

For Immediate Release

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FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS SHARE REMARKABLE COLLEGE JOURNEYS

Thirty students chronicle their college experiences and offer advice on preparing for college on blog.

November 28, 2011—Bethesda, MD— Ten students who beat the odds to become first in their family to attend college join Center for Student Opportunity’s (CSO) original 20 student bloggers, now college sophomores and juniors, sharing their college experiences. All thirty scholars will be using the Opportunity Scholars blog (<http://csocollegecenter.org/blog/>) to diary their time in college —the good and the bad—and to offer advice to underserved students like them on how to make it to college.

Among the 30 bloggers are: Khadijah Williams (Los Angeles, CA/Harvard University ’13) who made education her anchor while growing up homeless on Skid Row and persevered to make it to the nation’s top university; Abigail Macias (Sparks, NV/Dartmouth ’14) the daughter of Mexican immigrants who rose above negative stereotypes to attend Dartmouth; Alexis Montes (National City, CA/University of Rochester ’15) who dealt with the harsh realities of poverty and violence in his neighborhood can now call University of Rochester in New York his home; and Lauren Mayo (Marietta, GA/University of Georgia ’15) whose peers and teachers always seemed to underestimate her abilities has deflated those judgments and is now attending the University of Georgia.

“Follow these students closely because they are shining examples of how to turn college dreams into reality,” said Matt Rubinoff, CSO’s Executive Director. “We hope that this blog helps the hundreds of thousands of underserved, low-income students understand that the opportunity for college is within reach.”

The new student bloggers all receive CSO’s Opportunity Scholarship, a \$2,000, four-year, renewable award.

High school students can follow the blog and use the accompanying CSO College Center website (www.csocollegecenter.org) to research and connect with colleges active in the recruitment of first-generation, low-income, and minority students. Students who use the website will have a chance to apply for the Opportunity Scholarship and become future bloggers when they begin college.

To check out the Opportunity Scholars blog, please visit: <http://csocollegecenter.org/blog/>.

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About Center for Student Opportunity

Center for Student Opportunity (CSO) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering underserved, first-generation college students to and through college by providing information, guidance, scholarships, and ongoing support. More information about CSO is available at www.CSOopportunity.org.