14 YEAR REPORT CARD
1999 - 2013

CHANGING LIVES BY GIVING EVERY STUDENT A CHANCE AT A COLLEGE EDUCATION
Our Mission

The District of Columbia College Access Program (DC-CAP) is a privately-funded nonprofit organization, dedicated to encouraging and enabling DC public and public charter high school students to enroll in and graduate from college. DC-CAP provides educational counseling and financial assistance to DC public and public charter high school students.

When DC-CAP was established in the Fall of 1999, available data suggested that less than one-third of high school graduates enrolled in college or pursued post-secondary education—less than half the national average. Of those who enrolled, we estimated that no more than 15% graduated. DC public high school graduates lagged far behind the national college enrollment and the college graduation rates. As a consequence, too few DC students were being prepared to participate in or contribute to the region’s economic growth. Today, as a result of DC-CAP, 58% of DC public and charter school students enroll in college in the year following their high school graduation.

Our Success

Since our founding, DC-CAP has changed the educational landscape in the District of Columbia. Based on available historical data, we believe that by working together with the DC public and public charter schools, DC-CAP has helped to double the number of DC students who enroll in college and triple the number of college graduates.

Other highlights of DC-CAP’s work over the past 14 years include:
- Provided over 15,660 scholarship awards totaling approximately $28 million.
- Provided direct counseling to more than 62,500 high school parents and students.
- Assisted approximately 26,600 students in getting accepted in college and securing financial aid.
- Currently have more than 5,300 college graduates.
- Helped to double the number of DC graduates who enrolled in college from 734 in 1999 to 1,926 in 2012.
- Played a critical role in the approval of the DC College Access Act ensuring the Tuition Assistance Grant program was passed in 1999 and reauthorized by Congress in October 2007.
I. Executive Summary

About DC-CAP

Established in the Fall of 1999 by major Washington-area corporations and foundations, DC-CAP is a privately-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging and enabling DC public high school students to enroll in and graduate from college.

In 2008, the program expanded to include all DC public charter schools. So, in partnership with DC public and public charter school systems, DC-CAP provides direct counseling and financial assistance to students who might otherwise never have the opportunity to go to college. DC-CAP also works in partnership with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), the corporate community, colleges, universities, and other college access programs.

The overwhelming majority of students served by DC-CAP are from low-income, minority, single-parent households and are the first in their families to attend college.

DC-CAP is unique from other college access or scholarship programs around the country for two reasons. First, every DC public and public charter high school student is eligible for DC-CAP services, regardless of academic history, grade point average, family income, citizenship status, ethnicity, special education eligibility, delinquency or juvenile criminal history. Unlike other programs, DC-CAP believes in an expansive approach to college access. Whereas many other programs set criteria that disqualify students from participation, the principle operating philosophy of DC-CAP is that every single high school student has the right to an opportunity to improve their quality of life through a college education. The second unique feature of DC-CAP is that we continue to support the students for five years after high school graduation so that they have the best chance of completing their education. DC-CAP is comprised of four major program elements:

High School Focus

DC-CAP Advisors are housed in the DC-CAP College Information Resources Centers (CIRC) located in each DC public and public charter high school. There they provide direct college counseling services to all high school students (grades 9 to 12) and their parents, through individual meetings, group sessions, written materials and specialized workshops. Since its inception, DC-CAP High School Counseling Services has provided the following:

- Assisted approximately 26,600 seniors with the college application and financial aid process.
- Conducted 305,000 individual counseling sessions and 33,000 group sessions with approximately 265,000 students.
- Administered 13,180 classroom presentations to 254,000 students.
- Conducted 410 community & church-based outreach events to 29,500 participants.
- Organized 142 free college tours.
- Assisted 19,000 students through the college enrollment and/or registration process.

College Retention Focus

DC-CAP works with all DC public and public charter high school graduates for up to five years after graduation to make sure they are able to complete their college education. Advisors track students’ progress and provide individual services including mentoring; academic, financial aid and administrative support; a toll-free hotline; on-campus visits by retention staff; college representatives, regular financial aid and scholarship correspondence; and summer pre-college programs. Since its inception, DC-CAP’s College Retention Services has accomplished the following:

- Helped 5,300 students graduate from college.
- Provided direct individual academic, administrative and financial counseling to 14,780 college students.
- Counseled over 6,000 students and parents through DC-CAP’s toll free hotline.
- Assisted 4,400 college students in negotiating their financial aid packages and securing additional resources from local, federal, institutional and private funders.
- Sent out 40,000 pieces of correspondence, both mail and electronically, updating students/parents on financial aid issues.
- Helped 1,050 students transfer to other institutions.
- Established a DC-CAP college representative at the following institutions: Bowie State University, Delaware State University, George Mason University, Lincoln University, Montgomery College, Norfolk State University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, Trinity University (DC), University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia State University.
I. Executive Summary

**Parental Support**

DC-CAP believes that parental/guardian involvement is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and ensuring student success. Therefore, parental education and support is a key part of DC-CAP’s program. DC-CAP has conducted:

- 1,590 parent workshops with 22,800 parent/guardians.
- 18,570 parent counseling sessions at CIRCs.
- 33 Senior Parent financial aid seminars with 23,250 participants.
- 40 Alpha Leadership Project parent sessions with 1,230 participants.

**Financial Aid**

DC-CAP Advisors work with each student to complete scholarship and financial aid forms. They help students secure financial aid resources including Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, DC Tuition Assistance Grants, and private scholarships.

In addition, DC public and public charter high school graduates, meeting eligibility criteria and enrolled in an accredited two-year, four-year college, university or vocational school, are eligible to apply for DC-CAP Last Dollar Awards, for up to $2,070 per year for five years. The awards are based on unmet need and are designed to close the financial needs gap between the students’ resources, financial aid and the actual college expenses. Since its inception, DC-CAP has awarded more than 15,600 scholarship awards totaling approximately $29 million dollars.

**Measurements of Success**

DC-CAP measures the success of its individual programs, the productivity of its staff, its collaborative partnerships, and the progress towards the overall programmatic goal through statistical measures. The fundamental measures of the program’s success are: 1) the number and rate of high school graduates enrolling in college or pursuing post-secondary education; 2) the college retention rates; and 3) the number and rate of DC public and public charter high school graduates completing their college education or post-secondary program.

**Increasing Graduation Rates**

DC-CAP is committed to increasing the college graduation rates for the students we serve. Before DC-CAP began its work, approximately 15% of DC public school students were graduating from college within five years after high school graduation. The current five-year graduation average for all of our classes to date is 39%. This is particularly encouraging considering that DC-CAP does not restrict its services to high academic achievers. DC-CAP supports a range of students within the DC public and public charter high school systems.
II. High School Focus

DC-CAP is unique among college access programs. Every student is eligible to participate regardless of family circumstances or academic achievement. We believe every student should have the opportunity to go to college.
II. High School Focus

High School Counseling Services

Beginning in ninth grade, DC-CAP Advisors located in College Information Resource Centers (CIRC) housed in the schools, actively seek out District students to promote the benefits of a college education and convince them of the difference it can make in their lives. They introduce students to the opportunities and resources available to help them develop personalized college timelines, select college preparatory courses, and encourage each to plan for a college education.

In addition to topics designed to improve students’ chances of enrolling and succeeding in college, students receive individual and group counseling in:

- Why Go to College
- Choosing a Career
- Planning Your High School Curriculum
- SAT and ACT Test Taking Tips
- Community College vs. Vocational School
- Choosing a College
- Writing Your College Essay

DC-CAP also collaborates with teachers in their classrooms to promote college and the importance of students doing well in their academic subjects.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DC-CAP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION REPORT CARD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1998-1999</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of group sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of group participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual counseling sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of classroom presentations</td>
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<td>Number of classroom participants</td>
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College Prep Programs

DC-CAP begins preparing students for college in the ninth grade. High school students are provided with retention workshops that cover topics which include: study skills and time management, long-term financial planning, and adapting to the college social and cultural scene.

During the spring, DC-CAP College Retention Advisors hold workshops at the schools to help with the preparation for college. During the summer, DC-CAP conducts Pre-College Seminars designed to provide students with a realistic introduction to college life. The all-day programs cover topics including: academic support and advising, new student orientation, residence life, crisis management, two-year vs. four-year institutions, and communicating with your professors. The DC-CAP Pre-College Programs also bring together panels of college students to address the concerns of soon-to-be college freshmen.
II. High School Focus

College Fairs
Since 1999, DC-CAP has conducted eight college fairs for more than 6,500 junior and senior high school students which featured representatives from more than 75 different colleges and universities, from all over the United States. In 2008, DC-CAP partnered with CollegeWeek Live to enable more than 2,000 DC high school students to participate in the two-day virtual college fair via the Web. Students were able to view and assess more than 200 colleges and universities from around the world and chat with live experts on admissions and financial aid topics. DC-CAP also coordinates student attendance at other regional college fairs during the academic year.

College Tours
The majority of DC public and public charter high school graduates are the first in their families to have an opportunity to attend college; many have never been exposed to college life or to a college campus. Visiting college campuses can have a positive impact on a student’s motivation, college selection, and enthusiasm for education, while also serving to dispel apprehensions and misconceptions about college life.

In the Spring of 2001, DC-CAP began offering free college tours to high school students, to visit colleges and universities in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania areas. DC-CAP has since conducted 142 college tours to 34 colleges for 5,500 DC high school participants.

Standardized Tests
SAT and/or ACT scores are a requirement for most college admissions offices. DC-CAP Advisors help students register and take test prep courses. Most importantly, DC-CAP established new test sites in eight of the 18 DCPS high schools. DC-CAP believes that providing students with the opportunity to take the exams in their neighborhood is more convenient, and familiar surroundings will improve the odds that they will actually take the tests.

Career Speakers Bureau
DC-CAP has built a network of professionals from all walks of life and career paths—doctors, artists, small business owners, scientists, teachers, law enforcement, broadcasters, lawyers, engineers, and musicians—to register as speakers.

Volunteer speakers visit high schools to talk about their own careers and how a college education was crucial to their success. They help to inspire and motivate high school students to explore different career opportunities and to prepare themselves for the future by getting their college degree. Career speakers also have the chance to serve as mentors and provide “job shadowing” opportunities to individual students.

Students in the Alpha Leadership Project attend a college tour to a local university
II. High School Focus

Alpha Leadership Project

Launched in November 2007, The Alpha Leadership Project (ALP) is an academic and personal enrichment program designed to impact the lives of 9th - 12th grade young minority ment in Washington, DC. The first component serves 9th grade minority males with the goal of encouraging them to stay engaged in the educational process, improve academic achievement, and increase the possibility of enrolling in and graduating from college. The three major facets of the ALP are parental training, personal development and positive peer pressure. The program consists of parental and student training workshops, extracurricular enhancement activities, and dedicated mentors. The program is conducted in the following schools: Capital City PCS, Coolidge, Dunbar, Roosevelt and Wilson Senior High Schools.

The second component of the ALP program is the Alpha Leadership Fraternity. A high school based fraternity program was established for ALP boys. The Alpha Leadership Fraternity has official induction rites, standards of behavior, honor codes, grade point average requirements, and a solemn commitment to leadership, service, and excellence. Only those students who have completed the ALP Student Workshops during the 9th grade are eligible to join the fraternity. Once inducted into the fraternity, members will participate in group activities, athletic events, and study groups. The eligible 9th graders that are inducted remain in the fraternity until high school graduation, contingent on their adherence to the principles and codes in the fraternity charter.

Mentors are an integral part of the success of this program. Mentoring makes the ALP stronger and even more impactful to the lives of the young men and it adds an additional layer of support that the students need.
III. College Focus

Getting admitted to college is only half the battle.

Students participating in DC-CAP’s Pre-College Seminars
III. College Focus

**Increasing College Enrollment**

Based on surveys taken by graduating seniors and high school counselors prior to DC-CAP’s founding in 1999, 30% of DC public and public charter high school graduates typically enrolled in college. Over the past 14 years, DC-CAP has worked to turn around these statistics. Through its strategy of providing comprehensive student and parent counseling, along with financial assistance, DC-CAP has almost doubled the number of public high school graduates enrolling in college.

Today, the 58% student college enrollment rate among DC high school students is competitive with the national average. The combination of DC-CAP and the increase in federal and local financial aid available to District students has made a dramatic impact on DC student college and university enrollment rates. On average, the four-year public institutions with the highest DC student enrollments report DC freshmen student enrollment has increased by more than 100% since the establishment of DC-CAP in 1999. This dramatically exceeds the overall increase in general freshmen enrollment over the same period of time.

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**DC-CAP College freshmen Enrollment Report Card**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of High School Grads</td>
<td>2,448</td>
<td>3,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates Enrolling in College</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>1,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Students Enrolling in College</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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Enrollment statistics based on DCPS pilot year counselor surveys, DC-CAP senior surveys, longitudinal foundation studies, Dept. of Education statistics, college/university DC student enrollment records.

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“I am the first person in my family that has had the opportunity to attend college, and I am proud to say that the DC College Access Program has helped me accomplish this goal. DC-CAP has been by my side through this journey since I was a junior in high school and has continually worked harder to make the dream of attending college and completing a degree a reality. With the support and guidance of my high school DC-CAP counselor, I was able to find the right school for me and much of the financial assistance that has made coming to school less stressful for me and my family. There aren’t enough words that can express how thankful I am for all of their support.”

Naudy Martinez
University of Maryland, College Park
Landscape Architecture, May 2010
Wilson SHS 2005

DC-CAP Students in a College Information Resource Center (CIRC)
III. College Focus

Continuing Support in College

A comprehensive study conducted by a major national foundation tracked 500 DC public high school students for 10 years, starting in their freshman year of high school. The students were provided with scholarship assistance and graduated high school with grade point averages of 3.5 and above. After 10 years, only 68 out of the 500 students had graduated from college. Despite being considered high academic achievers and getting additional financial assistance, fewer than 14% of the students participating in this study completed their education within six years. Their low college graduation rate is even more alarming when compared to the then national average of 52% five-year college graduation rate. These statistics indicated that there are significant hurdles that DC public high school graduates must overcome to graduate from college. A DC student’s five-year college graduation rate is still less than the national average. For this reason, DC-CAP uses a comprehensive strategy to encourage students to stay in college through graduation.

The key element of the strategy is that DC-CAP Advisors stay involved with District students throughout their college years by monitoring: their financial needs, their academic progress, and any other circumstances that may impede their chances of graduating. DC-CAP continues to provide academic and financial counseling services to students for up to five years of college. DC-CAP also supports the efforts of parents and institutions to keep the students in college until they complete their education.

College Partnerships

DC-CAP works with the institutions of higher education to implement campus “safety net” programs to improve college retention and graduation rates. Safety net features for students include: designated academic advisors and student mentors, enrollment in remedial and tutorial programs, access to on-campus student support services, introductions to minority student support groups, and assistance in obtaining corporate internships and summer jobs to earn money for college. DC-CAP works on an ongoing basis with key campus personnel, including Directors of Admissions, the Registrar’s Office, Directors of Enrollment, Deans of Student Services, Directors of Financial Aid, and Retention Services to support individual student success. DC-CAP establishes regular channels of communication and correspondence with the institutions to monitor student enrollment, grades, and academic status.

“There is no question that DC students are motivated to attend and graduate from college. They have truly begun to understand the importance, not just the value of a college education, but the value of a college degree. We believe, based on the available data, DC-CAP has doubled the number of students enrolling in college and almost tripled the number of DC students graduating.”

Argelia Rodriguez, President & CEO, DC-CAP
III. College Focus

Financial Aid Counseling
DC-CAP provides college students with up to five years of financial aid counseling. DC-CAP Retention Advisors assist students with reminders about financial aid deadlines, scholarship searches and renewals, and federal financial aid applications. DC-CAP also negotiates financial aid packages with the institution on behalf of the students. Students are also eligible and awarded DC-CAP Last Dollar Awards of up to $2,070 per year, for up to five years of college, to close the financial needs gap between the student's resources, financial aid, and actual college expenses. Unlike most other scholarship providers' grants, DC-CAP monies can be used to offset the cost of items that can hinder retention, including textbooks, supplies, travel, and room and board.

Pre-College Seminars
Recognizing that the majority of DC-CAP students are the first in their families to attend college, DC-CAP hosts a Pre-College Seminar designed to prepare incoming college freshman and their parents for the first year of college. The seminar features educational workshops and sessions on the following topics: Financing College, Academic Support and Advising, New Student Orientation, What to Expect The First Time You Live with a Roommate, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Predominantly White Institutions, Study Skills and Time Management, Crisis Management, and the Advantage of Attending a Two-Year college.

Retention Triage
Beginning in the summer of 2009, DC-CAP began utilizing a new program designed to further the retention of students who may be at higher risk and need more support in their college years. Through research and data collection, DC-CAP identifies students who might need more support with on campus services due to poor academic preparation, lack of parental/guardian support, lack of finances, and the myriad of factors that can impact student retention. DC-CAP partners with participating institutions to work collaboratively to ensure that even the most high risk students are given an opportunity to complete their college education.

DC-CAP College Retention Services
The hard work is worth the reward, but it takes great perseverance. DC-CAP provides college students with individual services, including mentoring, academics, financial aid, and administrative support. Students are provided with a toll-free hotline and email, on-campus visits by DC-CAP retention staff, regular correspondence from the DC-CAP office, and the opportunity to enroll in the “On-Campus Representative” program where upperclassmen at twenty of our most highly attended schools are paid additional stipends to help monitor the DC-CAP freshmen and sophomores on campus.
III. College Focus

DC-CAP students and families attend college activities.

**College Knowledge**

DC-CAP also provides college students and their parents with a free copy of College Knowledge: DC-CAP College Retention Manual. This manual covers all of the topics from the Pre-College Programs and more. The manual serves as a handy resource for college students and parents, and addresses important college-related questions such as:

1) Who do I turn to when my grades are really bad?
2) What’s the difference between my financial aid letter and my bill?
3) My roommate and I don’t get along; what should I do?
4) How am I going to pay for next semester’s books when I’m already broke?
5) I lost my job; how do I keep my child in college?
6) My child says she misses me and wants to come home; what should I tell her?
7) What’s the difference between academic warning and academic probation?

We provide a free copy of College Knowledge: The DC-CAP College Retention Manual to parents and students.
III. College Focus

*International Student Outreach*

DC-CAP advisors are highly trained to work with students from different countries and backgrounds to ensure that they too have the opportunity for a higher education. The DC-CAP International Student Guide, provides international students with practical information on the college application process, financial aid, and the resources that are available to help them realize their “American dream” of a college education.

*DC-CAP students attend a local college fair.*
IV. Financial Aid

Significant tuition increases make DC-CAP’s work even more vital to making college a reality.
IV. Financial Aid

**Overcoming Financial Barriers**

Many DC public and public charter high charter school students and their families live close to or below the federal poverty level, calculated at $23,550 a year for a family of four. More than 2/3 of families we serve qualify for free or reduced lunch programs. The gap between college costs and available family resources often makes college a financial impossibility.

DC-CAP Advisors work to overcome the financial barriers standing in the way of a college education. In addition to serving as a central reference point for scholarships and other sources of financial aid, advisors help DC public and public charter high school students obtain waivers for application and test fees, complete financial aid applications, find funds for books and transportation, and apply for corporate internships. Advisors also determine if students qualify for DC-CAP “Last Dollar” Awards.

More importantly, on average, for every single “Last Dollar” awarded, DC-CAP advisors help students secure an additional $15 in local, federal, institutional and scholarship aid.

**Last Dollar Awards**

District public and public charter high school graduates, who meet eligibility criteria and enroll in college or in other qualified two- or four-year educational institutions, are eligible for DC-CAP Last Dollar Awards. These awards—up to $2,070 per year for five years—are granted on the basis of unmet need. The DC-CAP Last Dollar Awards are designed to close the financial needs gap between the students’ resources, financial aid, and actual college expenses. By the end of the 2013 academic year, DC-CAP had awarded almost $29 million in scholarship awards.

**Leveraging DC-CAP Dollars**

DC-CAP Board members and staff continuously work to leverage DC-CAP Last Dollar Awards into additional support for student financial aid. Over the past 14 years, DC-CAP has been successful in building awareness and helping to increase the student financial aid that is available from the corporate community, local and federal government agencies. DC-CAP’s leverage has helped to secure $300,000,000 in local, federal, institution, and scholarship aid.
“My daughter has benefited greatly from DC-CAP, in affording her the opportunity to have completed three successful years’ attending college. Although the total amount of financial aid has decreased over the last three years, the addition of DC-CAP helped us in not having to seek ‘most of the funds’ through ‘other channels’ (such as student loans). A large percentage of students get financial aid, and among students financially dependent on their parents, their income does not warrant total funding for tuition, housing, books, etc. This is where venues like DC-CAP aid is making it possible for students to attend college.”

Sadie Jones, parent of Terazia Jones. Terazia is from the Coolidge SHS Class of 2005 and graduated from Lincoln University in 2010.

“The DC College Access Program (DC-CAP) has been instrumental in providing access to higher education to many Bowie State University students. Registered DC-CAP students are equipped with skills that are critical to succeed in the college environment. This outstanding program provides financial and college preparation assistance that can turn a dream into reality for high school students.”

Deborah Stanley • Director of Financial Aid Bowie State University
V. Partnerships

Parental support is critical to a student’s success.

President Barack Obama with DC-CAP college graduate, Class of 2005

Former Secretary of State, General Colin L. Powell with the DC-CAP Class of 2008 college graduates

Dr. Bill Cosby, actor and education advocate, with DC-CAP’s Class of 2007 college graduates

Former DC Mayor Adrian Fenty with Senator George Voinovich at DC-CAP Graduation Party
V. Partnerships

**DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program—A Public-Private Partnership**

DC-CAP Board Members worked with local and federal officials to gain approval for the DC College Access Act. The Act, which established the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DC-TAG) Program, was signed into legislation in November 1999 and reauthorized in October 2007.

This public-private partnership has had a transformative effect. The number of DC public and public charter school students going to college has roughly doubled since 1999, and the number graduating from college has tripled.

The DC-TAG program authorizes the federal government to appropriate funds for the DC government to provide tuition subsidies of up to $10,000 per year/ $50,000 per student to DC residents attending public four year institutions of higher education throughout the US. In addition, DC residents attending private educational institutions in the DC metro area, or private historically black colleges and universities around the country, are eligible for subsidies of up to $2,500 per year/ $12,500 per student. DC residents attending public two year colleges throughout the US are eligible for subsidies of up to $2,500 per year/ $12,500 per student over a five year period. To date, the program has given out more than $300 million to DC students.

**Engaging Parents**

As many of the students in our program are the first in their families to attend college, graduating often means breaking long cycles of poverty. Students leave college prepared to contribute to their communities and to the region’s economic growth for years to come. DC-CAP believes that parental/guardian involvement is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and ensuring student success. Therefore, parental education and support is a key part of DC-CAP’s program. Specifically, DC-CAP provides parents with educational planning workshops, financial aid seminars, college counseling and other services designed to help parents assist their children in getting a college education. DC-CAP also enables parents to support college retention by providing educational and financial aid workshops, pre-college parent training, customized savings plans, and individual assistance with negotiating financial aid packages for their students.

**Community Organizations and Family Service Providers**

Many of our students face challenges that can be barriers to college enrollment and success. Poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and drugs are only but a few. DC-CAP works to connect students and their parents with community organizations and service providers throughout Washington, DC, that provide support and resources to families in need. The DC-CAP Directory of Service Providers is distributed to students and their parents to help them make those connections.

The **DC-CAP Directory of Service Providers** helps connect students and their parents with community support and resource providers throughout Washington, DC.
V. Partnerships

Engaging the Community

DC-CAP staff members participate in a variety of educational, governmental and community events throughout the academic year, in order to promote its services and the importance of higher education to the Washington, DC community. Events include: conferences, city-sponsored rallies, after-school programs, training sessions, expos, fairs, PTA meetings, and church-sponsored programs. Over the past 14 years, DC-CAP has significantly raised awareness in the city of the importance and availability of a college education to all District students.

DC-CAP and DC Public and Public Charter Schools

DC-CAP and the DC public and public charter school systems have formed a unique partnership to combat the historically low college enrollment rates of District students. Kaya Henderson, the DC Chancellor of Schools, is a member of the DC-CAP Board of Directors. DC-CAP Advisors have been granted school-based offices and full access to District students. A DC-CAP College Information Resource Center (CIRC) is located in every DC public and charter high school, giving District students and parents access to a wealth of college-related resources, including: college catalogs, applications, financial aid forms, online databases, college websites, and career guides.

Changing lives by giving every student a chance at a college education

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