



- When students enter college underprepared and so face not four years of school—but six, eight or ten—too many become frustrated and drop out before completing their degree.
- Education is the most important factor both in providing the skills and knowledge needed by the nation’s economy and in determining the level of individual income.

What is the purpose of this program?

- To get students into college who would otherwise not attend and move them on to a four-year degree.
- To inform students regarding available educational opportunities.
- To build an ongoing support network to guide at-risk students through the pipeline from local public high schools to college to university degree attainment and career readiness.
- To give at-risk students hope and allow them to focus on their studies full time, without the pressure of financial constraints.

How can I help?

Volunteer: Community members are needed to serve as mentors for students and as leaders in an ongoing coalition to support the program. Organizations and businesses can adopt a school or group of students.

Contribute: Donate towards a scholarship. All funds raised will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by a Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education to create an ongoing endowment for at-risk student scholarships. Earnings on the endowment will go toward scholarship awards.

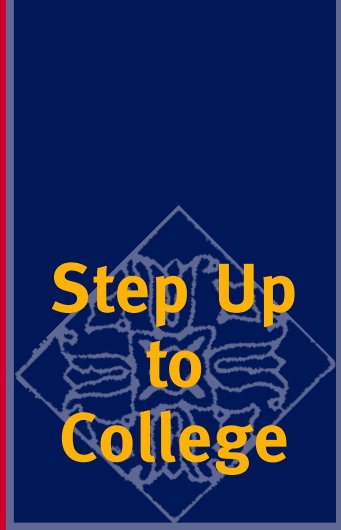
For more information, please contact:

Glendale College Foundation Office
Administration Building, Room 149
818-240-1000 x5199

California State University, Northridge
Scholarship & Work Study Programs
Financial Aid Office
818-677-2106

To volunteer, adopt a school or join the leadership coalition, please contact:

Step Up to College main office at Hoover High School in Glendale
818-242-6801 x708



Student Scholarship Program of:

Glendale Community College
1500 N. Verdugo Road
Glendale, CA 91208
www.glendale.edu

and

California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8307
www.csun.edu



Step Up to College

Student Scholarship Program

For high school students who are at risk, overwhelming hurdles often bar their way to a college education. Growing up in communities where very few adults have been exposed to college, these young people frequently lack the kind of help they need to continue their education. Because of environmental, emotional or economic difficulties, many struggle just to keep up in high school and see a college degree as little more than an unattainable dream.

Glendale Community College and California State University, Northridge have formed the Step Up to College Program to help these students get to college and succeed there. These two schools are working together to provide educational services while these students are in high school and financial resources to assist them through a four-year college degree.

How does it work?

The program begins working with students in the 9th grade to help them become college ready by the end of 12th grade. GCC and CSUN establish individual

contracts with each participant. The contract outlines the student's academic goals and responsibilities and the services the program will provide to help him or her earn a four-year degree. Eligible students will receive a combination of grants and scholarships when they get to college to help defray tuition, fees, books, supplies and some living expenses.

What are the criteria?

At-risk 9th graders with potential, but with a G.P.A. well below that required for admission to a California state college or university, are identified, and the students and their parents or guardians receive program services at several local public high schools.

Once students reach Glendale College and then CSUN, a combination of grants and scholarships will be awarded each year as long as students:

- demonstrate at least a 2.0 G.P.A.
- establish and continue on an agreed-upon education plan
- complete all required transferable semester units before transferring to the four-year school; and
- maintain full-time enrollment status.

Why do we need this scholarship program?

- According to a 2002 report by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, big increases in tuition coupled with much smaller increases in financial aid have hit the nation's lowest-income families especially hard. The percentage of their income required for tuition has nearly doubled since 1980.
- A 2001 report by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance reveals that even though academic preparation is rising steadily among low-income high school students, the lack of sufficient financial support prevents even highly qualified low-income and minority students from attending a four-year institution. Sufficient financial support has a greater influence on college completion than does college readiness.
- The same report stated that the explicit promise of financial access to post-secondary education motivates low-income students who participate in programs like Step Up to stay in school and succeed.

"The greatest part about receiving a scholarship was knowing that there was someone out there that was behind me. It was the belief of this person and not just the financial support that pushed me to succeed." —GCC student