

HIGHER EDGE 2020



REPORT CARD

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM

The CAP is an intensive year of highly effective college admissions and financial aid coaching that empowers high school seniors to make informed college choices.

TOTAL AID RECEIVED

\$772,934

Merit aid, institutional grants, private scholarships

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

\$214,521

From private organizations and foundations

SCHOLARSHIP AVERAGE

\$3,830

Average amount received per scholarship recipient

Combined Site Totals

(New London and Willimantic)

93%

ENROLLED DIRECTLY

Percent of students enrolling directly into college after high school.

75%

4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Percent of students enrolling in four-year colleges and universities.



Spotlight on Willimantic



83%

ENROLLED DIRECTLY

Thanks to local funders and a strong partnership with Eastern CT State University, we have been working diligently to serve students in the Willimantic area so they too can realize the promise of higher education.

Advisors help students to demystify college options, produce well-crafted applications, and navigate the financial aid process.

- Albertus Magnus College
- Assumption College
- Barry University
- Benedict College
- Bentley University
- Charter Oak State College
- Clark University
- Colby College
- Goodwin College
- Gordon College
- Hofstra University
- Johnson and Wales University - Providence
- Lycoming College
- Mitchell College
- Morehouse College
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Providence College
- Quinnipiac University
- Rhode Island College
- Springfield College
- Temple University
- Texas Christian University
- University of New Haven
- University of Notre Dame
- Valencia College
- Xavier University

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

52

UCONN

25

ECSU

4

CCSU

10

SCSU

2

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

19

2-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Manchester
Middlesex
Three Rivers

38

PRIVATE / OTHER 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

SUCCESS PROGRAM

The Success Program is for students who participated in the CAP and have enrolled in college. Success students get continued support throughout their college experience until they graduate, in the form of campus visits, workshops, and regular communication with their advisor.



PERSISTENCE

Higher Edge Success students persist to their second year of college at double the rate of their peers.



TARGETED PROGRAMMING

Advisors use the SAFE Status model (Student's Academic, Financial and Emotional well-being) to pinpoint and troubleshoot obstacles with Success students.

SPOTLIGHT ON COLLEGE GRADUATES

As of June 2020, 98% of Higher Edge Success Program alumni graduated with a bachelor's degree within 6 years - 73% graduated within 4 years.

152

Success Students



FINANCIALS

2019-2020

REVENUES

\$263,619



■ Foundations/Grants \$246,810 (94%)
■ Individual Gifts/Other \$10,309 (4%)

■ Events \$6,500 (2%)

EXPENSES

\$267,908



■ Programming \$194,476 (73%)

■ Administrative \$71,595 (26%)

■ Fundraising \$1,837 (1%)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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Meet Luis. Luis is a senior at Providence College where he has taken advantage of various leadership opportunities. He serves as a resident assistant, secretary for the Organization of Latin American Students, and is a mentor for the college's Peer Mentorship Program which focuses on first-generation students. This past fall, he competed in a data analytics bootcamp where he and other students analyzed an investment scenario and presented findings in front of big corporation partners. In May 2021, Luis will graduate with a degree in management - with a minor in finance. He plans to pursue his MBA at Providence College to prepare for a career in finance and data analytics.

Luis is one of the 152 students we are working with this year - he started with a dream to attend college and is about to reach his goal. With your help, Higher Edge is growing and reaching more students every year.

This year's report card illustrates the transformational work we're doing with students, on college campuses, in our communities, and across the state. We need your help to strengthen Higher Edge programming for all of our students.

Thank you for being a part of our team!



The call from Higher Edge notifying me that I'd been accepted into the program changed my life. Higher Edge gave me the opportunity to receive the guidance I never would have had on my own. Being a first-generation student, my mother, unfortunately, couldn't help me with the application process. From the beginning, Higher Edge broke every process down for me in my search for picking the right school, and didn't leave me abandoned once I started that next step in my first year. Higher Edge has been the resource to help me navigate this chapter in my life so that I wouldn't be lost and hopeless, and has helped me be equal to others that have the resources to back them up. My wish is that Higher Edge continues to touch and change the lives of others in our community.

-Luis Ureña

Higher Edge Success Student
Providence College, '21

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

GROUNDBREAKER

Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation • Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation

VISIONARY

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut • ForGoodFund
Mary & John LaMattina • Frank Loomis Palmer Fund

PIONEER

United Way of Southeastern Connecticut • James P. & Mary E. Shea Charitable Trust
AT&T • CT Youth Service Prevention Initiative • Chelsea Groton Foundation
Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust • People's United Community Foundation
Barrett Family Foundation • Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

TRAILBLAZER

NL Community Development Block Grant • George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation
SBM Foundation • Charter Oak Community Giving • Dime Bank Foundation
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation • Pfizer Charitable Giving
Berkshire Bank Foundation • New Alliance Foundation • Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
Atlantic Broadband

HERO

Eversource Energy Foundation • Retik & Mello Foundation • Bodenwein Public
Benevolent Foundation • Robert C. Byrd • Nellie Mae Education Foundation
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Delia Foye • Charles Hanley • Amazon Smile • Deborah & Demian Battit • Richard &
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