

## BELIEVING IN OUR YOUTH

FALL 2011

### CREED STUDENTS MAKE PRACTICAL COLLEGE CHOICES

#### Our Mission

**CREED** is a non-profit, independent educational consulting organization committed to empowering our youth and their families.

We help them develop the skills and knowledge required to navigate the complex decisions associated with enrolling, attending and participating fully in a college or university of their choice.

**CREED** motivates our youth through their selection process and matriculation and continues to provide support for them during their undergraduate years.

**CREED** offers college preparation workshops, individual college planning sessions and an early college summer institute to prepare our students for their college search process. Our staff worked in higher education for over 20 years, and we use this experience to guide our students.

**CREED's** programs help students choose the right college to meet their educational, financial and social needs. We believe, and research supports, that all students have an increased chance of graduating if they have made a good initial selection.

Our services help young people and their families determine their priorities for their educational plans. Going to college is

often a young person's first opportunity to live away from home, so the location of the institution may be most important.

Others place more emphasis on the schools ex-



College freshmen, M. Knight, A. Jones, & C. Jones

tracurricular activities and their opportunities to play in the band, participate in a sport, express their religion or join a Greek letter organization.

The size institution is also an important consideration. While some love larger institutions (10,000+), others prefer smaller

schools similar to their high schools (less than 2,500).

Size, location and extracurricular activities are important considerations.

However, for most students, the cost of the col-

lege and its' academic programs take precedence.

Our students range from 6th to 12th grade and we work with our student's and their families to choose affordable, practical and attain-

able college educations that meet all of their needs.

**CREED** currently works with over 150 students in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas to assist them with their college planning. There are no consultant fees for our students and their families.

#### OUR VISION

A successful **CREED** participant will enjoy their college years and emerge as a well rounded scholar and graduate. Our youth will be prepared to join the work force, lead their communities and motivate other young people.

# CREED COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAM

BELIEVING IN OUR YOUTH

## Our Leadership

JAYE CHASE  
Executive Board  
Chairperson  
Dallas, Texas

ANTHONY WILLIAMS  
Executive Board  
Vice Chairperson  
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CRYSTAL AUSTIN  
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Executive Board Member  
Independent Educational  
Consultant  
Meadville, PA

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Associate Board Member  
Buffalo, New York

JORDAN BROOKS  
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Erie, Pennsylvania

BERNARD BERMUDEZ  
National Advisory Board  
Las Vegas Nevada

JUNE ELKINS BAKER  
National Advisory Board  
Oklahoma City, OK

FELECIA GUSTIN  
National Advisory Board  
Oakland, California

FAIRO MITCHELL  
National Advisory Board  
Oklahoma City, OK

## OUR PROGRAMS

### College Readiness Workshops

Working with groups of students through churches, community organizations and high schools, our workshops introduce students to the importance of early preparation for the college selection process. Students are engaged in the discussion, through group activities and by working with their peers, to complete their college planning worksheet. Each student leaves the presentations with the beginnings of their college plan.

### Individual Educational Consultation

Individual educational consultation is offered to students we meet through the readiness workshops or by referral of a teacher, counselor or community stakeholder. Once accepted, we aid these students by crafting plans that meet their specific educational and personal needs. Our goal is to help them identify those needs and assist them in making informed choices about their college education. When finished, their choices are affordable, practical and attainable, and will increase their chances of graduating successfully.

### Undergraduate Retention Support

Working together with families, we support young people through the important first year of their college education. We answer their questions, help them navigate the maze of their colleges' administration, and, when available, provide limited emergency funds. Previously approved funded requests include, but are not limited to, school supplies, bus tickets, and assistance with books.

### Early College Summer Institute and College Tour

The Summer Institute provide our students with exposure to academic college level experiences. Three day "mini-courses" in English and Science are taught by college professors who expose our youth to college level academic expectations. We also organize activities outside the classroom that help our students become familiar with the resources available on the host campus (campus union, athletic facility, library), and further provide tours of up to four area campuses. Space is limited, and this program is contingent on successful fundraising efforts.

## OUR RESULTS

- .During our first programming year (2/1/2010 - 11/1/2011) CREED:
- .Constructed individual college plans for 60 students.
- .Held college readiness workshops for 140 students in three states.
- .Assisted the parents of 20 families in their college decisions.
- .Formed four partnerships with local community organizations.
- .Built key alliances with three regional and national nonprofits.

**CREED College Readiness Program, P.O. Box 627, Meadville, PA 16335**