



college forward

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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**

## College Forward to Share College Access Expertise with Local Foundations

AUSTIN, Texas — College Forward will present to over 20 local foundations at the 2008 Lunch & Learn, hosted by the KDK-Harman Foundation and TG's Public Benefit Program in association with the Association of Small Foundations. Their presentation is a rare joint appearance with Admission Possible, the program in St. Paul, Minnesota on which College Forward is based.

Lisa Fielder, College Forward's Executive Director, was inspired to start a nonprofit college access program in Central Texas after reading a magazine article about Jim McCorkell, CEO of Admission Possible, in 2002. She arranged a meeting with him, and the rest is history.

"I'm thrilled to have the chance to present with Jim as experts on college access," said Fielder. "Admission Possible is like College Forward's big brother—we admire them tremendously and love when we can follow in their footsteps! It's amazing that both programs have had such success even though we serve very different populations and are 1,000 miles apart."

The Lunch & Learn, which will take place on Thursday, April 10 from 11:30-1:30 at Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, is entitled "Counting What Counts in Higher Education Access: How Communities in Central Texas (and Beyond!) Are Making Sure College Access Leads to Impact."

In addition to Fielder and McCorkell, foundations will hear from presenters from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board about its college access initiative. The session will be moderated by Deanna Schexnayder, a researcher from the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin, who is a co-author of the recent Central Texas Student Futures Project publication *Education and Work After High School: A First Look at the Class of 2006*.

The three organizations will discuss their innovative approaches to college access, focusing on how they track and measure program success.

The 2008 Lunch & Learn series, coordinated by the Association of Small Foundations, gives small foundations an opportunity to discuss topics of common interest with each other and with community experts.

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

The event is open to trustees and staff of foundations, but closed to the public. Interested foundations should RSVP to Akilah Massey at [akilah@smallfoundations.org](mailto:akilah@smallfoundations.org) or (888) 212-9922.

*College Forward provides college preparatory and college retention 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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