



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT GRADUATION AND POSTSECONDARY **PLANNING PARTNERS**

INTRODUCTION

Although school counselors are the primary advisors for high school students, there are organizations that can further support schools, students, and families with planning for graduation, exploring postsecondary options, and researching financial aid possibilities.

This document is intended to assist school personnel as they identify the organizations that can support their efforts. Vendors who are interested in being included in this guide should email ldfinancialaid@la.gov.

VENDOR: American Student Assistance

SERVICES: Provided through ASA's College Planning Center, school-based programs, and in collaboration with other community based organizations

CONTACT INFO: <http://www.asa.org>, www.asa.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

American Student Assistance (ASA) is a national nonprofit dedicated to eliminating finance as a barrier to higher education. ASA's College Planning Services helps young people and adults from all backgrounds plan for, enroll in, and complete college, including identifying and applying for various sources of financial aid. This is a paid service.

VENDOR: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

SERVICES: K-12 college readiness curriculum, professional development for educators (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: avidcare@avid.org, 858-380-4800, www.avid.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

AVID is a nonprofit college and career readiness system that changes lives by helping schools shift to a more equitable, student-centered approach by closing the opportunity gap, so they can prepare ALL students for college, careers, and life. A partnership with AVID provides access to world-class professional development for educators that closes the opportunity and achievement gaps for all students. AVID's program

- closes opportunity gaps by increasing graduation rates among diverse and underrepresented demographic groups;
- increases teacher effectiveness through the delivery of inquiry-based, student-centric instruction;
- deploys best practices in multiple areas to shift the culture on campus;
- helps teachers inspire students to take control over their own learning;
- measures success in multiple metrics.

AVID supports college and career-readiness efforts by providing strategies for rigorous teaching and learning that empowers students with academic 21st century skills to maximize college and career options. Professional development may include a variety of regional face-to-face trainings focusing on college and career readiness. Components in this AVID suite of resources equip educators with strategies and activities to assist students in

- selecting courses for subsequent academic years;
- exploring education and career possibilities;
- tracking courses and graduation requirements;
- completing interest inventories; and
- aligning personal interests with academic coursework, career goals, and postsecondary plans.

The career development professional development series is intended for teachers, counselors, and administrators; includes follow-up with monthly virtual support meetings. This is a paid service.

VENDOR: Career Compass of Louisiana

SERVICES: College and career coaching, college search, online FAFSA submission, individual graduation planning (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: www.careercompassla.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

12th grade: Trained coaches work one-on-one with high school seniors, equipping them with regionally-relevant workforce and postsecondary information. From exploring career options and FAFSA completion to test scheduling and college application preparation, they complement your counseling staff and take students from uncertainty to confident action.

9th and 10th grade: Whether students need help deciding on a Jump Start pathway or just need some extra guidance, small group coaching can help them get their college and career bearings. This early intervention gets students on the right track toward earning their diploma.

6th through 11th grade: Even as early as middle school, students encounter obstacles that might prevent them from pursuing postsecondary education. College and career awareness seminars and boot camps reach students in grades 6–11 to begin the conversation about career choices and postsecondary options.

Parental Engagement: Empower and educate parents with the new Career Compass mobile app and services. Parents can learn about hot topics, receive custom reminders and forms, and connect with a trained Career Compass coach. Free for parents and students, perfect for those on the go.

Professional Development: Qualified, engaging presenters provide in-service training at your campus on topics such as awareness and understanding of statewide mandates and initiatives, why the state initiatives and mandates matter, what a partnership with Career Compass looks like, and more.

College Success: School and district staff collaborate with trained coaches to develop a plan to decrease summer melt after high school, and increase postsecondary enrollment and retention (available on a limited basis.)

Individual Graduation Planning: Trained college and career coaches collaborate with school counselors and staff to complete Individual Graduation Plans directly with students. Parents are provided information about IGP and are given the ability to communicate with trained college and career coaches. Parents are able to approve their student's IGP via a secure mobile app and are provided text messaging ability to college and career coaches.

VENDOR: CareerWorks360

SERVICES: Career development for high school students to meet expectations of the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)

CONTACT INFO: www.careerworks360.com

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Services are customized to fill in the gaps for schools in East Baton Rouge parish and surrounding school systems due to lack of resources that relate to the career components of the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). Through collaboration with school counselors, needs are identified within the framework of the IGP and the Comprehensive School Counseling Program model recommended by the American School Counselor Association. Examples of services are individual and group career counseling and guidance, professional development for teachers to integrate career education and planning into their classes, and informational workshops for parents and families to engage them in the career development and decision making process for their high school students.

VENDOR: College Beyond

SERVICES: Freshman Support at UNO (free services)

CONTACT INFO: www.collegebeyond.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

College Beyond specializes in equipping, training, and enabling Pell grant recipients from the Greater New Orleans region to achieve their college goals. College Beyond is partnering with the University of New Orleans to provide incoming students with individual professional success coaching and financial assistance with books, transportation, and food. There is no application process, and eligible students are invited to participate upon matriculation at UNO.

VENDOR: CollegePoint

SERVICES: Online college advisors, college search, and online FAFSA submission (free services for students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; test within the 90th percentile on the ACT, SAT or PSAT; have an annual family income of less than \$80,000)

CONTACT INFO: www.collegepoint.info

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Online advisors help students

- create a college list and introduce them to colleges they may not have considered;
- write a personal statement and edit essays;
- access financial aid and search for scholarships;
- talk with students about what it's like to leave home and live in a dorm;
- analyze financial aid award letters and make a college decision;
- prepare for the transition to college;
- answer college application questions.

VENDOR: College Vine

SERVICES: SAT prep, mentorship, college applications, rapid essay review (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: www.collegevine.com

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

The **Mentorship Program** is designed to help students discover their interests, become high-performing individuals, and make the right choices in early high school years so they are prepared for the college admissions process come senior year. Students are paired one-to-one with a mentor who works personally with them for an entire year, providing academic advising, extracurricular development, and holistic college guidance.

The **College Applications Program** helps students navigate the complex admissions process, from creating a custom school list to producing stand-out college applications. Students have access to an easy-to-use online platform that allows them to track admissions milestones, improve their essays, and work 1-on-1 with an admissions consultant.

The **Elite Applications Program** is designed specifically for students looking to gain an edge in the admissions process. A consultant helps students identify what makes them unique and show them how to create an admissions theme and make sure their activities are represented and formatted properly for admissions officers. They also work with students to optimize their application in context of the more competitive admissions process at top schools.

Rapid Essay Review provides expert feedback to help students make their essay the strongest aspect of their applications.

VENDOR: Cowen Institute

CONTACT INFO: <http://www.coweninstitute.com>

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

The goal of Cowen Institute is to advance public education and youth success in New Orleans and beyond. They inform relevant stakeholders, decision makers, and the public at large on issues related to K-12 public education, disconnected youth, and college and career readiness. This is a paid service.

VENDOR: Frank FAFSA

SERVICES: Online FAFSA submission, college search, financial aid advances, financial aid appeal (free and paid services)

CONTACT INFO: www.frankfafsa.com

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Frank FAFSA: Frank's free form simplifies the application process down to five minutes. Frank uses student-friendly language, only asks the necessary questions, and allows students to upload picture of their tax returns. Dependent students can invite parents to complete the family and finance section. This is a free service.

College Search: This service offers a complex outline of the important aspects involved in deciding on a college: cost, financial aid, makeup of the school, and expectations for post-graduation. This is a free service that includes information on over 6,000 schools across the country.

Frank Membership: Membership includes a financial aid advance up to \$5,000 per year for eligible students along with free Spotify and Hulu accounts, discounts to hundreds of stores through Student Advantage, weekly curated scholarships and grants, and unlimited one-on-one financial aid-focused consultations. The membership is currently priced at \$19.90 per month.

Aid Appeal: The Aid Appeal process helps students and families negotiate financial aid packages for additional funds. Frank asks a quick set of questions to help students build a strong case and create an appeal letter unique to the situation. This service has a one-time price of \$144.95.

VENDOR: Higher Minds of Education, LLC

SERVICES: College planning (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: Felicia Young, highermindsofeducation@gmail.com, 318-564-8755

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Higher Minds of Education contracts with Louisiana high schools and districts, colleges and universities, and family and community partners to provide one-on-one support. Their services include

- working directly with students and their counselors to develop and maintain individual graduation plans (IGPs)
- helping students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form
- collaborating with school systems to design financial aid workshops for students, families, and/or staff

Discovery Call - \$50

To understand the details of your (or your student's) situation. You will leave the discovery call knowing who I am and what my company is all about. This is the time to ask specific questions about any service. Most importantly, I need to completely understand your problem and let you know I will make a professional assessment to determine if I can help you or not.

Getting Prepped

A complete list of schools in Louisiana with FAFSA codes and scholarship list.

Pay for College (FAFSA assistance)

Completion of the current FAFSA application, assistance with parent/student pin number, assistance with verification documents, one on one financial aid consulting (answering student questions about what financial aid means, answering questions about award packages or completing phones call that need to be made to Department of Education) and help if FAFSA is rejected for any reason.

Money on My Mind (Personalized Scholarship List)

This plan includes a working list of scholarships. The student will be asked a detailed list of questions to hone in on what specific scholarships the student may qualify. Once composed, the student will receive a list that contains: Name of Scholarship, deadline, GPA requirement, and any other pertinent information. They will have access to a review of 3 essays related to scholarships found by higher minds.

EXCEL! (Comprehensive list of services)

This package includes a comprehensive list of your top five schools, common application assistance, a personalized scholarship list, assistance with essay completion, and one on one personal college consulting, general FAFSA and ACT information.

Dream Lab (Non-Traditional Students)

This plan is for adult learners looking to re-enter college (4-year, community or technical). Three sessions of one-hour consulting sessions and a weekly 30 minute call.

Let's Take Action (Educational Action Plan)

This plan is for 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade students. Students will receive a personal lesson of how create a resume, volunteer opportunities, a step by step guide of applying to college and a detailed plan. Under this plan, the student will get one weekend a month for three months with an experienced consultant.

Platinum Education

A combination of the Excel, Money on my Mind and Pay for College packages; plus one weekly consulting call (an hour) and in-person consulting twice a month (one hour) for a period of seven (7) months.

VENDOR: KG Consulting Group

SERVICES: College/Career Readiness Boot Camp, Explorations in Career Paths, Choosing a Major, Exploring the Right College for Students (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: karen@karengoodridge.net, 225-202-4868, <https://www.facebook.com/kgoodridge>

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

College Preparatory: KG coaches guide students to college/career success and serve educators, parents and students. KG Consulting Group provides the following types of assistance.

Examples of Personal/Career Development Activities

Students

- build confidence via self-awareness
- create a personal brand
- understand their digital footprint
- explore careers, majors, colleges
- interview approved career area-focused contacts
- participate in campus and community activities
- complete internships and/or externships

KG Consultants

- explain the fundamentals of the college experience
- provide high school and college academic advising
- help students understand and meet academic requirements
- demonstrate how services differ in high school vs college

VENDOR: Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela)

SERVICES: Onsite and phone FAFSA submission assistance, education financing information, scholarships (free services)

CONTACT INFO: info@lela.org, 1-800-228-4755, www.lela.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

FAFSA Assistance: Lela sends a representative to the school site to discuss education financing, scholarships, grants, and loans; representatives assist students and parents with submitting the FAFSA online. Lela also offers FAFSA submission assistance via hotline (844-GOFAFSA).

College Connection: The Lela website includes links to all Louisiana four-year colleges and universities, two-year colleges, and TOPS Tech-approved proprietary and cosmetology schools. College Connection also has information on financial aid, guides to college costs, and a downloadable checklist for seniors.

Scholarships: Students who have completed the FAFSA can enter the quarterly drawing for a \$1000 scholarship. Entrance forms are on the Lela website. There is also a scholarship database with scholarship names, website links, and deadline information.

VENDOR: Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

SERVICES: College application completion, onsite FAFSA submission assistance, mentoring, counselor workshops, and education financing information (free services)

CONTACT INFO: custserv@la.gov, 800-259-5626, www.osfa.gov

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Trailblazer Leadership Program: A unique training for high school students about the availability of financial aid for postsecondary education. LOSFA staff and other financial aid professionals provide a three-day training workshop on a college campus to educate selected high school juniors about the financial assistance and college admissions processes. Under supervision of their high school counselors, Trailblazers are expected to share knowledge of financial aid procedures with peers throughout their senior year of high school. Each Trailblazer is given a manual outlining federal and state financial aid programs available.

The Fly Tour: LOSFA's FLY (Financial Literacy for You) Team provides financial literacy training tailored to your specific audience—college, high school, or middle school students. The programs include information on budgeting, credit, banking functions, debt management and repayment, and identity theft prevention.

High School Presentations: LOSFA annually provides presenters for individual high school financial aid workshops for parents and students covering topics such as scholarships and the types of federal, state, and military aid.

College Knowledge: The Louisiana Board of Regents, LOSFA and Gear Up are working together to better educate middle school parents and students about the opportunities and requirements that must be met for a student to be eligible for college. Through a two-year federal grant, the three programs are spearheading communication with potential college students and their families. Parents interested in getting College Knowledge events scheduled at their school should contact their school principal or counselor. School officials should contact LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626 or custserv@la.gov.

TOPS TECH Workshops: LOSFA conducts half-day workshops for high school counselors each fall at several locations around the state. These workshops are designed to update counselors about the financial aid process so they can best assist their students in preparing for their crucial first year of college. At each workshop, LOSFA representatives instruct counselors on the latest changes to both federal and state aid programs, FAFSA completion, and other LOSFA services. There are also workshops for middle school counselors that are designed to provide tools and resources to promote early college and career awareness.

Telephone and email assistance: LOSFA employs a staff of public information specialists who are available to assist students and parents via telephone from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To utilize this service, call 1-800-259-5626. For email assistance, email custserv@la.gov.

VENDOR: One Goal Graduation

SERVICES: OneGoal 1 (080398), OneGoal 2 (080397)

CONTACT INFO: Chantelle George, chantelle.george@onegoalgraduation.org, 337-257-7576, www.onegoalgraduation.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Credit bearing course for high school juniors and seniors, professional development for teachers and counselors, school/district wide data analytics, and postsecondary support. Beginning Fall 2020, OneGoal will be offering a credit bearing course to Louisiana high schools for students in the 11th and 12th grade. Our curriculum, deep in culturally responsive pedagogy, focuses on key pillars of success for college and career readiness. Students, named fellows in the course, receive test prep, postsecondary pathway guidance, and non-cognitive skill training that is essential to success after high school. The course is administered during the school day by a teacher that is already teaching in the high school. Schools and districts can use SCA funding and/or Super App to fund the OneGoal course. Included in the 400 per student per year cost, OneGoal will provide teacher and counselor professional development training four times a year to teachers identified to teach the course, data tools to help students choose their best fit pathway, and postsecondary support after high school graduation. This is a paid service.

OneGoal 1 (080398)

The OneGoal 1 course builds students' understanding of their communities, themselves, and the deep connection between their own interests/aspirations and postsecondary pathways. Students explore their geographic, social and cultural communities and identify their strengths, different components of their identities, and aspirations. During the course, students develop a deep knowledge base of (1) postsecondary options/pathways that directly connect to employment in their communities, (2) college selectivity (leveraging Barron's selectivity matrix) including the significance of both GPA and ACT scores, and (3) the socio-emotional and non-cognitive skills necessary for postsecondary success. Students focus on three overarching goals during Course 1:

- Increase GPA
- Increase SAT or ACT score
- Create a list of 7 best fit viable postsecondary pathways

The course ends with key student deliverables that include: (1) a personal statement that will serve as a first draft for college applications in senior year, (2) a list of 7 best-fit postsecondary options that each student will pursue and apply to at the beginning of senior year (Y2), and (3) a clear understanding of self-efficacy and self-awareness of others.

OneGoal 2 - Beginning Fall 2021 (080397)

The OneGoal 2 course prepares students for the postsecondary application, financial aid, and enrollment process. At the start of the course, students are welcomed back to OneGoal where they renew cohort commitments and preview major college application actions. The cohort will work through steps to prepare for the demands of the application process, including revisions to the 7 best-fit postsecondary pathways from Course 1, completion of a "Summary of Me" Portfolio Project, and filing the FAFSA for federal aid. During the course, students complete (1) applications to their 7 best-fit pathway of their choice, (2) the FAFSA and verification process, (3) the necessary steps needed to enroll for the following fall semester including securing immunization records and registering for courses, and (4) key activities that further develop the socio-emotional and non-cognitive skills necessary for postsecondary success. Students focus on three overarching goals during Course 2:

- Postsecondary Application Process
- Financial Aid Process
- Steps to Enrollment

The course ends with key student deliverables that include: (1) applications submitted for 7 postsecondary options (at least 4 matched choices) (2) a completed FAFSA and financial aid award letter, (3) one feasible postsecondary option agreed by both the student and their family, and (4) a clear understanding of expectations inside and outside of their postsecondary institutions during the first year, such as placement testing and getting involved on campus to ensure persistence and completion.

VENDOR: Propel America

CONTACT INFO: info@propelamerica.org, www.propelamerica.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Propel America is a nonprofit that helps young adults successfully transition from high school into a career and higher education. If a school elects to be a Propel America partner, their seniors can take the half-year Propel I "Core Course," in which they identify a career pathway of interest and receive support preparing for that career. If they successfully complete the course, they can become Propel Fellows upon graduation. Fellows receive tuition for a training program, a stipend while training, and a guaranteed interview with an employer upon earning their credential, as well as ongoing support. This is a free service.

VENDOR: Road Trip Nation

SERVICES: Career coaching (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: www.roadtripnation.com

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

The Roadtrip Nation Exploration for Middle Schools: Eight to ten hours of instruction for students in grades 6 through 8, educator training and lesson plans, printable student worksheets, and interview archive.

The Roadtrip Nation Experience for High School Students: 12-16 hours of instruction for students in grades 9 through 12, educator training and lesson plans, printable student worksheets, and interview archive.

The Roadtrip Nation Experience for AVID High School Students: 12-16 hours of instruction for students in grades 9 through 12 AVID only, educator training and lesson plans, printable student worksheets, and interview archive.

The Roadtrip Nation Experience for Higher Ed Students: 16-20 hours of instruction for college/postsecondary, educator training and lesson plans, online student materials, and interview archive.

VENDOR: Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

SERVICES: Professional development and on-site coaching support to develop secondary guidance and advisement systems

CONTACT INFO: www.sreb.org, <https://www.sreb.org/post/counseling-careers-and-college-0>

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

SREB's Counseling for Careers and College (C4CC) provides focused support to both secondary school counselors and teacher leaders as they develop a system to support individual graduation plan (IGP) requirements. This system would include the development of annual grade-level activities to support goal setting and career exploration as well as supporting students as they select graduation pathways and related courses. C4CC Support assists districts and schools to

- create a comprehensive counseling initiative that supports students academically, socially and emotionally and prepares them to graduate ready for success after high school;
- implement, and sustain student-teacher advisement systems;
- develop career exploration activities that allow students and parents to explore their options (education and career fairs, ninth-grade orientations, job shadows internships, etc.); and
- expand or improve tools and strategies that allow students to explore their interests and aptitudes and use what they learn to develop personalized education and career plans.

VENDOR: Talent Development Secondary

SERVICES: Comprehensive school improvement programs, professional development, individual student conferencing (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: Tara Madden, tmadden@tdschools.org, <http://www.tdschools.org/>

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

The Talent Development Secondary (TDS) model transforms school facilitation and structure by providing a revised plan for management, organization, and curriculum and delivering professional development for faculty. The model is a solution for schools that have problems with student attendance, discipline, achievement scores, and dropout rates.

Individual Student Conferencing System: focus on individual graduation plans

TDS facilitators, teachers, and other school staff members are always looking for ways to motivate students to focus on academics, celebrate their successes in school, and intervene when students are struggling. Individual student progress conferences help meet these goals by serving as a powerful tool that helps adults engage students in meaningful discussions about their academic progress and continually help students execute their individual graduation plans (IGPs). TDS provides support that enables schools to develop a system for conducting periodic conferences for students with a caring adult. These conferences occur within one to three school days, depending on the student population and number of caring adults who experienced the professional learning sessions. TDS proposes that the IGP be the focus for individual student conferencing and allow for a minimum of two conferences per student each year.

TDS staff work in collaboration with the school counselors, district/CMO support staff, and school leaders to develop professional learning sessions that would enable any caring adult in the school to conduct a conference in which the adult poses questions and provides information to help student understand their graduation plan and what they need to do to execute it. TDS uses The Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook (2019-2020) and other existing tools to co-construct the professional learning sessions and create any needed additional resources. When school counselors opt to counsel select students or subsets of students themselves, the TDS facilitator works with school administrators to create a schedule of students for conferences each period of the day. Facilitators help identify the teachers, staff, or other caring adults that will be assisting with the process, and selecting which areas of the building will be reserved for the conferences.

In the TDS model, conferences include a caring adult, students, and their parent or guardian at least once a year, often in conjunction with another school-wide event. Within two weeks of conducting conferences, data from the conferencing is gathered, shared, and analyzed to inform the next conference cycle as well as any potential Tier I, II, or III interventions that might be needed to serve students.

The Individual Student Conferencing System Technical Assistance Package includes the following:

- up to three days of virtual support for school leaders, staff, teachers, and counselors (webinar, email, video conferencing, etc.)
- up to two days on site to support the design or implementation of the conferencing system

VENDOR: uAspire

SERVICES: College affordability training (paid services)

CONTACT INFO: www.uaspire.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

Financial Aid and College Affordability Training: This training will provide practitioners with an overview of the main types of financial aid and the senior year financial aid timeline, while incorporating a student-centered approach to the terminology and requirements. *3 hours in-person or 1.5 hour webinar*

FAFSA Completion: This training will walk you through the online form, give you opportunities to practice with complex scenarios, and highlight the potential pitfalls all practitioners and students should be aware of. No matter your experience level, you will learn something new! Highlights include: best practices for working with special student populations; dependency/independency and parental requirements; and tips for completing the financial section of the FAFSA with confidence. *4 hour in-person*

Student Aid Report Review and Verification: The FAFSA may feel like the entire financial aid process, but, in reality, it is just the beginning. There are many more steps needed to ensure students receive the financial aid they deserve. This training will address common challenges and best practices of FAFSA follow-up, including the importance of reviewing the Student Aid Report (SAR) for potential issues, navigating special circumstances, and handling the complexity of federal and institutional verification. Participants will have opportunities to practice with scenarios and develop ways to build SAR and verification programming into their work. *3 hour in-person or 1.5 hour webinar*

Award Letter Review: College financial aid award letters use inconsistent terminology and confusing formatting, which can make it difficult for students to make informed financial choices. This training will show you the power of analyzing award letters and will give you practitioners the tools and knowledge to support students with this critical step in the financial aid process. We will begin by reviewing important letter terminology, practices, and examples. We will then introduce the uAspire Award Letter Analyzer and provide hands-on practice with real award letters and student case studies. Participants leave this training prepared to effectively assist students and families in understanding the financial implications of each college option. *4 hour in-person or 1.5 hour webinar*

Summer Transition and College Success: Many college-intending high school seniors fail to attend college the following fall. uAspire supports students in creative and unique ways, and fine tuning what they really need in those summer months. Participants will walk away with tools and resources to support their students' successful transition to college. *3 hour in-person or 1.5 hour webinar*

VENDOR: What's UpNext

SERVICES: texting tool (free service)

CONTACT INFO: www.bettermakerroom.org

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

UpNext is a free texting tool that offers personalized support on all things college access—college search and application, federal student aid, even student loan repayment information—all through text messages. It walks students through the college application process and utilizes real near-peer mentors and college advisors to provide reminders and answer questions about applying for college, receiving federal student aid, and making sure students have the support they need to be successful.