TAKING STEPS TOWARDS COLLEGE SUCCESS

I want to make a change.

"TAKING STEPS TOWARDS COLLEGE SUCCESS"

Be A LEADER Foundation

2011 Annual Report
MISSION

The Be A Leader Foundation’s mission is to increase the number of college-going students by empowering them to become college-bound, focused and prepared through leadership training and mentoring!
Dear Friends and Supporters of the Be A Leader Foundation:

On behalf of the Be A Leader Foundation’s Board of Directors, we are pleased to share our 2011 Annual Report.

As we continue to experience incredible growth in the number of students we serve, the number of partnerships we establish and the number of supporters we gain, we are humbled by the fact that there are thousands of students still out there looking for a college-going path. There is a great need to make a major shift in the educational landscape of Arizona and the only way to make this change is through the continued support of community members like you. Your support and commitment to help further the educational goals of our students is truly valued and we are pleased to share the following successes:

• 98% of our Senior Boot Camp students graduated from High School in 2011 and have gone on to post-secondary education institutions with over $1.3 million in private scholarships
• 1,300 eighth grade students participated in Youth Leadership Conferences from 10 Middle-School Districts
• 21 High School Be A Leader Clubs are established and growing throughout the State of Arizona
• Our original class of eighth grade students graduated High School in 2011 and went on to attend a college or university
• Over 120 Middle School Students participated in our year-long leadership programs, representing over 25 middle schools
• A new Middle School Program was established in the Murphy School District
• Over 700 High School Students participated in our High School program
• Over 3,500 students, parents and community supporters participated in our annual “Taking Steps Towards College Success” Walkathon!

The Be A Leader Foundation serves as a stepping-stone to college access and success for our students. With over 1,000 students served to date, we know our work is valuable and is making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

We thank you for your interest and support. Together, we ARE making a difference!

Warmest regards,

Melissa B. Trujillo
President and CEO
Co-Founder

Gary L. Trujillo
Chairman of the Board
Co-Founder
Improving our Educational Landscape!

The Be A Leader Foundation (BALF) has recognized that while gains have been made in the high school graduation rate in Arizona, there are still deficiencies that must be addressed to increase the college graduation rate of our community. In Arizona, for every 100 children in ninth grade, 68 will graduate from high school four years later; only 19 will enter a 4-year college program within a year; and only 9 will complete their bachelor’s degree within six years. Having access to information on the resources available to students, application process and financial requirements involved with getting a college education is important to be able to dismiss the perceived and very real barrier facing many of our families. Many students and families are aware of the cost of a college education, but are often unfamiliar with the financial aid system including federal aid, state aid, and private aid such as scholarships.
Be A Leader

Programs

Be A Leader Institute Elementary (BLIE)

A program for 7th grade students that aims to create a positive environment and nurturing community through its college-going curriculum and self-esteem development activities.

Valedictorian Club (V-Club)

A program for 8th graders that provides each student with the encouragement to use high school as a platform to develop the leadership and academic skills necessary for entry into and success in college.

Youth Leadership Conferences (YLCs)

A series of one day conferences that provides 8th grade students with the knowledge and motivation needed as they transition into high school and introduce them to the Be A Leader Institute High School program.

Be A Leader Institute High School (BLIH)

A program for high school students that provides each participant with the tools and knowledge necessary to become college bound, focused and prepared.

Be A Leader Clubs

A network of clubs established on High School Campuses aimed at creating a student networking group that is solely focused on empowering, supporting and educating its college going members on the value of a postsecondary education.

Be A Leader Senior Boot Camp

An extensive curriculum to ensure that each of our seniors receives the personal guidance and support needed during the college and scholarship application process.

Be A Leader Institute College (BLIC)

A program that provides college students with educational and career path development and support. Students learn key elements of networking, career & graduate school planning and how to become community leaders.

College...

BOUND  FOCUSED  PREPARED
The Be A Leader Institute Elementary (BLIE) was established in 2006 to instill in each of its 7th grade students the possibility of obtaining a college education. The purpose of BLIE is to create a positive environment and nurturing community through its College Focused Curriculum. The Be A Leader Foundation is currently working with sixty students from the Roosevelt School District who have become part of the sixth BLIE Class (2011-2012). BLIE program participants, parents, teachers, and school administrators have experienced the positive results of the BLIE program and have become our greatest advocates. To date, BLIE has served over 250 Roosevelt students through this program! BLIE is an 8 workshop program that coincides with the academic year. It provides participants with the tools, resources, and encouragement to attend college and become leaders in their communities. In an effort to convey the importance of reading and growing their personal libraries each student participant is provided with inspirational books that encourage them to dream of their endless potential. Each workshop allows time for a book discussion which highlights the message of each book and its relevance to the topics being taught in the program. BLIE has proven to be a successful program; motivating and inspiring inner city students to find a college degree an obtainable dream. A detailed description of each of the program workshops can be found on the following page.

Why do you want to be a LEADER?

“I want to be a leader because it will help me get into a University. I want people to look up to me and admire what I do. Being a leader will help me get in to a good college where I could motivate other students to graduate.”
Ricardo Canales - 7th grader

“I want to be a leader because I want to be a good student and graduate from college. Being a leader will help my grades go up and will help me know what to do to get ready for college.”
Emily Rodriguez - 7th grader
### WORKSHOP 1
**Who am I? The Foundation of My Success!**

Students are encouraged to dream big as they draw visual representations of their past, present and future through a Life Map exercise. Students are then guided in the completion of their first resume including past accomplishments and future goals.

### WORKSHOP 2
**The ABC’s of My Education!**

Students are exposed to the various components of the educational system which includes the roles of the governing board, school administrators, teachers and counselors. Once this information is provided, students are challenged to be the ultimate stewards of their personal educational journeys!

### WORKSHOP 3
**Community Leadership - Where do I stand?**

Students gain an in depth understanding of the concept of community and its various components. Students are exposed to the term “community advocate” and are asked to serve as stewards of their community as they identify a need and develop solutions to meet that need.

### WORKSHOP 4
**Being the Best Me I can Be!**

Students are led through a journey of self reflection as they evaluate themselves and their many roles in life (student, son/daughter, sibling, friend, etc.) Students are presented with “real world” scenarios and asked how the “best me” would confront the situation.

### WORKSHOP 5
**Building My Resource Bank!**

Students are exposed to the concept of resources and asked to identify the resources in their lives and given strategies to tap into those resources. The concept of a recommendation letter is introduced and students are asked to develop a recommendation letter for a classmate.

### WORKSHOP 6
**Leadership & Civic Involvement!**

Students are led to recognize the importance of giving back to their community and develop a sense of social responsibility. The importance of teamwork and collaboration is also emphasized and students work through a series of team building exercises.

### WORKSHOP 7
**My Leadership Journey!**

Students are exposed to various leadership styles and introduced to 12 Leadership Skills. Students are asked to work in groups where they are posed with scenarios and asked to develop a skit for their peers in which they apply the 12 Leadership Skills.

### WORKSHOP 8
**Graduation - How Have I Grown as a LEADER?**

Students are led through a reflection of their experiences in the program. They are then introduced and transitioned into the Valedictorian Club Program for 8th grade students. Culminating the day with a motivational panel of current college students who share opportunities and challenges they have faced through their educational journey from middle school into college.
The foundation of the Valedictorian Club (V-Club) program is rooted in the idea that every student, if given the necessary tools, resources, and proper mentorship has the potential to achieve a postsecondary education! Once referred to as “Valedictorians,” these students start to develop a sense of accomplishment and realize the great potential within them. V-Club’s focus is on the development of leadership skills, providing its participants with the tools to break down the barriers preventing them from finding a college degree a realistic goal. The V-Club program empowers students with the knowledge to plan their high school and college educational pursuits (4+4 Plan). This program allows us to build a PIPELINE of college bound, focused and prepared students starting in 8th grade with an established transition program into high school and active participation at the college/university level. The program accomplishes its goals through its eight workshop series and by providing each participant with a personal mentor to guide them as they develop as leaders and learn to use high school as a platform for entry to and success in college. To date, BALF has established a V-Club program in the Roosevelt, Phoenix Elementary, and Murphy Elementary School Districts. A detailed description of each of the workshop topics can be found on the following page.

What does Leadership mean to you?

“Leadership to me means having the ability to lead, encourage and inspire others. It means that you mentor, monitor and motivate people to achieve their goals.”
Carlos Perez - 8th grader

“Leadership to me means to encourage your friends and family to stay in school and to be with them in time of need.”
Johan Castañeda - 8th grader
## Valedictorian Club (V-Club) Workshop Curriculum

| WORKSHOP 1 | Life Planning - Where are you going? | Students are guided to complete their first resume which includes their future education plans for high school, college and career. The goal is to get students thinking of the importance of having a 4+4 plan and to develop one to guide them through their educational journey. |
| WORKSHOP 2 | Academic planning and transcript review! | Students are taught how to read a high school transcript and introduced to the individuals within the high school system who will serve as resources to help them achieve their 4+4 plan. This session emphasizes the need to know the college entrance requirements. |
| WORKSHOP 3 | Technology Day - Learning about computers and the internet! | Students enhance their ability to use computers & the internet and increase their exposure to the various Microsoft programs. Each student completes a college focused project within each software program to include technical tasks related to each specific software package. For example, when working with Power Point, students must insert hyperlinks, pictures, text, and slide animations to create and present a 3-slide presentation on the college of their choice. |
| WORKSHOP 4 | Leadership and civic involvement! | Students are challenged to take more active roles in finding solutions to needs and issues affecting their communities. To help motivate them, they are introduced to community leaders who have taken on many of the same issues they are wanting to resolve. |
| WORKSHOP 5 | Decision Making! | Students discuss the many challenges and opportunities they may come across in their college bound journey and are given the tools to learn to make ethical, value based decisions. Students are exposed to real life scenarios and taken through the process of evaluating circumstances, identifying resources, and weighing the pros and cons of their decisions. |
| WORKSHOP 6 | Paying for college through leadership and academic preparedness! | Students are given a practical look at the correlation between educational attainment and income. They are split up into educational attainment groups (High School drop out, Bachelors Degree, Masters Degree, etc) and given a dollar figure to itemize monthly expenses through a budget process. Groups then present their budgets to the larger group and realize the economic disparity between being educated and not. |
| WORKSHOP 7 | My college bound journey! | Students are asked to reflect on previous workshops in an effort to re-enforce the message and importance of each of the workshops. As they are getting ready to start high school, students revisit the resume activity and update their educational goals. |
| WORKSHOP 8 | Graduation - How I have grown as a LEADER! | Students are provided with a college-going portfolio and encouraged to use it as a tool to document their progress in high school. The portfolio will serve as a resource for the college admission and scholarship application process. Students are introduced and transitioned into the Be A Leader Institute High School program. Current BLIH students encourage V-Club members to join the Be A Leader clubs at their respective high schools. |
Timing is a critical factor in the efforts to increase the college enrollment and graduation rate of our students. It is essential that the college planning process begin at a minimum in the middle school system with an effective transition into high school. The purpose of the *Youth Leadership Conference* (YLC) is for 8th grade students to feel excited and confident in their ability to achieve their educational goals when entering high school. The concept of implementing YLC's was created as a means to reach 8th grade students from each of the 13 Phoenix elementary school districts that promote students into the Phoenix Union High School District. Each YLC is a bridge to support students and expose them to our BLIH program and Be A Leader Clubs ensuring a constant outreach to at least 1,300 new students each year. By participating in the YLC, each student will learn about the importance of preparing for high school and will be provided the initial tools and resources for success as they transition into their freshman year class. In addition, they will be given a “Guide to Graduation” which will help them identify the opportunities that exist during each of their high school years as they proceed to attain their college education. BALF uses each YLC as a platform to instill a college bound focus and culture into each of the incoming freshman. Our transition methodology is delivered through a full day of high school preparation/college readiness workshops and activities hosted by BALF at a high school campus where each school district is likely to matriculate into. Students from each of our high school Be A Leader Clubs are there to answer questions and serve as role models to all incoming freshman to ease the critical transition from 8th grade to high school.

“Partnering School Districts”

- alhambra
- roosevelt
- madison
- creighton
- osborn
- balsz
- cartwright
- murphy
- laveen
- phoenix
- wilson
Be A Leader
Institute High School

The Be A Leader Institute High School Program (BLIH) is a dynamic solution to fill the void that currently exists between the elementary and high school transition years. Monthly workshops are taught at the ASU Downtown campus and allow participants to interact with other students from across the valley including College and University Staff and Community Leaders who focus on improving Arizona's college-going rate. Each of the workshops allows students to play an active role in the educational evolution of their peers through the various team building activities. Students are able to coach each other through team presentations, projects and team building activities that make up a critical component of the BLIH curriculum. The program curriculum is tailored to provide students with the tools and resources needed to prepare for and successfully navigate the college and scholarship application process. The program incorporates the three Positive Youth Development Principles established through extensive research. These principles include: 1) Providing caring relationships for Youth, 2) Having high expectations for Youth, and 3) Offering meaningful opportunities for youth engagement. The BLIH program has proven to be an effective vehicle to support the current educational system and to enhance the college-going learning experience of all Arizona students. To date, BALF has been honored to have reached over 1,000 students through this unique and impactful program. We are absolutely convinced that every student, if provided with the proper resources and mentorship, has the ability to become a college graduate! A detailed description of each of the topics taught through our BLIH program can be found on the following page.

Every Student Can Become a College Graduate!
Be A Leader Institute High School (BLIH) Workshop Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 1</th>
<th>Understanding Your Transcripts and Developing Your 4+4 Plan!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are given a clear understanding of the various components of their high school transcript. During this workshop, students are taught about the importance of having an academic plan for high school and challenged to create a 4 year plan for their college education. College entrance requirements are reviewed and students leave with a clear understanding of what they need to do now to achieve their college dreams!</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 2</th>
<th>PSAT &amp; SAT Preparation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students are exposed to the various components of the PSAT and SAT college preparation and entrance exams. Topics include: grading the test, test structure and test taking tips. The importance of a good score is emphasized as we review scholarships tied to the test such as the National Merit Scholarship.</td>
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<tr>
<th>FALL BREAK</th>
<th>College Shadow Day!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are given the opportunity to shadow a University student majoring in a field of their interest. The day includes attending at least 2 college classes and lunch.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 3</th>
<th>Valley Teen &amp; BALF Leadership Day!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students participate in a leadership training day in conjunction with Valley Teen Leadership to expand the leadership skills of our BLIH members. In addition, we encourage students to apply for the annual Valley Teen Leadership program.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 4</th>
<th>Leadership and Community Service - Getting Involved in High School!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are made aware of the importance of participating in extracurricular activities and more importantly, documenting their experiences. The concept of a community service portfolio is introduced for students to use as a tool when applying to programs, scholarships and college.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 5</th>
<th>FAFSA and Financial Aid - Planning to Achieve Your College Dreams!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are made aware of the Financial Aid process. Time is spent describing the FAFSA process, reviewing specific scholarship programs and their applications. Part of the day is also used to go over educational attainment levels and income.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 6</th>
<th>Taking Advantage of Summer Programs!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are provided information about the various summer programs offered through ASU. Students are guided through the completion of applications and the day ends with a scavenger hunt of Downtown Phoenix.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SPRING BREAK</th>
<th>Professional Shadow Day!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are provided with the opportunity to live a “day in the life of” by shadowing a local professional. Professions available for students include but are not limited to: Accounting, Architecture, Law, Medicine, Engineering, Journalism, Forensic Science, Education, Government, &amp; Non-Profit.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 7</th>
<th>Career Exploration - Staying Motivated to Achieve Your Educational &amp; Career Goals!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are guided through career exploration activities with the goal of helping them identify possible fields, industries and careers of interest. Once they have been provided with career choices they are presented with a panel of motivational speakers who share the opportunities and challenges they have faced.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 8</th>
<th>Writing a Personal Statement for Program, Scholarship &amp; College Applications!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are taught about the importance of a personal statement. University Admissions officers facilitate a statement writing break-out where students critique sample statements and put themselves in the mind set of a scholarship committee.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WORKSHOP 9</th>
<th>Interviewing &amp; Developing Supportive Networks!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students participate in various breakout sessions where they learn the components of resumes, recommendation letters, and are then put through mock interviews. The day culminates with a look at the various resources available to students including teachers, counselors, mentors, and other college bound supporters.</td>
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Be A Leader
Senior
Boot Camp

The Be A Leader Senior Boot Camp was established in 2010 to provide high school seniors with a detailed, easy to navigate support system during the college and scholarship application process. This extensive curriculum ensures that each of our seniors receives personal help with the often daunting process of applying to colleges and scholarships. BALF’s Senior Boot Camp begins the summer before our students’ senior year and requires that each student work with BALF staff and their assigned mentor to meet critical senior year deadlines. Seniors who enlist in Boot Camp commit to following a “Senior Year Action Plan” that was designed to ensure students are on track with the college and scholarship application process. Boot Camp sessions are held monthly from 11am to 1pm during our regularly scheduled BLIH sessions. In addition to their action plan, students receive detailed SAT and ACT preparation material and a Be A Leader Scholarship guide containing over 80 scholarship opportunities. Along with receiving individualized support from our Be A Leader College-Going Counselor, students are provided with a mentor who helps them stay on track, offer advise, proofread application essays, and helps them with the transition from high school into college. Boot Camp provides the perfect environment for BALF to reach our goal of successfully transitioning students into college and provides them with a network of peers and caring mentors to motivate them through their college-going journey!

SENIOR BOOT CAMP CONTRACT

* Complete the BALF “Senior Year Action Plan”

* Take the ACT/SAT no later than November 2011

* Apply to a minimum of 4 colleges/universities

* Submit the FAFSA application no later than February 14th (if eligible)

* Notify BALF of all scholarships received and the college/university you will be attending in the fall!

In 2011, BALF Senior Boot Camp students earned over $1.3 million dollars in private scholarship dollars!
Be A Leader Senior Boot Camp
Monthly Curriculum

The following Boot Camp Sessions are held during each BLIH session and run from 11am to 1pm. Each session includes a presentation based on the monthly topic including activities for the mentor/mentee to complete. In addition, students and their mentors are given homework each month to complete in preparation for the following month’s session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Boot Camp Session Presentation</th>
<th>Mentor / Mentee Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>August</strong></td>
<td>• Review Senior Boot Camp Action Plan w/ student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In State University Process Overview</td>
<td>• Help student identify a minimum of 4 colleges/universities to apply to and review the admissions requirements for each school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Common Application Overview</td>
<td>• Ensure Student is registered to take the ACT/SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community College Overview</td>
<td>• Review the provided BALF Scholarship Guide with student and identify potential scholarships they will apply for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fee Waivers – What are they / how do you get them?</td>
<td>• Help student identify at minimum 4 individuals they can go to for recommendation letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
<td>• Help student create a draft resume or edit current draft for students who already have one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overview of Recommendation Letters &amp; How to Ask for them</td>
<td>• Review the “Commonly asked College Application Essay Questions” handout with students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overview of Resumes</td>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November</strong></td>
<td>• Revise / edit students’ Personal Statement and / or “Commonly asked College Essay Questions” to create final version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interview Techniques for College Visits and Scholarships</td>
<td>• Review College application drafts with student and prepare for submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
<td>• Continue to work on scholarship applications with deadline approaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Overview of the different forms of Financial Forms</td>
<td>• Review / Edit any Scholarship applications with upcoming deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• FAFSA Overview</td>
<td>• Review the “Preparing to File FAFSA” handout with students and ensure students and their families are prepared to file the FAFSA in January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
<td>• Ensure student has completed and submitted the FAFSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What happens after you submit the FAFSA?</td>
<td>• Review / Edit Scholarships with upcoming deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Additional Financial Aid forms that may be required by schools</td>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td>• Work with student to continue to research scholarships and edit essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Student Life – On Campus vs. Off Campus living, Getting Involved on Campus</td>
<td>• Review enrollment process at selected schools (if student has been accepted) and ensure student notes important deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Creating your class schedule – using programs of study to guide your course selection</td>
<td>• Discuss planned living arrangements with student – review housing options at colleges / universities that students have applied to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
<td>• Review / Edit any scholarships with upcoming deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “College Survivor” Activity</td>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
<td>• “College Survivor” – Navigate a mock college campus with student to learn about the various departments / resources on a college campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Budgeting for College Students - Living on a college budget &amp; managing your credit</td>
<td>• Create a sample college budget with student based on their awarded financial aid package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Update the Be A Leader College-Going Counselor of students’ selected schools and scholarships awarded</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Attend the Be A Leader Graduation Ceremony!</td>
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BALF continues to work directly with our students to develop a network of college bound students through each of our campus Be A Leader Clubs. The clubs support and encourage the membership to actively participate in the monthly high school workshops and Be A Leader Club activities. To date, BALF has established 21 Be A Leader Clubs and is committed to increasing our college-going footprint in the State of Arizona by establishing additional Be A Leader Clubs in 2012! Each month the officers from each of the Be A Leader Clubs come together as part of the Be A Leader Club Advisory Council. Representatives from each of the schools share ideas, successes, and are provided with BALF college teaching material that is utilized to conduct their club meetings each month. The Clubs have become a significant part of the BALF infrastructure, enhancing our reach into the system and a providing meaningful output to each club member, whether or not they are able to participate in the monthly workshops due to other life commitments. Through our Be A Leader Clubs, BALF is able to provide our students with the opportunity to stay engaged during scheduled school breaks. In 2011, over 100 high school students took advantage of the chance to “Shadow a College Student” during their fall break in October. Students were given the opportunity to sit in on college classes in their desired fields of study and explore the campus with their college mentor. We are also happy to report that over 120 students participated in our “Professional Shadow Week” in March and were able to experience a real “day in the life” with professionals from over 20 different industries.

Be A Leader Parent Clubs

Along with the cooperation of educational institutions, corporations and community leaders, parent involvement is equally or more important to promoting a college-going mentality in the lives of our students. As a result, BALF continues to implement our Be A Leader Parent Club for parents of our students. The Parent Club has given parents an opportunity to voice their concerns and questions about the educational system in a comfortable environment as most of the meetings are conducted in both English and Spanish. During the most recent school year, BALF served a total of 46 parents through the bi-monthly Be A Leader Parent Club meetings. This number does not include repeat parents attending more than one meeting throughout the school year. In addition to the many topics covered, extensive assistance is offered to the parents of our seniors. These parents get one-on-one help understanding the college and scholarship application process. This includes information on the importance of taking and scoring well on college entrance exams (SAT and ACT) and filling out the FAFSA including translation assistance.
The Be A Leader Institute College (BLIC) program is a program for Arizona college students that provides them with the educational and career path development support that will increase their success both professionally and most importantly academically. BALF supports and mentors these students to continue their college education by providing a series of workshops held each academic year in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2011, BALF served an average of 70 college students at each of our BLIC professional development workshops. As participants in the program, students are able to take advantage of networking with community leaders, applying for lucrative internships, and exploring the possibility of pursuing graduate school. The BLIC program allows BALF to provide our students with continued mentoring support, professional development, and tracking through their higher education. BALF has also found that our BLIC program is a great way for us to leverage the resources of our corporate partners by directly engaging their organization in the professional development of their future workforce. Organizations such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and Arizona Public Service have been instrumental partners in helping us deliver workshops such as Professional Business Etiquette and Project Management. In addition to the above topics, BLIC students are exposed to topics such as graduate school planning, career and internship preparation, resume and interviewing skills and effective communication skills. We are excited to continue to partner with our corporate community to provide our students with the skills and resources to become successful college graduates and future employees!

“The Be A Leader Foundation (BALF) changed my life. When I first came in contact with the organization, I was entering my junior year of college with no clear direction for my career or definitive goals. I knew what I liked and what I excelled in, but I did not have the understanding or scope to find an arena to enter that best utilized my traits. Through mentorship that spanned generations, I was able to gain focus and eventually ended up interning the following summer with the world’s third largest investment bank in New York City. After this experience, I decided to pursue a career that concentrated on the aspects of investment banking that I enjoyed most, which resulted in accepting a job offer in management consulting in San Francisco. I know that this outcome would not have been possible if I was not approached by a BALF alumnus and accepted into la familia.”

Jacob Igono
Arizona State University
Class of 2011
Be A Leader
College Summer Internship Program

OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND COLLEGE...

Once in college, BALF continues to encourage and empower students to dream big and seek out professional development opportunities through the Be A Leader College Summer Internship Program. As part of our commitment to education, summer internship opportunities are provided to Be A Leader college students and are mentored through the application and interview process. Once selected by an internship program, students may apply for the Be A Leader Summer Internship Scholarship to help defray the cost of traveling to and from their internship destination. The Summer Internship Program includes an introduction to challenging & lucrative internship programs as well as mentorship through the evaluation and selection process. BALF helps select traditionally under-represented students for these internships who are then placed at Bulge Bracket Blue Chip firms such as Goldman Sachs, IBM, Xerox, UBS, and Merrill Lynch. The Be A Leader Foundation has a special relationship with the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO). The SEO Summer Internship Program recruits, selects and trains outstanding college students of color for summer internships that lead to full time employment with investment banks, corporate law firms, and other leading global companies. We are proud to currently have 12 Be A Leader Scholars holding full-time positions on Wall Street & with Blue Chip corporations!

My Professional Journey ...

“Be A Leader was instrumental in helping me realize that I could accomplish my biggest dreams. For example, I always wanted to start a successful career in business. Several program coordinators in the Be A Leader Foundation encouraged me to apply for a competitive internship in New York City with Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) – a Princeton Review top rated internship. Through the mentorship provided from my Be A Leader peers, I was admitted into SEO. Through SEO, I participated in rigorous finance coursework, attended seminars with professionals such as J.P. Morgan CEO Jaime Dimon, and established my own professional network. I used the skills established from my summer as a SEO intern to land a full-time offer with a leading firm. I owe this all to Be A Leader.”

Robert Futyma - Arizona State University - Class of 2011
Be A Leader Mentor Program

LIFE CYCLE OF GIVING...

We understand that mentoring is a big commitment and we value the time and dedication of each of our mentors. The Be A Leader Mentoring Program has been designed to provide each individual with a variety of mentoring opportunities that best fits within their personal and professional lives. The following paragraphs provide detailed information on each of the mentoring opportunities that are available to our community members through our Be A Leader Mentoring Program.

**Group Mentoring**

Our group-mentoring model provides our facilitators with the support needed to lead our highly interactive workshops. Mentors in the following programs are able to interact with groups of students in a college-going environment!

**Be A Leader Institute Elementary – 7th grade:**
Students and mentors attend monthly Saturday workshops where mentors help BALF staff and facilitators lead small group activities and discussions. This is an ideal program for individuals looking to engage with a group of students once a month on a Saturday during the academic year.

**Be A Leader Institute High School – 9th to 12th grade:**
Mentors help BALF staff and facilitators lead small group activities and discussions while sharing with students their own college experience and advice during our monthly BLIH workshops.

**One-On-One Mentoring**

With the help of caring individuals, the Be A Leader Foundation is able to provide students with mentors during the two critical transition periods of their educational journey – 8th grade transition into high school and the 12th grade transition into college.

**Valedictorian Club – 8th graders:**
V-Club mentors attend monthly workshops held on Saturdays with their student and also meet with their mentee an additional time a month outside of the monthly workshop.

**Be A Leader Senior Boot Camp – 12th graders:**
Mentors work one-on-one with Boot Camp students through the college and scholarship application process, often proofreading essays, writing letters of recommendation, practicing interviewing skills and reminding students of critical deadlines during their senior year.

“Being a mentor for the Be A Leader Foundation has given me the opportunity to assist youth and guiding them to a positive future. We offer a great resource and I thrive knowing I make a huge impact on this group of students. Instilling in our students that anything is possible, only opens up more opportunities for them every day.”

Matt Flores
Senior Boot Camp Mentor
Financial Aid Specialist
Arizona State University

“My motivation to make a difference grows each time as I get closer to the young students and seeing their confidence being lifted to pursue higher education. Mentoring for me has meant being able to connect to the students and letting them know the possibilities of becoming successful in school, career, and life are endless.”

Bryan Soto
V-Club Mentor
ASU Student
“Taking Steps Towards College Success” is the first Walk-A-Thon in Arizona that provides the opportunity for all Arizonans to have direct access to college-going materials and to ignite and motivate the masses on the importance of supporting and promoting higher education. Our 3rd Annual event was held on Sunday, October 2, 2011 and once again drew in a record breaking crowd of over 3,500 LEADERS! We are positive that this event continues to encourage, enrich and enhance each family member’s educational development by becoming college bound, focused and prepared. The day’s activities begin with a college-going resource fair at Margaret T. Hance Park that includes booths from over 50 organizations such as Teach for America, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Arizona College Scholarship Foundation, the College Depot, and Expect More Arizona. Also present is each of the in-State Colleges and Universities as well as each of the United States Military Academies. All participating organizations provide students and their families with college-going resources and detailed information about their efforts to help students obtain a college education. Following the college-going resource fair, the walk-a-thon commences down 2nd Street and makes its way to the Phoenix Convention Center culminating the event at the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) College fair. The Be A Leader Foundation owes the success of this event to the students and families that see this as a true opportunity to get the information they need to become a college bound family!
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View our Videos!

Be A Leader Foundation (BALF) ABOUT US:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwKebopeEUU&feature=related

“Taking Steps Towards College Success” 2011 Walk-a-thon
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBCqspfbVU8

Be A Leader Club Video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUKBl7k7OZI

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