This holiday season I am thankful for many things — the generous support of our community, the commitment of our team and coaches, and, most of all, the spirit and determination of our students. College Possible Chicago has made great strides in the last four years by building a dynamic board and strong infrastructure to make the following accomplishments possible:

- **Strong outcomes:** 90% of our 2018 high school seniors enrolled in college this fall, and 83% of our college freshmen persisted to their second year.
- **Better access:** A recent study by the Hope Lab proved that, with College Possible’s guidance, our students are 30% more likely to enroll in college than their peers.
- **Proven Impact:** We were awarded the first-ever **Evergreen National Education Award** in recognition of our best-in-class college programming and outcomes.

As we move through the school year helping our students navigate the myriad of obstacles to college access and success, I am encouraged by Illinois’ new governor-elect, J.B. Pritzker, and his plan to put college affordability at the forefront. He has proposed to increase financial aid funding through the state’s MAP grant by 50 percent and establish a program for reducing student loans. These promises put wind in my sails as College Possible continues to work toward helping our students fulfill their dreams of earning a college degree.

In this Annual Report you will find our impact results for the year — none of which would have been possible without you. We want to thank all of our supporters, Chicago Public School partner high schools and collegiate partners for a tremendous 2018.

Happy holidays,
MISSION
College Possible is a national nonprofit organization making college admission and success possible for students from low-income backgrounds through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support.

Our services include:
+ College search and application guidance
+ Enrollment and high school-to-college transition coaching
+ Financial literacy and financial aid consulting
+ Connection to campus resources and opportunities
+ Study skills and self-advocacy coaching

LET’S CONNECT
312-638-3501
CHIinfo@CollegePossible.org
CollegePossible.org

Facebook.com/CollegePossible
Twitter.com/ColiPossibleCHI
Instagram.com/CollegePossible
Snapchat: CollegePossible
Anwen Parrot had always been resistant to the idea of becoming a lawyer. Despite a lifetime of prodding by friends and family who cited her love of reading, writing and knack for philosophical arguments as proof that she would be a natural, it never sounded like an appealing profession.

That was until she became a College Possible coach and realized that, as a lawyer, she could work to create positive change for individuals she had grown to care deeply for: her students and their families.

When Anwen graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she applied through AmeriCorps to serve with College Possible. Her role with the organization was to support and mentor 40 high school juniors as they prepared for college. Being a recent graduate herself, Anwen was close in age to her students and thus able to relate, often spending break time in session gossiping about pop culture, sharing music they loved and talking through the struggles that high school students often face—relationship or family problems.

“I’m not so far removed from where they are that I forgot what it’s like... what you feel in high school is very real for you then,” Anwen remarked.

Many of Anwen’s students were the first in their family to go to college, and their bi-weekly sessions with College Possible provided a space where they could share in their similar struggles, frustrations and triumphs. Anwen recalled one instance when her student, Mau, was brought to tears after losing a scholarship that she had spent so much time working on.

Another student, Jamiya, immediately stepped in to cheer her up and provide a pep talk to motivate Mau to keep applying for other scholarships. Mau and Jamiya were not particularly close before they joined College Possible, but now were connected by their common goal: going to college.
Anwen recognized how instrumental these after-school sessions were in fostering a supportive community for her students. While Anwen came from a different background than most of her students, through her role with College Possible she was confronted with the difficulties many of them faced as minority, low-income students.

“[Serving with College Possible] forced me to reflect on my own high school experience and see things that I didn’t realize were happening at the time, because they didn’t directly affect me.”

Despite all of their efforts, in and out of the classroom, Anwen knew that her students struggled against circumstances they had no control over, like housing instability and concerns regarding personal safety. There was little she could do beyond listening and showing she cared. “My students and I could work around the clock, but these barriers outside of school were very real and hard to overcome.”

Anwen determined becoming a lawyer was the best way for her to make a broader impact on the community of students she had come to know and care about. With her new goal in mind, Anwen applied to serve a second year with College Possible. She would continue supporting her students in their senior year while simultaneously preparing for law school.

As the new school year began, Anwen and her students went through the college application process together: preparing for and taking standardized tests, the LSAT and SAT, respectively, filling out financial aid forms and applying to schools. She remarked, “From the time I woke to the time I went to bed, I was either working with my students or studying.” After one of Anwen’s students learned that the LSAT was a six-hour test, she left her a bag of candy and a note of appreciation and encouragement in her backpack, just like Anwen had done for each of her students before they took the SAT.

Anwen’s time at College Possible played a pivotal role in determining the next steps in her career. Now attending law school at the University of Minnesota, Anwen remains inspired by her former students’ hard work and endless positivity in the face of adversity. She will use this, and her experiences with College Possible, as motivation as she works toward earning her law degree and making a difference in a field about which she cares deeply—and personally.
A three-year study commissioned by College Possible Milwaukee and implemented by Wisconsin HOPE Lab has shown that high school students we serve are 30 percent more likely to enroll in college the year after high school graduation than their peers, and were more likely to enroll in four-year and selective institutions.

“We see the impact of our work in individual student outcomes,” said Edie Turnbull, executive director of College Possible Milwaukee. “Having this validated by a third party only gives us greater confidence that the College Possible model is effective in closing the degree divide between students from low-income backgrounds and their higher income classmates.”

In addition to students served by College Possible, the evaluation also includes all students who entered the 11th grade in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 at any of the eight Milwaukee Public Schools where College Possible operated. Subsets of those students were employed for comparison purposes to estimate program impacts.

Hope Lab’s evaluation of College Possible Milwaukee examined the impact of College Possible for two cohorts of students attending

Compared to the matched comparison group, **COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENTS:**

- **1.4x more scholarship applications**
- **30% more likely to enroll in college immediately after high school**
- **30% more likely to attend a 4-year college or university**

The greater the participation in the College Possible program, the higher the college enrollment and persistence rates.
MPS high schools by comparing program participants to other students who have similar measurable characteristics. The evaluation examined the impact College Possible Milwaukee had on students’ odds of enrolling in college and where they enroll, year-to-year persistence in higher education, along with additional information on students’ college admissions activities and academic preparation in high school.

The study also pointed out that, compared to their peers, College Possible students submitted more admissions and scholarship applications and had higher rates of FAFSA completion. The program also improved ACT Writing and English scores and increased enrollment in science, math and AP or IB courses during twelfth grade.

Importantly, students who participated in College Possible at higher rates benefited more than students who participated less. Students with high levels of program participation (i.e. who attended at least 50% of available program sessions) had higher rates of immediate college enrollment and enrollment in four-year colleges. They met program targets for numbers of college admissions applications and scholarship applications at much higher rates than those with lower levels of participation.

These pre-college activities are critical measures of persistence, as finances are one of the primary barriers to college graduation for College Possible students. “The cost of earning a college degree has increased 60 percent over the last decade,” Turnbull noted.

“Helping our students identify and pursue scholarships and grants is key to helping them persist through college, and key to helping them contribute to the future of Milwaukee.”

Edie Turnbull, Executive Director, College Possible Milwaukee

90% of College Possible Chicago’s 2018 high school graduates enrolled in college this fall!

We are grateful for your continued financial support and investment in our student’s futures and their ability to succeed.

Together we can help educate the next generation of leaders. Thank you for believing in their bright futures!

CollegePossible.org/GiveCHI
This May, College Possible Chicago will host its inaugural benefit, Results by Degrees, at Chicago’s Museum of Contemporary Art.

Save the date to join us for hors d’oeuvres, cocktails and a fireside chat with the night’s honorees—two local leaders who share a commitment to education and the betterment of Chicago.

**ERIC SMITH**
Regional President, Fifth Third Bank

**STEVEN KAPLAN**
Neubauer Family Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

---

**THE ILLINOIS OPPORTUNITY GAP**

- **ONLY 18%** of ALL Chicago Public School students graduate from a four-year institution
- **1:665** is the college counselor to student ratio in Illinois
- **86%** of students live in low-income households

**COLLEGE POSSIBLE CHICAGO IMPACT & RESULTS**

- **560** High School Students | **325** College Students

  Juniors increased their SAT scores by an average of **90 POINTS**

  **98%** of last year’s seniors were accepted into a four-year college

  **90%** of our 2018 high school graduates enrolled in college
YOU MAKE COLLEGE POSSIBLE
Thank you to our 2017–18 donors!

$100,000–$249,999
A Better Chicago
Caerus Foundation
Joseph Pedott Legacy Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation

$50,000–$99,999
Synchrony Financial

$25,000–$49,999
Crown Family Philanthropies
LJM Partners
The Chicago White Sox Community Fund, a McCormick Foundation fund
Joe Mansueto
The Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation
Stephen and Mary Jo Schuler

$10,000–$24,999
Greg and Kristin Kranias
Steve Kaplan and Carol Rubin
Timothy and Martha Boudos
Mohit and Manali Kalra
Larry and Carol Levy
Bruce and Lisa Cohen
Beth and Ryan Satterfield
Ram and Saeswari (Divya) Ramanan
Phil and Rene Alphonse
Craig and Rebeca Huffman
Chanel Coney
Rob and Keren Vishny
The Donley Foundation
Ernst & Young U.S. LLP
Finnegan Family Foundation
GCM Grosvenor
Michael Reese Health Trust
Winston & Strawn LLP
Salmons Consulting
William Blair and Company Foundation

$5,000–$9,999
David Helfand
Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation
Matthew and Christine Udoni
DRW Trading Group Foundation
Google

The Vistria Group
Seth Rierson and Sherry Salmons

$1,000–$4,999
Douglas Baird and Julie Gray
Matthew and Elizabeth Bergmann
Jeff and Jill Cherner
Steven Gavin and Cassie Spencer
David and Sharon Habiger
Robert Insolia
Timothy and Kelli Kincaid
Bobby and Swati Mehta
William and Alexandra Murphy
Doug and Katherine Tegen
Danielle Tomassini
Ariel Investments
Chicago Scoops, LLC
Crowe Horwath LLP
Foundation To Be Named Later
Tricord Foundation

$500–$999
Michael Dowd
Rick and Allison Elfman
Thomas Hamilton
Sarah McGraw
Kari and Karin Palasz
Donnie and Suzanne Roberts
Jeffrey and Michaela Shaw
Carina Bista
Jane Sytsma
Kyle Welch
Jay and Shawna Owen

$250–$499
Emily Ankersen
Saul Barrera
Jeremy Bauer
Michael Brassfield
Amy Cahill
Ellen Cohn
 Rochelle Fisher
Jennifer Hafemann
Amar Joshi
Daniel and Tracy Kazan
Libby Koerbel
John and Jill Levi
Laura Liu and Kenneth Pomerantz
Kevin Martin
Evan and Joanna McGinley

Up to $250
Jon April
Audrey Arbeeny
Alyssa Austin
Rashal Baz
Jennifer Beattie
Aly Bitter
Susie Braman
James Burnell
Andrew Carpenter
John Clarke
Courtney Cohen
Karly Coogan
Nathan Cooper
Nancy Cope
Justin Davidson
Maha Ditsch
Sarah Dorfman
Sarah Eddy
Rachel Ellis
David Fairman and Juliette Zener
Jonathan Feldman
Katherine Finnegan
Jordan and Jamie Fisher
Ryan Fordice
Emily Freeborn
Tyler Fulmer
Cory Gagliardi
Nancy Gansen
Diana Carreno Garcia
Joshua Garson
Jacqueline Geary
Paolo Guttadauro
Cynthia Halvorsen
Stephanie Harte
Cara Heffernan
Brooke Holliday
Will Jacob
Jill Jacobs
Vanessa Jaimes
Jessica Jansen
Samuel Johnson
Krista Jones
Jonathan Joseph
Douglas Kadison
Elana Kessler
Traci and Brian Kirtley
Sally Klarr
Mina Kobayashi
Raj K.

Brian and Karen Koonsvitsky
Burt and Bonnie Koonsvitsky
Jessica Kunamalla
Benjamin Larson
Stephanie Yuan LaRue
Jeffrey Lindquist
Alicia Locher
Johnnie Lovett
Ronald Lubesnick
Sarah Mayeda
Cara Meiselman
Michael and Connie Molzberger
Rebecca Moore
David and Patricia Nelson
Terri Nevis
Elizabeth and Michael Nolan
Ellen Nothstine
Michael Odenweller
Benjamin Olson
Christopher and Kathy Owens
Courtney Owens
Maxx Paez
Fayang Pan
Manali Patel
Christine and Jay Poorman
Katherine Quirk
Lynn and Doug Rees
Joseph Reichert
George Robbins
Gina and David Samuelson
Daniel Sapato
Max Scodro
Rachel Seban
Bryan Shapiro
Shreya Singh
Mia Sossei
Brian Spagnola
Marcus Stierwalt
Zachary Stogdill
Chris Strong
Colin Teberg
Matt Thompson
Thomas Troshynski
Jordan Turban
Christopher Vargas
Bailey Vertovez
Kim Wagner
Katherine Webster
Trevor Whately
Eliot Wheeler
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Your generosity supported 22,925 students nationally on their path to college graduation.

- 9,761 high school students served
- 7,381 college students served
- 957 students served through Catalyze
- 4,826 students served through CollegePoint
- 118 partner high schools
- 100 partner colleges

Visit CollegePossibleThrives.org to learn more.
NATIONAL IMPACT & RESULTS
The following results are cumulative across all College Possible sites.

19% average ACT/SAT score increase
98% earned admission to college
4x more likely to graduate from college than their low-income peers

$13M total scholarship dollars earned
77% first-to-second year college persistence, an important milestone
3,214 college graduates

NATIONAL FINANCIAL HEALTH
For the year ended June 30, 2018*

UNRESTRICTED REVENUE & SUPPORT
$20,819,049
vs. FY 17 — $18,176,024

TOTAL EXPENSES
$20,497,133
vs. FY 17 — $18,077,071

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
80% Program Services
10% General & Administrative
10% Fundraising

ASSETS
Current assets $7,257,034
Property & equipment $1,009,918
Other assets $6,044,070
TOTAL $14,311,022

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
Current liabilities $1,220,719
Long-term liabilities $55,196
Net assets $13,035,107
TOTAL $14,311,022

*These financials represent the entire College Possible organization.
OUR PARTNERS

**Chicago Public Schools**
- Amundsen High School
- Bowen High School
- Kelly High School
- Lake View High School
- Mather High School
- Morgan Park High School

**College Partners**
- Monmouth College
- University of Illinois-Chicago
- National Louis University
- Goshen College
- Loyola University Chicago