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COLLEGE FORWARD BRINGS FREE STUDENT SERVICES TO FOUR NEW HIGH SCHOOLS

Nonprofit provides over 1,300 Texas students with college preparatory coaching

College Forward moves into larger office to keep pace with demand

AUSTIN, TX – College Forward is expanding its innovative college preparatory and college persistence program for low-income students to four additional Central Texas high schools. The organization's no-cost services now reach 11 local schools.

College Forward is entering Manor High School in Manor Independent School District, Connally High School in Pflugerville Independent School District, Reagan High School and Lyndon B. Johnson High School in the Austin Independent School District. At each location the organization plans to team 60 new high school juniors with trained coaches, who assist students with college applications, preparing for college entrance exams and gaining financial literacy. As many as 1,339 students will receive support from College Forward during the 2009-2010 academic year – a significant jump from the inaugural class of 30 students only six years before.

"Thousands of Central Texas students have the motivation and talent to succeed in college, but don't have the resources to get there," said Lisa Fielder, College Forward's Executive Director. "College Forward helps them bridge that information gap to build successful futures, and we're thrilled to partner with these new schools to serve more students."

To ensure the high quality and continuity of its services, College Forward grew its staff. Two additional Program Managers oversee program development at the new campuses, and the increased funding needs are managed by a Controller for the organization.

The high demand for College Forward's services prompted the organization to accept an offer from Manor ISD to house its growing staff in the district's former administration building at reduced rent. This enabled College Forward to bring their 12 permanent staff and 62 AmeriCorps national service volunteers under one roof, after a year of working from two separate locations.

College Forward's new mailing address is PO Box 142308 Austin, TX 78714. The street address is 312 Murray Ave., Manor, TX 78653.

ABOUT COLLEGE FORWARD: College Forward provides college access and college persistence services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students, in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. We believe that access to higher education is the right of every young Texan. www.collegeforward.org