Multicultural and College-Access Organizations

Please find a partial list of multicultural and college-access organizations in alphabetical order below. Keep in mind that your institution may have its own outreach programs (like UC’s Early Academic Outreach Program), of which you’ll want to make your staff members aware. Also remember that there are many local or grassroots organizations within your applicants’ communities (like College Match in Los Angeles).

A Better Chance (ABC)
www.abetterchance.org

Description: “A Better Chance is the preeminent resource for identifying, recruiting and developing leaders among young people of color in the United States. Through a unique assessment model, A Better Chance refers academically talented students entering grades 6 through 11 to some of the nation’s finest independent and public schools to be considered for placement and financial aid. Students who are successfully placed in one of our 300+ member schools become a part of the signature College Preparatory Schools Program, and receive access to expanded educational and leadership opportunities.”

Students: Students must apply for entrance into the program. Only citizens and permanent residents of the U.S. are eligible to apply. Each application is evaluated on its own merit. Students who are general admitted:
  - Consistently perform at or above their grade level in math and English
  - Have an overall academic rigor of b+ or higher
  - Are ranked in the top 10% of their class

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
www.avid.org

Description: “AVID is a fourth- through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle (B, C, and even D students), for four-year college eligibility... These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families. AVID pulls these students out of their unchallenging courses and puts them on the college track... Not only are students enrolled in their school’s toughest classes, such as honors and Advanced Placement, but also in the AVID elective. For one period a day, they learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable.”

Students: Students interested in AVID will apply for admission through their school’s process. Class size is usually limited to 30-45 students per grade.

California Youth Think Tank (CYTT)
www.theyoungcenter.com
**Description:** “The California Youth Think Tank is an intensive summer leadership program that trains, inspires, and empowers young people to become future leaders, college graduates, entrepreneurs, and global ambassadors...CYTT students are housed on [a college campus] during their week-long training experience. They are trained and mentored by a dedicated team of educators, business leaders, and working professionals who guide and evaluate their progress daily. They research & debate important issues, participate in field trips, panel discussions, academic competition, and collaborate with their peers on education-related projects.

**Students:** Students must apply for the program. All high school students – from public, private, home, and alternative schools – are eligible to apply. 80 students will be selected based on their leadership potential, academic ability, and personal character.

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**College Match**  
[www.collegematchla.org](http://www.collegematchla.org)

**Description:** “College Match was established in 2002 to assist high achieving low-income and minority high school students in Los Angeles to attend outstanding colleges. We work hard to provide these worthy students with the same support and assistance that they would receive if they had affluent parents and attended elite private schools.” Relationships are established with a select number of institutions that value diversity and simply don’t have the networks to reach out and find these qualified students.

**Students:** [Each year], College Match [provides] comprehensive college access services to [about] 200 low-income students.

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**College Summit**  
[www.collegesummit.org](http://www.collegesummit.org)

**Description:** “College Summit builds the capacity of schools to dramatically increase college-going school- and district-wide. Trained student influencers building college-going culture, while teachers and counselors use a managed curriculum and technology tools to help all students create postsecondary plans and apply to college. Data and accountability tools equip school leader to manage improved student outcomes.”

**Students:** College Summit provides tools to promote a college going culture directly to schools and school districts.

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**Council of African American Parents (CAAP)**  
[www.councilofafricanamericanparents.org](http://www.councilofafricanamericanparents.org)

**Description:** “The Council of African American Parents is a non-profit parent and community drive organization committed to providing ways to enhance the educational opportunities of students through academics, social activities, and cultural awareness. CAAP provides support to the students...
and families of: Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Pomona, Walnut, and surrounding communities.” This organization provides scholarships, organizes college tours, and hosts college workshops.

**Students:** Parents must apply for membership. Students can take advantage of the resources provided by CAAP without membership.

**Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)**
www.hsf.net

**Description:** “The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation's leading Hispanic scholarship organization, providing the Hispanic community more college scholarships and educational outreach support than any other organization in the country. In its 34 year history, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund has awarded close to $280M in scholarships to more than 90,000 students in need. Two-thirds of these students were the first in their families to go to college.”

**Students:** Students must apply for the scholarship programs offered by HSF. They must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Jack and Jill**
http://national.jackandjillonline.org/

**Description:** “Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is an African-American organization of mothers who nurture future leaders by strengthening children ages 2-19 through chapter programming, community service, legislative advocacy and philanthropic giving. We believe every child, with proper guidance and opportunity can be a leader... [Amongst other things, it strives to] provide constructive educational, cultural, civic, recreational, social, and service programs for children.

**Students:** Teenagers who are not members of Jack and Jill may attend chapter social activities upon invitation from local teenage sponsors. Only Jack and Jill teen members may attend Teenage Regional Conferences.

**Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)**
www.ucop.edu/mesa

**Description:** “One of the country’s most innovative and successful programs., MESA works with thousands of educationally disadvantaged students so they excel in math and science and graduate with math-based degrees. MESA partners with all segments of California higher education as well as K-12 institutions... [It provides] elements such as classes, hands-on competitions, counseling, transfer support and a community environment to students from middle school through four-year college.”

**Students:** Students interested in the MESA Schools Program need not apply for admission. They are selected through a process that involves teachers at participating schools and locally-based MESA personnel.
National Achievement Scholarship Program
www.nationalmerit.org/nasp

Description: The National Achievement® Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students."

Students: Black students may enter both the National Achievement Program and the National Merit® Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and meeting other published requirements for participation. The two annual programs are conducted concurrently but operated and funded separately. A student's standing is determined independently in each program. Black American students can qualify for recognition and be honored as Scholars in both the National Merit Program and the National Achievement Program, but can receive only one monetary award from NMSC

Talent Search (part of TRIO programs)
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotalent/index.html

Description: "The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assist participant with the postsecondary application process... Projects provide tutorial services, career exploration, aptitude assessments, counseling, mentoring programs, workshops, information on postsecondary institutions; education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students; guidance on and assistance in secondary school reentry, alternative education programs for secondary school dropouts, entry into general educational development programs or postsecondary education; and programs and activities previously mentioned that are specially designed for students who are limited English proficient, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless children and youths, students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system or other disconnected students."

Students: n/a

TRIO Programs
http://ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

Description: "The Federal TRIO Programs are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs." These include:
• **Educational Opportunity Centers** – Provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary study.

• **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement** – Funds programs at institutions of higher education to prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

• **Student Support Services** – Funds programs at institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education.

• **Talent Search** – Identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. (see Talent Search for more information)

• **Upward Bound** – Provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. (see Upward Bound for more information)

• **Upward Bound Math-Science** – Designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participating students.

• **Veterans Upward Bound** – Designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education.

**Students:** In order to be served by one of these programs, a student must be eligible to receive services and be accepted into a funded project that serves the institution or school that student is attending or the area in which the student lives.

**Upward Bound (part of TRIO programs)**
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioupbound/index.html

Description: Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound serves: high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education... Upward Bound projects provide academic instruction in mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, and foreign languages. Tutoring, counseling, mentoring, cultural enrichment, work-study programs, education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students; and programs and activities previously mentioned that are specially designed for students who are limited English proficient, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless children and youths, students who are in foster care or are aging out of foster care system or other disconnected students.

**Students:** n/a