



ARKANSAS COMMITMENT

Leadership Development for Black Students

Vision 2025 Commission

Importance of an Education

- The U.S. economy has become “increasingly knowledge-intensive”
- Your education opens doors of opportunities – college, graduate school, jobs, lifestyle & family security, income, vacations
- Simply put – young people are prepared for life and the future



Basic College facts

- 4,000 Colleges in the United States; 44 institutions in Arkansas (two-year and four-year, public and private)
- Cost ranges from very low to \$50,000+ per year
- Selectivity ranges from open admission to highly selective
- There is more than one “right choice” for every student
- College selection is a buyer’s market
- There is a seat for all who want to attend



AC History

- Established in 1999 by the vision of Dr. Dean Kumpuris and other civic and corporate leaders of Little Rock
- Modeled after Memphis Challenge program
- Originally focused on 25 high school seniors, expanded in 2008 to 40-50 students per cohort from 9th-12th grade reaching between 160-200 students per academic year
- Worked with approximately 400 alumni



AC Program Objectives

- Leadership development and college prep program
- Commitment
- Focus on talented African-American students
- Common thread - academic and leadership potential
- Enhance a young person's education, skills, career, and social leadership – non-cognitive traits
- Cost for students - FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Student Demographics

- Since 2009, students have represented 27 different high schools from six counties: Conway, Faulkner, Jefferson, Little Rock, Lonoke, Saline
- Students attend public, charter and private schools
- Gender split between 60/40 and 55/45 female
- Approximately 50% are Pell grant eligible
- Representation of all socio-economic and family backgrounds
- 100% college matriculation



Year-to-Year Curriculum

- 9th Grade – Foundation Year, establish plan
- 10th Grade – Grades and Extra-Curricular activities
- 11th Grade – Official Member, test prep, college tour, college search, admission essay, résumé
- 12th Grade – Application process, financial aid & scholarships, internship



Expectations

- Attend Saturday meetings
- Excel and maintain strong grades in a challenging curriculum
- Follow the plan
- Be involved in community service projects
- Think “outside the box” with regard to colleges
- Give 100% in all that you do
- Stay connected and communicate



Benefits

- Additional assistance from an experienced professional
- Test prep and writing workshops
- Exposure and involvement in community service
- Networking and professional development
- College tours
- Personalized college search and online resources
- Assistance with financial aid and scholarships
- Receive the best education possible



Student Outcomes

- Valedictorians & Salutatorians, Student Body & Class Presidents
- Numerous National Achievement Scholars
- Annually accepted to over 75 different institutions
- Since 2009, matriculated to 60 different colleges/universities from California to Maine
 - 10 in-state schools
 - 20 different top 50 ranked institutions (per *U.S. News*)
- Community service projects
- 6 Gates Millennium Scholars over the last five years
- Leaders



AC Gates Scholars



Seanna Leath
North Little Rock HS
C'2009
Pomona College



Miriam Pearsall
Parkview High School
C'2011
Princeton University



DeShaun Bennett
North Little Rock HS
C'2011
Morehouse College



AC Gates Scholars



Chelsea Gillespie
J.A. Fair High School
C'2010
Texas Christian Univ.



Nickolas Brooks
Mills Univ. High School
C'2013
Yale University



Leonard Cooper
eStem Public Charter HS
C'2013
Brown University



Financial Impact

- Since 2010, 146 students have received merit-based scholarships, grants, need-based aid, and outside scholarships for each year of their college careers totaling over

\$3,700,000

(\$14.8 million total)





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Questions?