



Getting In

Telementoring

As part of Amherst College's commitment to expanding access to college for low-income students, the Telementoring program was started in 2005. By communicating with Amherst students by phone, e-mail and other means, low-income high school students are given the opportunity to work with current college students and learn how attending college can become a reality, as well as the steps necessary to becoming eligible for college. While some mentored high school students choose to attend Amherst College, most enroll at a wide range of institutions.

College Advising Corps

Through ten \$1 million grants from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, a diverse group of colleges and universities are able to operate college access outreach programs for low-income students. Targeted at both low-income high school students and community college transfer students, the Advising Corps at each college or university have current students act as mentors for local students as the latter prepare to apply and go to college. Grant recipients include Brown University, Franklin & Marshall College, Loyola College in Maryland, Pennsylvania State University, Tufts University, University of Alabama, University of California-Berkeley, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Utah.

College Guide Program

By sending recent graduates of the University of Virginia to public high schools across Virginia, the university's College Guide Program aims to expand college access. Guides are sent to areas of Virginia where college-going is under the state average. While in these communities, students identify what services and expertise is needed for high school students and their families. Guides also integrate and coordinate their services with preexisting local efforts.

College Access Information Hotline

The Ohio Board of Regents offers a toll-free number to provide in-depth information for residents of Ohio interested in enrolling at postsecondary institutions in the state. A specialist is available during weekday business hours to answer questions and suggest local college access programs found in Ohio communities. The phone number, 1-877-IATTAIN, and was created to complement the Ohio Board of Regents preexisting hotline for state grants and scholarship information.

Oregon State University

Integrating a questionnaire that measures noncognitive abilities and predicts academic success with traditional academic measures for college admission, Oregon State University employs a holistic undergraduate admissions process. Considered as good as, or better than, standardized tests at predicting college performance, an applicant's motivation, self-concept, self-awareness, and ability to cope with adversity, the questionnaire takes the form of six prompt questions that are to be answered in no more than 100 words. Since implementing this application procedure, Oregon State has increased diversity and retention.

Wisconsin Covenant

This new initiative begins in the eighth grade when students are given the option of signing the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge. In signing, students pledge to maintain a "B" average in high school, take college preparation courses, be good citizens, and graduate from high school. In return, students who successfully meet the requirements of the Covenant are guaranteed admission into an appropriate Wisconsin institution of higher education, public or private. Students with financial need will also be eligible for grant aid directly from the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation.

Learn and Earn

Students at select high schools located on college campuses in North Carolina can complete a five-year program, called Learn and Earn, which results in two years of college credit or an associate degree, free of cost. Beginning in the freshman year of high school and ending in a thirteenth year, North Carolina high school students are able to concurrently pursue a high school diploma while beginning a college degree. Students who do not attend a high school located on a college campus can participate through Learn and Earn Online. Low-income students who complete the Learn and Earn requirements are eligible for up to \$4,000 in EARN Grants for two years of higher education.

College for Everyone

Academically eligible high school graduates from Greene Central High School (North Carolina) are guaranteed a year's tuition by the College for Everyone Foundation if they enroll at a public college or university in the state. Along with a weekly 10-hour work-study job, students can finish their first-year of college debt free. Removing the hurdle of college costs has encouraged students from this rural high school to enroll in college in higher numbers.