

BT College Access and Success Weekly Email Archive

2/13/25

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Thursday, Happy Black History Month, and Happy Valentines Day Eve!

I hope you all are doing well and hanging in there- I know that the past several weeks have been A LOT for many of us.

Here's what I've got for this week's email. It's a long one, so you can also [read it in Google Doc form \(organized by headers!\) here](#). **Note- highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines:**



BREAKTHROUGH UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Breakthrough's Spring Training: Register by 2/14!**
 - Breakthrough's annual Spring Training is coming up in March! The in-person event (primarily for MS staff and new staff) will be from 3/18-20 in Chicago, and the Virtual event will be from 3/24-27. See [Schedule](#) for more detail.
 - During Virtual Spring Training, there are several HS and college-specific sessions:
 - **3/25: Test Prep Tools on Courseware (SAT/ACT)**
 - **3/26: Early High School Resource Roll Out**
 - **3/27: Postsecondary Success Standard Ratification ((at least one rep. Per affiliate required)**
 - I encourage everyone to register for virtual Spring training, and for folks new to Breakthrough to consider attending the in-person event, too! You can [register for Spring Training here](#).
- **Breakthrough Exact Path Trainings:**
 - These are primarily for staff working with the middle school summer program, but may also be useful for any HS folks who use or are interested in using Exact Path to supplement their student academic support. **For HS folks, [Jenny](#) recommends "Exact Path 101" and "Summer Data Planning" as the most useful.**
 - Feel free to register for any of these, and to share them with your MS colleagues. You can also access recorded versions of these trainings at any time via the [Research and Evaluation Google Site](#).

- **2/25-** Exact Path 101 Training (12 PT/3 ET) ([Registration link](#)): *All new staff interested in Exact Path are encouraged to attend.*
 - **3/4-** Exact Path Usernames Training (10 PT/1 ET) ([Registration link](#)): *Affiliates administering Exact Path are encouraged to attend.*
 - **3/31-** Exact Path Administration Brainstorming Workshop (12 PT/3 ET) ([Registration link](#)) ***This is the highest priority training for affiliates administering Exact Path. Please attend even if you've been administering Exact Path for a few years!*
 - **4/30-** Summer Data Planning Workshop (10 PT/1 ET; 2 hrs) ([Registration link](#)) *ALL affiliates (whether using Exact Path or not) are welcome to attend*
- **March College Access Collaboration Call:**
 - Thursday, 3/6/25, 1:30 PM ET/11:30 AM PT
 - **Starting in March, we will have 2 separate collaboration calls-** one focused on college access/high school, and the other focused on postsecondary success/college. 3/6 will be our high school/college access call, and our postsecondary success/college date is still TBD.
 - All are welcome to join, but know that the call will focus on college access/HS programmatic topics :). You can add the call to your calendar [via this link](#).
 - **March Postsecondary Success Collaboration Call**
 - Date and time TBD, **fill out [this 3-question poll](#) by EOD Next Thursday, 2/20**, to help us select our next meeting date/time and topic!
 - All are welcome to join, but know that the call will focus on postsecondary success/college programmatic topics :).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

-  **REMINDER: Time sensitive opportunities/events/deadlines!** 
 - **[Apply for FAFSA Student Support Strategy funding ASAP!](#)** Funds are first-come, first-served.
 - **[Register for Virtual Spring Training](#)** in March and encourage your colleagues to attend.
 - Add our **[March College Access/HS Collaboration Call](#)** to your calendar, and/or **fill out the [quick 3-question scheduling poll](#) for our March Postsecondary Success/College Collaboration Call by EOD Thursday, 2/20.**
 - **[Sign up to host a FREE Pizza Party](#)** for Uprooted Academy's Virtual Major and Career Fair in March!
 - **[Pre-register](#) for the FREE [5 College Consortium CBO Tour: Counselor Fly-in!](#)**
- **(First Ever!) Postsecondary Success Collaboration Call Next Steps**
 - The purpose of this call was to convene folks working in the postsecondary/college success space (working with college students). We used our time to connect with one another, develop a vision for future meetings, and discuss our existing postsecondary success programs. Check out the notes from the meeting [here](#).
 - **[Complete the poll](#)** to set the date/time for our next meeting and determine our group discussion topic. If you missed the first meeting, you are still welcome to join future ones!

- **Consortium for College Opportunity Interest Meeting Follow-up:**
 - Thank you to everyone who attended! You can see the notes and next steps from the meeting [here](#).
 - If you couldn't make it but are interested in participating in the Consortium's Early Read Pilot, [let Sam know](#)!
- **Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar Follow-up**
 - Thank you to everyone who attended our National Student Clearinghouse Webinar last week! If you missed it, you can check out the [Webinar Recording](#) (Passcode: v=tp36zS) and [Slide Deck](#)
 - We shared a lot of **resources and links** during the webinar, which you can find [here](#).
 - As we mentioned in the webinar, **we encourage you to consider these next steps** as you explore your National Student Clearinghouse data:
 1. **Explore [your NSC data in Salesforce](#)**
 2. **Join National Staff Office Hours** to dig more into your data
 3. **Check out the [College Student Connections sheet](#)** to start connecting your students
 4. **Consult other resources** like the [National Student Clearinghouse](#), [NCAN](#), and [NCES](#) to see your data in context
 5. **Plan for upcoming student rostering** to make sure that you are correcting incorrect birthdays and names

BREAKTHROUGH COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS RESOURCES:

- **[Breakthrough Greater Boston's "Guide to References and Letters of Recommendation"](#)**
 - Thank you to [Yami](#) for sharing this on behalf of the BT Greater Boston team! Here is a note from Yami about the resource: *"I made this guide to getting recommendations and references that we shared with students as they search for summer opportunities and for staff to use in check ins."*
 - I also added it to our "[College Access and Success Search & Share Sheet](#)" for reference. I encourage everyone to check it out!
- **New: [College Student Connections User Guide](#)!**
 - As a reminder, we now have [this sheet](#) that folks can use to see all of the different colleges and universities where Breakthrough students attend, and to see how many student enrollment records/affiliates are at each school. **We now have a "[College Student Connections User Guide](#)"** that provides information on the data used in the sheet as well as programmatic considerations and best-practices.
 - If you'd like to see a **video walkthrough of the sheet and user guide**, you can check out our [National Student Clearinghouse Webinar recording](#) (Passcode: v=tp36zS), starting at 31:35.
 - You can access the guide and sheet at any time on the "[Resource Library](#)" page of the Breakthrough College Access and Success Google Site.
- **Other Resource Reminders:**
 - Add any new resources from your site to the "[College Access and Success Resource Search & Share](#)" sheet

- We have had several [New College Access and Success Colleagues](#) join our community. You can view the updated College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory via the link.
- All tools and resources can be found on the [College Access and Success Google Site](#)

NATIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS NEWS/UPDATES:

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS:

- **DACA:**
 - Inside Higher Ed: [A Murky Setback for DACA](#)
 - Immigration Impact: [Breaking Down the Latest Court Decision Impacting DACA](#)
- **Postsecondary Access and Affordability:**
 - Presidents' Alliance. on Higher Education and Immigration: [Florida's In-State Tuition for Dreamers: What You Need to Know](#)
 - WFSU News: [Gov. DeSantis takes a conciliatory tone on Florida's immigration bill](#)
 - Higher Ed Dive: [Florida lawmakers pass bill to roll back in-state tuition for undocumented students](#)
 - The Guardian: [How hardline anti-immigrant policies are threatening the right to education](#)
- **Campus and Community Safety:**
 - Inside Higher Ed: [Campuses No Longer Off-Limits to ICE](#)
 - The Chronicle of Higher Education: [What Some Colleges Say They'll Do if Immigration Authorities Come to Campus](#)
 - Harlem World: [Espaillat And Blumenthal To Introduce Legislation To Protect Sensitive Locations From Immigration Enforcement](#)
 - Diverse Education: [Colleges Prepare to Protect Dreamers, Undocumented Students Amid Trump's Threats](#)
 - Houston Chronicle: [University of Houston issues guidance on immigration policy changes amid immigration fears](#)
 - El Paso Matters: [Executive orders provoke fear among undocumented college students](#)
 - The Beacon: [President Kelly addresses recent directive from the Department of Homeland Security that allows immigration authorities on college campuses](#)

POLICY:

- **AP:** [Trump signs order designating English as the official language of the US](#)
- **NCAN:** [Breaking Down Trump's Executive Orders](#)
- **Department of Education:**
 - EdTrust: [Trump's USAID Closure: A Test Case for Dismantling the Department of Education](#)
 - SchoolHouse Connection: [Impending Executive Order on Dismantling ED + FY2025 Budget](#)

- Education Week: [Trump Admin. Suddenly Cancels Dozens of Education Department Contracts](#)
- Politico: [Trump administration finalizing plans to shutter Education Department](#)
- Inside Higher Ed: [Is DOGE Digging Around in Student Data?](#)
- **DEI:**
 - Inside Higher Ed: [Higher Ed Fights Back Against Trump's DEI Order](#)
 - Diverse Issues in Higher Education: [HBCUs and the Post-Election Landscape: Charting a Path Forward](#)
 - Inclusivity Strategic Consulting: DEI (A?): [The Effect of Donald Trump's DEI Executive Order on Accessibility](#)
 - EdTrust:
 - [What Happens to Students With Disabilities if the Department of Education Were Dismantled?](#)
 - [The Trump Administration's Title IX Decision Endangers Women, Girls, and Survivors](#)
 - [A Simple Plea: Save Trans Students](#)
 - [Blog Series: The Myriad Barriers and Opportunities for Students of Color with Disabilities](#)
 - NCAN: [Black Students and Higher Ed: Navigating the Rollback of DEI](#)

FINANCIAL AID/COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY:

- **Pell Grant Funding:**
 - The Institute for College Access & Success: [New CBO Projections Show the Pell Grant Program Is Facing a Funding Gap This Year](#)
 - NCAN: [CBO Predicts Pell Surplus Will Be Depleted This Year](#)
- **FAFSA:**
 - NCAN:
 - [New Study: Universal FAFSA Increased Completion, \(Some\) Enrollment in Texas](#)
 - [A Closer Look at Students, Parents, and Professionals' 2024-25 FAFSA Experiences](#)
 - USED: [FAFSA Impact Report](#)
- **Data Privacy:**
 - AP: [Musk team's access to student loan systems raises alarm over borrowers' personal information](#)
 - NCAN: [Student and Parent Data Should be Private; Chaos Only Hurts Access and Attainment](#)
- Aspen Economic Strategy Group: [Transparency in College Pricing: Still More Work to Do Policy Brief](#)

POSTSECONDARY ACCESS/SUCCESS:

- **Academic Readiness:**

- NCAN: [New NAEP Data Sound Early Warning for Postsecondary Pipeline](#)
- EdTrust: [NAEP 2024 Results Tell Us that it's Time for Action](#)
- Just Equations: [Math as a Gatekeeper: Examining the Evidence](#)
- **Student Outcomes:**
 - National Student Clearinghouse
 - [Poverty Gap Impacts College Success](#)
 - [Research Center: Fall Postsecondary Enrollment Rebounds Above Pre-Covid Levels](#)
 - [College Completion Rates on the Rise: A Positive Trend](#)
 - NCAN: [Freshman Enrollment Grows 5.5% in Fall 2024 in Encouraging, Surprising Change](#)
 - Diverse: Issues In Higher Education: [Lumina Foundation Reports Highest Recorded Post-High School Educational Attainment](#)
- **Best Practices:**
 - NCAN: [Empowering College Advisers: MCAN's Equity-Focused Approach to Postsecondary Access](#)
 - Strada Education Foundation: [Connecting the Dots in Education-to-Career Guidance: Supporting Students' Academic and Career Goals](#)
 - NCAN: [Honoring Black Trailblazers in Higher Education: Paving the Way for Future Generations](#)
- **College Admissions:**
 - National Bureau of Economic Research: [How Test Optional Policies in College Admissions Disproportionately Harm High Achieving Applicants from Disadvantaged Backgrounds](#)
 - Forbes: [Students Pour Their Hearts Into College Admissions. Do Schools Care?](#)
 - NCAN: [Race-Conscious Admissions and Black Students: The Past, Present, and Future](#)
 - Higher Ed Dive: [Common App data shows 5% jump in first-year college applicants](#)
- **Institutions of Higher Ed:**
 - The Institute for College Access and Success: Geography of Opportunity: [Mapping the Availability of Broad Access Institutions](#)
 - The Chronicle of Higher Education: [DEI Legislation Tracker- Explore where college diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts are under attack.](#)
 - Inside Higher Ed: [Common App adds first community college members](#)
 - Work Shift: [Understanding Influencers in the World of Nondegree Credentials](#)
 - Morgan State University: [Morgan State University Forms Presidential Task Force to Address Decline in Black Male Enrollment](#)
 - American Indian College Fund: [Rural America Loses If We Lose Tribal Colleges](#)

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS:

- **Data and Privacy:**
 - Higher Ed Immigration Portal: [10 Practices to Safeguard Undocumented Student Data in Higher Education](#)
 - University Business: [Undocumented students: 10 ways to keep their data safe](#)
 - Presidents' Alliance. on Higher Education and Immigration: [How Campuses Can Prepare to Support Undocumented Students & Safeguard their Data in Higher Education](#) (Webinar Recording)
- **Campus and Community Safety:**
 - **Immigrant Legal Resource Center's Red Cards**
 - Red Cards can help people assert their rights and defend themselves when encountering federal immigration officers. Your institution can order physical copies to share with your networks. [ORDER RED CARDS HERE.](#)
 - National Employment Law Project: [What To Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace](#)
 - National Immigration Law Center:
 - [Factsheet: Trump's Rescission of Protected Areas Policies Undermines Safety for All](#)
 - [Know Your Rights Resources & Explainers](#)
 - Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration: [Immigration Enforcement on Campuses: What You Need To Know](#)
 - Higher Ed Immigration Portal:
 - [Rights & Protections Hub: Guidance for Institutions and Immigrant Students](#)
 - [FAQs for Campuses on Immigration Enforcement and Site Visits](#)
- **Communities of Practice:**
 - Higher Ed Immigration Portal: [Undocumented Community of Practice Directory](#)
 - [College Corner: A Space for K-12 College Counselors Supporting Undocumented Students](#)
 - The Presidents' Alliance, along with other partners, is launching College Corner, a new initiative designed specifically for K-12 college counselors working to support undocumented students and their families. College Corner will provide timely policy updates, targeted resources, and a professional network for counselors to collaborate and develop strategies to help undocumented students access college pathways.
 - [Our first College Corner meeting](#) is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th, at 11:30 AM PT / 2:30 PM ET, with meetings held every third Tuesday of the month
 - To complement these meetings, the College Corner Hub on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal will offer policy guidance, scholarship information, and additional tools for K-12 college counselors. We will share more details once the resource hub is live.

POLICY/ADVOCACY:

- NCAN's [Rapid Response Policy Team](#): offers real-time updates and advocacy opportunities

FAFSA/FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

- I add new resources that I come across or are sent to me to [our Google Site](#).
- Here are some new resources/opportunities that may be of interest:
 - **Capital One "FAFSA Drop-In Office Hours"**
 - Held at various locations throughout the country, including cities where affiliates are located (San Francisco, Denver, Miami, Boston, Twin Cities, and Dallas)
 - At each office hours, students will be supported by counselors from local college access organizations to answer questions and help submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - **Sallie Mae Resources:**
 - [Decoding Your Financial Aid Offer](#) is a helpful guide with easy-to-understand terminology and tips for reading financial aid offers.
 - [Financial Aid Offer Comparison Worksheet](#) performs the calculations for users, allowing an easy-to-read, apples-to-apples comparison of financial aid offers

POSTSECONDARY ACCESS/SUCCESS:

- [College Greenlight's 2025 List of Affordable Pre-College Summer Programs](#)
- [New Student Mental Wellness Resources from NCAN](#)
- Host a Pizza Party for [Virtual Major and Career Discovery Fair \(3/15/25\)](#)
 - Uprooted Academy is seeking hosts to help make this event a success! This is a fantastic opportunity for your students to explore different majors and careers while enjoying a pizza party! Below are details about the event and how you can partner with us to stream the event for your students and have a pizza party.
 - **What Uprooted Provides:**
 - A Domino's pizza gift certificate to treat your attendees.
 - Event marketing flyers, social media posts, and a facilitation guide.
 - **What Uprooted Needs from You:**
 - A welcoming location with Wi-Fi for your students to gather and stream the event.
 - Coordination of your event logistics, including RSVPs and communication with parents and staff.
 - If you're interested in becoming a host, [SIGN UP HERE](#).
- [Free Virtual Tutoring: Boston Scholars Tutoring](#)
 - "Our service offers free one-on-one tutoring through zoom once or twice a week. We individually teach to the students' needs. Our tutoring could range from homework help to teaching competition math, and we tutor in all subjects including math, reading/writing, science, coding, etc. We have a safety protocol that at the parent's request we will record and save the zoom meetings.
 - [Our program](#) aims to target underserved communities that otherwise would not have access to tutoring. In doing so, we have connected with over 140 students, and our 100+ tutors have amassed over 2000 hours of meeting time. The majority of our students are of color and have annual household incomes of less than 70k.

- Working with us could take many forms, such as sharing our fliers with underprivileged families and referring students to us who might benefit from extra academic support. Also, it would be great if you could refer us to other programs that could benefit from our service.
- Questions? Contact Bostonscholarstutoring@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

WEBINARS

● February

- College Essay Guy: [Supporting Undocumented Students](#) (2/18/25)
- ACT: [Unlocking the Power and Potential of All Learners](#) (2/19/25)
-
- The Chronicle of Higher Education: [Donald Trump and Higher Ed: What's Next?](#) (2/20/25)
- Uprooted Academy: [Interpreting Award Letters](#) (2/20/25)
- NCAN: [NCAN Conference Call For Proposals Webinar + Peer Share](#) (2/25/25)
- Higher Ed Immigration Portal: [College Corner: A Space for K-12 College Counselors Supporting Undocumented Students First Meeting](#) (2/25/25)
- Defined: [Defined Symposium: Building Tomorrow's Skills Today: Career-Connected Learning](#) (2/25/25)
- STARS College Network: [STARS Counselor Workshop: Case Studies](#) (2/26/25)
- College Greenlight: [CBO Insights into Optimizing Student-Centric Yield and Engagement Efforts](#) (2/26/25)
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [From Admissibility to Affordability: A New Paradigm for the College Search](#) (2/26/25)
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [Decoding Financial Aid with Mark Salisbury](#) (2/27/25)
- SchoolHouse Connection: [Strategies for Protecting Immigrant Children and Youth](#) (2/27/25)

● March:

- The Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration: [Navigating Immigration Policy Changes: What You Need to Know to Support Non-Citizen Students and Employees in Higher Education](#) (3/5/25)
- NCAN: [Building Partnerships Between CBOs and Higher Ed Institutions](#) (3/6/25)
- uAspire: [Financial Aid Offer Review](#) (3/11/25)
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [College Affordability: Knowledge is Power](#) (3/12/25)
- NCAN: [Motivation Science and College Going](#) (3/26/25)

- I try to register for lots of these webinars, and post any recordings from them in this ["Breakthrough College Access/Success PD and Webinar Recording Library" sheet](#). Feel free to check it out, or pass along other upcoming webinars/webinar recordings that you think I should add!

COURSES

- **Next Gen Personal Finance:** [Virtual Professional Development Courses/Webinars](#) (Multiple Dates)
 - BT staff can make free educator accounts to access NGPF's PD
- **ContigoEd:** [Aspiration to Action Course](#)
 - Aspiration to Action is Contigo Ed's on-demand learning course & resources for counselors and advisors advising students to and through career and college.
- **NCAN: Free Virtual PD Courses**
 - Recently added new courses are the [25-26 Difficult FAFSA Scenarios E-learning course](#) and [Reviving Motivation: Helping Students Overcome Apathy and Thrive course](#).
 - Access all of NCAN's E-learning courses for free with a member account. Request one from Breakthrough [using this form](#).

CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

- [NCAN 2025 Leadership Summit](#): March 31-April 3rd in DC
- [NCAN National Conference](#): September 8-10 in New Orleans
- [5 College Consortium CBO Tour: Counselor Fly-in](#): June 8th-10th
 - The 5 College Consortium (Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, UMass Amherst) is hosting 25 CBO counselors from around the country. After a welcome reception and dinner, you'll tour each campus and meet students, faculty, and admissions staff. And we'll cover the cost of your travel, hotel and meals. [Pre-register here](#).

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS, COURSES AND WEBINARS

- **February:**
 - NACAC [Virtual College Fair](#) (2/16/25)
 - STARS College Network: [Virtual Transfer Admissions Panel](#) (2/18/25)
 - Uprooted Academy: [HBCU Student and Alumni Panel](#) (2/19/25)
- **March:**
 - USED: [U.S. Department of Education's Open Data Day Showcase](#) (3/5/25)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Virtual Major and Career Discovery Fair](#) (3/15/25)
 - NACAC [Virtual College Fair](#) (3/23/25)
- **April:**
 - NACAC [Virtual College Fair](#) (4/27/25)

TUTORING/COLLEGE COUNSELING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Free Virtual Tutoring: Boston Scholars Tutoring**
 - “Our service offers free one-on-one tutoring through zoom once or twice a week. We individually teach to the students’ needs. Our tutoring could range from homework help to teaching competition math, and we tutor in all subjects including math, reading/writing, science, coding, etc. We have a safety protocol that at the parent’s request we will record and save the zoom meetings”
 - Our [website](#) provides specific details about our program and how families can sign up.
 - Questions? Contact Bostonscholarstutoring@gmail.com
- **College Essay Guy Matchlighters Scholars Program:** Free virtual college counseling program. Eligibility requirements:
 - US Resident (inclusive of undocumented students, students with DACA, or other immigrant identities)
 - Applying to college or graduate school (11th-12th grade HS students, community college transfer students)
 - 3.0 unweighted GPA or higher
 - Qualify for free/reduced-price lunch, SAT/ACT fee waivers, or enrollment in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families.
- **Matriculate College Advising Program:** Rolling deadline through August 2025. Free virtual college counseling program. Student eligibility requirements:
 - Attend high school in the US (no citizenship requirement)
 - Are on track to graduate high school in the Class of 2026
 - Have an annual family income of less than \$90,000
 - Have a 3.5 Unweighted GPA or higher on a 4.0 Scale (or the equivalent)
 - Are taking a rigorous course load or have a standardized test score in the 90th percentile or higher
 - ACT: 28+ | SAT: 1350+ | PSAT: 1270+ | Pre-ACT: 25+
 - [Nominate students here](#)

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERNSHIPS

- **The Summer Science Program (SSP)** (Application Deadline: February 21, 2025)
 - The Summer Science Program offers high school juniors not-for-credit collaborative, rigorous research tracks in Astrophysics, Biochemistry, Genomics, and Synthetic Chemistry which are hosted on college campuses throughout the country. SSP meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for every admitted student including need-based aid for flights, room, and board, etc.
- **The Princeton Summer Journalism Program** (Application Deadline: February 24, 2025)
 - This is a year-long college preparation program for high school juniors who are interested in journalism. Students apply in the winter-spring of their junior year and participate in the program during the summer following their junior year through the end of their senior year. All costs to attend the residential summer institute, including air or ground transportation to and from campus, housing, meals, and equipment for assignments, are covered by the program.

- **The Anson L. Clark Scholar Program** (Application Deadline: February 24, 2025)
 - This is an intensive seven-week summer research program for twelve highly qualified high school juniors and seniors.
- **Girls Who Code free Summer Programs** (apply by February 26th for early admission, April 11th for general admission).
 - [Girls Who Code Summer Programs](#) help high school girls and nonbinary students build coding skills, explore career pathways in tech, and connect with a supportive community—no program fees or prior coding experience required!
 - Students who [apply](#) by the February 26th early decision deadline will get priority consideration PLUS the chance to win their choice of a \$350 Amazon gift card or Apple iPad. Don't wait—we'll pick a winner every week in February! Questions? [Explore Our Webinars](#) | [Review Helpful FAQs](#) | [Email Us](#) | [See Official Rules](#)
- **Caminos al Futuro** (Application Deadline: February 28, 2025)
 - Caminos al Futuro is a fully funded, pre-college and residential summer program led by George Washington University's Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute. To be eligible, you must be a rising senior at a U.S. high school with a high-level of academic achievement and a demonstrated commitment to leadership in service of the Latino/Hispanic community.
- **AI Scholars (AIS)** (Application Deadline: March 1, 2025)
 - AI Scholars is a four-week immersive experience on the Carnegie Mellon University campus for rising high school seniors. This fully funded, merit-based program brings students together from around the country to explore artificial intelligence with Carnegie Mellon faculty, staff, and researchers who are leaders in the field.
- **CS Scholars (CSS)** (Application Deadline: March 1, 2025)
 - CS Scholars is a four-week immersive experience on the Carnegie Mellon University campus for rising high school juniors. This fully funded, merit-based program brings students together from around the country to explore computer science with Carnegie Mellon faculty, staff, and researchers who are leaders in the field.
- **PROMYS Program** (Application Deadline: March 3, 2025)
 - PROMYS is a six-week summer program in mathematics for strongly motivated high school students who are carefully selected from across the U.S. and around the world. The program is FREE for domestic students whose families make under \$80,000 per year. Open to freshmen-seniors.
- **Howard University's School of Business Summer Enrichment Program** (Early Application Deadline: March 1, 2025. Regular Decision Deadline: April 1, 2025)
 - Introduces students to college life, teamwork, and fundamentals in four growing areas of business: Accounting, Information Systems, Actuarial Science, and Entrepreneurship. Students will stay on campus for a week-long experience. The cost of the program is free. Open to sophomores and juniors.
- **Pathway to Science STEM Summer Opportunity/Internship Databases:**
 - [High School](#)

- [Undergraduate](#)
- **[Tier1Performance Internship](#)** (Rolling deadlines with review periods in February, June and October)
 - Gina Carl, former BT Pittsburgh staff member, shared these opportunities with us from her current company. If you have students apply, let me or Gina (ginarosecarl@gmail.com) know so she can keep an eye out for their applications!
 - Various internship categories in disciplines of organizational psychology, business, marketing, communications, graphic design, instructional design, and more!
- **Strada Education Foundation: [Policy Intern](#)** (Rolling deadlines for a summer internship)
 - Paid internship, open to current college students and postgrad students

SCHOLARSHIPS & COMPETITIONS

- **[Hispanic Scholarship Fund \(HSF\) Scholarship](#): Due 2/15/25**
 - HS students and current undergrads can apply.
 - Note: applicants must be of Hispanic heritage, and be either U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, or DACA.
- **[Girls Who Code Challenge](#): Deadline to February 18, 2025, at 11:59 PM ET!**
 - “We invite 13-18-year-olds to explore how AI can create a more sustainable future. Our expert judges will select six winners—three middle school projects and three high school projects—to receive exclusive GWC swag, a project spotlight on our social media, and a gift card.”
- **TheDream.US Scholarships** (open to Undocumented students)
 - [The National Scholarship](#) (applications due February 28)
- **[TIAA Scholarship](#)**: Due 2/28/25
 - First-gen current college undergrads or incoming college freshmen (2023-2026) are eligible to apply.
- **[Foundation 649 Scholarship](#)**: Due 3/1/25
- **[Local Media Consortium Scholarship](#)**: Due 3/25/25 (open to Undocumented students)
- **[The Obama Foundation: Voyager Scholarship Program](#)**: Due 4/1/25
 - Open to current 2nd year undergrad students. Must have US citizenship, permanent residence, or DACA to be eligible.
- **[SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship](#)**: Due 6/2/25
 - Applicants must be US residents (not open to Undocumented students), have experienced homelessness in the last 6 years, and be starting college in 2026-2027. You are currently residing in the United States.

I think that's it for now. Take care, all!

Best,

Sam

1/27/24

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Monday!

I hope you had a nice and restful weekend. Here's what I've got for this week's email. It's a long one, so you can also [read it in Google Doc form \(organized by headers!\) here](#). **Note- highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines:**

BREAKTHROUGH UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February Postsecondary/College Success Call: NEXT Monday, 2/3/25, 2:45 PM ET/ 11:45 AM PT**
 - Kudos to everyone who voted in the Zoom Scheduler poll to find a time for a postsecondary/college success call in February. The most popular day/time is next Monday, 2/3/25, at 2:45 PM. I will send out an invite to the call to all colleagues, and you can also add the call to your calendar using [this link](#).
 - **The purpose of this call is to convene folks working in the postsecondary/college success space (working with college students).** We will use our time to connect with one another, develop a vision for future meetings, and discuss our existing postsecondary success programs.
- **Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar. NEXT THURSDAY, 2/6**
 - We will be repurposing our collaboration call (originally scheduled for 2/6) with a Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar ([Register here](#)). We will resume with our normal collaboration calls in March. During the webinar, we will cover:
 - An overview of the [National Student Clearinghouse](#) (NSC)
 - How we use National Student Clearinghouse data at Breakthrough
 - How affiliates can access and use the data
 - New features in the Breakthrough NSC dashboards and records
 - Questions and opportunities for next steps
 - All affiliate staff are welcome to attend, but we specifically encourage HS and college program staff, executive directors, and development staff members to participate.
 - Note: staff will need access to a National Salesforce account to be able to access the Breakthrough NSC dashboards. Staff who do not have Salesforce access are still welcome to join, and will be able to see a general overview of the data through the National Salesforce lens. To verify which staff members at your affiliate have a National Salesforce account in advance of the call, reach out to [Tori Perrakis](#).
- **Breakthrough's Spring Training**
 - Breakthrough's annual Spring Training is coming up in March! The in-person event (primarily for MS staff and new staff) will be from 3/18-20 in Chicago, and the Virtual event will be from 3/24-27. See [Schedule](#) for more detail.
 - During Virtual Spring Training, there are several HS and college-specific sessions:
 - 3/25: Test Prep Tools on Courseware (SAT/ACT)
 - 3/26: Early High School Resource Roll Out
 - 3/27: Postsecondary Success Standard Ratification (at least one rep. Per affiliate required)
 - I encourage everyone to register for virtual Spring training, and for folks new to Breakthrough to consider attending the in-person event, too! You can [register for Spring Training here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

-  **REMINDER: Time sensitive opportunities/events/deadlines!** 

- [Apply for FAESA Student Support Strategy funding ASAP!](#) Funds are first-come, first-served.
 - Add the [February Postsecondary/College Success Call to your calendar \(NEXT Monday, 2/3/25, 2:45 PM ET/ 11:45 AM PT\)](#)
 - [Register for the Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar](#) on 2/6, and invite your colleagues.
 - [Register for Virtual Spring Training](#) in March and encourage your colleagues to attend.
- **[National Student Clearinghouse User Survey/Paid Interview Opportunity](#)**
 - [Intentional Futures](#), in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is researching the education technology landscape to unlock the full potential of postsecondary outcomes data, especially that coming from the [National Student Clearinghouse \(NSC\)](#). They are administering a survey to education stakeholders in both K-12 and postsecondary spaces, district and state-level leaders, and product managers to map out current tools, identify gaps, and address challenges that limit data usability. Their goal is to better understand how NSC data is shaping practices in education.
 - **Interested in participating?** You can [complete the survey](#) here. We will submit one from the National Office, but since affiliates have diverse data systems, program structures, staffing models, etc. I think it would be really valuable for the affiliate perspective to be shared, too. **Note: There is also an opportunity to complete a paid(!) interview to discuss your NSC use following the survey.**
 - **Consortium for College Opportunity [Early Read Pilot](#) Update**
 - Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in participating in this pilot! I will reach out soon with next steps and to set up a meeting with all interested sites.

BREAKTHROUGH COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS RESOURCES:

- **Reminder: New College Student Connections Resource!**
 - As a reminder, we now have [this sheet](#) that folks can use to see all of the different colleges and universities where Breakthrough students attend, and to see how many student enrollment records/affiliates are at each school. From there, you can reach out to affiliate colleagues to request to connect your student(s) with their students(s) at different IHEs. I am also working on a companion user guide to support use of this sheet. If you have any feedback on this resource, please let me know!
- **Reminder: Financial Aid/College Affordability Resources**
 - The Breakthrough College Access and Success Resource Site has been [updated with new resources](#) to support affiliates in navigating FAESA/financial aid processes with students. Let Sam know if you have tools/resources that we should add!
- **Other Resource Reminders:**
 - Add any new resources from your site to the "[College Access and Success Resource Search & Share](#)" sheet
 - We have had several [New College Access and Success Colleagues](#) join our community. You can view the updated College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory via the link.
 - All tools and resources can be found on the [College Access and Success Google Site](#)

NATIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS NEWS/UPDATES:

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS:

- **[American Immigration Council:](#)**
 - [The 287\(g\) Program: An Overview Fact Sheet](#)
 - [After Day One: A High-Level Analysis of Trump's First Executive Actions](#) Fact Sheet
- **[The Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration:](#)**
 - [DACA Update: What You Need to Know](#)
 - [Immigration Priorities of the Incoming Trump Administration and Implications for Higher Education](#)
 - [Presidents' Alliance Reacts to Harmful Impact of New Administration's Executive Orders](#)
- The Florida College Access Network: [Florida's Postsecondary Out-Of-State Fee Waivers for Undocumented Students, Explained](#)
- Florida Policy Institute: [Ending Tuition Fairness Would be a Costly Mistake — for Families and Florida's Higher Education Institutions](#)
- K-12 Dive: [Schools no longer protected from immigration raids](#)
- The Century Foundation: [How School Districts Can Take Action to Protect Their Immigrant Students](#)

POLICY/ADVOCACY:

- The Chronicle of Higher Education: [Anti-DEI Law Is Discriminatory. Violation of Free Speech, NAACP Alleges in Federal Court](#)

FINANCIAL AID/COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY:

- NCAN:
 - [New Study: College Savings Accounts Closed Enrollment Gaps by One-Third](#)
 - [NCAN Shares FAFSA Guidance for Mixed-Status Families](#)
 - [A How-To Guide to High Quality, Data-Driven Advising: Part Three - Affordability](#)
- EdWorking Papers:
 - [Buying time: Financial aid allows college students to work less while enrolled](#)
 - [Understanding Variation in Post-College Earnings: Evidence from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard](#)

POSTSECONDARY ACCESS/SUCCESS:

- National Student Clearinghouse:
 - National Student Clearinghouse: [Fall Postsecondary Enrollment Grows 4.5%, Rebounds Above Pre-Covid Levels](#)
 - The Chronicle of Higher Education: [Wait, Freshman Enrollment Actually Increased Last Fall](#)
- Best Practices:
 - American Indian College Fund: [Report on Native Higher Education Success Strategies](#)
 - NCAN:
 - [How to Connect Developmental Theory and Practice to Improve Postsecondary Advising](#)
 - [Retired, Not Tired: Leveraging Retired Educators to Boost College Enrollment](#)
 - The Chronicle of Higher Education: [Colleges Where Pell Students Thrive — and Struggle](#)
 - National Bureau of Economic Research: [CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO TEXT-BASED NUDGING:](#)
 - The JED Foundation: [What We Expect in 2025: New Year's Trends in Youth Mental Health](#)
 - EdWorking Papers: [“Experimental Effects of “Opportunity Gap” and “Achievement Gap” Frames”](#)
- Institutions of Higher Ed:
 - Edtrust: [Toward A New Vision of Excellence](#)
 - Common App: [First-year application trends through January 1](#)

Newsletter Recs:

- These are some of the newsletters that I subscribe to and find extra helpful for college access/success updates. If you have a newsletter recommendation, let me know and I'll add it here!
 - NCAN Data, Evaluation & Research Listserv: [Email Bill DeBaun](#) to join!
 - NCAN's Success Digest: If needed, you can [request a Breakthrough NCAN membership account](#) to access the newsletter.
 - [College Greenlight Newsletter](#)
 - [College Essay Guy Counselor Newsletter](#)
 - [Uprooted Academy Newsletter](#)
 - [Consortium for College Opportunity Newsletter](#)

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS:

- American Immigration Council: [Fact Sheet: U.S. Citizen Children Impacted by Immigration Enforcement](#)
- [Guidance for Higher Education on Immigrant Student Privacy and FERPA](#)
- [Know Your Rights 4 Immigrants App](#)
- UNIDOS US: [Know Your Rights Materials Resource List](#)
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center: [Family Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Flowchart on Protecting Immigrant Students' Rights & Privacy](#)
- [Printable Know Your Rights Cards](#)

POLICY/ADVOCACY:

- EdTrust: [Can't Be Erased Campaign Toolkit](#)
 - Advocacy toolkit for students and educators with a focus on book-bans and racial/ethnic representation in school curricula.

FAFSA RESOURCES

- I add new resources that I come across or are sent to me to [our Google Site](#).
- Here are some new resources that may be of interest:
 - NCAN: [NCAN Shares FAFSA Guidance for Mixed-Status Families](#)
 - USED: [FAQs from the Department of Education: Answers to Common Questions on Information Collected for StudentAid.gov Account Creation and Filling Out the FAFSA](#)

POSTSECONDARY ACCESS/SUCCESS:

- Get Schooled's [January Content Resource Map](#)
 - Every month, [Get Schooled](#) shares a content resource map designed to connect advisors to articles, videos, and activities to use with students. January's resources cover registering for the SAT and ACT, completing the FAFSA, and career exploration.
- Contigo Ed: ["Don't Just Take My Word For It" Using the College Enrollment Checklist to Support Post-Secondary Matriculation](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

WEBINARS

- **January**
 - College Essay Guy: [Why I'm Changing My Approach to College Essays \(and Applications\)](#) (1/28/25)
 - NCAN: [2025-26 FAFSA Lessons Learned](#) (1/28/25)
 - Contigo Ed: [Beyond the Bell: Essential Tools for Supporting Students' Next Steps](#) (1/28/25)
 - Excelencia in Education: [Elevating What Works for Latino Students: A Conversation with Practitioners Leading Successful Programs](#) (1/29/25)
 - College Greenlight: [Pre-College Summer Programs for High School Students](#) (1/29/25)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Building Your Wellness Toolkit: Mindfulness for High School Students](#) (1/30/25)
 - Lumina Foundation: [Building a Stronger Future - Celebrating Progress in Education Attainment](#) (January 30)
- **February**
 - uAspire: [FAFSA Follow-up](#) (2/5/25)
 - NCAN: [Supporting Students' Future-Oriented Identities](#) (2/12/25)
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [The REAL Story About College Pricing](#) (2/12/25)
 - ACT: [Unlocking the Power and Potential of All Learners](#) (2/19/25)
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [From Admissibility to Affordability: A New Paradigm for the College Search](#) (2/26/25)
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [Decoding Financial Aid with Mark Salisbury](#) (2/27/25)
- **March:**
 - uAspire: [Financial Aid Offer Review](#) (3/11/25)
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [College Affordability: Knowledge is Power](#) (3/12/25)
 - NCAN: [Motivation Science and College Going](#) (3/26/25)

COURSES

- **Next Gen Personal Finance: [Virtual Professional Development Webinars](#) (Multiple Dates)**
 - BT staff can make free educator accounts to access NGPF's PD
- **ContigoEd: [Aspiration to Action](#) Course**
 - Aspiration to Action is Contigo Ed's on-demand learning course & resources for counselors and advisors advising students to and through career and college.
- **NCAN: [25-26 Difficult FAFSA Scenarios E-learning course](#)**
 - Access all of NCAN's E-learning courses for free with a member account. Request one from Breakthrough [using this form](#).

CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

- [NCAN 2025 Leadership Summit](#): March 31-April 3rd in DC

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS, COURSES AND WEBINARS

- **January**
 - **Uprooted Academy: [Building Your Wellness Toolkit: Mindfulness for High School Students](#) (1/30/25)**
- **February:**
 - STARS College Network: [Virtual Admissions Panel](#) (2/4/25)
- **March**
 - USED: [U.S. Department of Education's Open Data Day Showcase](#) (3/5/25)

MENTORING/COLLEGE COUNSELING RESOURCES

- **[College Essay Guy Matchlighters Scholars Program](#):** Free virtual college counseling program. Eligibility requirements:
 - US Resident (inclusive of undocumented students, students with DACA, or other immigrant identities)
 - Applying to college or graduate school (11th-12th grade HS students, community college transfer students)
 - 3.0 unweighted GPA or higher
 - Qualify for free/reduced-price lunch, SAT/ACT fee waivers, or enrollment in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families.
- **[Matriculate College Advising Program](#):** Free virtual college counseling program. Student eligibility requirements:
 - Attend high school in the US (no citizenship requirement)
 - Are on track to graduate high school in the Class of 2026
 - Have an annual family income of less than \$90,000
 - Have a 3.5 Unweighted GPA or higher on a 4.0 Scale (or the equivalent)
 - Are taking a rigorous course load or have a standardized test score in the 90th percentile or higher
 - ACT: 28+ | SAT: 1350+ | PSAT: 1270+ | Pre-ACT: 25+
 - [Nominate students here](#)

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERNSHIPS

- **[Girls Who Code free Summer Programs](#)** (apply by February 26th for early admission, April 11th for general admission).
- **[Pathway to Science STEM Summer Opportunity/Internship Databases](#):**
 - [High School](#)
 - [Undergraduate](#)
- **[Tier1Performance Internship](#)** (Rolling deadlines with review periods in February, June and October)
 - Gina Carl, former BT Pittsburgh staff member, shared these opportunities with us from her current company. If you have students apply, let me or Gina (ginarosecarl@gmail.com) know so she can keep an eye out for their applications!
 - Various internship categories in disciplines of organizational psychology, business, marketing, communications, graphic design, instructional design, and more!
- **Strada Education Foundation: [Policy Intern](#)** (Rolling deadlines for a summer internship)
 - Paid internship, open to current college students and postgrad students

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **TheDream.US Scholarships** (open to Undocumented students)
 - **[The Opportunity Scholarship](#)** (applications due January 31)
 - [The National Scholarship](#) (applications due February 28)
- **[Hispanic Scholarship Fund \(HSF\) Scholarship](#):** Due 2/15/25
 - HS students and current undergrads can apply.
 - Note: applicants must be of Hispanic heritage, and be either U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, or DACA.
- **[TIAA Scholarship](#):** Due 2/28/25
 - First-gen current college undergrads or incoming college freshmen (2023-2026) are eligible to apply.
- **[Foundation 649 Scholarship](#):** Due 3/1/25
- **[The Obama Foundation: Voyager Scholarship Program](#):** Due 4/1/25
 - Open to current 2nd year undergrad students. Must have US citizenship, permanent residence, or DACA to be eligible.

- [SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship](#): Due 6/2/25
 - Applicants must be US residents (not open to Undocumented students), have experienced homelessness in the last 6 years, and be starting college in 2026-2027. You are currently residing in the United States.

I think that's it for now. Take care, all!

Best,

Sam

1/21/24

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! I hope folks enjoyed a nice MLK Jr. Day holiday weekend. I'm attempting to revive my periodic college access/success emails to share opportunities, resources and updates for Breakthrough HS/college students and staff.

Here's what I've got for this week's email (if this version is too chaotic, [click here to view a Google Doc version](#) of this email). ***Note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):**

BREAKTHROUGH UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February Postsecondary/College Success Call (Date TBD)**
 - I'm planning to set up a call (ideally in the 1st 2 weeks of February) where any interested BT staff working in the postsecondary access/college space can come together to reconnect, share tools, resources, challenges and needs, and brainstorm together what future collaboration/meetings could look like. This will be a space separate from our joint HS and college collaboration calls to hopefully help us create space to dig more deeply into postsecondary success conversations. Kudos to Diane at BT Greater Boston for reminding me yesterday that we need to do this!
 - I've created a [Zoom Meeting Poll](#) so we can vote and narrow down meeting time options. **Please complete this poll if you can by next Friday, 1/24.**
- [Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar 2/6](#)
 - We will be repurposing our collaboration call (originally scheduled for 2/6) with a Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar ([Register here](#)). We will resume with our normal collaboration calls in March. During the webinar, we will cover:
 - An overview of the [National Student Clearinghouse](#) (NSC)
 - How we use National Student Clearinghouse data at Breakthrough
 - How affiliates can access and use the data
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 - Questions and opportunities for next steps
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 - Note: staff will need access to a National Salesforce account to be able to access the Breakthrough NSC dashboards. Staff who do not have Salesforce access are still welcome to join, and will be able to see a general overview of the data through the National Salesforce lens. To verify which staff members at your affiliate have a National Salesforce account in advance of the call, reach out to [Tori Perrakis](#).
- **Breakthrough's Spring Training**
 - Breakthrough's annual Spring Training is coming up in March! The in-person event (primarily for MS staff and new staff) will be from 3/18-20 in Chicago, and the Virtual event will be from 3/24-27. See [Schedule](#) for more detail.
 - During Virtual Spring Training, there are several HS and college-specific sessions:
 - 3/25: Test Prep Tools on Courseware (SAT/ACT)
 - 3/26: Early High School Resource Roll Out
 - 3/27: Postsecondary Success Standard Ratification (at least one rep. Per affiliate required)
 - I encourage everyone to register for virtual Spring training, and for folks new to Breakthrough to consider attending the in-person event, too! You can [register for Spring Training here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

- **REMINDER: Time sensitive opportunities/events/deadlines!**
 - [Apply for FAESA Student Support Strategy funding ASAP!](#) Funds are first-come, first-served.
 - [Review the Consortium for College Opportunity Early Read Opportunity](#) and contact Sam by Friday, 1/24 if your affiliate is interested in participating.
 - [Register for the Breakthrough National Student Clearinghouse Webinar](#) on 2/6, and invite your colleagues.
 - [Register for Virtual Spring Training](#) in March and encourage your colleagues to attend.
 - [Folks working with college students- fill out this Zoom Scheduler poll](#) by next Friday (1/24) so we can schedule a postsecondary/college success call in February!
- **No College Access/Success Office Hours this Week**
 - I'm away for work this week (1/21) but will be back for office hours next week (1/28).
- **National Student Clearinghouse Release Dates**
 - Every year, the National Office processes data from the National Student Clearinghouse database on our Breakthrough students' post-secondary matriculation, persistence, and graduation data. We are planning to update your Salesforce dashboards with this information by the end of January.
 - While most data are still accessible on the dashboard at this time, there are certain figures (e.g., current post-secondary enrollment) and data about the Class of 2024 that are not displaying fully, as the last time the dashboard was updated was last winter. We will update everyone once the dashboards are updated and available in January. In the meantime, please contact [Tori Perrakis](#) and [Jee Deogracias](#) if you have any questions.

BREAKTHROUGH COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS RESOURCES:

- **Update: New College Student Connections Resource!**
 - As a reminder, we now have [this sheet](#) that folks can use to see all of the different colleges and universities where Breakthrough students attend, and to see how many student enrollment records/affiliates are at each school. From there, you can reach out to affiliate colleagues to request to connect your student(s) with their students(s) at different IHEs. I am also working on a companion user guide to support use of this sheet. If you have any feedback on this resource, please let me know!
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 - The Breakthrough College Access and Success Resource Site has been [updated with new resources](#) to support affiliates in navigating FAFSA/financial aid processes with students. Let Sam know if you have tools/resources that we should add!
- **Other Resource Reminders:**
 - Add any new resources from your site to the ["College Access and Success Resource Search & Share"](#) sheet
 - We have had several [New College Access and Success Colleagues](#) join our community. You can view the updated College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory via the link.
 - All tools and resources can be found on the [College Access and Success Google Site](#)

NATIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Fall National Student Clearinghouse Report Revised:**
 - We are reviewing Breakthrough's NSC data alongside the updated report from the NSCRC. Note that this is a significant error, especially since the fall NSCRC report is relied upon for many purposes, including policy recommendations.
 - NSCRC: [National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Finds a Methodological Error Affecting Preliminary Fall 2024 Higher Education Enrollment Reports](#)
 - NCAN: [Forthcoming Revised Data Will Show Fall 2024 Freshman Enrollment Increased](#)
- [US Senate Designates November 8, 2024, as National First Generation College Celebration Day](#)
- **Newsletter Recs:**
 - These are some of the newsletters that I subscribe to and find extra helpful for college access/success updates. If you have a newsletter recommendation, let me know and I'll add it here!
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 - [College Greenlight Newsletter](#)
 - [College Essay Guy Counselor Newsletter](#)
 - [Uprooted Academy Newsletter](#)
 - [Consortium for College Opportunity Newsletter](#)

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

- CollegeWise: [L.A. Fires: Resources and Relief for Affected Families and Students](#)
- Pulitzer Center: [AI Accountability Classroom Toolkits for Students and Educators](#)
- FAFSA Resources:
 - I add new resources that I come across or are sent to me to [our Google Site](#).
 - Here is a new resource that may be of interest:
 - Higher Ed Immigration Portal: [Messaging Template for Organizations and Institutions](#)
- NCAN: [A How-To Guide to High Quality, Data-Driven Advising: Part Two - Admissibility](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

WEBINARS

- **January**
 - College Essay Guy: [How to Create a College-Going Culture & Counseling Team](#) (1/21/25)
 - Federal Student Aid: [FAFSA® Corrections, Unusual and Special Financial Circumstances Webinar](#) (1/23/25)
 - College Essay Guy: [Why I'm Changing My Approach to College Essays \(and Applications\)](#) (1/28/25)
 - Excelencia in Education: [Elevating What Works for Latino Students: A Conversation with Practitioners Leading Successful Programs](#) (1/29/25)
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 - UAspire: [FAFSA Follow-up](#) (2/5/25)
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STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS, COURSES AND WEBINARS

- **January**
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 - Matriculate: [College 101 for Families](#) (1/23/25)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Building Your Wellness Toolkit: Mindfulness for High School Students](#) (1/30/25)
- **March**
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 - Applicants must be US residents (not open to Undocumented students), have experienced homelessness in the last 6 years, and be starting college in 2026-2027. You are currently residing in the United States.
-

I think that's it for now. Take care, all!

Best,

Sam

1/30/24

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! It's been a while since I have sent a college access and success email roundup. In order to make sure that I am getting these out consistently to you all, and in alignment with affiliate feedback on our Program Services Survey (thank you to everyone who contributed feedback!) I will now be sending these updates bi-monthly, or every two weeks, instead of weekly.

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **February College Access and Success Collaboration Call!**

- THIS Thursday, February 2nd, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
- Jee Deogracias, the National Office's Senior Director of Research and Evaluation, will present about Breakthrough's National Student Clearinghouse dashboards! I will share updates to the collaboration call schedule and Breakthrough's college access and success resources, and we will spend time collaborating and thought-partnering with colleagues.

- **Breakthrough's Spring Training**

- **In-Person:** March 5th-7th in Atlanta. Our hotel block expires on February 3. Please [register](#) for the event and [book your room](#) soon.
- **Virtual:** March 11th-15th, 10am PT/1PM ET each day. You can find the list of sessions on the last page of our [agenda](#). If you are interested, please [register here](#).

- **Upcoming Webinar featuring Breakthrough Central Texas!**

- Arelis Palacios will be representing Breakthrough Central Texas on this panel, "Elevating What Works for Latino Students: A Conversation with Practitioners Leading Successful Programs," that features the winners of the [Excelencia in Education](#) award. In the webinar program representatives will share how they intentionally deliver culturally responsive programming, how they measure their impact, and advice they have for others who want to create similar programs.
- The webinar is tomorrow, Wednesday, January 31, 2024 | 12 - 1 PM CT (1 - 2 PM EST). If you'd like to attend, you can [register here](#)!

- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**

- [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)

- [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main "Collaborative Resource Sites" page)
- **Reminder: ["College Access and Success Resource Search & Share" sheet](#)**
 - Have resources to share? Looking for a resource, lesson plan, handout, etc. to avoid reinventing the wheel? This sheet is editable and a space to share affiliate-created resources that may be useful to your colleagues. Resources do not have to be "perfect" to be added to this sheet- in fact, there are fields for you to note any "glows" or "grows" of your resource to help any colleagues who may be interested in adapting it for their site :). This sheet will replace the Google Drive folder where affiliate-created resources were previously housed.
- **Reminder: Separate College Access and Success Listservs:**
 - The National Office has created an additional listserv for college success staff, collegesuccessstaff@breakthroughcollaborative.org. We are in the process of re-organizing listserv membership so CBdirectors@breakthroughcollaborative.org is reflective of folks serving HS students and doing college access work, and collegesuccessstaff@breakthroughcollaborative.org is reflective of college success staff. Some folks may be included in both listservs.
- **[College Access and Success Google Space:](#)**
 - Quickly ask questions, share or request resources, discuss ideas or challenges, and chat 1:1 with colleagues. All folks in the CB Directors listerv are automatically invited to join the Google Space.
- **[College Access and Success Weekly Office Hours \(with Sam\)](#)**
 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
- **[Join the College Bound Directors Joint Google Calendar!](#)** You can use this calendar to invite affiliate colleagues and their students to virtual events that may be happening at your site. Feel free to add events to the calendar directly :). Here is [a video](#) that explains how to do this.
- **Reminder: Virtual College/Scholarship/Summer Opportunity Info Sessions Sheet**
 - Add your upcoming virtual admissions presentations to [this sheet](#) and/or the [Joint CB Directors Google Calendar](#), and invite your students to sessions hosted by other affiliates! Kudos to Wade for coming up with this idea as a way for us to open up our virtual admissions visits to students from other affiliates. Feel free to share the sheet with your students

directly, but make sure that it is in view-only mode when shared (so nothing is accidentally changed/deleted). Additionally, here is [a video](#) that explains how to add events to the shared Google Calendar.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **FAFSA and Financial Aid:**
 - NCAN: [ED Moves Expected ISIR Delivery to First Half of March, Likely Pushing Aid Offers to April](#) (January 30th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Get in the Know: The Latest FAFSA Updates](#) (January 23rd)
 - NPR: [Exclusive: The Education Department says it will fix its \\$1.8 billion FAFSA mistake](#) (January 23rd)
 - NCAN: [FAFSA to Yield More Generous Aid Eligibility, Likely at the Cost of More Delay](#) (January 24th)

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

- Apply/College Greenlight Lists:
 - [Free and Low-Cost Pre-College Summer Programs](#)
 - [2024 list of National Scholarships](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**
 - January
 - NCAN: [Strategies and Supports for Making Sure Students Get to Campus](#) (January 31st)
 - Persistence Plus: [How to Create a Help-Seeking Culture on Campus](#) (January 31)
 - Lumina Foundation: [New US Data on Education Beyond High School](#) (January 31)
 - Shift/Mainstay: [Student Support: Powered by Artificial + Human Intelligence](#) (January 31)
 - College Greenlight: [Exploring Pre-College Summer Programs for High School Students](#) (January 31st)
 - Excelencia in Education: [Elevating Integrating Test Prep Across the Curriculum What Works for Latino Students: A Conversation with Practitioners Leading Successful Programs](#) (January 31st)

- Features Arelis Palacios from Breakthrough Central Texas!
- February
 - NCAN: [Preparing Future Cohorts of College Completing Black Males](#) (February 1st)
 - The Pell Institute: [Expanding Horizons: Reimagining the Value of College Credentials through Student Voice, Holistic Lenses, and Research](#) (February 5th)
 - NCAN/uAspire: [Financially Safer HBCUs](#) (February 7th)
 - NCAN: [NCAN Conference: Submitting a Successful Proposal](#) (February 8th)
 - Today's Students Coalition: [Equity Now Webinar](#) (February 8)
 - CollegeSpring: [Integrating Test Prep Across the Curriculum](#) (February 8th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Empower Your Students: Pre-College Programs](#) (February 13th)
 - NCAN: [Better FAFSA: One Month Out, What We Know Now](#) (February 14th)
 - CollegeSpring: [Test Prep in a Test Optional Landscape](#) (February 15th)
 - ACT: [How to Use the Participatory Research Model to advance education equity, advocacy, and success](#) (February 15th)
 - Grantmakers for Education: [Findings & Implications of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America 2023 Youth Right Now Survey](#) (February 16th)
 - NCAN: [Student Mental Health: Creating an Inclusive Community of Care](#) (February 20th)
 - CollegeSpring: [Test Prep Isn't Just For Juniors](#) (February 22nd)
 - National Student Clearinghouse: [How Shasta Reduced Barriers to College Enrollment Success](#) (February 27th)
- March
 - NCAN: [Advising Tool Spotlight: Loper Presented by NOLA CCAN](#) (March 6th)
 - uAspire: [Financial Aid Offer Review](#) (March 12)
- April
 - Uprooted Academy: [Advising Undocumented and Mixed Status Families](#) (April 9th)
- May
 - Uprooted Academy: [Mastering Common App School Profiles: Counselor Training Webinar](#) (May 23rd)
- Courses:
 - **College Essay Guy: 2024 Counselor Training Program & Community**

- [Scholarship spots](#) are available to CBOs!
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [Virtual Professional Development Webinars](#) (Multiple Dates)
 - BT staff can make free educator accounts to access NGPF's PD
- **Conferences/Trainings**
 - [The 1619 Project Education Conference \(2024\)](#): February 17th and 18th, Virtual

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**
 - February:
 - STARS College Network: [STARS Virtual Panel: Applying to College as a Transfer Student](#) (February 6th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Supercharge Your College Journey with Pre-College Programs](#) (February 6th)
 - March:
 - Uprooted Academy: [Mastering Standardized Testing: Creating Your SAT/ACT Testing Plan](#) (March 5th)
 - STARS College Network: [STARS Virtual Panel: The College Search Process](#) (March 5th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Major and Career Discovery Fair](#) (March 16th)
 - STARS College Network: [STARS Virtual Panel: Support Systems & Self-Care in College](#) (March 19th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Unlock Your Path to College: College Admissions Webinar for 9th and 10th Graders](#) (March 21st)
 - April:
 - STARS College Network: [STARS Virtual Panel: Introduction to Holistic Review](#) (April 2nd)
 - STARS College Network: [STARS Virtual Panel: Rural and Small-Town College Students](#) (April 16th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [From Community College to a 4-Year University: Your Path to Success](#) (April 16th)
 - May:
 - Uprooted Academy: [Unlock Your Future: Information Session on Fly-In Programs](#) (May 2nd)

- June:
 - Uprooted Academy: [Personal Statement Workshop](#) (June 13th)

- **Summer Opportunities and Internships:**
 - [Pathway to Science STEM Summer Opportunity/Internship Databases:](#)
 - [High School](#)
 - [Undergraduate](#)
 - Princeton University: [Summer Journalism Program](#) (apply by February 15)
 - New America: [build4good Summer 2024 Internship](#) (apply by March 1)
 - Common App: [Student Advisory Committee](#) (apply by March 1)

- **Scholarships**
 - [FOSSI Scholarship](#) (Due January 31st, 2024)
 - Open to high school seniors planning to attend an HBCU next year
 - Applicants must have an interest in STEM
 - [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#) (Closes February 15th)
 - The Dream.US:
 - [Opportunity Scholarship](#) (apply by January 31)
 - [National Scholarship](#) (apply by February 29)

I think that's it for now. See you all on Thursday!

Best,

Sam

8/25/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Friday! I hope you all are doing well :). Apologies for not sending an email last week! Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **September College Access and Success Collaboration Call!**
 - Thursday, September 7th, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - [UPChieve](#) will present for 15-20 minutes during our call about their virtual tutoring platform. We will spend the rest of our meeting in collaboration with one another.

- **Art of Problem Solving- Breakthrough Collaborative Info Session**
 - Tuesday, September 19th from 9:30-10 AM PT (12:30-1 PM ET)
 - The National Office will be hosting an Info Session for "Art of Problem Solving" and their Pathways Scholarship program. This is a scholarship opportunity for Breakthrough middle and high school students to access free AoPS math courses, inclusive of courses, tutoring, books and online study. This is a great opportunity for students seeking to be challenged in their math courses, as well as for students who could benefit from additional support through concurrent enrollment in an AoPS course alongside the math course they are taking at school.
 - For more information you can:
 - Review and share this scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
Review these [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families

- **Call for High School Scope and Sequences!**
 - I am working on a HS Scope and Sequence resource to share with affiliates across the Collaborative. My hope is that this resource can help guide affiliates who are looking for a more comprehensive breakdown of different types of content to cover at different times throughout the 4 years of high school. I would love for this resource to be as reflective as possible of the great work already happening across the Collaborative, so I am crowdsourcing existing scope and sequence resources from affiliates to use as a starting point. If you have a scope and sequence (any sort of resource outlining topics covered/programming happening at different times/months during the 4 years of HS) in any stage of completion, I would love to see it! No draft is too "rough," and any insight into the existing work you all are doing and how you are sequencing it would be awesome.
 - **If you have a scope and sequence to share, please email it to me or share it with me directly via Google Drive at sgeary@breakthroughcollaborative.org.** Also, if you are comfortable with me sharing it with other affiliates who may be interested, let me know!

- **Apply to Lead a Problem of Practice or Innovation Share-Out Session at National Conference!**
 - We are looking forward to seeing you at our 2023 National Conference this fall and are working to plan a conference agenda that centers community-building,

affiliate needs, collaboration and BT culture. In response to feedback, following our 2022 National Conference, and in the spirit of the theme, “One Breakthrough: Shared Vision and Solidarity,” we are planning to hold a combination of traditional conference sessions, problem-of-practice sessions, innovation share-outs, and collaborative work time. Our hope is that these sessions address affiliate needs, incorporate affiliate voice and lead to a meaningful learning and growing experience for everyone.

- We invite affiliate colleagues to lead either problem-of-practice or innovation share-out sessions at this year’s National Conference. These sessions will be 30-45 minutes long, low-lift, and should allow affiliate colleagues to collaborate, thought-partner, and develop or explore shared solutions around important problems of practice that we face in our work. Folks are welcome to lead these sessions independently, or to collaborate with multiple affiliate colleagues to lead a session. We hope to offer sessions that relate to the various roles that our colleagues hold, from middle school, college access and college success program directors, to curriculum folks, EDs, development colleagues, marketing and communications staff, research and evaluation folks, etc.
- **If you are interested in leading a problem-of-practice or innovation share-out session, we invite you to submit a session proposal via [this form](#) by Tuesday, September 5.**
- We will review proposals and select sessions to ensure that we cover a variety of topics. We may also combine similar submissions. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from your colleagues, understand the breadth of experience in our Collaborative, and build trust with your peers across the country.
- If selected to lead a problem-of-practice or innovation share-out session, you will receive a skeleton agenda for your session and will be asked to submit it prior to the conference. If you have questions, please reach out to [Sam Geary](#) or [Phyllis Elick](#).

- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**

- [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main “Collaborative Resource Sites” page. I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!
 - Reminder: [Affiliate-created resources shared folder](#)
 - This is intended to be an informal space where you can check out resources being used by colleagues, especially if you are looking

to create a new workshop or program and would like to see what other folks are doing around that topic. It is set as view-only to ensure that the original versions of documents remain unchanged. **If you have a resource (or many!) that you would like added to this folder, share it with me directly or send me an [email](#) and I'll add it!**

- **Reminder: Separate College Access and Success Listservs:**
 - The National Office has created an additional listserv for college success staff, collegesuccessstaff@breakthroughcollaborative.org. We are in the process of re-organizing listserv membership so CBdirectors@breakthroughcollaborative.org is reflective of folks serving HS students and doing college access work, and collegesuccessstaff@breakthroughcollaborative.org is reflective of college success staff. Some folks may be included in both listservs. For now, I will send combined weekly emails to both groups, but can consider sending two separate emails in the future if folks would prefer that. Let me know if you have any questions!
- [College Access and Success Google Space:](#)
 - Quickly ask questions, share or request resources, discuss ideas or challenges, and chat 1:1 with colleagues. All folks in the CB Directors listerv are automatically invited to join the Google Space.
- [College Access and Success Weekly Office Hours](#) (with Sam)
 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
- [Join the College Bound Directors Joint Google Calendar!](#) You can use this calendar to invite affiliate colleagues and their students to virtual events that may be happening at your site. Feel free to add events to the calendar directly :). Here is [a video](#) that explains how to do this.
- **Reminder: Virtual admissions-officer visits:**
 - Wade mentioned that BT Twin Cities is planning several virtual admissions-officer visits this fall and that students from other affiliates would be welcome to join. If you are planning similar events at your affiliate and would like to open them up to students from other sites, please [add them to our shared calendar](#) directly! Here is [a video](#) that explains how to do this.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Affirmative Action/Equity in College Admissions:**
 - **College Essay Guy Resources:**
 - [Affirmative Action Resource Page](#)
 - [Actions Taken or Policy Changes Made by Colleges After Race-Conscious Admissions Ban](#)
 - Essay strategies/activities to use with students:
 - ["If you really, really knew me" Exercise](#) (formerly the 10+ Things I Want Colleges to Know...)—useful for helping students brainstorm "diverse qualities" (broadly speaking) that they might bring to a college campus, or that might help them stand out
 - [Uncommon Connections Game](#) (an exercise for helping students stand out if they believe some part of their experiences, activities, or identities might be "over-represented")
 - **Articles and Reports:**
 - [Diversifying Society's Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges](#) | July 2023 | Harvard University
 - "Leadership positions in the U.S. are disproportionately held by graduates of a few highly selective private colleges. Could such colleges — which currently have many more students from high-income families than low-income families — increase the socioeconomic diversity of America's leaders by changing their admissions policies? We use anonymized admissions data from several private and public colleges linked to income tax records and SAT and ACT test scores to study this question." (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
 - [Wake Forest Announces Early Action for First-Generation Admissions](#) | August 2023 | Best Colleges
 - "The research makes clear that early decision deadlines are at odds with equitably enrolling students from low-income backgrounds, first-generation students, and students of color," the report reads. "Applying early decision can boost a student's likelihood of being admitted to an institution — particularly a selective institution — but it is difficult for underserved students to take advantage of this benefit." (via NCAN Newsletter)

- [Inequality in Academic Preparation for College](#) | July 2023 | Policy Analysis for California Education
 - "Academic preparation is a key factor in readiness for college-level work. Students who enroll in rigorous courses while in high school realize better secondary and postsecondary outcomes. Evidence from California suggests that rigorous learning opportunities may not be equally distributed across the state, prompting questions about course availability and accessibility. This study examines the variation in statewide participation in a host of courses that are recognized as critical to students' preparation for college." (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

- [Ensuring Fairness in College Admissions: Rethinking Recruitment, Demonstrated Interest Strategies, Early Decision, and Legacy Admissions](#) | July 2023 | The Campaign for College Opportunity
 - "This brief offers college leaders and admissions officials clear recommendations to ensure that their campus admissions are fair by rethinking recruitment strategies and demonstrated interest practices, and eliminating early decision and legacy admission. These practices too often are barriers to the economic mobility a college degree can offer." (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

- [ED/DOJ Release Guidance Following SCOTUS Decisions Around Race-Based Admissions](#) | August 2023 | NCAN Blog
 - "The US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the US Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division jointly released guidance following the SCOTUS' recent decision around the use of race in college admissions. The resources are designed to help colleges and universities understand the Court's decision as they continue to pursue campuses that are racially diverse and that include students with a range of viewpoints, talents, backgrounds, and experiences.." (via NCAN Newsletter)

- [Addressing the Widening College Graduation Gap](#) | August 2023 | Comcast Newsmakers
 - "Get Schooled Executive Director John Branam spoke with Comcast Newsmakers about the widening gap in college degree attainment between Black and white students." (via NCAN Newsletter)

- ['Laboratories of success': why HBCUs are the best models for race-blind admissions](#) | August 2023 | The Guardian

- "Because of historical racial discrimination by predominantly white colleges, HBCUs have valued inclusion, rather than exclusion, since their founding. While it's true that admitting Black students remains a primary mission for HBCUs, these schools pride themselves on welcoming students from various backgrounds. "I'm not aware of any HBCU that uses race as a consideration in any determination," Danielle Holley, a former dean of Howard University's law school, told me. According to her, that foundation is what makes HBCUs a "laboratory of success" for educating all students." (via NCAN Newsletter)
- See past College Access and Success Weekly Newsletters [here](#) for more resources.
- **College Success**
 - [Students' Experiences Shape Their Actions and Outcomes: How Do We Consider Them?](#) | August 2023 | NCAN Blog
 - "More than a decade ago, NCAN released our Common Measures, a set of research-backed, member-developed college access and success indicators, which they then use to measure students' progress and their programs' performance. It's easy to think of them as indicators of college access and attainment. But the Common Measures themselves, and whether students accomplish them, are also the result of students' experiences, opportunities, and contexts." (via NCAN Newsletter)
 - [TRIO PROGRAMS AREN'T DESIGNED TO DO IT ALL: REFLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS TO SUPPORT FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS](#) | June 2023 | Center for First Generation Student Success
 - "This essay discusses the lived experiences of first-gen students each August when they arrive on a college campus for the first time. The author's approach offers a reflective component for institutions of higher education to consider when creating support or programs for first-gen students as they navigate unfamiliar terrain in which they are expected to understand its components instantly." (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
 - [Grant Learnings: Supporting Matriculation and Re-Engaging Students](#) | August 2023 | Center for First Generation Student Success
 - "In 2022, the Kresge Foundation awarded NCAN with funding to support summer activities for seven select programs. Each program received \$30,000 to ensure students from the class of 2022 matriculated to a postsecondary institution and to re-engage students from the classes of

2021 and 2020 who either never enrolled or had stopped out. In this article, we've outlined the activities funded, what worked (and didn't), and learnings." (via NCAN Newsletter)

- **Immigrants Rights and DACA Updates (Via Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Newsletter)**

- Massachusetts has [enacted](#) in-state college tuition and aid eligibility for undocumented students!
 - [In-state tuition for undocumented students becomes law under signed FY24 budget](#) | August 2023 | Boston Herald
 - [Massachusetts becomes 24th state to offer in-state tuition rates for undocumented immigrants](#) | August 2023 | WWLP
- [Social Finance Expands Dreamers Graduate Loan Program to All DACA & TPS Students](#) | August 2023 | Social Finance
- [Undocumented students face new challenges under Florida's immigration law](#) | August 2023 | WUSF Public Media

- **Career Pathways**

- [Healthcare Training Programs in Community Colleges: A Landscape Analysis of Program Availability and Student Completions](#) | July 2023 | Community College Research Center
 - "This report describes a study of healthcare training programs that CCRC conducted to understand the current role that community colleges play in training healthcare workers, including public health workers. Findings from the study provide policymakers and community college leaders a better understanding of the role community colleges currently play and their potential to take on greater responsibility in training healthcare workers." (Via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

- **Financial Aid**

- [2019–20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study \(NPSAS:20\): First Look at Student Financial Aid Estimates for 2019–20](#) | August 2023 | Institution of Education Sciences & National Center for Education Statistics
 - "This First Look publication provides the first results of the 2019–20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:20), the most comprehensive national study of student financing of postsecondary education in the United States. This report includes information for about

80,800 undergraduate students and 19,700 graduate students attending 2,200 postsecondary institutions in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico." (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

- [PROOF POINTS: Surprising patterns in who gets merit and need-based aid from colleges](#) | July 31 | Hechinger Report
 - "The bottom line on college tuition is that there is no bottom line. At most four-year institutions, admitted students are quoted all sorts of different prices. Often masquerading as "merit aid" or "scholarships," the discounts are aimed at persuading students to attend, much like online retailers dangle coupons to persuade you to purchase the items in your shopping cart." (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
- [College Affordability Still Out of Reach for Students with Lowest Incomes. Students of Color](#) | August 2023 | Institute for Higher Education Policy
 - "IHEP released an analysis of new federal data showing college affordability is still out of reach for students of color and from low-income backgrounds." (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [Report Finds CSAs Tripled Nationally in 2022](#) | August 2023 | NCAN Blog
 - "The child savings account (CSA) movement has been growing steadily for years but launch of a new California program led the number of accounts nationally to triple in 2022, according to Prosperity Now's annual CSA program survey. Almost five million students in the United States now have CSAs." (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [Four More States Adopt Universal FAFSA; Total Climbs to 12](#) | August 2023 | NCAN Blog
 - "The spring 2023 legislative session was a busy one on the universal FAFSA front as four states (Connecticut, Indiana, Nebraska, and Oklahoma) all voted to adopt some form of the policy. 12 states now have universal FAFSA in some form or another while at least another dozen have introduced the policy but not yet passed it." (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [Income-Driven Repayment \(IDR\) Plan Request](#) | August 2023 | Federal Student Aid
 - "The Biden-Harris Administration has announced that borrowers can apply for the [SAVE plan](#) now while it is still in beta testing and not have to re-apply later." (via NCAN Newsletter)
- **FAFSA Simplification/Better FAFSA:**
 - [How the FAFSA simplification can impact your financial aid](#) | August 2023 | Cleveland.com

- “Overall, I think there are a lot more winners,” says MorraLee Keller, Senior Director of Strategic Programming at the National College Attainment Network, a nonprofit organization supporting college affordability. On the other hand, Keller says she doesn’t want to underestimate the negative impact those changes may have on some families” (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [Have Questions About the Better FAFSA? Look No Further than Our FAQ Page!](#) | August 2023 | NCAN Blog
 - “As the name suggests, the Better FAFSA is all new for 2024-25. With many changes come many questions, and NCAN is here for all of them with our Better FAFSA FAQ page! Whether you (or the students you serve) are wondering about the implementation timeline, FSA ID, specific form changes, or new methodology formulas, you'll find the answers here.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
 - [The Better FAFSA Hasn’t Opened. But You Can Already Get Started](#) | August 2023 | NCAN Blog
 - “With the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or “Better FAFSA,” delayed until December 2023, the completion events typically scheduled for the fall and early winter will need to be pushed back as well. National College Attainment Network (NCAN) members should start planning now and inform the students (and by extension, families) they serve of this change.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
- **DEI in Higher Ed**
 - [Florida’s DEI Ban Censors Classroom Instruction, Lawsuit Says](#) | August 2023 | The Chronicle of Higher Education
 - “A group of faculty members and students at New College of Florida filed a complaint against the institution’s leaders last week in federal district court in Tallahassee, Fla. The complaint challenges the new state law banning diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges. The plaintiffs argue that because the law limits what can be taught, it violates their free-speech rights and is discriminatory.” (via [Race on Campus Newsletter](#))
 - [Diversity Statements Get the Ax at Arizona’s Public Universities](#) | August 2023 | The Chronicle of Higher Education

PROGRAM RESOURCES

- **DecidED Resources:**
 - Considering integrating DecidED's platform into your college access programming this year? Check out these resources:
 - [Advisor Dashboard refresher](#)
 - It covers key features, latest updates, and pro tips to set you and your students up for success.
 - [2023-2024 Advisor Toolkit Folder](#)
 - For an in depth look at all features across DecidED.
- **Uprooted Academy Blog Post:** [What to Consider When Finding Your Ideal College](#)
- **Career Spring's** mission is to unlock the employment potential of FGLI students by providing career information, social capital, and job placement services. They offer a completely free Career Prep/Services Platform for first-gen and low-income high school and college students. We were connected with Gretchen Richter from Career Spring in Houston who has worked with BT Houston. She shared regional Career Spring contacts with me should affiliates in other parts of the country want to connect with them!
 - Texas: Gretchen Richter, griechter@careerspring.org
 - Boston: Pat Durgin, pdurgin@careerspring.org
 - San Francisco: Carmen Stockberger, cstockberger@careerspring.org
 - SoCal: Abby Adams, aadams@careerspring.org
 - New York: Eliane Abou-Assi, eabouassi@careerspring.org
- **ECMC National Training Educator Guides:**
 - "Free training is also available for your school or organization. If you would like to learn more about how to bring this FREE training to educators, counselors and community based organizations in your area, please check out this [link](#) for more info or email nationaltrainings@ecmc.org" (Via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
 - [Believing the College Dream](#) - For educators working with 4th-8th graders
 - [Realizing the College Dream](#) - For educators working with 9-12th graders
 - [Persist in Higher Education](#) – For educators working with postsecondary students

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [FREE Back to School Virtual Conference](#) (August 26)

- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (August 28)
- American College Application Campaign: [Why Host a College Application Event?](#) (August 29)
- NCAN: [Planning a Financial Aid Night for Students and Families](#) (September 7)
- Strada Education Foundation: [The Value of Community Colleges - Recent Students' Motivations and Outcomes](#) (September 7)
- Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration: [Undocumented Student Communities of Practice Launch Party](#) (September 8)
- uAspire: [Preparing for FAFSA Simplification](#) (September 13)
- ACT: [Colleges Admission from A to Z - Ace Your Application Process](#) (September 13)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Write Better Recommendations in Less Time](#) (September 13)
 - Pay-what-you-can (free) spots available
- Pulitzer Center: [The News and You: Exploring Media Literacy Activities for \(After\)School](#) (September 14)
- Federal Student Aid: [Repayment 101: Get Help With Your Federal Student Loans](#) (September 14)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (September 26)
- NCAN: [Creating New Futures - The Impact of Strategic Partnerships](#) (October 4)
- uAspire: [Preparing for FAFSA Simplification](#) (October 17)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (October 23)
- Federal Student Aid: FSA Financial Aid Bootcamp (October 25-26)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (November 20)
- uAspire: [Preparing for FAFSA Simplification](#) (November 29)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (December 4)

- Next Gen Personal Finance: [Virtual Professional Development Webinars](#) (Multiple Dates)
 - BT staff can make free educator accounts to access NGPF's PD
- **Conferences/Trainings**
 - [The Power of Us: NACAC Conference 2023](#): September 21-23, Baltimore, MD
 - [NCAN's 2023 National Conference](#): October 16-18, Dallas, TX
 - I'll be there and hope to see you, too!
 - If you don't have an NCAN membership, contact me and I can set you up with one from the National Office so you can get the membership discount :).
 - [CSAC California College Affordability Summit](#): November 7-8, 2023, Riverside, CA
 - National Council for Mental Wellbeing: [Mental Health First Aid Training](#) (Various Dates)
 - "Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses teach adult learners how to assist fellow adults, while Youth MHFA courses teach adult learners how to assist adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18. These courses are available completely in-person through an Instructor-led training, partially in-person (called Blended In-person) or completely virtually (called Blended Virtual)." (Via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**
 - Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
 - [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up

individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.

- I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!

- **Uprooted Academy:** [Parents' Night | Noche De Padres](#)

- **Tuesday, August 29th, 7PM ET/4PM PT**

- Acompáñenos en una noche informativa diseñada específicamente para padres hispanohablantes, para informarles sobre los procesos de admisión a la universidad y de solicitud de ayuda financiera.

- ACT: [Colleges Admission from A to Z - Ace Your Application Process](#) (September 13)

- [Girls Who Code Fall Hiring Summit](#) (for college students and college grads)

- September 8th, 2023, 12-5PM ET, 9AM-2PM PT

- “The Girls Who Code Hiring Summit is a one-day event designed to connect the Girls Who Code and wider communities with internship and job opportunities in the technical workforce and to connect hiring managers looking to meet diverse slate of candidates for internships and jobs. This event welcomes college students, recent college and bootcamp graduates, and young professionals to network with companies looking to connect with a talented, ambitious, diverse group of computer science students and professionals!”

- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**

- **Matriculate:** [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

- **BestColleges:** [\\$6,000 Scholarship for Black Women in STEM](#) (apply by September 30)

- **Pulitzer Center:** [Local Letters for Global Change Contest](#) (submit by November 12)

- [SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship](#) (Deadline: November 24, 2023)

- Eligibility notes:

- Available to undocumented students
 - Applicants must have experienced homelessness in the past 6 years
 - Applicants must begin college for the first time in 2024

- **Student Advocacy Opportunity:**

- “In response to the ruling banning race-conscious admissions practices, The Washington Post is writing a story on its effects on students applying to college this fall. Rising high school seniors rethinking college applications are encouraged to respond to [this survey](#) and make their voices heard. Please share this link with the students you serve - especially those who will be most impacted.”

○ **Nominate a Student Leader to Join the President’s Alliance for Immigration’s Student Strategy Tables:**

- “Do you know a student leader who is undocumented or from a refugee background? If so, let us know or share [this self-nomination form](#) with them to join the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables. The Presidents’ Alliance is looking to coordinate two Student Strategy Tables for Undocumented and Refugee students for the 2023-2024 academic year to help inform and guide our work and objectives. We recognize the importance of being informed by and centering the voices of the communities we support through our work. We also provide small (\$25) honorariums for each meeting in which a student participates, in recognition of the additional work serving on an advisory strategy table entails.”
- Benefits of joining the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables for students:
 - Connect and learn from other undocumented or refugee students leaders from across the country
 - Build community and friendships
 - Take an active role in some in person and virtual events, conferences, and briefings
 - Learn about and provide insight on our national work in the intersection of higher education and immigration
- Questions? Contact Axelle Nassirou (axelle@presidentsalliance.org) (for refugee students) or Luz Bertadillo (luz@presidentsalliance.org) (for undocumented students)

○ **Uprooted Academy “We Belong” Campaign and Virtual College Fair (September 9)**

- **What is the "We Belong" Campaign?** The "We Belong" Campaign is all about breaking down barriers and ensuring that every high-achieving student like you has access to higher education. We're pushing back against barriers like the overturning of affirmative action in US higher education to make sure you have an equal shot at success.

- **Win Your Share of \$10,000 in Scholarships:** We believe in your potential, and that's why we're offering \$10,000 in scholarship money through our free virtual college fair and we are giving away \$1,000 in the "We Belong" Campaign on [Social Media](#)! By joining the fair, you'll not only explore countless educational opportunities but also have a chance to win scholarships that can make your dreams a reality.
- **Virtual College Fair Blurb for Students:**
 - "Hey, future trailblazers! Exciting news ahead! [Uprooted Academy's Fall Virtual College Fair](#) is coming up on September 9th, and you've got an all-access pass. Check out what's waiting for you:
 - 🎉 Win \$10,000 in Scholarships: Yup, you read that right! Uprooted's free fair is offering scholarships to fuel your college dreams.
 - 📁 Connect with Admissions Counselors: Meet top-notch college reps and get noticed during the application process.
 - 💡 Expert College Counseling: Get expert guidance for you and your parents, easing college decisions.
 - 📚 Unlimited Free Resources: Get access to loads of free webinars and workshops for academic success. Register now ➡ <https://explorewithuprooted.vfairs.com/en/registration-form> This is YOUR chance to explore, connect, and soar! Don't miss it!"

I think that's it for now. Take care, all!

Best,

Sam

8/11/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Friday! I hope you all are well and excited to head into the weekend :). Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **[September College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)**
 - Thursday, September 7th, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - I'm currently working on the agenda for this call- if there is something you would like for us to discuss as a group, let me know!
- **Save the Date: National Conference 2023**
 - We are pleased to announce the dates for this year's National Conference! It will be on October 24th and 25th in Minneapolis/St.Paul, Minnesota (Shout-out to BT Minneapolis and BT Twin Cities!). Please save the dates (plan for two full days of programming) and stay tuned for more information. We'll be in touch soon with agenda, registration, and travel information. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Christina Donahue](#).
 - As I mentioned at our August Collaboration Call, affiliate colleagues will be invited to lead problem-of-practice sessions during this year's National Conference. A call for session proposals form will come out in the next few weeks, so hopefully some folks will submit session proposals!
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main "Collaborative Resource Sites" page. I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!
 - **NEW: [Affiliate-created resources shared folder](#)**
 - This is intended to be an informal space where you can check out resources being used by colleagues, especially if you are looking to create a new workshop or program and would like to see what other folks are doing around that topic. It is set as view-only to ensure that the original versions of documents remain unchanged. **If you have a resource (or many!) that you would like added to**

this folder, share it with me directly or send me an [email](#) and I'll add it!

- **NEW: Separate College Access and Success Listservs:**
 - The National Office has created an additional listserv for college success staff, collegesuccessstaff@breakthroughcollaborative.org. We are in the process of re-organizing listserv membership so CBdirectors@breakthroughcollaborative.org is reflective of folks serving HS students and doing college access work, and collegesuccessstaff@breakthroughcollaborative.org is reflective of college success staff. Some folks may be included in both listservs. For now, I will send combined weekly emails to both groups, but can consider sending two separate emails in the future if folks would prefer that. Let me know if you have any questions!
 -
 - [College Access and Success Google Space:](#)
 - Quickly ask questions, share or request resources, discuss ideas or challenges, and chat 1:1 with colleagues. All folks in the CB Directors listerv are automatically invited to join the Google Space.
 - [College Access and Success Weekly Office Hours](#) (with Sam)
 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
 - [Join the College Bound Directors Joint Google Calendar!](#) You can use this calendar to invite affiliate colleagues and their students to virtual events that may be happening at your site. Feel free to add events to the calendar directly :). Here is [a video](#) that explains how to do this.
- **August Collaboration Call Notes/Reminders:**
 - **Questbridge:**
 - If you would like to learn more about Questbridge or request a presentation for your students, you can reach out to [Rachel Fishbein](#), Questbridge's Senior Program Specialist. You can also attend a [live FAQ webinar for educators](#) to get more specific questions answered.
 - [Uprooted Academy is hosting a student and family-facing Questbridge session](#) on Tuesday, August 15th at 7 PM ET/4 PM PT. Rachel will be facilitating this session, so feel free to pass along this opportunity to your students!

- **Scope and Sequence Project:**
 - I am working on a HS Scope and Sequence resource to share with affiliates across the Collaborative. My hope is that this resource can help guide affiliates who are looking for a more comprehensive breakdown of different types of content to cover at different times throughout the 4 years of high school. I would love for this resource to be as reflective as possible of the great work already happening across the Collaborative, so I am crowdsourcing existing scope and sequence resources from affiliates to use as a starting point. If you have a scope and sequence (any sort of resource outlining topics covered/programming happening at different times/months during the 4 years of HS) in any stage of completion, I would love to see it! No draft is too "rough," and any insight into the existing work you all are doing and how you are sequencing it would be awesome.
 - **If you have a scope and sequence to share, please email it to me or share it with me directly via Google Drive at sgeary@breakthroughcollaborative.org.** Also, if you are comfortable with me sharing it with other affiliates who may be interested, let me know!

- **Virtual admissions-officer visits:**
 - Wade mentioned that BT Twin Cities is planning several virtual admissions-officer visits this fall and that students from other affiliates would be welcome to join. If you are planning similar events at your affiliate and would like to open them up to students from other sites, please [add them to our shared calendar](#) directly! Here is [a video](#) that explains how to do this.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Affirmative Action:**
 - [A New Push to Assess 'Character' in Admissions](#) (The Chronicle of Higher Education)
 - "The National Association for College Admission Counseling just announced a new [Character Focus Initiative](#) to help colleges develop ways of assessing students' personal attributes, like curiosity and integrity." (via [Race on Campus Newsletter](#))

- [Where DEI Efforts Are Ambitious, Well Funded, and Taking Fire From All Sides](#) (The Chronicle of Higher Education)
 - “...University of Michigan at Ann Arbor is recruiting students through its [Wolverine Pathways](#) program, which offers year-round academic and social support to students, families, and schools in four underserved areas — Detroit, Ypsilanti, Grand Rapids, and Southfield — starting in seventh grade. Michigan has banned colleges from considering race in admissions since 2006, and today, about one in five of Ann Arbor’s entering Black in-state students are graduates of the program.” (via [Race on Campus Newsletter](#))
- “... the Campaign for College Opportunity has launched a national initiative, Affirming Equity, Ensuring Inclusion, Empowering Action, where we seek to promote evidence-based solutions via a series of papers and toolkits that advance more equitable strategies in college preparation, admissions, placement practices, and transfer, to ensure those who have been historically excluded and underserved by our colleges and universities have a real opportunity to go to college and succeed despite the Supreme Court decision.” ([The Campaign for College Opportunity](#), via NCAN Newsletter)
- See past College Access and Success Weekly Newsletters [here](#) for more resources.

- **Enrollment and Degree Attainment**

- [RAISING STATE MINIMUM WAGES, LOWERING COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT](#) (NBER WORKING PAPER SERIES)
 - “While the direct impacts of minimum wage changes on employment have received considerable attention, these policy changes have the potential to impact skill attainment by changing the opportunity cost of college enrollment. Using institutional data on college enrollment and program completion, we find that enrollment falls markedly among students at public two-year institutions in response to increases in the minimum wage. The largest enrollment effects are seen for those students who are enrolled in part-time courses of study at community colleges. The effect of minimum wage changes on credential attainment is limited to modest effects for women at the associate degree level, suggesting that the changes primarily impact the enrollment of students who are unlikely to have been diverted from degree attainment.”
- [Report: Latino Degree Attainment Uneven Across US but Critical to Nation’s Future](#)

- There's substantial work to do to achieve the 6.6 million additional degrees necessary to accomplish the national attainment goal for Latino/as, according to a recently-released report. The report finds uneven levels of degree attainment for Latino/a students across the US and, unfortunately, substantial degree attainment gaps relative to White students. (via NCAN Newsletter)

- **Immigrants Rights and DACA**

- "Massachusetts state legislators approved a [FY24 budget](#) which expands eligibility for in-state tuition and state financial aid for undocumented students, both with and without DACA. Governor Healey [supported](#) the inclusion of the provision and is expected to sign the bill. You can find a press release by the Presidents' Alliance on this victory [here](#)." (via Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Newsletter)
- **Roundup of Reactions to New Data Estimates and Webinar on Immigrant-Origin and Undocumented Students.**
 - "On August 6th, the Presidents' Alliance released [a report on undocumented student populations in higher education](#) with the American Immigration Council, and released a [commentary on the impact of immigrant-origin students](#), co-authored by Jeanne Batalova of the Migration Policy Institute and Miriam Feldblum of the Presidents' Alliance, and based on the new data estimates of immigrant-origin students by MPI. The state and national pages on the [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#) are now updated with all the latest data. The Presidents' Alliance also co-hosted a [webinar](#) with the American Immigration Council and the Migration Policy Institute.
 - The joint [commentary with MPI](#) and [report with AIC provide](#) crucial insights into new trends, including the robust growth of immigrant-origin student populations, their diversity, and workforce contributions. **Among the findings, immigrant-origin students now account for thirty-one percent of all domestic students in higher education. The new estimates also confirm the diminishing number of students with DACA on college campuses, as those students without DACA now account for approximately two-thirds of all undocumented students in higher education. The new data underscored the need for a permanent legislative solution to legal status for undocumented and DACA students.**" (via Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Newsletter)

- **Financial Aid**

- [The Better FAFSA Hasn't Opened. But You Can Already Get Started](#)
 - “With the Better FAFSA delayed until December, the completion events typically scheduled for the fall and early winter will need to be pushed back as well. Since everyone who inputs information into a FAFSA will need an FSA ID and they will need to be created prior to starting the FAFSA, NCAN members should schedule FSA ID creation events for before the new form opens.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [Long Awaited FAFSA Simplification Dear Colleague Letter Arrives](#)
 - Last Friday, the Office of Federal Student Aid released a long awaited Dear Colleague letter that contains a detailed outline of many of the changes coming as a result of FAFSA simplification. This letter should serve as a guiding resource in helping clarify the new form and process. Read it, print it, and keep it on your desk. (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [College Access Groups Fear Impact of Outsourcing Guidance](#) (Inside Higher Ed)
 - “Under guidance released earlier this year, the organizations would be considered third-party servicers, which would subject them to the department’s oversight and regular audits. Historically, third-party servicers were directly involved with administering financial aid programs. The department expanded that definition to include companies involved with student recruiting and retention and providing educational content and instruction as part of an effort to increase oversight of online program managers.” (via NCAN Newsletter)

PROGRAM RESOURCES

- Student-facing affirmative action blog post from Uprooted Academy: [“Navigating the End of Affirmative Action: What the Recent Ruling Means for Your College Applications”](#)
- Grant opportunity: [Postsecondary Student Success Program](#) (applications due September 25)
 - “The Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) Program is a grant program designed to equitably improve postsecondary student outcomes, including retention, transfer (including successful transfer of completed credits), credit accumulation, and completion, by leveraging data and implementing, scaling, and rigorously evaluating evidence-based activities to support data-driven decisions and actions by institutional leaders committed to inclusive student success.” (US Department of Education)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**

- uAspire: [Preparing for FAFSA Simplification](#) (August 16)
- NCAN: [Application Szn Kickoff Webinar](#) (August 16)
- Federal Student Aid: [College Access Professionals 2024-25 FAFSA Demonstration](#) (August 17)
- ContigoEd: [Free Resource Share to Kickoff the School Year Strong](#) (August 17)
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [FREE Back to School Virtual Conference](#) (August 26)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (August 28)
- American College Application Campaign: [Why Host a College Application Event?](#) (August 29)
- Federal Student Aid: [Repayment 101: Get Help With Your Federal Student Loans](#) (September 14)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (September 26)
- NCAN: [Creating New Futures - The Impact of Strategic Partnerships](#) (October 4)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (October 23)
- Federal Student Aid: FSA Financial Aid Bootcamp (October 25-26)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (November 20)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (December 4)
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [Virtual Professional Development Webinars](#) (Multiple Dates)
 - BT staff can make free educator accounts to access NGPF's PD

- **Conferences**

- [The Power of Us: NACAC Conference 2023](#): September 21-23, Baltimore, MD
- [NCAN's 2023 National Conference](#): October 16-18, Dallas, TX
 - I'll be there and hope to see you, too! Early registration has been extended until 7/31!
 - If you don't have an NCAN membership, contact me and I can set you up with one from the National Office so you can get the membership discount :).

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**

- Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
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 - I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!
- [Uprooted Academy Scholarship Information Session!](#)
 - **Aug 15, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM PDT**
 - Representatives from QuestBridge and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation will share valuable insights about their prestigious scholarships. Learn about the eligibility criteria, application processes, and selection procedures. Explore the possibility of attending top-tier colleges and universities through these exceptional scholarships, regardless of your financial circumstances.
- [College Essay Guy Webinar: How to Stand Out on Your College Essays This Fall](#)
 - **Wed, Aug 16th, 4-5pm PT (7-8pm ET)**
 - This webinar will cover:

- The importance of finding and showing your core values in your college essays
 - The essential components of your college application
 - Reflections on this year's new supplemental essay questions
 - Tips for writing great supplemental essays
 - Tips for creating a great activities list
 - How to make use of the Additional Info section
 - Q&A

- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**
 - **Uprooted Academy free One-on-One College Counseling:**
 - Students will be matched with a college counselor who will provide virtual one-on-one counseling. Counselors will work with students once a week or as needed via phone, text message, email, and video calls. Our counselors will guide students through various aspects of the college application process, including the following for our different outreach times.
 - Application Deadline: August 18th, 2023

 - **Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#)** (available until August 31)

 - **[SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship](#)** (Deadline: November 24, 2023)
 - Eligibility notes:
 - Available to undocumented students
 - Applicants must have experienced homelessness in the past 6 years
 - Applicants must begin college for the first time in 2024

 - **Student Advocacy Opportunity:**
 - “In response to the ruling banning race-conscious admissions practices, The Washington Post is writing a story on its effects on students applying to college this fall. Rising high school seniors rethinking college applications are encouraged to respond to [this survey](#) and make their voices heard. Please share this link with the students you serve - especially those who will be most impacted.”

 - **Nominate a Student Leader to Join the President’s Alliance for Immigration’s Student Strategy Tables:**
 - “Do you know a student leader who is undocumented or from a refugee background? If so, let us know or share [this self-nomination form](#) with them to join the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables. The Presidents’ Alliance is looking to coordinate two Student Strategy Tables

for Undocumented and Refugee students for the 2023-2024 academic year to help inform and guide our work and objectives. We recognize the importance of being informed by and centering the voices of the communities we support through our work. We also provide small (\$25) honorariums for each meeting in which a student participates, in recognition of the additional work serving on an advisory strategy table entails.”

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 - Connect and learn from other undocumented or refugee students leaders from across the country
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 - Learn about and provide insight on our national work in the intersection of higher education and immigration
- Questions? Contact Axelle Nassirou (axelle@presidentsalliance.org) (for refugee students) or Luz Bertadillo (luz@presidentsalliance.org) (for undocumented students)
- **Uprooted Academy “We Belong” Campaign and Virtual College Fair**
 - **What is the "We Belong" Campaign?** The "We Belong" Campaign is all about breaking down barriers and ensuring that every high-achieving student like you has access to higher education. We're pushing back against barriers like the overturning of affirmative action in US higher education to make sure you have an equal shot at success.
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This is YOUR chance to explore, connect, and soar! Don't miss it!"

I think that's it for now. Have fantastic weekends, all!

Best,

Sam

8/1/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! I am looking forward to seeing many of you all at our August College Access and Success Collaboration Call on Thursday! Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- [August College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)
 - THIS Thursday, August 3rd, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - During our August call, we will hear briefly from [Questbridge](#) about their scholarship opportunities for students, and will spend the rest of our time discussing and prepping for school year programming.
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**

- [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main “Collaborative Resource Sites” page. I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!
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 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
- [Join the College Bound Directors Joint Google Calendar!](#) You can use this calendar to invite affiliate colleagues and their students to virtual events that may be happening at your site. Feel free to add events to the calendar directly :).

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Shortened GRE:**
 - “If your students take the GRE, please note that the GRE is now shorter. Check out the [press release](#). To learn more about the changes, go to www.ets.org/gre/shorter and go to the FAQ PDF at the bottom of the page.” (via COE Newsletter)
- **Affirmative Action:**
 - Recent Webinar Recordings:
 - [How Will The College Admissions Ruling Change Diversity in Higher Ed?](#) (Heterodox Academy)
 - See past College Access and Success Weekly Newsletters [here](#) for more resources.

- **College Success: New Retention Data**

- A new National Student Clearinghouse "[Persistence and Retention Report](#)" is out for the fall 2021 entering cohort. Read the [overview here](#), and you can also see state-level retention data [here](#).
- Key findings:
 - "The overall persistence rate for students who started college in fall 2021 was 75.7 percent, up 0.9 percentage points (pp) from last year. This persistence rate matches the pre-pandemic average for the 2016 to 2018 entering classes.
 - This latest persistence rate growth was driven by a higher share of students being retained at their starting institution into their second year (+0.9 pp in retention). This is a shift from last year's trend, where a higher share of students transferring out in their first year drove persistence rate increases.
 - Persistence rates improved in all institution types except for-profit four-year colleges and primarily associate degree granting baccalaureate institutions (PABs). Community colleges saw slight persistence rate gains, building on a sharp increase last year and approaching levels not seen since 2018.
 - Persistence and retention rates increased for all major racial/ethnic groups, except for Asian student retention which was stable (-0.1 pp from last year). Native American students made notable gains after sharp decreases last year (+2.0 pp in persistence and +1.6 pp in retention over last year).
 - The size of the fall entering postsecondary student cohort increased in 2021 for the first time since 2018 (+3.4%, 78,400 students, from last year), although it did not return to pre-pandemic levels. The community college entering cohort in particular remained well below pre-pandemic levels as it continued to decline in fall 2021." (National Student Clearinghouse)

- **Legacy Admissions**

- "Rep. Jamaal Bowman, a New York Democrat, jumped into the legacy-admissions fight on Wednesday when, with Sen. Jeff Merkley, Democrat of Oregon, he reintroduced the [Fair College Admissions for Students Act](#) (Bowman introduced a similar bill back in [February 2022](#))....his bill, if enacted, would prohibit colleges from participating in federal student-aid programs if they

offer admissions based on legacy or donor status. The bill could be modified to allow historically Black colleges and universities to continue to offer admissions to legacy applicants and those whose families make significant donations, as those institutions were formed with the explicit purpose of offering access to underserved Black students. ” (via [Race on Campus Newsletter](#))

- Wesleyan University drops legacy admissions:
 - [For One College, Dropping Legacy Admissions Is Good PR — Among Other Things](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)
 - [An Elite College Has Dropped Legacy Admissions—It’s Time for Other Higher Education Institutions To Do the Same](#) (Center for American Progress and Action Fund)
- New Research on Ivy-Plus College Admissions, including Legacy Admissions
 - [Diversifying Society’s Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges](#) (Opportunity Insights)
 - “Children from families in the top 1% are twice as likely to attend an Ivy-Plus college (Ivy League, Stanford, MIT, Duke, and Chicago) as those from middle-class families with comparable SAT/ACT scores... The high-income admissions advantage at private colleges is driven by three factors: (1) preferences for children of alumni, (2) weight placed on non-academic ratings, which tend to be higher for students applying from private high schools that have affluent student bodies, and (3) recruitment of athletes, who tend to come from higher-income families... Using a new research design that isolates idiosyncratic variation in admissions decisions for waitlisted applicants, we show that attending an Ivy-Plus college instead of the average highly selective public flagship institution increases students’ chances of reaching the top 1% of the earnings distribution by 60%, nearly doubles their chances of attending an elite graduate school, and triples their chances of working at a prestigious firm.” (Opportunity Insights)
 - [Study of Elite College Admissions Data Suggests Being Very Rich Is Its Own Qualification](#) (New York Times)
- NAACP’s President comments on legacy admissions:
 - [Affirmative action ruling prompts new push to end legacy admissions](#) (PBS News Hour)
- Additional articles and webinar recordings:

- [The U.S. Education Department Could Force Harvard to End Legacy Preferences. But Will It?](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- [Race-Conscious Admissions Is Gone. Will an End to Legacy Preferences Follow?](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- [Who Gets Into College and Why Does It Matter?](#) (Brookings Institution)

- **Financial Aid**

- The Biden Administration [launched](#) a beta application for a new student loan repayment plan. (via NCAN Newsletter)
- TheDream.US Co-Founder Don Graham [testified](#) before the Massachusetts legislature in support of expanding in-state tuition and state financial aid to undocumented students. (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [NCAN Urges States, Colleges, and Universities to Push Financial Aid Deadlines](#)
 - “The 2024-25 FAFSA, or Better FAFSA, will be released in December rather than October 1. As a result, students will have three fewer months to complete the form than they have in previous years. One key step states can take to help ensure that there is sufficient time for all students to file a FAFSA is to push financial aid deadlines back until April 1, 2024.” (via NCAN Newsletter)

PROGRAM RESOURCES

- Looking for support in incorporating financial literacy into your programming? The [FinLit Fanatics](#) Facebook Group is a great resource!
- Uprooted Academy: [The Ultimate Guide to the Common App](#)
- “Files” section of the [Breakthrough College Access and Success Google Space](#)! This is where you can find any links, resources, etc. that have been shared within the Google Space- including Google Drive links to curricula and workshops shared by colleagues.
- ECMC has launched a new free [scholarship search tool](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**

- NCAN: [What You Need to Know About the Digital SAT Suite of Assessments](#) (August 2)
- Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration: [ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE: Why the Rise of Immigrant-Origin Students is Key to the Future of U.S. Higher Education](#) (August 2)
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- Next Gen Personal Finance: [FREE Back to School Virtual Conference](#) (August 26)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (August 28)
- American College Application Campaign: [Why Host a College Application Event?](#) (August 29)
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- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (October 23)
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- **Conferences**

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 - I'll be there and hope to see you, too! Early registration has been extended until 7/31!
 - If you don't have an NCAN membership, contact me and I can set you up with one from the National Office so you can get the membership discount :).

- **Professional Communities:**

- College Essay Guy: [College Counselor Community](#)
 - Pay-what-you-can (free) access available

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**

- Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
- [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.
 - I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!
- [ECMC The College Place-Northern California Summer Workshop Series](#)
 - All workshops are virtual and free to attend Tues, Wed & Thurs from 4:30-5:00pm PT. All workshops can be joined through the following link, no registration required: <https://ecmc.zoom.us/j/98538085007>
- [Uprooted Academy Scholarship Information Session!](#)

- Aug 15, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM PDT
- Representatives from QuestBridge and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation will share valuable insights about their prestigious scholarships. Learn about the eligibility criteria, application processes, and selection procedures. Explore the possibility of attending top-tier colleges and universities through these exceptional scholarships, regardless of your financial circumstances.

- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**

- **Matriculate:** [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship](#) (Deadline: November 24, 2023)
 - Eligibility notes:
 - Available to undocumented students
 - Applicants must have experienced homelessness in the past 6 years
 - Applicants must begin college for the first time in 2024

- **Student Advocacy Opportunity:**

- “In response to the ruling banning race-conscious admissions practices, The Washington Post is writing a story on its effects on students applying to college this fall. Rising high school seniors rethinking college applications are encouraged to respond to [this survey](#) and make their voices heard. Please share this link with the students you serve - especially those who will be most impacted.”

- **Nominate a Student Leader to Join the President’s Alliance for Immigration’s Student Strategy Tables:**

- “Do you know a student leader who is undocumented or from a refugee background? If so, let us know or share [this self-nomination form](#) with them to join the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables. The Presidents’ Alliance is looking to coordinate two Student Strategy Tables for Undocumented and Refugee students for the 2023-2024 academic year to help inform and guide our work and objectives. We recognize the importance of being informed by and centering the voices of the communities we support through our work. We also provide small (\$25) honorariums for each meeting in which a student participates, in recognition of the additional work serving on an advisory strategy table entails.”
- Benefits of joining the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables for students:

- Connect and learn from other undocumented or refugee students leaders from across the country
 - Build community and friendships
 - Take an active role in some in person and virtual events, conferences, and briefings
 - Learn about and provide insight on our national work in the intersection of higher education and immigration
 - Questions? Contact Axelle Nassirou (axelle@presidentsalliance.org) (for refugee students) or Luz Bertadillo (luz@presidentsalliance.org) (for undocumented students)
- **Uprooted Academy “We Belong” Campaign and Virtual College Fair**
- **What is the "We Belong" Campaign?** The "We Belong" Campaign is all about breaking down barriers and ensuring that every high-achieving student like you has access to higher education. We're pushing back against barriers like the overturning of affirmative action in US higher education to make sure you have an equal shot at success.
 - **Win Your Share of \$10,000 in Scholarships:** We believe in your potential, and that's why we're offering \$10,000 in scholarship money through our free virtual college fair and we are giving away \$1,000 in the “We Belong” Campaign on [Social Media](#)! By joining the fair, you'll not only explore countless educational opportunities but also have a chance to win scholarships that can make your dreams a reality.
 - **Virtual College Fair Blurb for Students:**
 - “Hey, future trailblazers! Exciting news ahead! [Uprooted Academy's Fall Virtual College Fair](#) is coming up on September 9th, and you've got an all-access pass. Check out what's waiting for you:
 - 🎉 Win \$10,000 in Scholarships: Yup, you read that right! Uprooted’s free fair is offering scholarships to fuel your college dreams.
 - 📁 Connect with Admissions Counselors: Meet top-notch college reps and get noticed during the application process.
 - 💡 Expert College Counseling: Get expert guidance for you and your parents, easing college decisions.
 - 📚 Unlimited Free Resources: Get access to loads of free webinars and workshops for academic success. Register now ➡ <https://explorewithuprooted.vfairs.com/en/registration-form>

This is YOUR chance to explore, connect, and soar! Don't miss it!"

I think that's it for now- I hope to see you on Thursday! Take care :).

Best,

Sam

7/25/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! I hope you all are doing well, especially as summer programs begin to wrap up! Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **[August College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)**
 - NEXT Thursday, August 3rd, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - During our August call, we will hear briefly from [Questbridge](#) about their scholarship opportunities for students, and will spend the rest of our time discussing and prepping for school year programming.
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main "Collaborative Resource Sites" page. I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!
 - [College Access and Success Google Space](#):

- Quickly ask questions, share or request resources, discuss ideas or challenges, and chat 1:1 with colleagues. All folks in the CB Directors listerv are automatically invited to join the Google Space.
 - [College Access and Success Weekly Office Hours](#) (with Sam)
 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
 - [Join the College Bound Directors Joint Google Calendar!](#) You can use this calendar to invite affiliate colleagues and their students to virtual events that may be happening at your site. Feel free to add events to the calendar directly :).
- **Kudos!**
 - Kudos to Shane Brent-Maldonado for repping BTSF at NCAN's FAFSA Train-the-Trainer Summit in DC last week. NCAN will be hosting this workshop again after their national conference in October if you are interested in participating!
 - Kudos to all of the folks who have been collaborating via the listserv and chat over the past few weeks! To name a few, Shannon from Greater Boston, Twenewaa from Houston, Ben from Manchester, Webber from Miami, Shane from SF, Lauren from Atlanta, Olivia from NY, and Jesenia from Boston have been leaning in, sharing resources, and thought partnering with one another :).
 - Kudos to folks hosting BT National Office staff for site visits this summer. Shout out to Andrea and the college success team at Central Texas for hosting me at their Thrive Summit in June, and to George at San Juan Capistrano for an awesome glimpse at their summer bridge program last week :).

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Affirmative Action:**
 - **Webinars, Talks, and Podcasts:**
 - From New America's "Affirmative Action on the Chopping Block" Listening Tours Talks:
 - [Centering Student Voices in the Movement](#) - Interview with Mayah Lubin from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

- [Attacking Affirmative Action is a Threat to Racial Equality](#) - Interview with Dr. Jonathan Feingold from Boston University School of Law
- [Leading Towards a Segregated Higher Education System](#) - Interview with Dr. David Mickey-Pabello from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Harvard University
- [Embracing Racial Equity Throughout All Parts of Higher Education](#) - Interview with David Hawkins from the National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)
- [Leveraging Our Legal and Educational Systems to Expand Opportunity for Students of Color](#) - Interview with Dr. Liliana Garces from the University of Texas at Austin
- [Reaffirming Lived Experiences in the College Admissions Process](#) - Interview with Dr. OiYan Poon from the University of Maryland, College Park
- [You Are Here Because You Belong: What Affirmative Action Means to College Students](#) - Interview with University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's Affirmative Action Coalition
- Recent Webinar Recordings:
 - [From Enrollment to College Completion: What Can Federal Policymakers Do to Protect Racial Equity in Higher Education?](#) (New America)
 - [Affirmative Action on Trial: What's Next for Students in America?](#) (Pulitzer Center)
- **Articles:**
 - From New America:
 - [Affirmative Action on the Chopping Block: What Does this Mean for the Future of Higher Education?](#) - By Da'Shon Carr
 - [Can College Diversity Survive the End of Affirmative Action?](#) - By Kevin Carey, New America

- [Accreditation Can Support Diversity Efforts in the Wake of the Supreme Court Decision](#) - By Edward Conroy, Olivia Cheche, and Da'Shon Carr
 - [OPINION: The Supreme Court just revealed what we already know — Meritocracy is a myth](#) (the Hechinger Report)
 - “The first prevalent myth is that affirmative action required colleges to admit a certain number of students of color. In fact, affirmative action was not based on quotas; for most colleges, using race and ethnicity data was critical to the process of shaping their incoming class to foster a rich landscape of ideas and reflect America’s diversity of background and experience. Disallowing this practice will make it much more difficult, if not impossible, to do so” (via NCAN Newsletter)
 - [Sarah Lawrence College takes swipe at the Supreme Court, inviting students to write their application essay about the court’s ruling that tossed affirmative action](#) (Business Insider)
 - “Sarah Lawrence College has a unique response to the Supreme Court’s June decision to overturn affirmative action: encourage college applicants to make it the topic of their essay. As a supplement to that, “there may be more you want to tell us that just didn’t quite fit into the rest of the application,” the admissions site says. Students are then invited to choose from three additional essay prompts to aid their application materials.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
- **Impact of Affirmative Action Ruling on HBCUs:**
- “Since the Supreme Court of the United States outlawed race-conscious admissions last month, historically Black colleges and universities have predicted an influx of new applicants and are making a concerted pitch for more funding.” (via Race on Campus Newsletter)
 - Related articles:
 - [Nikole Hannah-Jones Encourages HBCU Support In Light Of Supreme Court Affirmative Action Ruling And Announces Visiting Professorship Through Center For Journalism & Democracy](#) (Howard University, Center for Journalism and Democracy)
 - [UNCF Statement on Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action](#) (United Negro College Fund)

- [HBCUs revise admissions policies amid expected surge in applications](#) (The Washington Post)
- See past College Access and Success Weekly Newsletters [here](#) for more resources.
- **Race, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:**
 - “Evelyn Boyd Granville, one of the first Black women to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics from an American university and a prominent HBCU professor, recently [passed away at the age of 99](#). “We accepted education as the means to rise above the limitations that a prejudiced society endeavored to place upon us,” she once said.” (The Washington Post, via Race on Campus Newsletter)
 - “After Texas A&M University at College Station’s president [resigned](#) over the [botched hiring](#) of a Black journalism professor, Black students and alumni [reflect](#) on the college’s commitment to serving students of color.” (The Texas Tribune, The Chronicle via Race on Campus Newsletter)
- **Financial Aid and College Affordability:**
 - “In student loan debt repayment news, the Biden Administration recently announced the new **SAVE (Saving on Valuable Education) Plan** will replace the existing Revised Pay as You Earn (REPAYE) Plan. The new plan provides the lowest monthly payments of any income-driven repayment plan available to nearly all student borrowers. Borrowers on the REPAYE Plan will automatically get the benefits of the new SAVE Plan. Learn more [here](#).” (via NCAN Newsletter)
 - [Summit Brings Attendees Together from Across the Country for Better FAFSA Training](#)
 - “Last week, NCAN wrapped up our long-planned, in-person Better FAFSA Train-the-Trainer Summit. The July 19-20 event took place at the historic Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC and brought together 530 college access and success professionals from all 50 states and the District of Columbia for two days of presentations, discussions, networking, and more.” (via NCAN Newsletter)

- [Better FAFSA Will Help More Students Achieve Economic Mobility](#)
 - “At NCAN's Better FAFSA Train the Trainer Summit, US Department of Education Under Secretary James Kvaal spoke about the importance of the work NCAN and our members do, the changes coming to the Better FAFSA, and the challenges that lie ahead. His remarks can be found here and have been lightly edited for clarity.” (via NCAN Newsletter)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**

- US Department of Ed: [Medicaid and CHIP Renewals Webinar on Reaching Kids and Families During Back-to-School Season](#) (July 26)
- US Department of Ed: [National Summit on Equal Opportunity in Higher Education](#) (July 26)
- The Hope Center and the Healthy Minds Network: [Answering Your Questions about What Works for Improving Mental Health in Higher Education](#) (July 26th)
- The Brookings Institution: [Who gets into college and why does it matter? The impact of college admissions on economic mobility and America's leaders](#) (July 26)
- Heterodox Academy: [How Will The College Admissions Ruling Change Diversity in Higher Ed?](#) (July 26)
- The Brookings Institution: [Improving workforce development and STEM education](#) (July 27)
- Federal Student Aid: [Resources to Effectively Engage Families for Upcoming FAFSA Changes](#) (July 27)
- University of California and the U.S. Department of Education: [Understanding Your Student Loan Repayment Options](#) (July 27)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Make College Affordable Course](#) (August 1st -22nd)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots available via their website (free)

- NCAN: [What You Need to Know About the Digital SAT Suite of Assessments](#) (August 2)
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7/20/23

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COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Affirmative Action:**

- Resources:

- Common App launched a [resource page](#) for counselors and advisors about race and ethnicity in college admissions.
 - Get Schooled published a [resource](#) on what students need to know about the recent SCOTUS ruling on race-conscious admissions.

- Articles:

- [Opinion: Give HBCUs Their Full Slice of the Pie Post SCOTUS Ruling](#) (NCAN)
 - “Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) should (rightly) expect an influx of students in coming years as the result of the Supreme Court's decision to ban race-conscious admissions practices. However, it's incredibly unfair to ask them to do so without the proper and necessary systemic support that their predominately White institutions receive.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
 - From the **Chronicle of Higher Education**:
 - [Race-Conscious Admissions Is Gone. Will an End to Legacy Preferences Follow?](#)
 - [After Supreme Court Ruling, DEI Work Gets More Challenging and Crucial, Experts Say](#)
 - [‘Destructive’ and ‘Devastating’: Dissenting Justices Denounce Majority Ruling in Admissions Case](#)
 - [College Admission Post-Affirmative Action: What Educators Need to Know](#) (Education Week)
 - “Long before the U.S. Supreme Court [ruled against](#) the consideration of race in admissions for colleges and universities, the admission process for highly selective schools was inequitable.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
 - [Affirmative Action Decision Is a Call to Double Down on Racial Equity](#) (Stanford Social Innovation Review)
 - “The Supreme Court ruled against affirmative action. But race-informed approaches to policy can still transform our institutions in ways that close equity gaps and benefit everyone.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

- [Column: Colleges decry Supreme Court decision on affirmative action, but most have terrible track records on diversity](#) (Hechinger Report)
 - “Let’s look at the hypocrisy of a broken college admission system already leaving far too many students out.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
 - [Scaling the ‘Secret Sauce’ for Completion Rates](#) (Inside Higher Ed)
 - “New efforts are underway to expand ASAP, the City University of New York’s academic support program, amid evidence that it works but is costly.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
 - See past College Access and Success Weekly Newsletters [here](#) for more resources.
- **Race, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:**
 - “Alabama Possible [announced](#) that the ECMC Foundation added new support for Alabama’s eight Historically Black Community Colleges.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
 - **“The [affirmative action] ruling has contributed to widespread uncertainty across higher ed about the future of campus diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at a time when state bills seeking to limit these initiatives and the teaching of race-related topics have proliferated.** The NAACP has called on colleges and universities nationwide to make a “Diversity No Matter What” pledge, committing to continue recruiting historically underrepresented students despite the ruling.” ([Inside Higher Ed](#), via NCAN Newsletter)
 - “College major choice is a high-stakes decision frequently discussed by economists and policymakers because of the significant, long-term impacts of major on a student’s financial success after graduation. While substantial attention has been paid to policies designed to increase the share of women in science, technology, engineering, and math fields, **few have noticed the growth over recent decades of a new racial disparity in college majors, driven not by students’ preferences but primarily by tightening “major restriction” policies imposed by universities.**” ([Brookings](#), via NCAN Newsletter)
- **Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Career Readiness**
 - [White Paper: Career-Readiness Through Career-Connected PBL](#) (Presented by Defined Learning)

- “This white paper explores the K-12 career readiness solutions that districts are implementing to help students explore careers, engage in career-connected learning opportunities, and build the critical skills they need to be successful in the future workforce.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)

- **Financial Aid and College Affordability:**

- [California Sets Robust Training Schedule for Better FAFSA \(NCAN\)](#)
 - “A huge kudos to the California Student Aid Commission, the state's leader in administering student financial aid for college, for jumping in quickly with a useful and proactive plan to educate stakeholders and practitioners on the Better FAFSA. They've assertively set out a summer/fall schedule with more than 50 intensive, free in-person training sessions for school counselors, nonprofit service providers, college advisors, and others in a comprehensive manner.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [College tuition has increased almost 750% since 1963, and it's only getting more expensive \(CNN Business\)](#)
 - “At highly rated or selective schools — like Harvard — undergraduates can expect to pay more than \$95,000 a year, including housing and other expenses. Price tags like this might explain why Americans' confidence in higher education has dropped to a record low, according to a Gallup poll.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [House Republicans Propose Huge Cuts to Education \(NCAN\)](#)
 - “Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee Republicans released their draft FY24 Labor, HHS, and Education spending bill. It includes devastating cuts to education that, if enacted, would have major ramifications for students and the US economy for decades to come, including elimination of the Federal Work-Study Program and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and a freeze on the maximum Pell Grant. NCAN opposes this bill in the strongest possible terms.” (via NCAN Newsletter)
- [State-By-State Data on \\$39 Billion in Loan Forgiveness for 804,000 Borrowers as a Result of Fixes to Income-Driven Repayment Plans \(USED\)](#)
 - “The U.S. Department of Education (Department) released state-by-state data on the number of borrowers who are eligible for automatic loan relief under fixes to Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans implemented by the Biden-Harris Administration to ensure all borrowers have an accurate count of the number of monthly payments that qualify toward forgiveness. The [Department started notifying 804,000 borrowers](#) who have a total of

\$39 billion in Federal student loans that will be automatically discharged in the coming weeks. Borrowers are eligible for forgiveness if they have accumulated the equivalent of either 20 or 25 years of qualifying months depending on their loan type and IDR plan.” (via USED Newsletter)

PROGRAM RESOURCES

- **Scholarship Displacement (CA)**
 - “Check out SoCal CAN’s [newly designed webpage](#) on the Let’s Go site with information and resources to help students avoid scholarship displacement now that it is banned for low-income students in CA! Students can download a complete Know-Your-Rights Guide to help them protect their hard-earned scholarship dollars.” (via SoCal CAN Newsletter)
- **[NCAN’s Common Measures & Data Tools Help Measure Students’ Outputs, Outcomes](#)**
 - “NCAN’s Common Measures are a set of research-backed, member-developed college access and success indicators. First released more than 10 years ago in 2012, the Common Measures are an excellent reference for NCAN member organizations that want to measure how their students are faring. This resource is available to all, NCAN member or not.” (via NCAN Newsletter)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**
 - Campaign for College Opportunity: [Equitable Admissions Practices in Higher Education](#) (July 25)
 - FSA: [2024-25 FAFSA Demonstration](#) (July 25)
 - US Department of Ed: [How Family Engagement Supports College and Career Pathway Success](#) (July 25)
 - Promise 54: [Headwinds: Continuing to Advance Equity in Higher Education](#) (July 25)
 - The Hope Center and the Healthy Minds Network: [Answering Your Questions about What Works for Improving Mental Health in Higher Education](#) (July 26th)

- The Brookings Institution: [Who gets into college and why does it matter? The impact of college admissions on economic mobility and America's leaders](#) (July 26)
- The Brookings Institution: [Improving workforce development and STEM education](#) (July 27)
- Federal Student Aid: [Resources to Effectively Engage Families for Upcoming FAFSA Changes](#) (July 27)
- University of California and the U.S. Department of Education: [Understanding Your Student Loan Repayment Options](#) (July 27)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Make College Affordable Course](#) (August 1st -22nd)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots available via their website (free)
- NCAN: [What You Need to Know About the Digital SAT Suite of Assessments](#) (August 2)
- NCAN: [Policies/Programming Using Tech to Support Students at Scale](#) (August 3)
- Mainstay: [FAFSA & Beyond - Policies & Programming that Use Technology to Support Students at Scale](#) (August 3)
- NCAN: [You Can Help A Student!](#) (August 9)
- uAspire: [Preparing for FAFSA Simplification](#) (August 16)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (August 28)
- NCAN: [Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA](#) (September 26)

● Conferences

- US Department of Education: “[“Free to Learn: Inclusion, Rights, and Accommodations for Students of All Faiths and None.”](#) (Virtual, July 18th)
- [The Power of Us: NACAC Conference 2023](#): September 21-23, Baltimore, MD
- [NCAN's 2023 National Conference](#): October 16-18, Dallas, TX
 - I'll be there and hope to see you, too! Early registration has been extended until 7/31!

- If you don't have an NCAN membership, contact me and I can set you up with one from the National Office so you can get the membership discount :).
- **Professional Communities:**
 - NCAN's Data, Evaluation & Research Listserv
 - "NCAN launched a data, evaluation, and research listserv for NCAN members. Interested staff members at NCAN organizations can use this list as a professional learning community and for sharing new research products, asking questions, bouncing ideas, and seeking out advice. Interested in joining or have questions? Email Bill DeBaun at debaunb@ncan.org."
 - If your affiliate is not an NCAN member, contact Sam to be added to the National Office's NCAN account.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**
 - Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
 - [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.
 - I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!
 - [ECMC The College Place-Northern California Summer Workshop Series](#)
 - All workshops are virtual and free to attend Tues, Wed & Thurs from 4:30-5:00pm. All workshops can be joined through the following link, no registration required: <https://ecmc.zoom.us/j/98538085007>
- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**

- **Matriculate:** [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship](#) (Deadline: November 24, 2023)
 - Eligibility notes:
 - Available to undocumented students
 - Applicants must have experienced homelessness in the past 6 years
 - Applicants must begin college for the first time in 2024

○ **Student Advocacy Opportunity:**

- “In response to the ruling banning race-conscious admissions practices, The Washington Post is writing a story on its effects on students applying to college this fall. Rising high school seniors rethinking college applications are encouraged to respond to [this survey](#) and make their voices heard. Please share this link with the students you serve - especially those who will be most impacted.”

○ **Nominate a Student Leader to Join the President’s Alliance for Immigration’s Student Strategy Tables:**

- “Do you know a student leader who is undocumented or from a refugee background? If so, let us know or share [this self-nomination form](#) with them to join the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables. The Presidents’ Alliance is looking to coordinate two Student Strategy Tables for Undocumented and Refugee students for the 2023-2024 academic year to help inform and guide our work and objectives. We recognize the importance of being informed by and centering the voices of the communities we support through our work. We also provide small (\$25) honorariums for each meeting in which a student participates, in recognition of the additional work serving on an advisory strategy table entails.”
- Benefits of joining the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables for students:
 - Connect and learn from other undocumented or refugee students leaders from across the country
 - Build community and friendships
 - Take an active role in some in person and virtual events, conferences, and briefings
 - Learn about and provide insight on our national work in the intersection of higher education and immigration
- Questions? Contact Axelle Nassirou (axelle@presidentsalliance.org) (for refugee students) or Luz Bertadillo (luz@presidentsalliance.org) (for undocumented students)

I think that's it for now- I am grateful for you all! Take care :).

Best,

Sam

7/13/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Thursday! I hope you all are well and staying cool in the summer heat. Thanks again to everyone who joined our collaboration call last week- it was so great to be in community with folks and to process the SCOTUS affirmative action decision together.

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **[August College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)**
 - Thursday, August 3rd, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - During our July call, we will hear briefly from [Questbridge](#) about their scholarship opportunities for students, and will spend the rest of our time discussing and prepping for school year programming.
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - **[Collaborative Resource Sites](#)** password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the **[BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#)**, **[Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#)**, **[College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#)** and many more resources to the **[College Bound in a Box Google Site](#)** (available through the main "Collaborative Resource Sites" page. I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!
 - **[College Access and Success Google Space:](#)**

- Quickly ask questions, share or request resources, discuss ideas or challenges, and chat 1:1 with colleagues. All folks in the CB Directors listerv are automatically invited to join the Google Space.
- [College Access and Success Weekly Office Hours \(with Sam\)](#)
 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
 - *Next week Office Hours will be moved to Wednesday, 7/5, from 12-1 PM ET, (9-10 AM PT)*
- [Join the College Bound Directors Joint Google Calendar!](#) You can use this calendar to invite affiliate colleagues and their students to virtual events that may be happening at your site. Feel free to add events to the calendar directly :).

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

● SCOTUS DECISIONS

- **Student Debt Relief:**
 - “On June 30, Secretary Cardona issued a [statement](#) on the Supreme Court's ruling on the Biden Administration's one-time student debt relief plan. In light of the Supreme Court's ruling, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) new actions to provide debt relief and support for student loan borrowers. Additionally, the Department (ED) is instituting a 12-month on-ramp to repaying, running from Oct 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024.” (USED)
 - [SCOTUS Bars Student Loan Debt Relief & Biden Announces Plan B](#) (NCAN)
- **Affirmative Action:**
 - College Essay Guy Resources:
 - Students: Penn Admissions and Heights Philadelphia acknowledged that, in light of the SCOTUS decision, this may be an especially confusing year for students applying to college, so they're offering a free online course called [Applying to College 101](#).
 - Counselors: If you're a NACAC member, [check out this webinar](#) on Wednesday, July 19 at 3 p.m. ET (member login required to register) with NASFAA and ACCRAO for an analysis of the court's opinion and clarity on the implications for institutional enrollment policy and practice.

- Everyone: Here's a [Google Drive folder](#) where Natalee Deaette (Access Opportunity) and Erika Coplon (College Essay Guy) have been compiling the statements released by colleges, including [links to media coverage](#) and more.
 - [Presidents' Alliance Statement on Race-Conscious Admissions](#) (The President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration)
 - Articles:
 - Here's how [enrollment changed](#) in states that banned affirmative action. (The Chronicle)
 - The debate over affirmative action has long tapped into American [resentments and anxieties](#). (Vox)
 - [NCAN Members Respond to SCOTUS Ruling on Race in College Admissions](#) (NCAN)
 - [Without Affirmative Action, It's Back to Basics](#) (The Education Trust)
 - [Press release](#) and [fact sheet](#) (USED)
 - Breakthrough Statements:
 - [National Office](#)
 - [New York](#)
 - [Silicon Valley](#)
 - Don't see your statement here? Respond to this email linking it, or add it in the Google Space :).
 - See the 6/30 College Access and Success Weekly Newsletter [here](#) for more resources.
- **Race, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:**
 - Howard University Among HBCUs With More Black Students Than All 8 Ivy League Institutions Combined ([Forbes](#))
 - Why Native Histories Matter in the Classroom ([American Indian College Fund](#))
 - Silence From State Officials on Florida's New Anti-DEI Law Unnerves Critics, Employees ([The Chronicle](#))
- **Immigration Updates (From the The President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration):**

- On [June 20, 2023](#), Duke University announced that it will provide full tuition grants for undergraduate student residents of North Carolina and South Carolina whose family incomes are \$150k or less. Additionally, for undergraduates from North Carolina and South Carolina whose family incomes are \$65,000 or less, Duke will provide full tuition, plus financial assistance for housing, meals, and some course materials or other campus expenses. [DACA and undocumented students](#) admitted to Duke from NC and SC will be among those eligible. The additional assistance will begin in the fall 2023 semester.
- At the end of June, the [Boston City Council adopted a resolution supporting in-state tuition for undocumented students](#). With this resolution, the council has gone on-record in supporting the Massachusetts Legislature's efforts to provide tuition equity.
- All DMVs in Colorado will [now offer driver licenses to undocumented migrants and international students](#). Previously, while it has been legal for all Colorado residents to get their license since 2013, only four DMVs would provide the services to undocumented Coloradans.
- [University of North Texas can charge out-of-state students higher tuition than undocumented Texans, appeals court rules](#) by Kate McGee (The Texas Tribune)

PROGRAM RESOURCES

- [DecidED: Detailed Reports Summary Template](#)
 - “This Google Sheets template will empower you with data-driven learnings from the past year. Dive into comprehensive reports that illuminate your students' college affordability profiles and prioritized college preferences. Uncover valuable trends, identify areas of growth, and supercharge your advising strategies for future triumphs!”
- **The Pulitzer Center:**
 - “[Schedule a virtual journalist visit](#) for your summer program to bring the world and journalists who cover it directly to your students. Guest speakers can talk with students about their reporting on global issues, journalism and media literacy skills, career paths, and more.”
 - This could be a neat opportunity for BT summer programs!
 - “Open up conversations about racial justice with your students by exploring our collection of [1619 Project activities for afterschool programs](#) on Mizzen. Sign up for your free Mizzen account today to access a collection of activities designed for facilitation across one or two 45-minute sessions. Would you like support introducing The 1619 Project in your summer program? Email us at

education@pulitzercenter.org to request a virtual workshop for your students using these materials.”

- “Get a head start on this year’s [Local Letters for Global Change contest!](#) Encourage your students to practice their critical literacy, persuasive writing, and civic engagement skills by writing a letter to a local elected representative that highlights a global issue and proposes a solution. This year’s contest will open in the fall, but you can start preparing your students by [scheduling a virtual workshop](#).”
- College Essay Guy: [The College Application Hub](#)
 - A landing page for various free college resources, including:
 - ▶ How to Develop a Great College List
 - ▶ How to Research Colleges (Without Visiting a Campus)
 - ▶ Our Top 5 Essay Brainstorm Exercises for Getting Inspired
 - ▶ How to Write a Great Common App Activities List
 - ▶ Supplemental Essay Guides
- [Upchieve](#) FREE online tutoring

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [Financial Literacy Certification Courses](#) (Beginning July 17th)
 - Breakthrough staff can register for free educator accounts with NGPF
 - Courses offered: Credit, Taxes, Consumer Skills and Advanced Investing
 - New America: [From Enrollment to College Completion- What Can Federal Policymakers Do to Protect Racial Equity in Higher Education?](#) (July 18)
 - College Essay Guy: [Lessons from Current and Former Admissions Readers](#) (July 19)
 - Pulitzer Center: [Affirmative Action on Trial: What’s Next for Students in America?](#) (July 20)
 - Campaign for College Opportunity: [Equitable Admissions Practices in Higher Education](#) (July 25)
 - FSA: [2024-25 FAFSA Demonstration](#) (July 25)

- The Hope Center and the Healthy Minds Network: [Answering Your Questions about What Works for Improving Mental Health in Higher Education](#) (July 26th)
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 - I'll be there and hope to see you, too! Early (discounted) registration ends on 7/14.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**

- Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)

- Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
- [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.
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 - **Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America:** [Career Institute Intern Director of Administration](#)
 - Internship opportunity open to current college students!
 - **Nominate a Student Leader to Join the President’s Alliance for Immigration’s Student Strategy Tables:**
 - “Do you know a student leader who is undocumented or from a refugee background? If so, let us know or share [this self-nomination form](#) with them to join the Presidents’ Alliance Student Strategy Tables. The Presidents’ Alliance is looking to coordinate two Student Strategy Tables

for Undocumented and Refugee students for the 2023-2024 academic year to help inform and guide our work and objectives. We recognize the importance of being informed by and centering the voices of the communities we support through our work. We also provide small (\$25) honorariums for each meeting in which a student participates, in recognition of the additional work serving on an advisory strategy table entails.”

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- Questions? Contact Axelle Nassirou (axelle@presidentsalliance.org) (for refugee students) or Luz Bertadillo (luz@presidentsalliance.org) (for undocumented students)

I think that’s it for now- I am grateful for you all! Take care :).

Best,

Sam

6/30/23

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone is hanging in there despite the busyness of the Breakthrough summer, and yesterday’s devastating news from the Supreme Court regarding affirmative action. My heart is heavy as I process this decision and its impact on our work, our students and communities.

I am including several resources in this week’s email focused on affirmative action, and I look forward to collaborating with you all as we continue to serve our students while navigating the

impacts of this decision on our work. I hope you are able to find some time to rest, recharge, and experience joy despite the sadness that this news may bring.

Additionally, I apologize that it's been a bit since I've sent a weekly email- I have been on vacation and traveling for BT during much of June, but am now getting back to my normal schedule.

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **July College Access and Success Collaboration Call!**
 - Next Thursday, July 6th, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - During our July call, we will hear from [College Greenlight](#) about their various resources and tools that can support our college access work. We will also hold space to discuss the implications of the **Supreme Court's decision on Affirmative Action** on our work.
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main "Collaborative Resource Sites" page). I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!
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 - Drop in to ask questions, connect with Sam, or use that space to connect with other colleagues! Tuesdays 2-3 PM ET (11 AM-12 PM PT).
 - *Next week Office Hours will be moved to Wednesday, 7/5, from 12-1 PM ET, (9-10 AM PT)*

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

- **Resources and Articles**

- American Institute for Research (AIR): [The Future of Affirmative Action in College Admissions](#)
 - “Alexandria Walton Radford, senior director of AIR’s Center for Applied Research in Postsecondary Education, is an expert in college admissions. In this recent article, she answers a few questions about the impending SCOTUS decision regarding Affirmative Action.” (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
- Campaign for College Opportunity:
 - [An Open Call to Action](#)
 - “In this open call to action, CCO calls on Policymakers and Higher Education Leaders to urgently review current practices and policies for equity and employ evidence-based proactive practices and policies that affirm equal opportunity in higher education, such as the elimination of standardized tests in admissions, ending legacy preferences, improving need-based financial aid, and strengthening transfer pathways.” (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
 - [Affirming Equity. Ensuring Inclusion. Empowering Action.](#)
 - “This collection of resources includes media toolkits in both English and Spanish, as well as a series of briefs on equitable practices in higher education that will be added to the resource page throughout the rest of the year following the SCOTUS decision.” (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
- New America: [Attacking Affirmative Action is a Threat to Racial Equality](#)
 - “As part of their ongoing listening series, New America will collaborate with legal scholars, admission experts, and students – who are at the center of the debate – to raise awareness and share research and advocacy work focused on ensuring students of color have equal access to high-quality and affordable education.” (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
- Young Invincibles: [The United States Cannot Afford to Forget its History, Ever](#)
 - “In this blog post, Young Invincibles outlines their position on Affirmative Action and shares student testimonials. Overturning years of precedent on affirmative action would be a step in the wrong direction, and we must remember how far we have come and the ways we have to go. “(Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)

- The Chronicle of Higher Education:
 - [What to Know About Race-Conscious Admissions](#)
 - [After Affirmative Action: How Effective Are 'Race Neutral' Alternatives? California and Michigan Offer Sobering Lessons.](#)
 - [Affirmative Action's Big Win Always Had an Asterisk: A Landmark Decision in 2003 Posed Questions About Fairness That Remain Unresolved](#)
- The Brookings Institution:
 - [The Supreme Court Is Poised to Reverse Affirmative Action: Here's What You Need to Know](#)
 - [Affirmative action and the future of college admissions \(Webinar Recording\)](#)
- The Manhattan Institute: [After Affirmative Action, Meritocracy?](#)
- The Hill: [Students of color need our support — regardless of affirmative action](#)
- Higher Ed Equity Network: [Statement on the Supreme Court's Affirmative Action Ruling](#)
- NCAN: [Supreme Court Goes Backwards on Racial Equity in Higher Education](#)
- Breakthrough Silicon Valley: [Affirmative Action and SCOTUS's race-blind fantasy](#)
- Breakthrough Collaborative: [Statement on Affirmative Action](#)
- Department of Education: [FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Actions to Promote Educational Opportunity and Diversity in Colleges and Universities](#)
- Responses from [President Joe Biden](#), [Vice President Kamala Harris](#), [U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona](#) and [Attorney General Merrick Garland](#)
- **Research**
 - Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce: [Race, Elite College Admissions, and the Courts](#)
 - "This report includes a legal history of race-conscious affirmative action, a look at alternatives to considering race and ethnicity in college admissions, and an agenda for reforming the K-12 education system to improve educational opportunity." (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
 - [Race-Conscious Affirmative Action: What's Next?](#)

- “This report demonstrates that an expected national ban on the consideration of race in college admissions will threaten the racial and ethnic diversity of students at selective colleges unless these colleges fundamentally alter their admissions practices.” (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
- Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP): [The Most Important Door That Will Ever Open](#)
 - “This report, published June 2021, shows Affirmative Action’s impact on institutional and student outcomes in higher education, as well as what’s at stake in SCOTUS’ 2023 decision.” (Higher Ed Equity Network Newsletter)
- **Upcoming Webinars and Conversations:**
 - **[July Breakthrough College Access and Success Collaboration Call](#)**
 - Next Thursday, July 6th, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - NCAN: [Peer Exchange - Post-SCOTUS Decisions](#) (July 13)
 - New America: [From Enrollment to College Completion- What Can Federal Policymakers Do to Protect Racial Equity in Higher Education?](#) (July 18)
 - NASPA: [Implications of Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard and UNC: Post-Decision Panel](#) (July 27th)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars**
 - College Essay Guy: [5 Tips on Paying for College](#) (July 5th)
 - FSA: [Pell Grant Minimums, Maximums, and In Between](#) (July 6)
 - FSA: [The FAA's Role in FAFSA Simplification](#) (July 11)
 - uAspire: [Preparing for FAFSA Simplification](#) (July 12)
 - FSA: [Better FAFSA Better Future Q&A - Session 2](#) (July 13)
 - NCAN: [Peer Exchange - Post-SCOTUS Decisions](#) (July 13)
 - Next Gen Personal Finance: [Financial Literacy Certification Courses](#) (Beginning July 17th)
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- **Conferences**

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- [NCAN's 2023 National Conference](#): October 16-18, Dallas, TX
 - I'll be there and hope to see you, too! Early (discounted) registration ends on 7/14.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**

- Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
- College Essay Guy: [5 Tips on Paying for College](#) (July 5th)
- Uprooted Academy: [Discover How to Use ChatGPT for College Applications](#) (July 12)
- [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.
 - I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!

- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**

- Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

I think that's it for now- I look forward to seeing many of you all next week at our collaboration call next week. Take care, all!

In Gratitude,

Sam

5/26/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Friday! I hope everyone is doing well, and enjoying the beginning of a long weekend! Apologies for getting this email to you all so late- I was traveling this week so it took me longer than usual to put this together.

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **Reminder: Share your Visitor Day Dates!**

- **If you haven't already, please share information and dates for Visit Days with me as soon as possible.** It is helpful to have these dates so we can support visits from National Office staff and trustees, as well as funders, who want to see you in action. Please note that National Office staff will be in touch to plan visits well in advance, especially if they involve trustees or funders. We know visits can be disruptive and extra work so we will carry the logistical load to minimize the impact on you and your team. We want everyone to be comfortable, confident, and successful. Thank you!

- **[June College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)**

- Next Thursday, June 1st, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
- During our June call, we will hear from [Uprooted Academy](#) about their unique trauma-informed college access offerings, and from Breakthrough San Francisco about how they have integrated Uprooted Academy into their program.

- If you are looking to build capacity in supporting students through the college admissions process, Uprooted Academy could be a great opportunity to check out!
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main “Collaborative Resource Sites” page. I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- “Dartmouth College has joined the growing list of higher-education institutions wrestling with how to handle Native American remains and artifacts discovered in their collections, the Associated Press [reports](#). Some students at the Ivy League college said they were distressed to learn that such remains were used in a class as recently as last year.” (Race On Campus Newsletter, the Chronicle of Higher Education)
- “This [meta-analysis](#) of 162 study effect sizes offers support for dual enrollment with findings that that “participation in dual enrollment programs was positively associated with grade point average, total earned college credits, college enrollment, early persistence, degree attainment, and full-time attendance” while decreasing time to graduation and total semesters enrolled.” (NCAN)
- **National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Updates:**
 - “The “[some college, no credential](#)” population among US adults grew by 3.6% (1.4 million students) to climb to 40.4 million in July 2021. This report’s data [dashboard](#) contains state-level estimates with breakdowns by race, ethnicity, gender, age, credential type, and more and is an invaluable resource for understanding the re-engagement population.”
 - “Enrollment in community colleges grew 2.1% since last spring, according to this [report](#). This uptick is promising news as community colleges experienced sharp declines in enrollment during the pandemic.”

- “According to the most recent Yearly Success and Progress Rates [report](#) from the NSC Research Center, gaps in persistence rates between full-time and part-time students start early and stay consistent in subsequent years, with part-time starters stopping out more than twice the rate of full-time starters.”
- **Updates from the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration**
 - “The University of California Board of Regents [voted](#) to create a working group to consider employing students regardless of immigration status. Adopting the policy relies on [legal arguments](#) that state entities can hire undocumented individuals who do not have work authorization. The Undocumented Student-Led Network’s [Opportunity for All Campaign](#) led the [advocacy](#), urging the UC Board of Regents to adopt the policy. For more information about the legal foundations for the proposal and what it could mean for campuses, check out this [webinar](#).”
 - “Representative Ross (D-NC) [reintroduced](#) the bipartisan [America’s CHILDREN Act of 2023](#). [The legislation protects](#) “documented dreamers”, the children of long-term visa holders who have yet to become lawful permanent residents because of USCIS processing backlogs. Currently, documented dreamers “age out” on their twenty-first birthday.”
 - “On May 3, 2023, the Governor of Maryland signed into law [House Bill 454 /Senate Bill 187](#) which prohibits healthcare occupation licensing boards from making citizenship a condition of licensure. The change will allow more hiring of healthcare workers regardless of immigration status, easing the current healthcare staffing shortage.”
 - “The Massachusetts Senate released its budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which [includes provisions extending in-state tuition](#) and access to state financial aid to all Massachusetts students, regardless of immigration status, provided they attended a Massachusetts high school for at least three years, graduated, or obtained a GED. The budget would also create a free community college program for nursing students. The Senate expects to debate and pass their budget plan before the end of the month. As a reminder, earlier this year the Mayor of Boston, Michelle Wu, [announced](#) an expansion of the city’s [Tuition-Free Community College \(TFCC\) Plan](#) to cover all city residents regardless of age, income, or immigration status. Undocumented students, DACA recipients, or Temporary Protected Status holders are eligible to apply.”
- **Homeless and Foster Youth**
 - In recognition of Foster Care Awareness Month, NCAN has published a limited blog series:
 - [Finding Their Footing: Highlighting Foster Care Awareness Month](#)

- [Fostering the College Experience: Seven Tips to Help Your Former Foster Care Students Succeed](#)

- **College Affordability and Financial Aid**

- “FSA released the long-awaited [2024-25 Pell lookup tables](#), an essential early awareness tool. NCAN has also launched their [Better FAFSA page](#) which features a calendar of upcoming Better FAFSA-related trainings and dates, tools and resources to help you prepare, and more.” (NCAN)
- “This [analysis](#) from the Brookings Institution shows that sticker and net prices for public and private institutions have decreased since 2018-19, despite the fact that “the net price many lower-income students must pay is still too high at most institutions.” (NCAN)
- “This [report](#) asks, “Are Four-Year Public Colleges Engines for Economic Mobility?” and largely finds that, “for low-income students and Black, Hispanic, or Native American students, admission to four-year public colleges increases mean annual earnings by almost \$8,000 eight to 14 years after applying without increasing the private costs of college.” (NCAN)
- “NCAN received a two-year, \$400,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation to [provide enhanced policy and advocacy support to Midwest members](#) to help them advance college affordability state policies. “With this grant, we will provide more tools, resources, and peer learning opportunities to our 70-plus members in the Midwest,” said NCAN CEO Kim Cook.” (NCAN)

- **Mental Health**

- “This “[Degrees of Distress](#)” report by the College Futures Foundation examines through a racial equity lens how higher education institutions hurt and help student mental health, with the goal of informing policy, practice, and narrative for a national movement toward students thriving and succeeding in postsecondary and beyond.” (SoCal CAN)
- “Through [this report](#), Gallup and Lumina Foundation partnered to better understand mental health related barriers to enrollment, why currently enrolled students may be considering leaving their programs — and what makes them stay.” (SoCal CAN)
- “NASPA and Uwill surveyed NASPA members to gain perspective on the Current State of College & Student Mental Health. [The results](#) provide a concerning look at the state of campus mental health, as assessed by campus leaders

representing more than 150,000 college students at 100+ institutions.” (SoCal CAN)

- “The Biden administration estimates nearly \$300 million in federal grants will eventually prepare 14,000 new mental health workers to work in schools. But that will only be “a drop in the bucket” to meet students’ growing mental health needs, experts say in [this Education Week article](#).” (SoCal CAN)

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

- College Essay Guy: Grade-specific College Access [Monthly Email Templates](#)
 - Topics covered include: Writing the personal statement, writing the activities list, additional info section, + supplemental essays, building a college list, financial aid resources, application timelines, study skills, testing schedules, Questbridge, EOP, FASFA and the CSS profile.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Webinars, Courses, and Workshops:**

- Pulitzer Center: [Starting the Conversation: Talking About Youth Mental Health](#) (May 30th)
- U.S. Department of Education: [Promoting Mental Health Supports for Educators of Color](#) (May 30th)
- College Essay Guy: [Standardized Testing: Creating Your Plan](#) (May 30th)
- Council for Opportunity in Education: [Student Mental Health Program Strategies](#) (May 31st)
- College Greenlight: [Greenlight Match Info Sessions](#) (Multiple dates, May 30th-June 2nd)
- Next Gen Personal Finance: [Financial Literacy Certification Courses](#) (June 5th-22nd)
 - Breakthrough staff can register for free educator accounts with NGPF
 - Courses offered: Banking and Budgeting, Career, Investing and Insurance

- FSA: [Better FAFSA, Better Future Webinar Series](#) (Tuesdays and Thursdays starting June 6th)
- President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration: [Implementing Tuition Equity for Undocumented Students in Arizona and Other States: The Crucial Roles of Higher Education, Community Partners, and Student Advocates](#) (June 7th)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Design and Run an Effective College Counseling Department Course](#) (June 6-27)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots are available to access for free
- **Conferences**
 - NCAN's [Better FAFSA Train-the-Trainer Summit](#): July 19-20, Washington D.C.
 - Register by May 31st
 - [NCAN's 2023 National Conference](#): October 16-18, Dallas, TX

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses, and Webinars:**
 - Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
 - [Free College Access Workshops](#), Presented by ECMC The College Place
 - Live on Wednesdays, from 4:30 – 5:00 PM via [Zoom](#)
 - Wednesday 5/31: Creating your college list
 - College Essay Guy: [Standardized Testing: Creating Your Plan](#) (May 30th)
 - Uprooted Academy: [Information Session on Fly-In and Diversity Program: University of Michigan](#) (June 6)
 - [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.

- I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!

- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**

- Extra Space Storage: [There's Space for Everyone Scholarship](#) (apply by May 31)
- BigFuture: [Pledge Your #Collegiance Scholarship](#) (enter to win by May 31)
- Today's Students Coalition: [Student Ambassador Fellowship](#) (apply by June 16)
 - This highly selective leadership opportunity is a one-year program for outstanding student-leaders looking to deepen their knowledge of federal education policy and create sustainable change across their communities. Student Ambassadors will receive a \$5,000 stipend and get a chance to not only expand their influence but help to reshape our systems of higher education!
 - Open to rising or enrolled postsecondary students at two- or four-year institutions of higher education, vocational or technical schools, apprenticeship and/or credentialing programs.
 - Nominate a student [here](#) by June 8th.
- BigFuture: [National Recognition Programs](#) (apply by June 12)
- Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

That's it for now! Let me know if you have any questions, and I really appreciate any feedback you may have as to how I can improve these emails in the future. Take care!

Best,

Sam

5/16/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! I hope everyone is doing well, and for those of you who are taking time off before the summer, I hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest!

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **Share your Visitor Day Dates!**

- **Please share information and dates for Visit Days with me as soon as possible.** It is helpful to have these dates so we can support visits from National Office staff and trustees, as well as funders, who want to see you in action. Please note that National Office staff will be in touch to plan visits well in advance, especially if they involve trustees or funders. We know visits can be disruptive and extra work so we will carry the logistical load to minimize the impact on you and your team. We want everyone to be comfortable, confident, and successful. Thank you!

- **June College Access and Success Collaboration Call!**

- Thursday, June 1st, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
- During our June call, we will hear from [Uprooted Academy](#) about their unique trauma-informed college access offerings, and from Breakthrough San Francisco about how they have integrated Uprooted Academy into their program.

- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**

- **Collaborative Resource Sites** password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - I added links to the [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#), [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#), [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#) and many more resources to the [College Bound in a Box Google Site](#) (available through the main "Collaborative Resource Sites" page). I also added a partnership page with information on partners like [Decided](#) and [InitialView](#). I will continue adding resources to that site going forward!

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Higher Ed DEI Bans:**

- The Hope Center at Temple University recently put out a "[Statement on State Legislation Attacking Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher Education](#)."
- The Chronicle of Higher Education has a [database tracking state-specific DEI legislation](#).

- **Gender Equity in School Athletics**

- On April 13th, the Department of Education released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) on athletic eligibility under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to advance the civil rights law's long-standing goal of ensuring equal opportunity in athletics. The proposed rule would apply to public K–12 schools, as well as colleges, universities, and other institutions that receive federal funding. ([US Department of ED](#)).

- **Homeless and Foster Youth**

- Under the FAFSA Simplification Act, students will only have to go through the homeless determination process once unless they have a change in circumstance or move institutions. Additionally, the act expanded the group of entities that could verify that a student was homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. A documented determination from those entities is sufficient, so institutions shouldn't request additional documentation, proof or statements unless it has conflicting information, according to Education Department guidance. ([Inside Higher Ed](#))
- This [infographic](#) by Insight into Diversity breaks down the demographics of young adults in foster care, and their rates of college enrollment.

- **Leveraging Federal Work Study to Support K-12 Students**

- On 5/10, US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona called on colleges, universities, and school districts to work together to increase the number of college students supporting children and youth in schools and out-of-school time programs ([press release](#) and [Dear Colleague Letter](#))
- This may be an interesting development to watch, as potentially FWS students could help build capacity within Breakthrough HS programs, too!

- **Mental Health**

- At its Mental Health Summit, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced two new initiatives -- [FindSupport.gov](#) and the [HHS Child and Youth Resilience Challenge](#) -- to increase access to resources and support for those working to address mental health challenges ([US Department of Ed](#)).
- The U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy released a new [advisory](#) on the public health crisis of loneliness and isolation -- and the “healing effects” of social connection and community. (US Department of ED)
- Additional Resources:
 - [Recovery Oriented Language Guide](#): Mental Health Coordinating Council.
 - Dr. Sara Abelson, Senior Director of the Hope Center, coauthored this [study](#) which found that college students of color are much less likely to access mental healthcare and American Indian/Alaska Native students in particular experienced the largest increase depression, anxiety, and other mental health related symptoms from 2013 to 2021.
 - The [Finding an Inclusive Therapist](#) directory can help students find identity affirming, racial trauma-informed, and culturally responsive care.
- **Civics and Learning Loss:**
 - Florida rejected [82 of 101 social-studies textbooks](#) submitted for a state review, citing “inaccurate material, errors and other information that was not aligned with Florida law,” according to a state Department of Education [news release](#). State officials worked with publishers to revise the material and later approved 66 of the 101 textbooks, rejecting 35. (The New York Times)
 - According to newly released results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the civics and U.S. history scores of eighth-grade students decreased between 2018 and 2022. The average score on the [2022 civics assessment](#) declined by two points, the first decline since the assessment began in 1988, and just 22% of eighth-graders scored at or above the NAEP Proficient level. Meanwhile, the average score on the [2022 U.S. history assessment](#) declined by five points, continuing a trend of declining scores that began in 2014, and only 13% of eighth-graders scored at or above the NAEP Proficient level (US Department of Ed)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:**
 - Strada Education Foundation: [From College to Career - Students' Internship Expectations and Experiences](#) (May 17)
 - Federal Student Aid: [FAFSA® Changes: An Overview](#) (May 18)

- College Essay Guy: [How to Build a Great College List Course](#) (with Dr. Steven Antonoff) (May 17-24)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots are available to access for free
- Pell Institute: [Reducing Equity Gaps in Educational Attainment in and among the States](#) (May 19)
- NCAN: [Equitable Strategies for Mental Health Support](#) (May 23)
- Brookings: [Affirmative Action and the Future of College Admissions](#) (May 23)
- NCAN: [Empowering Students with Learning Differences Through the Transition to College](#) (May 24)
- Pulitzer Center: [Starting the Conversation: Talking About Youth Mental Health](#) (May 30th)
- College Essay Guy: [Standardized Testing: Creating Your Plan](#) (May 30th)
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STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Virtual Workshops, Courses and Webinars:**
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 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com

- [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
- [Free College Access Workshops](#), Presented by ECMC The College Place
 - Live on Wednesdays, from 4:30 – 5:00 PM via [Zoom](#)
 - May Workshop Schedule:
 - **Wednesday 5/17: Admissions 101 – CA colleges**
 - Wednesday 5/24: College Action Plan for Rising Seniors
 - Wednesday 5/31: Creating your college list
- College Essay Guy: [How to Build a Great College List Course](#) (with Dr. Steven Antonoff) (May 17-24)
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- Today's Students Coalition: [Student Ambassador Fellowship](#) (apply by June 16)
 - This highly selective leadership opportunity is a one-year program for outstanding student-leaders looking to deepen their knowledge of federal education policy and create sustainable change across their communities. Student Ambassadors will receive a \$5,000 stipend and get a chance to not only expand their influence but help to reshape our systems of higher education!
 - Open to rising or enrolled postsecondary students at two- or four-year institutions of higher education, vocational or technical schools, apprenticeship and/or credentialing programs.
 - Nominate a student [here](#) by June 8th.
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- BigFuture: [Pledge Your #Collegiance Scholarship](#) (enter to win by May 31)
- BigFuture: [National Recognition Programs](#) (apply by June 12)
- Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

That's it for now! Let me know if you have any questions, and I really appreciate any feedback you may have as to how I can improve these emails in the future. Take care!

Best,

Sam

5/9/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! Thanks again to everyone who joined our collaboration call last week- it was awesome to see so many of you and to hear from DecidED about their resources :).

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **[June College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)**
 - Thursday, June 1st, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - During our June call, we will hear from [Uprooted Academy](#) about their unique trauma-informed college access offerings, and from Breakthrough San Francisco about how they have integrated Uprooted Academy into their program.
- **May College Access and Success Collaboration Call**
 - Meeting [slides](#) and [recording](#) (Passcode: Egm=?62b)
- **[Recording: Breakthrough Collaborative, "Starting Strong" virtual event](#)**
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#)
 - [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#) (editable, so please add to it if you can!)
 - Weekly [College Access/Success Office Hours](#): Tuesdays from 2-3 PM ET, (11 AM-12 PM PT).
 - [College Access/Success Affiliate Staff Directory](#)
- **Partnerships:**
 - [InitialView](#)
 - Students record 90-second ["glimpse" pitch videos](#) to include in their formal college applications. Students can also preference 2 colleges which serves as demonstrated interest. This may be an increasingly

important opportunity for students given the rise of AI/Chat GPT and their impact on college essays.

- In addition to "glimpse," students can use ["EPIC"](#) to view videos from and interact with college admissions officers. can view college intro videos
- Currently used by BTNY and BTSF (and maybe other affiliates that I'm unaware of).
- InitialView offers a CBO partnership program with free access to "glimpse" for students, and pass-through funding to participating organizations (see above image, or [more info at the bottom of this page](#))
- Interested in implementing "glimpse" into your college access work? [Let me know!](#)

- [DecidED](#)

- Contact: John Tamrat, jtamrat@moneythink.org
- Recorded Presentation: [recording](#) (Passcode: Egm=?62b)
- Check out [these three decks](#) that walk through in more depth how the tool works.

- **Kudos!**

- Kudos to colleagues from **Fort Worth, Houston, Miami, Pittsburgh, San Juan Capistrano, Central Texas and Twin Cities** for attending both our May and June Collaboration calls!
- Kudos to **Greater Boston** for SHOWING UP with 6 of their college access staff members at 1:1 affiliate college access/success call. I learned so much about GB's program, and am grateful for the opportunity to continue collaborating!
- Kudos to **Breakthrough NY** for keeping their college students engaged in their community :). From their newsletter: *"Six Breakthrough college students served as admissions interviewers to help admit the incoming Class of 2033. Says M, a junior at New York University: "I wanted to be there as a support to students who were interested in excelling their career toward being the person they hope to be. Read their story [here](#)."*

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **Race, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher Ed**

- Higher Ed DEI bans:
 - Public colleges in Texas may be able to keep some diversity programs if system leaders find that those programs comply with state and federal

law or if a federal grant or accrediting agency requires them. [This hinges on a rewrite and approval](#) of a bill that would still ban diversity and equity offices on public campuses. The House Higher Education Committee is slated to review the new language. If approved, this version of [Senate Bill 17](#) would replace the version approved last month. (The Texas Tribune)

- [Some scientists are worried](#) that new state legislation that would ban diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges could limit their access to federal grant opportunities — especially those that require a DEI component to the research. (The Dallas Morning News)
- The Chronicle of Higher Education has a [database tracking state-specific DEI legislation](#).

- [Ivy League schools received billions from top foundations. HBCUs got less than \\$50M](#)
 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities receive 178 times less funding than Ivy League schools, according to a study released on Tuesday. The study, which was conducted by the philanthropic research groups Candid and ABFE, found that in 2019, the eight Ivy League schools received \$5.5 billion from the 1,000 largest US foundations, while the 99 American HBCUs only received \$45 million. ([CBS News](#))

- **Immigrants Rights and DACA**

- [DACA Boosts Recipients' Well-Being and Economic Contributions: 2022 Survey Results](#) (Center for American Progress)
 - The eighth annual survey of DACA recipients by the Center for American Progress highlights the contributions of DACA holders to the economy, while also emphasizing the need for a pathway to citizenship. Survey results indicate that having DACA creates positive impacts on personal well-being and the economy.
- Last week the Florida legislature [passed](#) a harsh immigration bill, but thanks to undocumented folks and other advocates, the bill [did not include](#) a provision to rescind in-state tuition for Florida's undocumented and DACA students. For more information on navigating higher education cost for undocumented students in Florida, the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration has a [Florida resource](#).

- **Other Emerging Research and Reports:**

- [Opportunities & Challenges of Universal FAFSA](#) (uAspire)
- [Some College, No Credential Student Outcomes - Annual Progress Report](#) (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)
- [Dually Noted: Understanding the Link Between Dual Enrollment Course Characteristics and Students' Course and College Enrollment Outcomes](#) (Community College Research Center, Teachers College Columbia University)

- **College Access and Summer Melt Resources:**

- [NCAN High School Graduation To-Do List and Summer Melt Prevention Resources](#)
- [The Hechinger Report's Tuition Tracker](#) provides data on everything from the net cost to each college's track record for graduates.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:**

- uAspire: [Summer Support](#) (May 10)
- College Greenlight: [The Value of a Liberal Arts College and How to Communicate it to Your Community](#) (May 10)
- NCAN: ["We Are You!" - Showcasing the Power of Peer Advising](#) (May 11)
- Indiana Youth Institute: [College and Career Support for Foster, Undocumented, and Homeless Youth](#) (May 11)
- SchoolHouse Connection: [New Federal FAFSA Guidance for Homeless Youth](#) (May 11)
- ACT: [Tips and Takeaways for Wellbeing, College, and Career Success](#) (May 11)
- Strada Education Foundation: [From College to Career - Students' Internship Expectations and Experiences](#) (May 17)
- Federal Student Aid: [FAFSA® Changes: An Overview](#) (May 18)
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 - I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!
- **Scholarships and Other Opportunities:**
 - Jack Kent Cooke Foundation: [Young Scholars Program](#) (apply by May 11, share with your Middle School colleagues!)
 - Pulitzer Center: [2023 Fighting Words Poetry Contest](#) (submit by May 15)
 - Extra Space Storage: [There's Space for Everyone Scholarship](#) (apply by May 31)
 - BigFuture: [Pledge Your #Collegiance Scholarship](#) (enter to win by May 31)
 - BigFuture: [National Recognition Programs](#) (apply by June 12)
 - Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

That's it for now! Let me know if you have any questions, and don't hesitate to share feedback as to how I can improve these emails in the future. Take care!

Best,

Sam

5/2/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday, and congratulations on making it through May 1st! I know for many of you that this can be a busy and urgent time to ensure that seniors and their families are supported in making college decisions. Thank you for all that you are doing for your students!

Here's what I've got for this week's email (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- **[May College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)**
 - THIS Thursday, May 4th, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
 - [DecidED](#) will be presenting during the first half of our call about their AI-driven financial aid offer evaluation and comparison tool. We'll use the rest of the call to connect and collaborate with colleagues.
 - The call will also be recorded in case you can't make it. For more info on DecidED, check out the [DecidED website](#), or [these three decks](#) that walk through in more depth how the tool works. You can also contact [John Tamrat](#), DecidED's Partner Success Manager, with any questions.
- **[Breakthrough Collaborative, "Starting Strong" virtual event](#) (TOMORROW, May 3rd, 7 PM ET, 4 PM PT)**
 - On May 3, Breakthrough Collaborative will host a live-streamed event on YouTube to explore how together we develop the next generation of diverse educators. We are excited to be in conversation with Jarvis Lundy, Head of Future Black Teachers at Teach.org, and Travis J. Bristol, Ph.D., an associate professor of teacher education and education policy at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Education.
- **Breakthrough College Access and Success Resources:**
 - [Collaborative Resource Sites](#) password: bt 2023 (includes College Bound in a Box)
 - [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#)
 - [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#) (editable, so please add to it if you can!)
- **Kudos!**

- Kudos to **Breakthrough Santa Fe** for receiving a \$2.5 million anonymous donation to fund a Breakthrough College Bound [Gap Scholarship for high school seniors and 529 College Savings Plans](#) for incoming high school students!
- Kudos to **Breakthrough Manchester** for being awarded the 2023 [NPEA/Cooke Award for Excellence](#) in Leadership in Equity!
- Share your updates with me, and I will add them as kudos to celebrate the amazing work happening across affiliates 😊.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

• DACA Updates:

- *"Final filings in Texas v. United States were due last week. These filings in the DACA-litigation before Judge Hanen were due on Thursday, April 27th, after which Judge Hanen could rule anytime. The remaining question before Judge Hanen is whether the [August 2022 DACA Final Rule](#) is lawful—based on previous opinions, an adverse decision from Judge Hanen is likely. Should Judge Hanen rule against defendants, his injunction is stayed as to current recipients by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Hanen's ruling would likely trigger appeals that could result in a Supreme Court decision, at the earliest, in **June 2024**."* (Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration)
- Related resources:
 - [Biden administration asks judge to limit DACA ruling if he finds "Dreamer" protections unlawful](#) (CBS News)
 - [Resources to support undocumented students](#) (Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration)
 - [Undocumented Student Communities of Practice Directory and Network](#)

• Emerging Research:

- [Delivering on the Degree: The College-to-Jobs Playbook](#) (Harvard Kennedy School)
- [Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Community College Students](#) (RAND Corporation)
- [What Can Historically Black Colleges and Universities Teach about Improving Higher Education Outcomes for Black Students?](#) (National Bureau of Economic Research)

• College Access and Summer Melt Resources:

- Updated [2023 Fly-in and Diversity Visit Program List](#) (College Greenlight)
- Updated [Summer Bridge Programs for Incoming College Students List](#)
- [Coaching Guide](#) (ContigoEd)
- [Textbooks and Supplies Explained](#) (DecidED by Moneythink)
- [College Packing List! Things to Take to College Freshman Year!](#) (Get Schooled)

- [How to Register for College Classes](#) (Get Schooled)
- [Maintaining Decision Day Momentum](#) (NCAN)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

● Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:

- Education Northwest and ECMC Foundation: [Sustaining Basic Needs Services at Postsecondary Institutions](#) (May 4)
- Modern Campus: [Freeze the Summer Melt Away: Best Practices for Activating Enrollment with Stop Outs](#) (May 9)
- uAspire: [Summer Support](#) (May 10)
- NCAN: ["We Are You!" - Showcasing the Power of Peer Advising](#) (May 11)
- Indiana Youth Institute: [College and Career Support for Foster, Undocumented, and Homeless Youth](#) (May 11)
- ACT: [Tips and Takeaways for Wellbeing, College, and Career Success](#) (May 11)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Build a Great College List Course](#) (with Dr. Steven Antonoff) (May 17-24)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots are available to access for free
- Pell Institute: [Reducing Equity Gaps in Educational Attainment in and among the States](#) (May 19)
- NCAN: [Equitable Strategies for Mental Health Support](#) (May 23)
- NCAN: [Empowering Students with Learning Differences Through the Transition to College](#) (May 24)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Design and Run an Effective College Counseling Department Course](#) (June 6-27)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots are available to access for free

● Recordings of Recent PD:

- College Essay Guy: [How to Build an Effective College Counseling Program](#)
- College Essay Guy: [Brief Guide to Giving Great Essay Feedback](#)

- I created a [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#) to store additional past webinar recordings. I will continue adding to, and hope it becomes a useful tool for folks :). Feel free to pass along recordings that you would like me to add, too!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

● Virtual Workshops, Courses and Webinars:

- Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) Math Enrichment Course Scholarships (Rolling):
 - Scholarship [application](#)
 - Contact: Vince Gil, Associate Director of Outreach, pathways@aops.com
 - [Handouts and Flyers](#) to share with students and families
- College Essay Guy: [How to Build a Great College List Course](#) (with Dr. Steven Antonoff) (May 17-24)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots are available to access for free
- College Greenlight: [Getting a jumpstart on college applications](#) (May 24)
- [College Essay Guy Live](#) (Various dates, June-August)
 - FREE virtual college essay-writing bootcamps targeted at schools and CBOs. Breakthrough sites can sign-up all of their students at once to participate in one or all of these courses, or students can sign up individually. There are companion resources offered to help staff track student progress, support them, and offer feedback.
 - College Essay Guy is giving away 15 boxes of their book, [College Admission Essentials](#), to 15 schools or organizations that sign up by Friday, May 8th.
 - I used this with Breakthrough SJC for 3 years, and am happy to answer questions if folks have them!

● Scholarships and Other Opportunities:

- DecidED: [2023 Student Sweepstakes](#) (open until May 7)
 - Decided (by Moneythink) is automatically entering students who upload one (or more) 2023-24 financial aid letters and then confirm their enrollment in DecidED for a chance to win a free Macbook Air! They also have cash prizes of \$300 and \$200 for 2nd and 3rd place winners. Students can gain a bonus entry by filling out their feedback form.
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation: [Young Scholars Program](#) (apply by May 11, share with your Middle School colleagues!)

- Extra Space Storage: [There's Space for Everyone Scholarship](#) (apply by May 31)
- BigFuture: [National Recognition Programs](#) (apply by June 12)
- Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

That's it for now! Let me know if you have any questions, and don't hesitate to share feedback as to how I can improve these emails in the future. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our collaboration call on Thursday!

Best,

Sam

4/25/23

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Tuesday! I hope you are well, and I am sending all of the positive vibes to our college access folks as we get closer to May 1st and College Decision Day!

I know I just sent an email on Friday, but from now on I'll send these out on Tuesdays. Feel free to pass along updates, opportunities and resources that you would like me to add to these weekly emails. Here's what I've got for this week (note: highlighted opportunities are coming up soon or have urgent deadlines):

BT UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

- [May College Access and Success Collaboration Call!](#)
 - NEXT Thursday, May 4th, 1:30-2:30 PM ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT)
- [Breakthrough Collaborative, “Starting Strong” virtual event](#) (May 3rd, 7 PM ET, 4 PM PT)
 - On May 3, Breakthrough Collaborative will host a live-streamed event on YouTube to explore how together we develop the next generation of diverse educators. We are excited to be in conversation with Jarvis Lundy, Head of Future Black Teachers at Teach.org, and Travis J. Bristol, Ph.D., an associate professor of teacher education and education policy at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Education.
- **New** [Art of Problem Solving partnership!](#)
 - Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) is thrilled to offer scholarships to Breakthrough students to enroll in advanced math enrichment courses, online or [in-person](#), in some locations. Please encourage families of students with high-performing math skills and an interest in STEM to complete their [application](#) or contact Vince Gil, their Associate Director of Outreach, via pathways@aops.com to get started. They have new classes starting all the time, so students can get started in the summer, fall, or spring semesters. Once students are connected, AoPS will help enroll them in the right course that keeps them appropriately challenged and maintain student support in their course.
 - This is a great opportunity for high school students over the summer, or to share with your students for the coming school year. We will also have AoPS facilitate a virtual presentation for interested affiliates in August or September.

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 - [Breakthrough Community Builder Library](#) (editable, so please add to it if you can!)

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- [Updated College Scorecard Will Help Students Find High Value Postsecondary Programs - ED.gov Blog](#)
 - “[College Scorecard](#) is a free online tool to help students of all ages, families, educators, counselors, and other college access professionals make data-informed decisions when choosing a college or university to attend.”
 - Key updates:
 - “Data on the median earnings of former graduates four years after completion of their requisite field of study” (expanded from the previous 3-years post-grad earning metric)
 - “New demographic data, including race/ethnicity data for full-time college staff and student-to-faculty ratios.”
 - “Greater information for prospective graduate students – not just undergraduates – on fields of study, earnings, and student debt trends.”
- [Biden-Harris FY24 Budget Proposal: Increase the Maximum Pell Grant to \\$8,215 and Double Pell by FY29](#) (NCAN)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:**
 - College Essay Guy: [Tips for Building a Successful College Counseling Program](#) (April 27)
 - College Essay Guy: [A Brief Guide to Giving Great Essay Feedback](#) (April 27)
 - Part of the “College Essay Guy Live” program, and also includes two previous workshops on “College Admission Fundamentals” and “A Brief Guide to Helping Students Brainstorm a Personal Statement”
 - Modern Campus: [Freeze the Summer Melt Away: Best Practices for Activating Enrollment with Stop Outs](#) (May 9)

- uAspire: [Summer Support](#) (May 10)
- ACT: [Tips and Takeaways for Wellbeing, College, and Career Success](#) (May 11)
- College Essay Guy: [How to Build a Great College List Course](#) (with Dr. Steven Antonoff) (May 17-24)
 - Pay-what-you-can spots are available to access for free
- **Recordings of Recent PD:**
 - President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration: [Higher Ed Pathways to Immigration: Why it Matters](#)
 - [NCAN "Fielding a Full Team" Webinar Series](#)
 - I created a [BT College Access and Success PD and Webinar Recording Library](#) to store additional past webinar recordings. I will continue adding to, and hope it becomes a useful tool for folks :). Feel free to pass along recordings that you would like me to add, too!

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 - Jack Kent Cooke Foundation: [Young Scholars Program](#) (apply by May 11, share with your Middle School colleagues!)
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 - BigFuture: [National Recognition Programs](#) (apply by June 12)
 - Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)
 - College Essay Guy: [Matchlighter Scholars Free College Counseling Program](#) (Rolling until September 1)

I think that's it! Feel free to reach out with any questions, and let me know if you have feedback as to how I can improve these emails in the future. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our collaboration call next week!

Best,

Sam

4/21/23

Dear Colleagues,

It was wonderful to see many of you last week! Thank you to everyone for engaging in our call, and for offering feedback via the survey. It was super helpful to me as I plan for collaboration going forward.

Based on the survey feedback, I am planning for the following:

- Monthly meetings when possible, but adjustments if needed during busy times (like summer). I just sent out a calendar invite for **upcoming collaboration calls!** They will typically be held on the first Thursday of each month from 1:30-2:30 ET (10:30-11:30 AM PT).
- Keeping our collaboration calls open to both college access and success folks for the time being, and leveraging breakout rooms to create spaces for more specific conversations. We'll see how this goes, and can split into two meetings in the future if needed!
- Continuing to try **Google Space** since it seems to be accessible for most folks. For folks who cannot access Google Space with a work email, it is possible to do so with an alternate Gmail account.
- **Weekly emails** with opportunities, updates and resources sent on Tuesdays each week. Hopefully sending these on Tuesdays will give you all time to disseminate student-facing information throughout the rest of the week. If you have something that you would like me to add to the weekly email, forward it to me, and I will including anything received by EOD on Monday in the email blast the next day. Updates received after EOD Monday will go out in the following week's email.

This is the first of many weekly emails to share updates, opportunities, and resources related to college access and success. Here are the updates for this week (opportunities with urgent deadlines are highlighted!):

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS UPDATES:

- **FAFSA Simplification:**
 - NCAN is crowdsourcing feedback on the draft of the 2024-2025 FAFSA that they will share with the Department of Education. To provide feedback, you can [review the draft 2024-25 FAFSA form and supporting materials](#) and share your thoughts with NCAN [here](#) by Friday, April 21 (TODAY!).

- **Undocumented Student Communities of Practice Directory and Network:**
 - The Presidents' Alliance of Higher Education and Immigration, The Dream.US and Immigrants Rising partnered to launch the "Undocumented Student Communities of Practice" with the goal of sharing effective practices, hosting topic-specific meetings and working groups, and facilitating connections for those who work with undocumented students.
 - This is a great resource for affiliates looking for undocumented student allies in IHEs where their students may be applying to or attending.
- **President Biden Announces Plan to Expand Health Coverage to DACA Recipients**
 - Something to keep an eye on, especially for our students and alums with DACA.
- **University of Minnesota Truth Project:**
 - The University of Minnesota TRUTH Project (which stands for [Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing](#)) is a landmark research effort, marking "the first time a major American university has critically examined its history with Native people."
 - The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities is also the 5th highest attended university by Breakthrough students, with 63 students enrolled since 2010.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:**
 - NCAN Webinar: [Serving and Supporting Undocumented Students](#) (TODAY, 2-3 PM PT, but it will be recorded!)
 - NCAN Webinar: [Guiding Students to In-Demand, High-Quality Alternative Pathways](#) (April 25)
 - College Essay Guy: [Tips for Building a Successful College Counseling Program](#) (April 27)
 - College Essay Guy: [A Brief Guide to Giving Great Essay Feedback](#) (April 27)
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 - Matriculate: [Free virtual college advising](#) (available until August 31)

I think that's it! Feel free to reach out with any questions, or to pass along feedback on these weekly emails. I am grateful for you all!

Best,

Sam