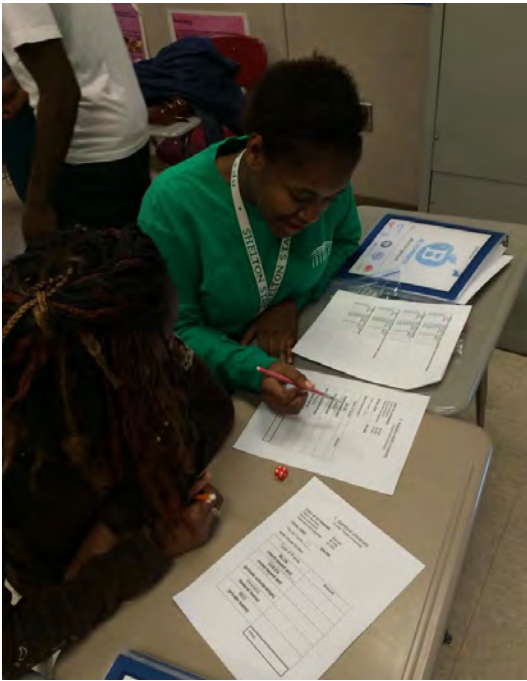




BLUEPRINTS COLLEGE ACCESS INITIATIVE 2014 Impact Report





Shelton State Student Ta'Nia Jackson exploring college and career paths with a Central High School freshman.

Blueprints is unique because it emphasizes two- and four-year college options and gives students an opportunity to explore both technical and academic programs.

Did you know?

- Alabama is the nation's seventh poorest state, and 900,000 Alabamians live below the federal poverty line. *U.S. Census Bureau*
- Alabama's median household income is \$41,610, which is \$9,761 less than the national median. *U.S. Census Bureau*
- By 2018, 55 percent of Alabama jobs will require some form of post-secondary degree or certificate. *Lumina Foundation*
- Only 32 percent of working age adults have an associate's degree or higher. *U.S. Census Bureau*

How does Blueprints work?

Alabama Possible's Blueprints College Access Initiative seeks to increase Alabamians' economic security by increasing their educational attainment. We do that by mentoring individual students, building a college-going culture in Alabama high schools, and collaborating with like-minded organizations.

Blueprints students are teamed with college student "near peer" mentors who equip them to make structured decisions and navigate the college admissions process. High school students are not engaged as recipients, but rather as active participants in planning their future.

In addition to our "near peer" mentoring approach, Blueprints is unique in its emphasis of both two- and four-year college options and gives students an opportunity to explore both technical and academic programs.

Our work is structured as follows:

9th Grade Early Awareness Mentoring. Students are encouraged to use their imaginations to raise their personal aspirations and expectations through a mixture of learning activities and hands-on experience. With guidance from current college students, 9th graders build a portfolio with personalized activities and resources for accessing financial aid, exploring careers and colleges, and acquiring academic and soft skills. The 9th grade program culminates in a focused field trip to a college campus.

10th-12th Grade College Coaching. Building upon the awareness and aspirations formed during the 9th grade, Blueprints continues to provide support for 10th-12th grade students in actualizing their college and career goals. College-prep coaches encourage student access and persistence through continued college and career planning. Blueprints emphasizes financial education including assistance completing scholarship applications and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Promoting a School-Wide College-Going Culture. In addition to working with individual students, Blueprints seeks to promote college access in the broader school community, tailoring its services to each partnership site. Some of these activities include financial aid workshops for students and families and college fairs at individual high schools.



Ninth grade students from Hillcrest High School visit The University of Alabama with their mentors, who are students in UA's University Fellows honors program..

2013-2014 Blueprints Partnership Schools

High Schools

Central High School

Tuscaloosa City

Francis Marion High School

Perry County

Hillcrest High School

Tuscaloosa County

Jackson-Olin High School

Birmingham City

Holy Family Cristo Rey High School

Montevallo High School

Shelby County

Phil Campbell High School

Franklin County

Wenonah High School

Birmingham City

Woodlawn High School

Birmingham City

Colleges & Universities

Athens State University

Birmingham-Southern College

Lawson State
Community College

Northwest-Shoals
Community College

Samford University

Shelton State
Community College

Troy University

The University of Alabama

University of Alabama at
Birmingham

University of Montevallo

Blueprints 2013-14 Demographics

697
students

244 9th graders
35 10th graders
129 11th graders
289 12th graders

81/17/2

African American/White/
Latino, Asian, Native American, Other

51/49

Male/Female

150

College Student Mentors

9

High Schools

10

Colleges & Universities

Financial Aid Partnerships

1,088 FAFSAs completed as of April 25, 2014

Blueprints helped 1,088 families in four school systems complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and gain access to Pell Grants, scholarships, and other financial aid through the Alabama Department of Education Opening Doors program. Partners included:

- Birmingham City Schools
- Birmingham-Southern College
- Chilton County Schools
- Franklin County Schools
- Northwest-Shoals Community College
- Shelby County Schools
- University of Montevallo



Blueprints Coordinator Landon Taylor helps a high school student apply for financial aid.



*Top: Blueprints College Coaching Kickoff with Samford University students at Holy Family-Cristo Rey High School.
Bottom: UAB students talk with Birmingham City School students about paying for college.*

Congratulations to the Blueprints Class of 2014!

They have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alabama A&M University | Georgia Perimeter College | Spelman College |
| Alabama State University | Georgia State University | Spring Hill College |
| Alcorn State University | Hampton University | St. Thomas University |
| Art Institute of Chicago | Hollins University | Stillman College |
| Auburn University | Huntingdon College | Talladega College |
| Auburn University Montgomery | Jefferson State Community College | Tennessee State University |
| Bellhaven University | Johnson & Wales University | Tennessee Wesleyan College |
| Benedict College | Johnson C. Smith University | Texas A&M University |
| Berea University | Kentucky State University | Texas Southern University |
| Bethany Lutheran College | Lane College | Thomas University |
| Birmingham-Southern College | Lawson State Community College | Troy University |
| Bridgewater College | Miles College | Tuskegee University |
| Clafin University | Mississippi State University | The University of Alabama |
| Clark Atlanta University | Mississippi Valley State University | University of Alabama at Birmingham |
| Clayton State University | Northern Illinois University | University of Arkansas |
| Concordia College | Northwest-Shoals Community College | University of Montevallo |
| Dillard University | Oakwood University | University of North Alabama |
| Eastern Georgia State College | Paine College | University of South Alabama |
| Fairfield University | Presbyterian College | University of Southern Mississippi |
| Faulkner University | Rust College | Wallace State Community College |
| Fisk University | Salve Regina University | West Georgia Technical College |
| Florida A&M University | Samford University | Wheeling Jesuit University |
| Florida Memorial University | Shelton State Community College | Xavier University |
| Florida State University | Shorter State University | <i>*list in formation</i> |



Regina Byron, left, and John Cross, right, are both top 10 students at Birmingham's Woodlawn High School.

“I am thankful for all of the resources and support offered by Blueprints. There are so many things I would have missed out on had I not been a part of this program.

My mentor kept me up to date on scholarship and application deadlines, helped me file the FAFSA, and attended financial aid meetings at Samford and UAB. Without her, I would not have known many of the things I know now. I definitely would not be attending UAB this fall.”

*John Cross
Woodlawn High School Valedictorian*



BLUEPRINTS
Class of 2014

289
seniors

100
percent
accepted to
college

85
percent
completed a
FAFSA

as of April 25, 2014

\$6.2
million
supplementary
scholarships

as of May 1, 2014



“Not many people show up every week at Central High School. Our Blueprints mentors show up every week to talk to us about college.”

*Courtney Beckham
Central High School Freshman*



“I’m thankful for Blueprints because it made the entire college process that much easier for me. And if it wasn’t for Blueprints I wouldn’t have come this far, as far as leaving home, graduating from high school and taking the next step to college.”

*Tavarius Hampton
Woodlawn High School Senior*

“Blueprints has been a huge help for me navigating the college application process.”

*Allyson Black
Woodlawn High School Senior*

Left, top to bottom: Central High School students learn about technical education programs at Shelton State Community College; Holy Family Cristo Rey and Jackson-Olin High School students tour Troy University; Phil Campbell High School students explore transfer options at Athens State University.





Northwest-Shoals Community College Phil Campbell Campus's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa academic honorary was named Alabama's Most Distinguished Chapter as a result of the members' work as Blueprints mentors.

“Due to my time spent with Blueprints, I am learning how false stereotypes can be, especially about people who are economically suffering.

Blueprints has given me an ability to build relationships through a common topic: college. These relationships opened up my eyes to the realities of the daily lives of these kids. They are so passionate and dedicated to their futures, and they are trying their best to balance school and outside stressors in their lives that I cannot even begin to understand.

I am so blessed to navigate the college application process with such an amazing group of students.”

Madeline Dormois

Samford University Sophomore

Mentor at Holy Family Cristo Rey High School

About Alabama Possible

Nearly 900,000 of our neighbors – including 300,000 children – live below the poverty line. Alabama Possible is a statewide nonprofit organization that works to reduce systemic poverty and its root causes. Through its work and activities, AP educates Alabamians about poverty, collaborates with higher education and faith-based institutions on poverty-reduction activities, and advocates for fact-based policy decisions. Our programs include the Blueprints College Access Initiative, Higher Education Alliance, and the Community Action Poverty Simulation.

THANK YOU to the amazing faculty, staff, and students at our Blueprints partners and all our community partners including:

A+ College Ready
 Ala. Commission on Higher Education
 Ala. Dept. of Postsecondary Education
 Ala. State Department of Education
 Association of Financial Aid Administrators
 Belk Foundation
 Birmingham Business Alliance
 Birmingham Education Foundation
 CNCS AmeriCorps*VISTA
 Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
 College Access Made Possible
 College Goal Sunday
 Daniel Foundation of Alabama
 Desert Island Supply Company
 Independent Presbyterian Church
 Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
 Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation
 Regions Bank
 Sowing Seeds of Hope
 Taco Bell Foundation for Teens
 Teach For America
 United Way of Central Alabama
 US Department of Education
 Vulcan Materials Foundation
 YouthServe Youth Philanthropy Council
 YWoodlawn
 Woodlawn Alumni Coalition
 Woodlawn Foundation

Nicole Bohannon, Blueprints Founder

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