

THE COLLEGE BOUNDER



In Preparation for our 25th Anniversary

FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE BOUND, INC.

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OUR FUNDERS

Thank you to the following for providing funding during the 2013-2014 academic year:

Arbor Management

The Community Foundation for Prince George's County

Freddie Mac Foundation

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

MGM Resorts

National Harbor Community Outreach Fund

Prince George's County Council Members

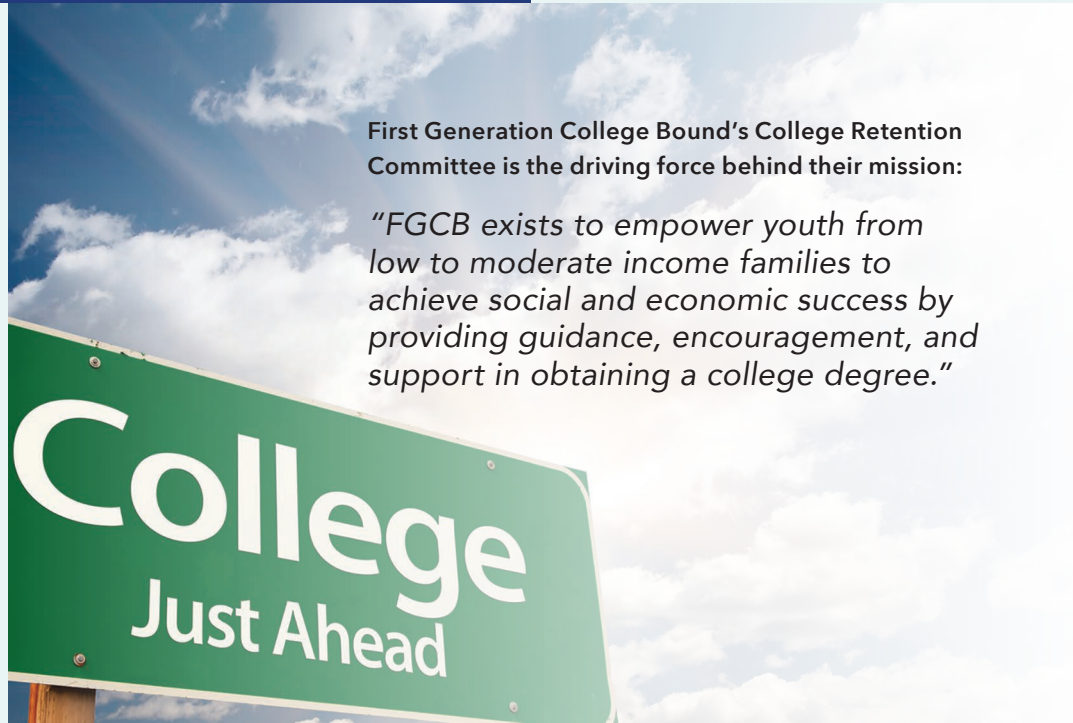
Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development

Prince George's County Office of the County Executive

Prince George's County Government

University System of Maryland Foundation

Your support has allowed us to have another successful year!



First Generation College Bound's College Retention Committee is the driving force behind their mission:

"FGCB exists to empower youth from low to moderate income families to achieve social and economic success by providing guidance, encouragement, and support in obtaining a college degree."

WHAT IS COLLEGE RETENTION?

College Retention means readiness, responsibility and accountability. Ensuring that students complete college before they leave the campus is just part of our committee's motivation. Our focus is sparked by connecting with students through continuous communication, encouragement, college visits, and care packages. Our strategy is targeted by student achievement and success; this is our first priority. It brings us great joy to witness each one of our students reach their goal. We instill in our students that nothing is impossible to achieve if they endure and persevere. Our heartfelt commitment thrives on impacting the lives of our students through academic achievement, goal commitment, and success.



FGCB IS ON FACEBOOK!

Visit us on Facebook for the latest news and updates.

IMPACTING GENERATIONS FOR SUCCESS

TYNER FAMILY

Our family has been acquainted with Mr. Fisher for a long time and we knew that he was the perfect person to consult with when we had any trouble or questions regarding applying to colleges. Mr. Fisher gave us the confidence and focus we needed to pursue our dream. We are among the many “college bound” who had a desire to attend college despite limited resources.

I, Cynthia, was one of Mr. Fisher’s first FGCB students when he started the College Access Program. I believe the college initiative that was deep inside me, has been instilled in my daughter Lacreasha through the efforts of FGCB. Now, she is a young adult in college. Mr. Fisher and the FGCB staff are members of a dynamic team whose commitment to academic achievement surpasses many. Mr. Fisher is very helpful to those who are seeking college opportunities and the College Access Program is ideal for anyone who yearns a college education. FGCB houses a wealth of resources that is advantageous to all college-bound students. Mr. Fisher and his team gave us hope and set high expectations that were essential for enrolling in college. FGCB has placed us on a phenomenal journey beyond belief!

Nothing Short in Abundance and Rewards,

Lacreasha and Cynthia Tyner

SONIREGUN FAMILY

Mr. Fisher is a great mentor and his astuteness is unique to each individual according to their need. He shared with us several things, one of which was his insight on the results of attending in-state vs. out-of-state schools. Challenges face us with regard to culture; a conflict linked to my parents being from Nigeria and we being born in America, but the “1st generation achiever” mindset began here, for our family, in America. This venture has afforded us an unimaginable opportunity to connect to several diverse people who are striving toward similar goals. A mentor once said, “In order for you to play the game, you first have to learn it.” This learning experience allowed me to witness and correct those things that weren’t right while enabling me to capture a bird’s eye view of what needed to be rectified: a learning experience filled with favor. Change came while participating in the College Access Program which provided an educational transformation that opened our eyes to a different mindset of culture. Struggles can be bitter, but the rewards are sweet. The first educational success story had the power to evolve into a unique and meaningful experience that reaches down from sibling to sibling. The program generates a blanket of help and support similar to that of a “domino effect,” the triumph regenerates from generation-to-generation in our family starting from the eldest sibling to the youngest. We want to make our parents proud of our achievements as we are enthusi-

astic at the anticipated outcome of attainment.

A Family of Achievers,

Erinayo, Olawale and Olakunle Soniregun

POLANCO FAMILY

Armed with a degree in computer engineering technologies, Christian has a curious mind about all things technical. “In order to fix anything, we need to first understand its functionality.” This mindset heightened my knowledge and has afforded me a broad aspect, all of which has helped align specific interests that expands career opportunities. First Generation College Bound offers a College Access Program that helps ambitious students like me and my sister, explore new opportunities in education. Technology of another kind—this one within the medical realm, is also part of the family’s education. My sister, Nathalie, holds a bachelor’s degree in hearing and speech. The demand in hearing and speech therapy allows young children the opportunity to rise to a higher level of learning through analytical, cognitive, and comprehensive development!

FGCB has heightened our knowledge of the true college experience and has afforded us a broad spectrum, all of which has helped us align specific interests with career opportunities. These interests combined with diverse skill sets, provides better options in navigating our career path. FGCB has been instrumental in helping us explore options in a world of diversity and prospect. More options provide more probabili-

ties. We consider it a privilege to be part of such a reciprocal and gratifying process.

An Opened Door for Opportunity,

Christian and Nathalie Polanco

AMOYAW FAMILY

Our family is traveling to the land of matchless educational opportunity! Every aspect of First Generation College Bound demystified attending college in America for me and my family, as African immigrants. Although I had my bachelor's degree, it was not an American experience; I desperately wanted my daughter Maame, to be "the first" in our family to attend college in America. Thank God for that decision and thank God for Mr. Fisher and FGCB. I was unaware of the challenges associated with "education and university-life" in America, lost in a maze with no way to dig myself out. Wow!!! From the beginning, SATs, areas of interest, campus tours, college selection, and dealing with the financial aspects, were part of a terrain not trod.

My daughters, Maame and Sarah,

were also partakers of the FGCB Retention Program which helped them to remain focused and motivated. Today, Maame is gainfully employed while in graduate school at John's Hopkins University and my youngest daughter Sarah, is happily achieving at Towson University. My first experience with FGCB inspired me to return to the classroom after 30 years and last spring, I graduated from the University of Baltimore with my master's degree. Today, there are three graduates in our family! FGCB helped me and my family understand the college acceptance procedures; a complicated and misunderstood process while everyone around me persuaded me to be "realistic" and apply to other schools. However, through diligence, tenacity and perseverance, FGCB assisted us with attending the school of our choice and for this, we are eternally grateful. FGCB has made a significant difference in our lives!

Mere Words Cannot Express Our Gratitude,

Maame (mom), Maame and Sarah Amoyaw

FGCB REFLECTS ON 25 YEARS OF GROWTH

- » **1990** FGCB was founded by Joseph Fisher, a teacher and coach.
- » **1992** The first full-time employee was hired.
- » **1992** The Community Foundation for Prince George's County provided the very first grant.
- » **1994** The 1st student successfully graduates from college.
- » **1999** FGCB moves into its first office space located on Main Street in Laurel, Maryland.
- » **2005** MSDE awards a GEAR UP grant, which provided access into Potomac High School.
- » **2006** The first class of more than 100 college access students matriculate to college.
- » **2007** The College Access Program is expanded into Parkdale High School.
- » **2010** The first chairman of the Board of Directors is elected.
- » **2010** MSDE provides another GEAR UP grant allowing the organization to expand its College Access Program to Fairmont Heights High School and Central High School.
- » **2011** Entered into a partnership with the University System of Maryland's Way2GoMaryland Information Campaign.
- » **2012** FGCB moves into a larger office space in Laurel, Maryland's Office Park.
- » **2013** An official partnership is created with Prince George's County Public Schools.
- » **2014** The organization has hired a record number of employees. Our current staff of 6.
- » **2014** Since the doors of FGCB have opened, it has touched the lives of 1,600 students, including 517 students who have graduated from college.



2014 PARTNERS

Young lives have been transformed for nearly 25 years through FGCB's mission to "Empower youth from low to moderate income families to achieve social and economic success by providing guidance, encouragement, and support in obtaining a college degree". In 2014, the newest partners and sponsors who aided in making FGCB's mission a reality are as follows:

PREMIER PARTNER

The City of Laurel

PLATINUM PARTNERS

Berman Enterprises
Councilmember Mary Lehman
Jersey Mike's Subs
Konterra
Security Vault Works

GOLD PARTNERS

Bonnie Whaley
Revere Bank
University of Maryland College Park;
Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center
Senator Jim Rosapepe

SILVER PARTNERS

BK Charter
DTLR
Gary's Automotive Service Center
McGowan and Cecil

BRONZE PARTNERS

Application Solution Providers
Bormel, Grice & Huyett
Carmen and Joe Camacho; Bud Miller Associates
The Catholic University of America
Giant
Laurel Board of Trade
Laurel FOP Lodge #11
Laurel Police Department
Loretta Thompson
M A Chenault Insurance Services
Mr. Smith's Barber Studio
Road ID
Safeway
Sam's Club
Wegmans

First Generation College Bound is seeking partners for 2015. Please contact us at (301) 490-0911 if you are interested in becoming a partner or sponsor.

49 STUDENTS*

Homework Club operates on-site for students residing in the Kimberly Gardens community in Prince George's County, Maryland. Staffed by certified teachers who provide homework assistance and other academic support, homework club serves students in grades 1-12.

Carltonae Colding-Gordon
"FGCB has been supporting my college bound dream since 1st grade."

210 STUDENTS*

The Pre-College Access Program combines the resources of the University System of Maryland's Way2GoMaryland Information Campaign and FGCB services to achieve a higher degree of success by providing early college awareness to 8th grade students.

Sergio Velasquez
"FGCB & Way2GoMaryland have been providing me with college bound support since 8th grade."

180 STUDENTS*

The College Access Program recruits 150 seniors who are from low to moderate income families, who have at least a 2.0 GPA, and whose parents do not have a bachelor's degree, providing college bound support ultimately resulting in college matriculation.

Danejah Hooker
"FGCB will be with me through the entire college bound process."

484 STUDENTS*

The College Retention Program supports higher education goals to increase the number of students who complete their college degree within four years.

Tyler Harmon
"FGCB didn't give up on me."

* STUDENTS SERVED DURING LAST ACADEMIC YEAR



PASTOR GAVIN BROWN COMES FULL CIRCLE WITH FGCB

Graduate of University of Valley Forge. Currently attending a Master's Program for theological study at Liberty University on-line projected graduation 2017, FGCB Honorary Board Member, Cornerstone Church Chaplin, Junior High and High School Pastor, Trinity Youth Pastor over 6 years, travels as a Youth Pastor Motivational Speaker throughout nation.

Pastor Gavin Brown was about 11 years old when Mr. Fisher came to his home to speak with his mother about the Homework Club Program, which is a program that helps youth learn about the value of an education, have a winning attitude towards learning, and how to be successful in life. As a youth I never thought about college because no one in my family or any of my friends talked about

going. I just thought I would get a job after getting out of high school like everyone else. I began attending the Homework Club every Wednesday evening for one hour and the program changed my life. I began to learn the value of education. I had tutors and mentors to help me with my homework, keep good grades, and to monitor my report cards. I started to create positive relationships, learned to be disciplined, learned the importance of studying, and how to create structure in my life. This all built my self-confidence. The results of being in the program brought about better grades and the opportunity to think about going to college. I was exposed to what college is about and later in the program in the summers visited colleges to see what campus life was like and what would be expected of me. I participated in the program for 6 years and by the time I was ready to graduate from Laurel High School I was receiving guidance on what steps were needed to go to college. FGCB, my church, and family members all became my support system to aid me in becoming the first person in my family to attend college. The males in the program became role models for me. As the time drew near I had some fear about the unknown of attending college but I had been well prepared by attending the FGCB program to move through my fear. The program made me see that college was very obtainable

and could be a reality in my life. Going away to college opened doors and possibilities I had not foreseen. The greatest impact that I received from FGCB, was that it showed me how to have personal responsibility for myself. I learned that I had to work towards setting goals and obtaining them. I began to practice two FGCB sayings "Attitude determines altitude", and with "Resilience you can bounce back from adversity". I attended the University of Valley Forge and while there, with the assistance of FGCB, I received a Pell Grant every year and all my educational needs were met. I graduated and received my bachelor's degree in youth ministries. Upon graduation, I signed up for an internship in Virginia working under the District Youth Minister for the Potomac District. With the internship, I began to get real life experience coupled with using the education I had gained in school. Growing into adulthood I use a lot of the principles that I learned from FGCB. I am responsible for a household and a family now along with all my other commitments. I became a board member for FGCB because I believe in its mission. The ingredients and core values of the program are sustainable for the next 25 years. There is another little Gavin Brown out there who needs its guidance and support for attending college. The program is very impactful.



THE CIRCLE OF GIVING

The Jersey Mike's Subs partnership with FGCB began in 2014. Connell Cuffie, Director of Philanthropy of Jersey Mike's Subs, talks about how he became involved with FGCB.

My boss knew that I had an idea for a Jersey Mike's recreation center that would provide a source for education in various aspects of business, while providing an outlet for athletic and artistic endeavors. The idea would later spawn Jersey Mike's 15 Feet of Better Business program. In 2013, it was suggested by my boss that I contact Mr. Fisher to discuss this idea since First Generation College Bound was dealing with the youth in the community, and handling some of the same topics in their College Access Program. My boss knew Mr. Fisher and over the years developed a relationship with him. Learning about the mission of FGCB encouraged me to partner with their organization because I love the work that they do. Because neither of my parents went to college, I understood the emotions that stemmed from a lack of knowledge in the college bound process. Naturally, hearing about the FGCB program represented an ideal that we, as an organization, could fully support. Engaging youth in a worthwhile

manner through assistance and guidance in the college bound process is rare and the benefits of FGCB are incalculable. Anytime a program can aid in one's advancement through life and instill confidence through independent learning, it's an entity that should be supported. As time passed and the idea strengthened, we knew that the program would be a ground breaking initiative. It was agreed that rather than a recreation center, a training facility would serve the greater needs of the company; with a location for teaching Jersey Mike's company operations as well as business development. The education component would serve to reach the youth in the community by conducting lectures that focus on career education. This includes learning the requirements to earn, not only, a good education, but a successful future with proper planning and goal setting. The facility would reside in, either, DC, Prince George's or Montgomery Counties because they serve as centralized locations for our stores. Currently the program is housed in Laurel High School with 34 students who are a part of the lecture series. The

**FGCB
WELCOMES
TWO NEW CASE
MANAGERS TO
OUR TEAM!**



ASHA HOPKINS & SHANIEKA WILLIAMS

lectures are given once a month by business leaders in the community on topics such as, starting a business, refining interpersonal communication, creating positive culture, having a winning attitude for education and realistic ideas on achieving success in life. There are also 6 full participants who are receiving summer internships at the City of Laurel mayor's office. In this internship program, these youth are required to create a program where they will give back to the community. These students will also receive full college access support from FGCB. In 2014, Jersey Mike's became a financial supporter of FGCB's mission and has encouraged others to participate with the FGCB Program. In 2013, there were 3 employees who benefited from the College Access Program and are now attending college. In 2014, there are 3 new employees going through the program.

CEO'S CLOSING REMARKS



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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
Member since 1991

ROY P. GILMORE, CHAIRMAN

Director of Security, Holy Cross Hospital
Member since 1999

NICKOLE CONYNGHAM, SECRETARY

Director & Office Manager, First Generation College Bound
Member since 2014

ROBERT LEVAN, ESQ.

Retired
Member since 2005

STEFANIE LOMAX*

Director of Human Resources, Rolyn Companies, Inc.
Member since 1999

LONNIE MOORE*

Consultant, IBM
Member since 1999

CARRIE QUINN

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Member since 2010

RENA ROSS

Community Manager, Stevens Forest Apartments
FGCB Alumnus Parent

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President and CEO, Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce
Member since 1992

GEORGE H. WALLS, III

Senior Director of Admissions, Capitol Technology University
Member since 2013

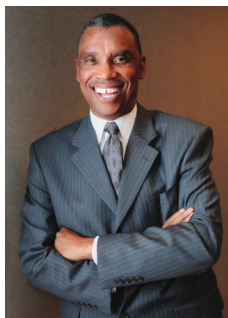
JOHN WILEY

Retired Director of Recruitment, Prince George's Community College
Member since 1992

*FGCB Alumni

THE NEED IS GREAT!

Joseph Fisher
FGCB CEO & FOUNDER



First Generation College Bound was launched in the Fall of 1990 with the mission of providing encouragement and support to students from low to moderate income families to attend college. Reflecting on my personal life experience of growing up in a challenging community, the goals were to graduate from high school, get a job, or enlist in the military. College was not an option. Given that 90% of the parents did not have a high school diploma, graduating from high school was cause for major home and community celebration. As I reflect on many of my peers who had the academic profile to attend college and did not, I grew passionate to do something. I was the stereotype outstanding athlete recruited to attend college. I owe many thanks to my high school coach Hubert Gates who provided me with the encouragement and support to attend Catholic University of America. Since the launching of FGCB, our organization has made an impact college-bounding first generation students to attend college and graduate. Today the need is still GREAT! This summer an article titled "Staying on Target for College" published in the June issue of American Enterprise confirmed that the need for on-going

college bound encouragement and support is still GREAT! It stated that while many qualified first generation college students have aspirations, most fail to complete the process to attend. The researchers also stated that not attending college was not due to lack of preparation, but running into the potholes along the way, especially failing to complete the FAFSA. In supporting this research, FGCB has found during the past 25 years that applying and getting accepted to a college is the least of our concerns. The main concern is completing the process to enroll in college. As a result and thanks to your support, we have been able to hire college access case managers ("mini Joe Fishers") who work with each individual student and their parents to develop a college bound strategy based on the students' academic and financial profile. While FGCB celebrates the encouragement, advisement and support the students receive to complete the college bound process, we are even more excited when they enroll and graduate from college. However as confirmed earlier, the need today is still GREAT for on-going encouragement and support for first generation college students to attend college. It is important that you know we are appreciative of your support as FGCB continues to strive to impact a need today that is GREAT! Because of you, more than 160 first generation college bound students attended college in the Fall of 2014.



FIRST
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www.fgcb.org

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SAVE THE DATES!

3RD ANNUAL COLLEGE RETENTION & ALUMNI SOCIAL

January 3, 2015
5-8 pm

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

25th Annual *Celebration*



June 17, 2015

Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center
University of Maryland College Park

12TH ANNUAL **5K RUN & 2 MILE WALK**

Fall 2015

Riverfront Park
Laurel



STUDENTS WHO HAVE ENTERED COLLEGE: 1,500+

COLLEGE GRADUATES: 517

CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE: 589

FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO THE CLASS OF 2014: \$2.5 MILLION



STUDENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2014 WHO MATRICULATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION: 162

STUDENTS WE WILL SERVE DURING THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR: 1,000