



college forward

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Contact: Amelia Koford, Marketing and PR Coordinator  
(512) 452-4800 or akoford@collegeforward.org

**Austinites who value education gather  
at College Forward's Holiday Freeze**

*AUSTIN, Texas* — Jonathan Rowland has been working on his college application essay for weeks, fine-tuning every detail. Like most other applicants to elite colleges, he has received tips about the best way to get the admission committee's attention. But unlike most of those applicants, he did not receive these tips from his parents, neither of whom gained a college degree. Instead, he received advice—in fact, two years of intensive, personalized college coaching—from his after-school program, College Forward.

"Imagine you're in a pitch black room ... Confusion, possibly even paranoia soon sets in," said Jonathan, describing the experience of not knowing how to apply to college. "Suddenly, someone finds a light switch and floods the entire room with light. You start to calm down—everything seems so much easier now. This is what College Forward has done for me." Within the next few weeks, he will apply to schools like UT, Rice and Austin College.

Jonathan is one of several students who will read his essay at College Forward's annual Holiday Freeze, held on Friday, December 7, 2007 from 6-9 p.m. There, he will share his story with some of the people who helped him succeed: volunteers and supporters of the College Forward program.

The Holiday Freeze, an intimate gathering at the home of College Forward's Executive Director Lisa Fielder, is a chance for the nonprofit educational organization to celebrate the year's successes. This year, College Forward has a lot to celebrate: the program entered Stony Point High School this fall, increased the number of students served to over 500, expanded its state-of-the-art college retention services to serve 90 high school graduates, and maintained its 100% college admission success rate.

In addition to remarks by College Forward staff and students, the Holiday Freeze will include a snowflake-making contest and a silent auction. Twin Liquors has generously sponsored beverages for the event.

"This is our opportunity to celebrate the contributions of College Forward's volunteers and supporters, and the vital role they play in the success of our very deserving students," said Executive Director Lisa Fielder.

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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**

Call us at (512) 452-4800  
[www.collegeforward.org](http://www.collegeforward.org)