



College Success Foundation Awarded \$400,000 Grant for Groundbreaking Student Support Research

Comprehensive Evaluation Will Study Remote Support Program's Impact on Low-Income College Students

SEATTLE – August 7, 2019 – College Success Foundation (CSF) announced that it has received a \$400,000, three-year grant from the ECMC Foundation to evaluate their remote support program for low-income college students.

Launched in 2018, the program provides large-scale remote services to low-income students through text messaging, email campaigns, phone calls and web content with the goal of increasing college persistence and completion. CSF remote advisors provide a mix of both proactive and responsive coaching based on student progress. The grant will allow CSF to refine this program to serve more students and measure how effective it is compared to in-person, campus-based supports.

Both semester-to-semester and year-to-year persistence rates in graduation will be examined. CSF will also track five milestones: on-time completion of FAFSA, on-campus engagement, use of faculty office hours, use of academic advising services, and participation in career exploration activities. Results will be shared with college partners and other college success practitioners, organizations, networks and agencies.

Nationally, only 11 percent of low-income students will graduate from college. CSF's college support program provides financial, career and social-emotional support services for low-income students to ensure college access and success. Advisors support students as they transition into college and help them navigate through the early years so they better understand the rigors ahead and the supports available.

As the proportion of low-income undergraduate students has increased, CSF has harnessed the power of technology to reach more students at a lower cost.

“This evaluation will allow us to build the foundation for a more proactive approach and ensure that remote programs are as effective as in-person advising services,” said Danette Knudson, director of strategic initiatives, CSF. “It will also ensure equitable academic outcomes by allowing us to promote adoption of best practices across the country.”

“Studies on the effectiveness of remote college support have mainly been limited to their impact on student matriculation and transfer success,” said Munira Sheriff, director of research,

evaluation and learning. “Few studies have specifically examined remote student advising and how it affects college persistence and completion rates.”

“We are thrilled to support the evaluation of remote services for students,” said Sarah Belnick, senior program director of college success, ECMC Foundation. “Building program evidence will help the program fine-tune and scale to impact more students. We look forward to seeing what College Success Foundation uncovers.”

ABOUT COLLEGE SUCCESS FOUNDATION

College Success Foundation (CSF) provides a unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and succeed in life. CSF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit headquartered in Bellevue, Washington and serving students in ten public school districts in Washington state and Washington, D.C. www.collegesuccessfoundation.org

ABOUT ECMC FOUNDATION

ECMC Foundation is a Los Angeles-based, nationally focused foundation whose mission is to inspire and to facilitate improvements that affect educational outcomes—especially among underserved populations—through evidence-based innovation. It is one of several affiliates under the ECMC Group enterprise based in Minneapolis. ECMC Foundation makes investments in two focus areas: College Success and Career Readiness; and uses a spectrum of funding structures, including strategic grantmaking and program-related investments, to invest in both nonprofit and for-profit ventures. Working with grantees, partners and peers, ECMC Foundation’s vision is for all learners to unlock their fullest potential. Learn more about ECMC Foundation by visiting www.ecmcfoundation.org.

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