



college forward

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## Lisa Fielder Recognized by College Board for Service to Texas Youth

AUSTIN, Texas — Lisa Fielder, Executive Director and co-founder of College Forward, was honored recently with an Excellence in Service Award from the Southwestern Region of the College Board.

The award was presented at the Southwestern Regional Forum in Frisco, Texas on January 31, 2008.

The recipient of the Excellence in Service Award must “demonstrate significant positive impacts on their profession and colleagues; exhibit leadership and service; mentor, inspire, and/or motivate others; participate and contribute to the Southwestern Regional and College Board forums, workshops, conferences, and activities; and demonstrate a positive contribution to the mission and focus of an appropriate assembly.”

The award recognizes Fielder’s pioneering work helping low-income high school students gain access to college. Fielder founded the nonprofit organization College Forward after sending her two sons off to college, inspired to help other Central Texas teenagers achieve their dreams.

“I founded College Forward at my kitchen table in March of 2003, with only an idea and a cup of coffee,” wrote Fielder in her winning nomination. “Four years later, and with the generous support and assistance of the College Board, we are 63 people strong, supporting 500 high school students (and 90 college students) with energetic AmeriCorps members at eight high schools across five school districts, spanning three Central Texas counties.”

*College Forward provides college preparatory services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students, in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. We accomplish this by providing: 1. orientation to the college experience; 2. preparation for college entrance examinations; 3. assistance with college applications; 4. assistance securing financial aid; and 5. college retention support. We believe that access to higher education is the right of every young Texan.*

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◆ 100% of College Forward’s students have been **accepted into colleges nationwide**

◆ College Forward students’ **ACT scores increased** by an average of **22%**

◆ College Forward’s high school graduates are awarded an average of over **\$16,000 each in scholarships and grants**