

# THE COLLEGE BOUNDER



FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE BOUND, INC.

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## OUR FUNDERS

*Thank you to the following for providing funding during the 2014-2015 academic year:*

CarMax Foundation  
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Hattie M. Strong Foundation  
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Prince George's County Council  
Members  
Prince George's County  
Department of Housing  
and Community Development  
Prince George's County  
Government  
Taproot Foundation  
University of Maryland Foundation  
Walton Community Fund

## FGCB CARES

FGCB has demonstrated college retention since 1991. Joe Fisher stayed in touch with the college students by providing on-going encouragement, support, and advisement. As the number of students attending college increased, with its largest class in 2006, so did the need to support and maintain the CARE FACTOR. Recognizing the need, FGCB began sending care packages. The care

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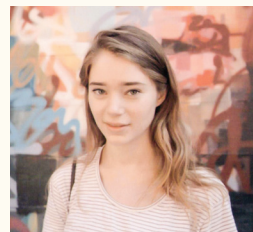
## ONE MORE YEAR & COUNTING

Neyesia Lawrence is a junior at Towson University. She will graduate with a BA degree in Psychology in May 2017. Neyesia was a student in the Hillside Program and learned about FGCB during her senior year at Fairmont Heights High School. Her ROTC Colonel set up a meeting with Joe Fisher who talked about the College Access Program. Neyesia joined FGCB because she needed help finding financial aid to attend college. She had completed the FAFSA and started applying for an array of grants and scholarships. Prior to

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## THE NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL ADVISEMENT & SUPPORT

Delia Parrish is a FGCB student who graduated from high school in May 2015. Delia is a high academic achiever and states that the col-



lege preparation she received from the guidance department at her high school was given to the entire graduating class. Due to her counselor's caseload, she did not receive the attention she needed. She received general information like filling out the FASFA, but feels that individual one-on-one counseling would have been more beneficial due to her challenges beyond school.

Delia used the information she received in school and applied to Howard Community College for the 2015 Fall semester and also completed her FAFSA. She qualified and received grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the federal government, and a scholarship from Senator Jim Rosapepe.

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## IMPACT

STUDENTS WHO HAVE ENTERED COLLEGE: 2,000+

COLLEGE GRADUATES: 556

FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO THE CLASS OF 2015: \$1.5 MILLION

STUDENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2015 WHO MATRICULATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION: 139

STUDENTS WE WILL SERVE DURING THE 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR: 1,250

## FGCB CARES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

package program is managed by Pat Fisher along with the College Retention Committee, a mixture of volunteers who are FGCB alumni, supporters, and parents. They have been going out to college students around exam time since 2006. The Fall care packages consist of a variety of items like snacks, toiletries, and encouraging messages. The Spring care package consists of a \$10 gift certificate to places like McDonald's or Chick-fil-A. Students who have received care package stated that it helps tremendously during exam time. The most recent numbers for care packages sent out are Fall 2014: 178, Spring 2015: 163, and Fall 2015: 210.



## THE NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL ADVISEMENT & SUPPORT

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All of her received financial aid went towards her tuition.

During her first semester at Howard Community College, Delia was accepted to the University of Maryland College Park for the Spring 2016 semester. Due to the cost of attending University of Maryland College Park, this brought new financial challenges for Delia because she would need funding for room and board, as well as tuition. She contacted Prince George's County Council Member Mary Lehman, who referred her to FGCB. The staff met with Delia, discussed her dilemma, and helped resolve her financial challenges that may have prevented her from attending the University of Maryland College Park in the Spring 2016. Delia is appreciative of the services she received and feels she has gained a new essential support system through FGCB.

## ONE MORE YEAR & COUNTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting Joe, she had also applied to colleges using the Common Application and was accepted to Towson University, however the financial aid she received from Towson University was not enough for her to attend. After reviewing Neyesia's profile, FGCB made her aware of funds available. Due to receiving FGCB advisement, encouragement and support, she is receiving financial aid from the federal government, a grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and a scholarship from Senator Joanne Benson which covers her tuition, room and board. Neyesia's freshman year was a challenging transition from high school to college but through it all, FGCB continues to encourage, motivate, and support her. She has maintained her 15 credits each semester and has passed all of her classes. Her GPA now reflects her hard work. Neyesia also receives FGCB care packages and will attend the annual winter social.



## NEIGHBORHOOD HOMEWORK CLUB PROVIDING COLLEGE BOUND SUPPORT

In 2010, Courtney Griffin moved to Laurel and enrolled her children in Oaklands Elementary School. Courtney's five children had average grades in school that would go up and down. In 2011, she met Joe Fisher and enrolled her children in the Homework Club at Kimberly Gardens because she believed in her children striving for good grades. Certified teachers monitored their homework, gave suggestions on being good students, kept up with school standards, and followed-up with home visits. As a result, all of her children are consistently on the honor roll. FGCB recognizes the children's achievements by celebrating the students that make honor roll every quarter. Now four years later, Anaya (age 11) wants to be a teacher, Alecia (age 10) wants to be a designer, and Jaylen (age 7) also wants to be teacher. Joe guided her two older children, John (age 16) and Johnay (age 14), into the College Access Program at Laurel High School. John will be the first in his family to attend college and he wants to aim for a football athletic scholarship and eventually become an engineer. He has recently taken the SATs and scored well. Johnay has expressed interest in becoming a veterinarian. Courtney states that by being supported by FGCB and their programs she now knows her children will attend college and be exposed to all available financial aid to make college affordable for their family.

# FGCB SUPPORTS COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO STUDY ABROAD

A requirement that most college students will fulfil before completing their degree is to participate in an internship, volunteering, or some type of community service. An experience that all college students should take advantage of to fulfil this requirement is to study abroad. College students coming from low income families rarely participate in study abroad programs because of a lack of knowledge in this area. First College Generation College Bound works effortlessly to change this dynamic. Participating in a study abroad program fosters leadership, independence, allows you to earn college credit, gain a global perspective, and travel the world.

FGCB supported the following students who had the opportunity to study abroad.

*Here are their stories:*

**Sharee Pearson** graduated from Georgetown University in 2015 and received her Bachelor of Science degree in International Health with a minor in French. FGCB was introduced to Sharee in high school as a result of her mom's networking. She studied abroad in Dodowa, Ghana for three and a half months during her senior year. A highlight of her trip was visiting Cape Coast Castle and retracing steps where slaves were

forced to leave their country. Learning this made this part of history real to her. Sharee learned about traveling abroad from FGCB and it was a requirement of the International Health degree program. She stated that the entire reason for traveling abroad was to complete an internship at an international organization. This internship included completing a health research project, a health systems paper on the Ghanaian health system and participating in the daily activities of the research institute where she was working. She states that FGCB provided many supports especially being mentored by Raymond Harrod. While studying abroad Mr. Harrod not only checked in on her periodically to ensure that she was adjusting, he also helped with her job application process. Going forward she will give back, reach back, and share her experiences to help strengthen the next generation and hopefully they will do the same.

**Kevin Palma** is a sophomore at Columbia University, he is majoring in Political Science and due to graduate in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Kevin studied abroad in Amman, Jordan for two months. Kevin learned about FGCB in his senior year at Laurel High School. Kevin was always a good student in school but had fears about getting financial aid to attend college. He

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SHAREE PEARSON-BIKING TO WORK



## FGCB SUPPORTS COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO STUDY ABROAD

KEVIN PALMA-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

conversed with Joe Fisher in FGCB workshops where he learned about the support to go to college. Kevin applied to Columbia University and was accepted. Joe guided him through the process to get financial aid that would cover 4 years along with healthcare. In his freshman year Kevin received care packages along with FGCB checking in on him. At school in May 2015, he discovered the Center for Career Education Program where you can do internships in other countries and learn about the cultures. Kevin thought about going to Jordan and discussed the program with Mr. Fisher. Kevin was advised to ask the school about financial aid to go to Jordan. Kevin was amazed to know that there was funding and he was able to study abroad with all of his expenses paid. The internship was to work in a bank and learn about the operations mostly in Human Resources. The highlight of studying abroad for Kevin was getting to know the people. Most people spoke English and were very friendly. He experienced the holiday Ramadan where he fasted during the day and ate amazing food at night. People are very family oriented. FGCB stayed in touch with him and he felt supported while in another country.



Angel with a group of students on the university campus.

**Angel Tillery** is a junior at Bowie State University, a Visual Communications and Digital Media Arts (VCDMA) major expected to graduate in 2017. She is currently studying abroad in Chin Heilongjiang Province, Harbin, China for five months and hopes to extend her stay into the Spring 2016 semester. Angel learned about FGCB in her senior year at Laurel High School. Joe Fisher encouraged her to become a part of the program to learn about college resources. She has received continual support, enrolled in Bowie State University, and received financial aid to pay her tuition. Angel had a love for East Asian culture so when the opportunity arose to receive a scholarship to study abroad in China, she accepted. She was able to study abroad because Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) in America have an agreement with the Chinese government that allows students currently enrolled in HBCU's to study abroad for one

semester and the Chinese government will pay for tuition and housing. FGCB supported her through the experience so that all her financial aid needs were met. Angel is required to write an essay on her experience in China and why it has been beneficial. The highlights of her trip include: a huge culture shock in the differences between the two cultures; a 13 hour time change; she had to get used to the stares from others because she looks different than the majority of people; learn the language; and eat a variety of foods. Angel has found that some people live without running water, electricity, or indoor sanitation. She has made friends from diverse backgrounds such as Russia, Colombia, South Korea, and America and feels that studying abroad and having these enriching experiences will encourage independence and build character. She has learned through her experience with FGCB to set goals and to believe in yourself.



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# TWENTY FIVE YEARS COMES WITH HUGE MILESTONE

## BILL 816 HIGHER EDUCATION - LOW-INCOME STUDENT OUTREACH - COLLEGE ACCESS ACT OF 2015

CEO Joe Fisher's vision, determination and tenacity of maintaining FGCB for twenty five years as a non-profit has reaped the benefits of a thriving organization. Joe came from a low income background and was able to attend college on an athletic scholarship. He looked into changing his athletic scholarship for a needs-based scholarship and discovered that he qualified. Doing this made him think about the many other low income families who might not know about the opportunities for gaining a college education. In 1990, these thoughts became the seeds that created FGCB.

Joe started by knocking on doors in Laurel's Kimberly Gardens, a government- subsidized housing complex which closely resembles where Joe grew up in DC. One of the doors he knocked on back then was 8th grader Maryland State Delegate Alonzo T. Washington. Alonzo participated in



all phases of FGCB, including a week long program called Maryland Leadership at McDaniel College. Joe's encouragement and support in helping Alonzo complete high school left a huge impact on him and inspired him to pursue college. The week long leadership program really inspired Alonzo to become a leader. FGCB's four components Homework Club, College Access, College Retention, and the Way2GoMaryland

Partnership with the University System of Maryland set the tone for grounding its students.

Delegate Washington realized, like Joe, the huge need to make college accessible and affordable for low income families. He was impacted greatly by his experience with FGCB. In his role as a Maryland State Delegate he began to take a stand by researching and analyzing the demographics to see who would benefit from access to college. His research was instrumental, along with Senator Jim Rosapepe and Senator Joan Carter Conway, in convincing the Senate and the House of Delegates that a bill was needed to inspire and empower more low income students to go to college. In the 2015 Maryland Assembly, Governor Larry Hogan signed the Senate version of Bill 816 Higher Education - Low-Income Student Outreach and College Access Act of 2015. Bill 816 would allow the state to fund organizations like FGCB with providing outreach to low income students and college access. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) will oversee the program starting with a pilot and will be requesting funds in its FY17 budget request to the Governor.

For FGCB, this monumental Bill 816 has come full circle to honor Joe's vision started twenty-five years ago to assist low to moderate income families with college access. How befitting to have the state behind this vision as well. Now FGCB will have the opportunity to service so many more students.



**May 11, 2015:** CEO Joe Fisher and Maryland State Delegate Alonzo Washington, accompanied by former homework club student and freshman at Bowie State University Carltonae Colding-Gordon and current homework club student John Lane, in Governor Hogan's office the day the bill was passed.



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DTLR

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FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE  
BOUND IS SEEKING PARTNERS  
FOR 2016.

Please contact us at (301) 490-0911 if  
you are interesting in becoming a  
partner or sponsor.

## WELCOME TO OUR TEAM



### LINNITA HOSTEN

COLLEGE ACCESS CASE MANAGER

Serving students at Parkdale High School and  
Fairmont Heights High School.



### TODD CRAWFORD

NEW FGCB BOARD MEMBER

PS Analytics Manager, PwC

FGCB also welcomed a new Homework Club II teacher this  
academic year. Monique Riley joins us as a math teacher at  
Thomas Johnson Middle School.

## USE THE ENVELOPE OR THE WEB

First Generation College Bound has been able to change the futures of more  
than 2,000 young men and women over the past 26 years. FGCB cannot do  
this alone. The organization depends on the generosity of donors like you to  
carry out its critical work. You can contribute by sending a check made out to  
"First Generation College Bound" in the provided envelope or by clicking the  
"Donate" button on our website, [www.fgcb.org](http://www.fgcb.org).

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Retired Teacher, Howard County Public Schools  
Head Coach, Catholic University of America  
Women's Cross Country and Track Teams  
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## TODD CRAWFORD

PS Analytics Manager, PwC  
Member since 2015

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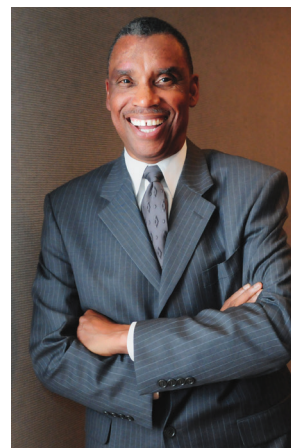
## JOHN WILEY

Retired Director of Recruitment, Prince  
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Member since 1992

\*FGCB Alumni

## CEO'S CLOSING REMARKS ATTITUDE MANAGEMENT FOR SUCCESS

Joseph Fisher  
FGCB CEO & FOUNDER



As I reflect on my life experiences, the word attitude continues to be a topic of discussion, not just locally, but worldwide. JUST AS A SMILE IS UNIVERSAL, SO IS ATTITUDE. A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE HAS THE SAME IMPACT AS A SMILE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. Due to life challenges, whether we like it or not, everyone will experience an attitude challenge. The way we manage the attitude challenge will determine our destiny. An encounter can create a challenge or an opportunity to remain where we are or move forward to achieving our goal. As one song writer wrote, "We all fall down, but we get up". In other words, a fall is an attitude challenge to problem solve a moment and achieve your goal, not to quit. This defines why I am so passionate about our theme "A Winning Attitude for Education". While everyone is challenged to learn during their formal years in school and life experiences, attitude management during the journey is critical in doing our best. An "A" attitude is just as important as knowledge and hard work when it comes to learning and helping others. It has been stated often "It's not what you said that I remember, but how you made me feel." FGCB constantly reminds our students that while your academic profile is important, it is important to not forget your "Winning Attitude". It will truly make the difference in achieving your college bound and career goals, especially when experiencing challenges along the way.

Parents, there is no doubt you strive and still are striving to manage your son or daughter's attitude at home, in school, in the community and beyond, beginning with the magic words: please, thank you, and you are welcome. You know the value these words have in building character. Based on the numerical alphabet value of each word's letters when added (for example A=1 Z=26 ), the words Attitude, Hard Work, and Knowledge are equal to: hard work=98%; knowledge=96%; and attitude = 100%. This confirms the value of attitude management for everyone at home, in school, at work, in the community, and beyond. As your son or daughter pursues their educational and career goals, continue to support and encouragement them in achieving their life dreams. During the journey, remember the challenges will come, but attitude management will help remove the barriers for success.



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## SAVE THE DATES!

### 4TH ANNUAL COLLEGE RETENTION & ALUMNI SOCIAL

January 2, 2016  
5-8 pm

Central Parke @ Victoria Falls  
Community Clubhouse  
13701 Belle Chasse Blvd., Laurel

### 26th Annual *Celebration*



June 15, 2016

Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center  
University of Maryland College Park

### LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY DAY & 5K

May 14, 2016  
9:00am

Laurel High School

