

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## College Forward Welcomes Five New Board Members

AUSTIN, TX – October 14, 2010 -- College Forward, a nonprofit organization that provides college access and college persistence services to economically disadvantaged students, is proud to confirm five new members to serve on its Board of Directors.

The 12-member board, including Executive Director Lisa Fielder, is responsible for overseeing College Forward's continued growth at a time when expanded access to higher education is essential for low-income and first-generation college students to compete in a global market. The following new directors were instated on September 14, 2010:

**Greg Bellush** is the Controller for Latin America for the Consumer business at Dell. Bellush earned his baccalaureate degree in International Studies and Spanish from Miami University, and his MBA at the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He has assisted multinational corporations such as Dell and Continental Airlines with their finance management and pricing strategies. Between his undergraduate and graduate terms, Bellush volunteered for two years with the U.S Peace Corps.

**Jason Fernandez** is a Managing Director at the McLean Group, a national, middle-market investment bank, and is also a founder and partner of VV Capital Partners, a diversified private equity firm. Jason earned a B.A. in Economics from Vanderbilt University and graduated with an MBA focusing on Health Sector Management and Strategy from Duke University.

**Mike Fitzpatrick** is a finance executive with decades of experience in accounting, fundraising, and building organizations. Fitzpatrick has served as CFO for Lane15, Motive, and nGenera, among other companies. He earned an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology after receiving a B.S. in Finance from Bowling Green State University.

**Elsa Hinojosa** is the Executive Director for High School Performance at Hays Consolidated Independent School District. Previously she had served as the Principal for Lehman High School, beginning with the school's opening in 2004. Hinojosa was instrumental in College Forward's expansion from Hays High School to Lehman in 2006 and has been a strong proponent ever since. She holds a M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Robert Manzer, Ph.D.**, is a nonprofit consultant experienced in strategic planning, partnership development, and organization management. Dr. Manzer has served in high-level administration roles at the University of Dallas, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Ohio Northern University, and was most recently the Vice President for Academic Affairs at St. Edward's University. He earned his doctorate in Political Science at the University of Chicago.

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](http://www.collegeforward.org)

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