



2019 IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM THE
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

I am honored to pen this letter as the new Executive Director of College Beyond. Building on the amazing foundation laid by our founding Executive Director Paris Woods, I am delighted to lead College Beyond into its next phase of growth.

College success is my personal and professional passion. I have served as a post-secondary academic coach, an educational researcher and a senior administrator, and I look forward to leveraging this experience to further enhance our coaching services and strengthen our post-secondary partnerships.

Consistency best defines the 2018-2019 academic year at College Beyond. Last year, we announced that a game-changing 73% of our students returned for their second year of college, closing the freshman retention gap at the University of New Orleans. This year, we served more students – and again 73% of our students are persisting to a second year of college. This means that our unique model is working.

But, while our numbers are great, they are only half the story. Be sure to take a look at the student and parent feedback sections of this report: their views of College Beyond tell that our program influences more than just academic success. When students have social and emotional support, transportation, food, and books, they are able to fully engage in the college experience, and student engagement is the key to college completion.

As we continue to serve more students, we have also expanded our coaching staff. Mia Gonzales Washington is our newest student success coach. She brings a wealth of experience in advising and programming for first-year students. She will serve as the coach for our new 2019-2020 cohort at UNO. The addition of Mia marks a significant phase of growth for College Beyond as we continue to codify our 4-year model at UNO and increase the number of students we serve. Erica Martinez, our Founding Success Coach, will serve as Program Director. Erica has worked diligently over the past year to bring innovative strategies to College Beyond’s unique coaching model to address deep social and emotional issues our students may face. And we are deeply grateful for the support from the University of New Orleans, the Kresge Foundation, and Baptist Community Ministries for their key support of our UNO expansion.

I am truly excited about the future of College Beyond. In the 2019-2020 academic year, we will serve over 150 students with our customized 1st and 2nd year coaching models. We plan to double the number of students served over the next two years. We are currently searching for our next institutional partner to expand College Beyond’s impact to an additional campus. College Beyond has made significant strides in our quest to improve college persistence and completion for underserved students. Our success thus far would not be possible without our staff, board, supporters, donors and partners. Thank you for supporting the vision and work of College Beyond.

To. Through. Together.



Erin R. Wheeler, PhD
Executive Director



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CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER,
KIPP NEW ORLEANS
SCHOOLS

Meet Our Board

OUR
MISSION

College Beyond is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping underserved students enroll in and complete college.



OUR
APPROACH



PREVENT SUMMER MELT
help students complete pre-college checklists and financial aid for successful enrollment



COACH FOR SUCCESS
deliver personalized and student-driven coaching on academics, social-emotional development, and finances



AWARD MICROGRANTS
provide financial support for essentials like food, books, and transportation



CREATE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
build relationships with students, families, and institutions



OUR
HISTORY



2013

Co-founders Paris Woods and Sarah Payne begin working together as the Directors of Alumni Support and College Counseling at Cohen College Prep High School

2015

College Beyond incorporates as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

2016

Hire founding College Success Coach

Raise first \$250,000

Recruit first student cohorts at University of New Orleans (UNO) and Loyola University



2018

73% of College Beyond freshmen re-enroll for a second year, closing UNO freshman retention gap

Expand to serve 83 students at UNO and pilot peer mentoring component

2017

43% of College Beyond UNO freshmen re-enroll for second year, a 13% increase over matched comparison

Expand to serve 73 students at UNO

2019

Expand and hire second coach to serve 150 Pell-eligible first and second-year students at UNO

73% of College Beyond freshmen re-enroll for a second year



WHO WE SERVE

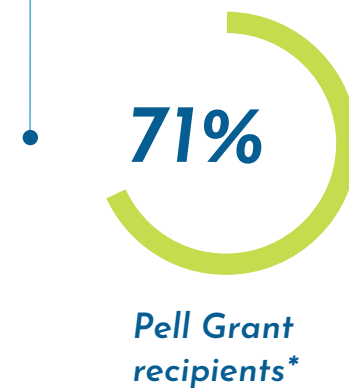
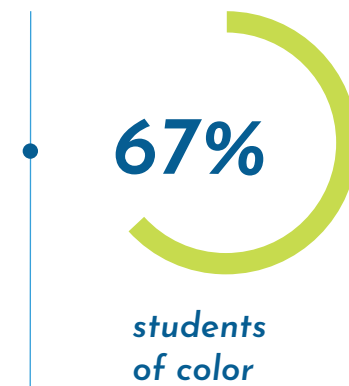
College Beyond is designed for an underserved middle majority of college students: capable youth who have earned admission to college but generally are not eligible for top merit-based financial aid or selective college persistence programs.

OUR ONLY ELIGIBILITY CRITERION IS NEED

We are committed to bringing excellent resources to students who face the longest odds of college graduation.



OUR STUDENTS ARE



*Beginning in 2019-2020, 100% of incoming College Beyond students are Pell Grant recipients



MEGAN STACKHOUSE

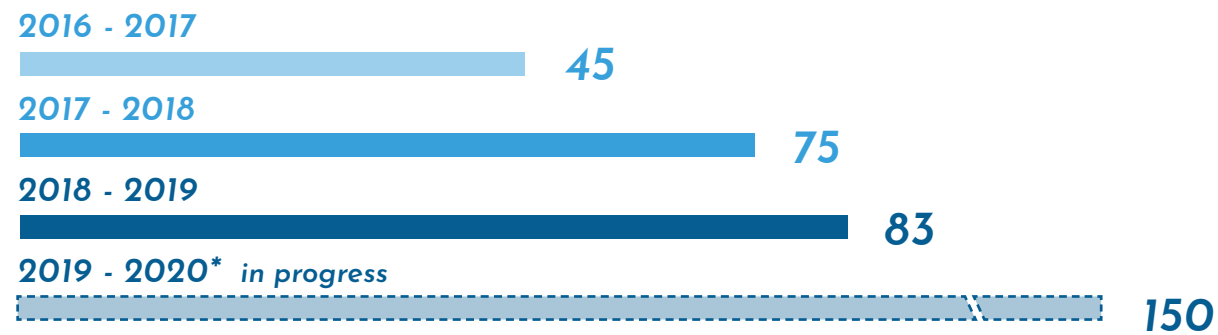
Class of 2023 | Film and Theatre, University of New Orleans

"College Beyond has already made my freshman year so much easier, and it's just started. I couldn't afford all of my materials for my classes, and College Beyond helped me with that. But my success coach doesn't just talk to me about the academic and financial aspects of college, she understands that there's more than that going on. She makes an effort to really talk, kind of like one would talk to a good friend they haven't seen in a while. It's really nice to have someone that both emotionally and financially supports you!"

OUR IMPACT

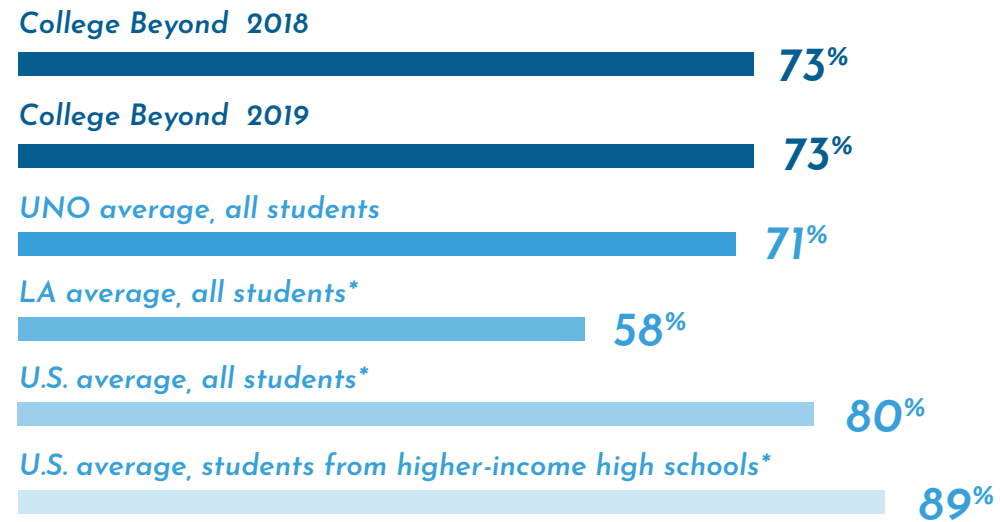
- ✓ SERVING MORE STUDENTS
- ✓ CLOSING GAPS
- ✓ REPLICATING RESULTS

Number of Students Served



*Our 2019-2020 program expansion includes 100 freshmen and 50 sophomores

Freshman Retention Rates



*4-yr public institutions - National Student Clearinghouse, 2018 (2016 cohort)

\$444,935

secured in federal aid



1357
meals



139
books, book rentals, and book codes



74%
of students utilizing micro-grant support



423
coaching meetings

840
bus rides

WHAT IT TAKES

WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Each semester, College Beyond surveys our students and compiles their feedback.

Here's what our 2018-2019 cohort reports about their experience in the program:

"I loved my monthly meetings with [my coach] the most. She's an amazingly loving and helpful person. If I was confused about anything academically, [she] honestly told me the pros and cons to all my options and help me choose the best one for me. [She] is my college mom and I love her."

Talon W.

"The support, and hands on help, I got from my coach on things that I wasn't comfortable, or used to yet. Like, scheduling classes, talking to my professors, tackling college courses/ exams. I was very confident in my school work and that I was on the right track because of that support!"

Emily B.

"I love the overall support. Coming in as a freshman to a whole new environment with people you've never met before can be very intimidating at times. But when you have a team of coaches and peers making sure that you get the assistance and guidance you need on campus, it's a huge relief. It just shows that College Beyond as a whole is dedicated to your success just as much as you are."

Steisy L.

"The support and advice I was given really helped me be successful my first year. It also has still been useful throughout this year as well. Whether it was advice on finances or just making study plans. All have played a role in keeping me in college and making really great grades."

Haley B.

"[My coach] is amazing. She asks if I need help with anything, she asks if I have all my supplies, books codes. She asks about my study habits in order to improve them. She also asks me about my grades, and she even asks how my day was. She's amazing."

Dohlan B.

"[I appreciated] the opportunity [College Beyond] offered for entering students to excel in their classes, despite socioeconomic status."

Vinicio H.

WHAT THEIR FAMILIES ARE SAYING

"...College Beyond has been so helpful as a parent keeping both of us on task...[My daughter is] already getting her books [in August]...[College Beyond is] really helping fill in the gaps and being the advocate for the new students -- we feel blessed to be a part of this."

Jennifer Carbonne

"[My son] ended with a 3.0 and at least feeling A LOT more confident in his studies. That chemistry class ended with a B so we are so super proud and have expressed a million times how awesome it is that he applied himself. I appreciate the text updates they are helping me as a parent as well."

Renea Rudolph

OUR SUPPORTERS

College Beyond's work is possible due to the support of individuals and institutions who have invested in our mission and believe in the potential of the young people of New Orleans.

We are deeply grateful for their support. Together, we believe we can change the landscape of college persistence and post-secondary attainment in New Orleans.

\$100,000+

Baptist Community Ministries
EdLoC Boulder Fund
Entergy Charitable Foundation
GPOA Foundation

\$50,000 to \$99,000

Kresge Foundation
RosaMary Foundation
Rosenthal Family Foundation

\$20,000 to \$49,000

Keller Family Foundation
Pro Bono Publico Foundation

\$2,000 to \$19,000

Capital One
Lang Family Foundation
Mary Freeman Wisdom Foundation
New Orleans City Council-Harrah's
New Orleans Casino Community Support Grant Program
Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust
Selley Foundation





SUPPORT

OUR WORK

Our team is deeply grateful for our growing community of students, families, partners, and supporters. As we look to the coming year, we ask you to stay involved and spread the word! Stay tuned to updates by joining our mailing list at www.collegebeyond.org.

In order to deepen our impact in the coming year and beyond, we actively seek support for program expansion and for our micro-grant fund.

An individual gift of \$1,000 to our micro-grant fund buys books, transportation, and food, and can profoundly impact a students' college success.

If you or your institution are curious to know more, please be in touch.

Contact us directly at
contact@collegebeyond.org

Visit us online.

Tell others about our mission.

Share this report.

Special thanks to Heartsleeve for designing this report and to Jonathan Bachman and the Kresge Foundation for photography.



www.collegebeyond.org