



college forward

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Former AmeriCorps member Amir Boroujerdi Named Dallas ISD's "Alternative Certification Teacher of the Year"

AUSTIN, Texas — College Forward congratulates Amir Boroujerdi, one of its former AmeriCorps*Texas members, on receiving the Alternative Certification Teacher of the Year award from the Dallas Independent School District. Amir served the Austin-based nonprofit organization as a Classroom Coach in 2006-2007, working closely with low-income college-bound students, and now teaches Spanish at Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas.

Working for a year to motivate and inspire low-income and first-generation college students in Del Valle ISD undoubtedly paved the way for Amir's outstanding work in Dallas ISD. According to the 2006-2007 Academic Excellence Indicator System report from the Texas Education Agency, 83.9% of Dallas ISD's 159,000 students are economically disadvantaged.

Amir's postgraduate success exemplifies the quality of College Forward's AmeriCorps members, who pledge one year to national service in return for a meager living stipend and an education award. College Forward's AmeriCorps alumni include graduate students, Peace Corps members, educators, and nonprofit administrators.

Adrian Padilla, one of Amir's College Forward students, wrote his college application essay about what Amir's support has meant to him. "Amir Boroujerdi, my College Forward coach, is someone who inspired me to keep moving ahead no matter what the obstacle," he wrote. Adrian's essay helped him gain acceptance to Austin College, UT-Austin, UT-Dallas, and the University of Houston, in addition to a Presidential Scholarship to Eckerd College in Florida. Adrian, who never thought about attending college before he joined College Forward, is Del Valle High School's first-ever finalist for a Gates Millennium Scholarship.

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 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**