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# ACCESS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER TO *the* COMMUNITY

When we pave the way to higher education,  
we can introduce students to a better life.

We at the Access College Foundation are dedicated to helping our students. By employing Advisors to serve at the high school, middle school, and collegiate levels, ACCESS works to ensure that our students are not only aware of their potential, but are actively participating in the process toward fulfilling it.

ACCESS Advisors are committed to dispelling myths and breaking barriers that may inhibit students from beginning their journey toward post-secondary degrees, ultimately assuring them that a college education is attainable for all. Last school year—the fourth year of our College Success Program—we successfully graduated the first class of Scholars who participated in the College Success Program. Attending college has had a significant effect on the lives of our students, granting them opportunities that they would not have had access to without higher education.

The impact that we have had on the lives of our students would not be possible without the support and generosity that you have given us for the past 23 years. As we continue to strive for successful outcomes for the students we serve, we cannot adequately express how deeply grateful we are for our family of supporters who are committed to upholding our organization. Thank you!



President and CEO Bonnie Sutton

Sincerely,

*Bonnie B. Sutton*

Bonnie B. Sutton  
President and CEO  
Access College Foundation

# DID *you* KNOW?

## PROBLEM

- A student born into the bottom quartile of family income is 10 times less likely to earn a bachelor's degree by the age of 24 than a student born into the top quartile.

## SOLUTION

- The Access College Foundation is dedicated to eradicating the odds that are stacked against low-income and other at-risk students by devoting the time and one-on-one attention needed to prepare these students for a successful postsecondary educational experience. Obstacles are removed and opportunities are increased through our implementation of early college awareness services for 7th and 8th graders and our provision of intensive information and college advising services for 9th - 12th graders.

## PROBLEM

- By 2020, 66% of jobs will require a career certificate or college degree. Currently, only 42% of Virginia adults have an associate degree or higher.

## SOLUTION

- The Access College Success Program helps college students graduate from their colleges/universities. In 2011, we had an overall 91% retention rate and four-year graduation rates that are 50% higher than the national six year graduation rate average.

# COLLEGE FRESHMEN BEGIN THEIR *Journey*

Access Supporters helped to pave the way for thousands of local students in their pursuit of higher education with hundreds also receiving an Access Scholarship.

Graduating seniors from the Class of 2011 were awarded with \$300,000 in Access "Last Dollar" Scholarships at our annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon in June. These scholarships bridge the critical gap between the total cost of college and the amount not covered by financial aid. Our Access Scholars may renew the scholarship for up to five years of undergraduate education.

Over 700 attendees of the luncheon shared in the celebration of these students' achievements. As college freshmen this fall, Access Scholars will begin an exciting new chapter in their lives, changed forever by their college experience.



## ACCESS *student* PROFILE

When asked to describe "what ACCESS is like" our students responded with:



*"ACCESS has provided me with an Advisor who acted as a listening ear and a mentor."*

Ashley Lans — Norfolk State University Senior



*"For me, ACCESS is the glue that got me in college and kept me there."*

Brittany Denig — Virginia Commonwealth University Senior

# ACCESS

College Foundation

**ACCESS**  
College Foundation



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# MAKE *your* MARK.

## IF YOU BELIEVE:

- college can make all the difference in a young life
- every dollar you give should work hard

THEN THERE IS NO BETTER WAY

to make your mark than supporting the ACCESS College Foundation.

ACCESS generates \$17 in scholarships and financial aid from a \$1 donation, and making even a small donation counts for a lot. To make your mark on next year's graduating class, please return the enclosed pledge card now.