Carolina College Advising Corps

Our Mission
The Carolina College Advising Corps aims to help low-income, first-generation, and under-represented students from North Carolina attend college by placing recent UNC-Chapel Hill graduates as college advisers in selected public high schools throughout the state. Advisers assist students with admission, financial aid, and scholarship applications.

Our Model
The “Near-Peer” model
Recent graduates serve as advisers, which allows students to more easily develop relationships and trust.

Building a College-Going Culture
Currently, less than 50% low-income students admitted to a post-secondary institution end up enrolling. And less than 1 in 12 graduate. Advisers focus on fostering a college-going culture at their school to boost enrollment rates.

Best-Match and Best-Fit
Advisers help students identify and apply to post-secondary programs that will best serve them, both academically and socially.

Our Success
10-11% higher enrollment than rural comparison schools
In 2015-16, 11,000 high school seniors will have access to an adviser
Average increase in scholarship dollars: $1 million per high school

Our Community
45 advisers // 64 schools
Our state // Our future

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Education is the best investment

Why College?

2x Over the course of a lifetime, those with degrees earn nearly twice as much as those with only a GED

59% Of North Carolina jobs will require a college degree by 2018. Education is vital for both employees and employers.

Why Low Income and First-Generation Students?

According to the Department of Education, less than half of low-income seniors who intend to go to college end up enrolling. To increase post-secondary degree attainment, we must work systematically to close achievement gaps.

Who isn't enrolling - and why?

<50% of high school seniors enroll in a post-secondary institution - often because of difficulty navigating systems and lack of awareness about opportunities.

457:1 National counselor to student ratios are sky-high, leaving the average high school student with 20 minutes per

Mindy Oakley, executive director at the Armfield Foundation, believes that "sending kids to college is by far the best investment we can make in our community." The Armfield Foundation supports students in Surry, Randolph and Guilford counties. "Giving talented kids the tools, encouragement and focus that they need changes their entire outlook on life and empowers them to set higher goals and succeed."

With the help of the Armfield Foundation and others, we've expanded to 55 high school since 2007. Our program is working, with partner high schools' college-going rates jumping 8 to 11 percent.

The secret to our success? Mindy firmly believes that "it's about much more than college applications and FAFSA forms, it's about the relationships these advisers foster with their students that make all the difference."

For Kaysha Lampkins, a graduate of John Motley Morehead High School in Rockingham County, applying to college was new to her family. Her mom, a single parent, did not go to college; her other brother dropped out of high school.

Thanks to the Advising Corps, Kaysha is now a member of the UNC class of 2015, studying Management and Society.

"When I was applying to go to college, my adviser was there every step of the way."

Even though she graduated among the top students from her high school, Kaysha lacked confidence in applying to college. "When I was thinking about going to college, I didn't think I had much of a chance to get in to UNC." With the help of her adviser, she not only applied, she was able to seek out financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Kaysha is the first in her family to go to college, but hopefully not the last. She connected her younger brother to a CCAC adviser, making sure he can go to college, too.