First to Go to College
Limited Finances
Complicated Process
Low Confidence
Lack of Support
Confusion
Fear

BEATING THE ODDS

ACCESS College Foundation
ACCESSCollege.org | 757-962-6113

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
Beating the Odds: This simple phrase describes what Access College Foundation has been helping students do since its founding by Frank Batten, Sr. and Joshua P. Darden, Jr. in 1988. It is also the theme of this 2015 Annual Report.

Access Advisors challenge students from low-income families to see beyond obstacles, to dream bigger, and to set their goals at high levels on the educational ladder. It is this guidance, combined with personalized support and increased access to resources, that enables students to rise above their current circumstances and achieve phenomenal educational success. Students like Michaela Bradley and Summer Trzcinski, who beat incredible odds to enroll in and attend college. As Michaela states in this report, “...I have chosen to rise above the adversity...I have accepted that my dreams will become reality...”

With your support, Access will continue to impact nearly 30,000 local students from 7th grade through college graduation each year. The future of our community hinges on the success of tomorrow’s leaders. Access is committed to inspiring our students to build a better future for themselves and for the community through the attainment of higher education.

Warmest Regards,

R. Bruce Bradley
Chairman, Access Board of Directors

A Look Inside

See what your support has accomplished and hear success stories straight from Access students. Pages 3-5

Find out how two Access Scholars were invited to the First Lady’s Beating the Odds Summit! Pages 6-7

Get to know Conrad Hall, a long time supporter and College Changes Everything Campaign Chair, and learn how you can change the lives of local students. Pages 8-9

Find out what’s new this year at Access College Foundation and meet our dedicated team. Pages 10-11
How You Helped Access BEAT THE ODDS for Students Last Year

SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EARLY COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAM
Over 10,000 7th and 8th graders met with advisors in 23 low-income middle schools for early college prep workshops, small group meetings and one-on-one sessions, and over 1,225 families attended Parent Night Workshops.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
20 Access Advisors served students in 29 local public high schools, helping over 6,000 9th and 10th graders stay on track, and 12,000 11th and 12th graders with the college entrance process, leveraging more than $50 million in financial aid and scholarships!

LAST-DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIPS
Access awarded $950,000 in scholarships to nearly 200 students in the Class of 2015. 800 additional scholarship renewals were awarded to college students during the school year.

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM
Access College Success Advisors on 13 Virginia college campuses provided advisory services to nearly 1,000 students and achieved a 90% college retention rate, as compared to the 56% national average.

Proud Graduate and Access Scholar
Advisors help students beat the odds

From limited finances to navigating complicated admissions processes with little family support, students often face seemingly insurmountable odds on their higher education journey. Direction, guidance, support and encouragement from their ACCESS Advisors helps them along the path. From middle school through college, ACCESS Advisors are dedicated to ensuring every student who has the desire can attend college. From acceptance letters, to financial aid notifications, to the student’s ceremonial walk to receive their degree or certification, these victories are the advisors’ defining moments.

Access Advisors

PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
Courtney Morris
Lakeland High School
Adria Phillips
Princess Anne High School
Andrea Tuttle
College Success Advisor

ADVISORS
Gabrielle Alexander
Ocean Lakes High School
Salem High School
Devin Allen
Northampton Middle/High School
Mindy Ballard
Frank W. Cox High School
Kempsville High School
Darius Blount
Hickory High School
Lake Taylor High School
Jordan Brown
Churchland High School
Stephanie Carswell
Early College Awareness Advisor
Mary Carter Scott
Norview High School
Kevin Cenedella
Maury High School
Joanne Forbes
I. C. Norcom High School
Antoinette Haygood
College Success Advisor
Jenny Hechtkopf
Landstown High School
Stormy Holt
First Colonial High School
Indian River High School
Peggy Johnson
Early College Awareness Advisor
Arthur Kelly
Great Bridge High School
Grassfield High School
Sara Gastler
Kellam High School
Tallwood High School
Gabriel Hall
Deep Creek High School
Western Branch High School
Joshua Mann
Wilson High School
Adrienne Miller
King’s Fork High School
Nansemond River High School
Brelynn Thomas
College Success Advisor
Megan Ulanich
Granby High School
Seko Varner
Green Run High School
Jacqueline Whitehead
Booker T. Washington High School
Kyle Williams
Oscar Smith High School

“Access has played a pivotal role in my academic success. Without this foundation, I don’t know if my opportunity to go to college would have been as apparent.”

HOPE STROTHERS,
King’s Fork High School 2015
Your contributions made it possible for 29,000 students from middle school to college graduation to beat the odds last school year.
Access Scholars, Michaela R. Bradley and Summer L. Trzcinski, were hand-picked by the White House to attend the First Lady’s Beating the Odds Summit on July 23, 2015.

“I walked into my Access Advisor’s office many times feeling like the weight of the world was on my shoulders. There was never a time when I didn’t walk back out of that office with pure peace and optimism for my future.”

“My mother worked hard as a bus driver, but barely made ends meet. College was not an option for me without funding. Access helped me overcome that obstacle.”

Michaela Bradley
Age 18
First Colonial High School, Virginia Beach
Enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University
Major: Pre-Law/Political Science

Summer Trzcinski
Age 18
Oscar Smith High School, Chesapeake
Enrolled at Johnson & Wales University
Major: Culinary Arts
The summit hosted 130 college-bound, Class of 2015 high school graduates from all over the country at the White House for a celebratory event with First Lady Michelle Obama and with a surprise appearance made by President Barack Obama. Michaela and Summer engaged in resource-rich panels and discussions on such topics as how to get academic support in college, how to form strong networks at school, and how to attain a sense of “career fluency” to figure out future opportunities.

Michaela R. Bradley:
Michaela’s passion is to reform the foster care laws to give more support to children who age-out of the system. After losing her parents when she was four years old, Michaela entered the foster care system. She is intimately aware of the many hardships children face once they turn 18. She hopes that with a law degree she can advocate for those who do not have a voice. A first generation college student, Michaela says, “I am a young African American female, and I have chosen to rise above the adversity to help guide foster youth after aging out of the system. I have accepted that my dreams will become reality…”

Summer L. Trzcinski:
Summer comes from a single parent household where funds for college were not available. With the help of Access College Foundation, Summer will become the first person in her family to go to college. She is an accomplished culinary student with a 4.24 GPA, serves on Student Government and plays varsity volleyball. Summer plans to become a culinary instructor in the high school setting after graduating from college. Summer says, “With my culinary degree, I want to join the fight to stop world hunger because no one should have to go to bed with an empty stomach. I’m ready to start college with a new list of aspirations, and I won’t let anything get in my way.”
Supporter Spotlight

Conrad Hall

Conrad Hall has been a supporter of Access for more than a decade. He has made a huge commitment of time, energy and financial resources, and in doing so, he and his wife Peggy have invested much in the success of Access College Foundation. Conrad challenges anyone “looking to improve their community to find a better return on investment than Access.”

As Chairman of the College Changes Everything Campaign, Conrad inspires confidence among his fellow donors and volunteers through his focus, vision, and humility. Examples of Conrad’s commitment to Access and our community are innumerable.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Hampton Roads Chapter is recognizing Conrad as their 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser honoree. Conrad is most deserving of this honor. Access salutes Conrad Hall and thanks him for being a Champion for our mission!

The College Changes Everything Campaign

Addressing our pressing needs:

**EARLY COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Two additional Early College Awareness Advisors, providing a ratio of one Advisor to six middle schools, rather than the current one to 12 ratio.

**HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Three additional Access Advisors so we will have a full-time Advisor at each of the region’s 16 high-need high schools, allowing Access to have a much greater positive impact on the students and their families who really need it.

**COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM**

An additional College Success Advisor must be added to expand Access’ reach to students who received Access services in high school, but did not receive an Access Scholarship.

**LAST-DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Increase the number of Access Scholarships resulting in less loan debt for students, and leveling the playing field for even more of our Scholars as they graduate and enter the workforce or consider graduate school.
Your commitment today will forever change young lives and our community.

Every dollar spent on our program leverages $20 in financial aid and scholarships for students.

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to take your next step in supporting Access or donate online.

Establish a legacy by including Access in your will or estate plan.

Thank you!


WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN FUND

$5,000 = ONE ACCESS LAST DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP

$2,000 = COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES FOR 10 STUDENTS

$1,000 = A COLLEGE TOUR FOR 50 STUDENTS

$500 = SAT FEES FOR 10 STUDENTS
Access College Foundation would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Access team.

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Joshua P. Darden, Jr.

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Danielle Veness
Donor Relations Manager
Ashley Woodous
Program Coordinator

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Access Advisors recognized on page 4
What’s New at Access During the Current School Year?

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY GAINS Access!
Thanks to a $1.6 million investment from an anonymous donor, Access has expanded to Northampton County with a full-time Advisor serving students from 7th through 12th grade. “Last-Dollar” Scholarships will also be available for the Northampton County High School Class of 2016 because of a generous $1 million grant from the Batten Educational Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation!

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOLS ADDED TO THE Access FOOTPRINT!
The Access Early College Awareness Program is serving two new middle schools this school year. Access will help 7th and 8th graders and their parents at the Academy for Discovery at Lakewood and Crossroads School in the pursuit of higher education!

SERVICES INCREASE TO FULL-TIME FOR TWO MORE HIGH SCHOOLS
Access Advisors are serving two additional high schools full-time, five days per week, beginning this year! This now provides students in 11 high-need schools with more one-on-one appointments, greater access to SAT and ACT testing fee waivers, and more opportunities for financial aid and scholarships through the filing of FAFSA forms.