



SUMMER
SEARCH

Begin.
Believe.
Become.

A national college success nonprofit, **SUMMER SEARCH** helps students from low-income backgrounds strengthen the skills they need to become college-educated leaders who give back to their families and communities.

THE ISSUE

First-generation college students from low-income communities face systemic barriers to earning a college degree.

Just 21% earn a Bachelor's degree, compared to 57% of their higher-income peers.¹

A college degree increases lifetime earnings by about \$1M (vs. a high school degree) and given that parents pass on their educational advantage to their children, a ripple effect is created by supporting students from low-income communities to earn a college degree.

The social and economic health of our country depends on having college-educated leaders from all backgrounds.

WHO WE SERVE IN PHILADELPHIA

We serve students who dream of a college education and who could most benefit from experiential opportunities and mentoring to reach that dream. Our students live in households with a median family income of \$22k, and while they often encounter the effects of systemic inequity, these students maintain their potential and drive. With added supports, they can successfully earn a college degree and change the face of leadership in our communities.

96%
qualify for free or
reduced lunch

94%
are first-generation
college students

98%
are students
of color

47%
are male
students

¹ Pell Institute, *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the US 2016 Historical Trend Report*

MEET PHILADELPHIA STUDENT RYAN M.

“With Summer Search, I’m discovering who I am, who I want to be, and what I’m capable of accomplishing.”

SUMMER SEARCH PHILADELPHIA STUDENT



HOW WE WORK

We partner with high schools, community organizations and families to enroll sophomores in Summer Search’s long-term program, which runs through college graduation and beyond (7-9 years).

OUR APPROACH

Our program offers a unique combination of high-touch mentoring and summer developmental opportunities that together strengthen the beliefs and skills students need to succeed. Our model is grounded in current research on adolescence and educational attainment and capitalizes on the unique opportunities present during this developmental period.

LONG-TERM MENTORING

We partner each student with a staff mentor who builds an authentic and long-lasting relationship in order to provide individualized support for many facets of a student’s life, including navigating the complex college processes, discussing their identity, and everything in between at school, at home and in the community.



DEVELOPMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

We provide students with challenging experiential (outdoor wilderness, community service, academic programs, internships) opportunities during the summers that broaden their view of the world and ultimately reveal what they’re capable of. These experiences provide an opportunity for students to partner with their mentor to reflect on and learn from their triumphs and setbacks, which serves to strengthen the skills and mindsets needed for the journey to and through college.

OUR LOCAL IMPACT

82%

of most recent graduating senior class matriculated to college

87%

of our college students re-enrolled this past year

3×

rate at which most recent classes of college students earned a 4-year college degree within six years compared to their peers¹

¹ Pell Institute, *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the US 2016 Historical Trend Report*

OUR REACH IN PHILADELPHIA

We have helped
279
young people soar

We currently serve
199
high school and college students

We are in
5
regions



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