 4 and 5, 2010, more than 1,000 fifth graders in Eau Claire and nearby school districts participated in an engaging visit to the UW-Eau Claire campus to learn about college life and how to get there. The event was the culmination of an exciting partnership between campuses to replicate the successful UW-Green Bay Phuture Phoenix program.

Through the CACG, the UW-Eau Claire Blugold Beginnings program successfully replicated the Phuture Phoenix program, which has helped over 6,000 at-risk kids realize that college is possible since it began in 2003. The programs pair at-risk fifth graders from elementary schools in the surrounding area with college student mentors and role models.

The highlight of the program is the annual campus tour, which brings area fifth graders to a college campus for a tour, class visits and demonstrations, and interaction with the campus community, from current college students to the chancellor. College student mentors continue contact with those fifth graders throughout their schooling until they graduate from high school.

Through this successful program, UW-Eau Claire has planted the seed for higher education for more than 1,000 young students.

JOIN THE CHALLENGE

Collaboration is the cornerstone of the CACG and you can help make it a success. Help us encourage the schools and college access programs you work with to take advantage of the free services offered through the CACG. Together we can help students and families across Wisconsin realize that higher education is possible for students from all walks of life.

