



## ***Overview: College Success Program***

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In order to promote persistence and success in college, BLCI has extended its services to its college-enrolled alumni with the launch of the College Success Program. We encourage you to become part of turning BLCI students' dreams into reality!

### ***How You Can Help***

Host a ***summer internship*** at your workplace and provide meaningful experience to college-enrolled BLCI alumni. Becoming an internship partner will provide students with an opportunity to interact with professionals, acquire useful work skills, and demonstrate the connection between college and career.

Become a ***mentor*** to a BLCI student in college and provide them with the support and encouragement they need to be successful. Mentors and students are paired based on their shared interests and experience, creating a beneficial partnership for both parties. Reach out to high school seniors by becoming a guest speaker during one or more of their weekly Steps-to-Success Workshops or bi-annual Career Nights.

Get involved and ***volunteer*** with the high school seniors throughout the admissions, financial aid and scholarship application processes!

***Make a donation*** to BLCI's College Success Program and ensure that students have access to all resources that will assist them in reaching their goal of becoming a college graduate. Spread the word by introducing your friends and coworkers to the mission of BLCI.

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For more information on how you can get involved with the College Success Program, contact:

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## **Overview: College Success Program**

*The journey doesn't stop at college, and neither does our support!*

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### **The BLCI Forumula for college success:**

*BLCI's comprehensive scholarship and alumni support program is designed to ensure that all students have the support and guidance they need to successfully transition from high school graduates to full-time college students.*

### **College Success Scholarships**

According to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance the average sum of college expenses beyond the estimated family contribution and student aid is \$3,800 for low income families, which would compel many families to explore more affordable alternatives, including community college.

Each year BLCI will award up to four scholarships worth a maximum of \$10,000 each that are renewable for the four years that students are in college so that students have the opportunity to attend the university that best allows them to meet their higher education goals--*irregardless of the price tag.*



Scholarships are renewable for up to four years, provided that students remain enrolled full-time, maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better, and participate in the mentorship program. Additionally, students will be expected to adhere to the “pay-it-forward” model by serving as a mentor to incoming freshmen during their junior or senior year in college, by participating in a minimum of one BLCI community event per year, and by speaking to younger BLCI students in an alumni panel once a year so they can share their college knowledge and lessons learned.

### **Mentorship**

Fostering positive relationships between scholarship recipients and mentors increases the likelihood that students will maintain continuous enrollment in a four year school. Students are paired with a peer and a professional mentor that provides the first time college student with encouragement by engaging them with a meaningful personal connection . The interaction between first-generation college students and their mentors, will help to ease the transition from high school to college—ensuring that they have the support they need to have a positive college experience.

### **Internship Placement**

Each summer, students are placed in internships with local business partners where they earn meaningful work experience in a professional setting that will allow them to both grow as individuals and build their resume. Because all of our students are the first in their family to go to college, they are not frequently in settings where they are surrounded by or interacting with college graduates. Internship partners will help to demonstrate the connections between a college degree and a career—and provide students with access to a network of support that will benefit them when they graduate and begin working full time

### **Support System**

We are in a unique position to continue to provide support to our alumni based on our long term relationship with students and their families. The College Success Coordinator provides frequent communication with reminders and opportunities for jobs or scholarships, and is also be available for one-on-one support by phone, email, and visits to the site.