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College Bound Opportunities

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Area Students Take First Step Towards College
College Bound Opportunities Assists Deserving Scholars

(Riverwoods, IL) This is a very exciting time for high school seniors as they begin the application process for colleges and anxiously await the response. Over the last several years, they have worked diligently to be successful in their pursuit of a college degree. Students in the College Bound Opportunities' (CBO) program recently took a major step in this direction. On October 28th, CBO's twenty-five high school scholars participated in the Chicago Scholars Seventh Annual College Onsite Admissions Forum, and spoke directly to these colleges about their desire to earn a college degree.

The event brings together hundreds of Chicago area students and more than 80 colleges from across the country. CBO scholars worked with their mentors prior to the Onsite to complete five or more college applications which are read by the colleges in advance. On the day of the event, scholars participate in face-to-face interviews with the admission officers with many receiving offers. CBO scholars took part in more than 150 interviews and received 55 offers of admission. In addition, over \$300,000 in scholarships and grant aid over four years were offered to these scholars. Several CBO mentors were also there to encourage and celebrate with their students. Janet Lipner, a CBO mentor, said, "This is one of my favorite times of the year. Our scholars really see how their hard work has paid off, and that college is a reality for them."

College Bound Opportunities begins working with these students in their junior year of high school to prepare them for the college application process. Through resources like ACT Prep classes, interviewing workshops, and assistance with college applications, 100% of CBO scholars gain admission to college each year. The Onsite Forum is a major stepping stone in this journey. "Each year, we come to this event like a family, and celebrate our successes together," said Bonnie Shlensky, CBO Board President. "When one of our scholars is accepted to a college, it's like all of us have succeeded." Needless to say, there were smiles all around. Students and mentors alike were hugging and high fiving each other. To learn more about CBO, go to <http://cbo4success.org>.

About College Bound Opportunities:

College Bound Opportunities (CBO) is a not-for-profit organization centered in the ten communities within Deerfield and Highland Park High School District 113 and Lake Forest Community High School District 115. CBO identifies high-achieving but under resourced young people who, without support, would likely forgo post-secondary education and assists them in applying to and completing college. CBO goals are achieved through a program of one-to-one mentoring between volunteers and scholars. Additional aid provided by CBO includes tutoring, training services, laptop computers, and up to \$4,000 per year in financial support. Learn more at <http://cbo4success.org>.
