

Featuring in-depth profiles of colleges and universities identified for their commitment to serving and supporting students from first-generation college, low-income, rural and minority backgrounds, the Washington, D.C. edition of the *College Access & Opportunity Guide* is the first of its kind—a comprehensive college guidebook aimed to prepare first-generation college and other traditionally underserved college-bound students for college and to help these students understand the many college opportunities that exist for them at D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) institutions.

“I began using the *College Access & Opportunity Guide* with just my upper-division students, but very soon the other students were asking to see it. Since I had only one copy, I would have a waiting list to look at the book. It became the focus of our group meetings and soon the students started calling it ‘the red college bible.’ In the end, we decided to give all of our sophomores their own copy to set them on the right path to college.”
 —Linda Perez, Director of Special Projects, achieve/Gerson Bakar Foundation, San Francisco, CA

KnowHow2GO

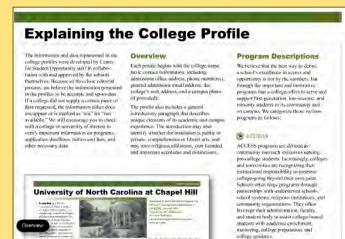
The *College Access & Opportunity Guide* includes information, articles, and stories developed in collaboration with KnowHow2GO—a national college access campaign created in partnership with Lumina Foundation for Education, American Council on Education, and the Ad Council—providing a plan for first-generation and other underrepresented students to take four steps necessary to go to college.



Free Distribution Program

Center for Student Opportunity's primary distribution strategy allows College Partners to sponsor a free distribution of the *College Access & Opportunity Guide* to target high schools and community organizations in Washington, D.C. that serve first-generation college, low-income and minority college-bound students.

Funding pledged by leading college access organizations will help in the distribution of 5,000 copies of the guidebook to Washington, D.C. high school students, families, teachers, and counselors during the next school year.



Comprehensive profiles highlight the outreach efforts, scholarships, financial aid opportunities, academic support and retention services that each institution offers.



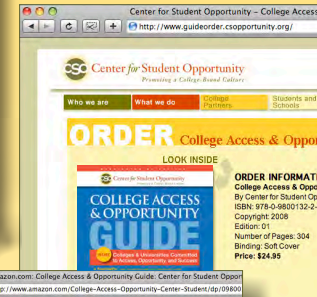
ACCESS programs are defined as community outreach initiatives serving prospective students. Increasingly, colleges and universities are recognizing their institutional responsibility to promote college-going beyond their own gates. Schools often forge programs through partnerships with underserved schools, school systems, religious institutions, and community organizations. They often leverage their administration, faculty, and student body to assist college-bound students with academic enrichment, mentoring, college preparation, and college guidance.

OPPORTUNITY programs serve prospective students in getting to know a college and providing admission and financial aid incentives for students. These programs include visit and open house programs, day-in programs, conditional admission programs, scholarships, and financial aid initiatives that in most cases cater specifically to first-generation, low-income, and minority students.

SUCCESS programs are defined as academic assistance, student support services, and retention initiatives to help students navigate college.



The *College Access & Opportunity Guide* has quickly become a staple in college admissions offices, high school guidance offices, college resource centers, college access programs, community-based organizations, and libraries across the country.



CONFIRM YOUR SCHOOL'S PARTICIPATION

The *College Access & Opportunity Guide* is slated for a late September release, so we will be cutting off the project soon to allow appropriate time to initiate new College Partners' participation.

If you are unsure of your institution's participation status in the Washington, D.C. edition of the *College Access & Opportunity Guide* or have a general inquiry, please contact Joe Tavares at (301) 951-7101 ext. 203 or email guidebook@csoppportunity.org as soon as possible.

DID YOU KNOW...?

We were humbled to recently receive a grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund a formal evaluation of the *College Access & Opportunity Guide*—to demonstrate the genuine need filled by the publication in today's college access landscape.

Results from this evaluation study will be announced later this summer and our hope is that we can leverage the anticipated outcomes to raise funds from foundations, organizations, and donors who can help ensure the *College Access & Opportunity Guide* will reach as many historically underserved college-bound students and their supporters as possible.

