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Local Foundations Partner to Invest in College Access and Success in the National Capital Region

BETHESDA, MD, June 7, 2018—The Crimsonbridge Foundation has joined the Scheidel Foundation’s new College Completion Colleagues (C3) Initiative and has awarded \$90,000 in grants to six organizations serving low-income students. [Capital Partners for Education](#), [College Success Foundation](#), [Generation Hope](#), [New Futures](#) in Washington, DC, and [College Tracks](#) and [Collegiate Directions](#) in Maryland have each been awarded a \$15,000 grant to support their college completion programs. These grants leverage the \$35,000 (per year) 3-year grant (totaling \$105,000) that each of these organizations received from the Scheidel Foundation to participate in the C3 Initiative.

Postsecondary education, be it a college degree or a certificate, has become increasingly important for individuals and is vital for our nation’s stability and competitiveness in the global economy. Unfortunately, in the Greater Washington region and across the country, not all high school students transition to postsecondary education. In 2013-2014, the percentage of all DC students who enrolled in postsecondary education was much lower (35 percent)ⁱ than the national percentage (68).ⁱⁱ Being academically ready is associated with postsecondary enrollment and completion. However, reports show that only 13 percent of DC students who took the college entrance exams—SAT and ACT—met the college readiness benchmark in 2014-2015, with the percentage of economically disadvantaged students being much lower (seven percent).ⁱⁱⁱ The Crimsonbridge Foundation believes that efforts such as the C3 Initiative can change this. “We’re driven by the belief that talent, intelligence, and creativity are ready to flourish in every child and that with more students realizing their full potential, individuals and our country, thrive socially and economically,” says president, Gabriela Smith.

The six nonprofit organizations selected for the C3 initiative together offer local, economically disadvantaged students with the individualized support they need to not only access postsecondary education, but to also complete their credentials. Combined, the C3 grant recipients comprehensively work with more than 4,000 students, many of whom are the first in their family to go to college.

“The support and guidance these organizations provide students are invaluable,” says Selma Caal, the director of research and program development. “The dedicated and passionate staff in these organizations help students academically, while supporting them through the challenges of completing a postsecondary education.”

Through the C3 Initiative these six nonprofit organizations and staff from Crimsonbridge and Scheidel will also convene as a cohort throughout the year to build relationships, share information, and strengthen the network of college completion providers serving the region. For Crimsonbridge, the C3 Initiative is a unique opportunity to further invest and work collaboratively with community partners to help more aspiring first generation and economically disadvantaged students receive the right combination of supports to fulfill their potential to obtain a postsecondary education.

ⁱDistrict of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/OSSE%20Postsecondary%20Access%20and%20Readiness%20Series%20Part%202.pdf

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Education. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe_cpa.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/OSSE%20Postsecondary%20Access%20and%20Readiness%20Series%20Part%202.pdf



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