



*college forward*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 30, 2008

Contact: Amelia Koford, Public Relations Coordinator  
512-452-4800 or akoford@collegeforward.org

## **College Forward Receives \$200,000 Neighborhood Builders Award from Bank of America**

*AUSTIN, Texas* — College Forward was honored yesterday with a grant from Bank of America of \$200,000 in unrestricted funds for support of its programs and services. Recognized as a leader in the community for its efforts to improve access to college for low-income students, College Forward accepted the Neighborhood Builders Award at the 2008 Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards ceremony Wednesday evening.

"We are delighted to receive this generous award from Bank of America," said Lisa Fielder, College Forward's Executive Director and co-founder. "This funding will make us a stronger and more effective organization, with the capacity to help even more Central Texas high school students better their lives through higher education."

Bank of America also gave five Student Leaders awards to students from the graduating class of 2008 who work to better their communities. College Forward is proud to announce that one of those Student Leaders is Ashley Rogers, a College Forward student from Del Valle High School who is now a freshman at Baylor University.

In addition, five community leaders were honored with Local Heroes awards. In 2006, Bank of America honored Fielder with this award at Austin's inaugural Neighborhood Excellence Initiative awards, and continues its support of College Forward's innovative programming and proven results.

Another Austin nonprofit, Community Partnership for the Homeless, received a second Neighborhood Builder Award.

### **About College Forward:**

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. College Forward provides:

- Orientation to the college experience.
- Preparation for college entrance examinations.
- Assistance with college applications.
- Assistance securing financial aid.
- College retention support.

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

College Forward is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on contributions for ongoing support. For more information, contact Amelia Koford at [akoford@collegeforward.org](mailto:akoford@collegeforward.org) or visit [www.collegeforward.org](http://www.collegeforward.org).

**About Bank of America:**

Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards recognize, reward and encourage those who are making a difference in the 45 communities Bank of America serves throughout the United States and London, England. Since the program's inception in 2004, Bank of America has committed \$90 million to support more than 310 outstanding nonprofit organizations and more than 1,500 individuals and students, including more than \$1.3 million right here in Austin.

###