



# Collegiate Directions, Inc.

**Collegiate Directions, Inc.** (CDI) is committed to closing the education, achievement and opportunity gap between low-income, primarily first-generation-to-college students and their more affluent peers by providing comprehensive college counseling, targeted tutoring, test preparation, study skills, leadership training and ongoing support, starting in eleventh grade and continuing through successful college graduation.

## CDI PROFILE 2010

### Collegiate Directions, Inc.

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[www.collegiatedirections.org](http://www.collegiatedirections.org)

*CDI, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, depends on the donations of individuals, foundations, and corporations that believe low-income, first-generation-to-college students should have equal access to higher education. CDI's goal is to match Scholars with the right college, the best financial aid package, and the vital ongoing support to insure retention and successful graduation within four years.*

### The Need for CDI

- 11% of low-income, first-generation-to-college students earn a bachelor's degree after six years, according to the Pell Institute, compared with 55% of their peers.  
*Source: Jennings, Dana. "A Second Home for First-Gens." New York Times, 26 Jul. 2009*
- There are actually two Montgomery Counties separated by socioeconomics. It is the second, less affluent population comprising 43% of MCPS students that CDI serves.  
*Source: MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast. NPR's Kojo Nnamdi Show, 10 Feb. 2009*
- 29% of first generation students enroll in postsecondary education right after high school, compared to 73% of students who have at least one parent with a bachelor's degree.  
*Source: The National Center for Education Statistics, 2005 study*

### CDI's Program Features

- Comprehensive college counseling and academic skills assessment coupled with tailored tutoring and test preparation.
- Student and parent counseling and support from 11<sup>th</sup> grade through college graduation, in partnership with identified college contacts.
- Family conferences to discuss individual interests and strengths and create tailored college lists.
- Visits with college representatives at targeted schools and assistance with visits to Scholars' top choice college(s).
- Assistance with college curriculum planning and annual financial aid applications.
- Testing/application/financial aid application fees, if waivers are not available.
- Assistance with completion/submission of Financial Aid documents.
- Assistance with review of admission offers, negotiation of financial aid offers, and final college choice.
- Individual, supplemental CDI Scholar counselor recommendation letters.
- Peer mentoring and leadership development.
- Workshops for students and parents on transition to college, financial aid, and more.
- Participation in workshops, cultural events, and activities to involve CDI Scholars in their high schools, colleges, and communities.

### CDI's Public High School Partners

CDI currently provides direct services to six public high schools in Montgomery County, Maryland (a suburb of Washington, DC). These high schools have an average enrollment of 1,658 students with students of color accounting for more than 75% of the enrollment (with one exception). As many as 47.7% of the students qualify for Free and Reduced Meal Subsidies (FARMS).

Our partner high schools are:

- Albert Einstein HS (Kensington, MD)
- John F. Kennedy HS (Silver Spring, MD)
- Paint Branch HS (Burtonsville, MD)
- Springbrook HS (Silver Spring, MD)
- Walter Johnson HS (Bethesda, MD)
- Wheaton HS (Silver Spring, MD)

### CDI's Selection Criteria

CDI recruits high school Juniors who are:

- Academically prepared to handle challenging college-level coursework. We require a minimum, unweighted, academic GPA of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale).
- Taking a challenging course load, including honors and/or AP courses.
- Eligible for federal financial aid (US citizen or green card holder).
- Low-income, i.e. eligible for FARMS.
- Self-driven and highly committed to learning and personal development. Students must demonstrate an ability to work hard, meet deadlines, and honor commitments.

## CDI Profile 2010 (continued)

### Admission and Matriculation Highlights 2007-2009

**Babson College**

Bates College

Barnard College

**Boston College**

**Brown University**

**Bryn Mawr College (2)**

Case Western Reserve  
University

College of the Holy Cross

**College of William & Mary**

**Columbia University**

**Cornell University**

DePauw University

**Dickinson College (3)**

Duke University

**Goucher College (2)**

**Guilford College**

**Hollins University**

**Juniata College**

Johns Hopkins University

**Lafayette College**

**Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology**

Morehouse College

**New York University**

**Oberlin College**

Pomona College

**Randolph-Macon College**

Spelman College

**Stanford University**

**St. Mary's College**

**Towson University**

**Tufts University**

University of Chicago

**University of Maryland-  
College Park (7)**

**University of North Carolina-  
Chapel Hill**

University of Richmond

University of Vermont

**University of Virginia (3)**

**Virginia Commonwealth  
University**

Virginia Tech University

Williams College

Yale University

*Boldface indicates matriculation;  
numbers are provided when more  
than one student matriculated.*

### CDI Scholars' AP Courses

CDI Scholars are taking or have completed AP courses, with an exam score of 3 or above, in the following subjects:

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- Environmental Science
- Government & Politics: United States
- Human Geography
- Music Theory
- Physics C – Electricity & Magnetism
- Physics C – Mechanics
- Psychology
- Spanish Language
- Spanish Literature
- Statistics
- U.S. History
- World History

### CDI Scholars' SAT Subject Tests

CDI Scholars have taken the following SAT Subject Tests:

- Biology – Ecological
- Biology – Molecular
- Chemistry
- Korean with Listening
- Math 1
- Math 2
- Physics
- Spanish with Listening
- U.S. History
- World History

### CDI SAT and ACT Score Improvements by Class (averages)

Class	SAT	ACT
2007	100 points	Not taken
2008	125 points	Not taken
2009	230 points	5 points (equivalent of 300 SAT points)

### CDI Scholars' Awards and Achievements

CDI Scholars have won numerous merit awards and other distinctions including:

- Ron Brown Scholar
- Gates Millennium Scholarships
- Bonner Foundation Scholars and Leaders
- NAACP ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) Gold Medal Winner
- National AP Scholars
- National Achievement Scholars
- National Hispanic Scholars
- AP Scholars with Distinction
- AP Scholars with Honor
- AP Scholars
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute/NIH Student Internships
- Lockheed Martin Foundation Engineering Scholarship
- Bechtel Scholarship (A. James Clark School of Engineering, UMD)
- ITT Technical Challenge Winners
- Maryland Distinguished Scholars
- Valedictorians and Salutatorians
- Van Hollen Public Service Award
- Nordstrom Scholarship
- Tisch Scholar (Tufts University)
- Diversity Leadership Grant Award (Babson College)
- Samuel G. Rose Scholars (Dickinson College)