



Creatively College Bound is geared towards high school juniors and seniors who often feel alienated by the college application process and the tedium of applying for financial aid and scholarships. Students prepare applications, essays, and creative materials that are professional but also illuminate their unique voices as leaders, writers and thinkers. The main focus of Creatively College Bound is writing creative and powerful essays that can be used for the college package and also for scholarships, grants and other awards. The program also provides young people with advice concerning various financial issues including SAT and application fee waivers, creating professional resumes for grants and scholarships, and ways for students to mold themselves academically and artistically into optimum candidates for college acceptance.

The Creatively College Bound Reader is the text used to lead the program's writing workshop. It is a step-by-step guide to writing creative and powerful essays that put both the "Brains" and the "Poetry" into the voice of the college applicant. Hip-Hop lyrics, powerful poems and visual arts are used as starting points for writing exercises that will be reworked into essays that meet and surpass the expectations of the admissions essay-prompts. The reader also contains calendars to manage admission and scholarship deadlines, guides for writing resumes and CV's, finished samples and instructions for financial aid procedures. It is a thorough outline of the ways students can use Hip-Hop, poetry and art to inspire the contents of their college portfolio and to make themselves a more outstanding candidate for admission.

Number of youth directly served in the programs' first year: 220      Number of youth indirectly served: 4,000+

Percentage of Creatively College Bound High School Seniors Accepted to a College or University: 99%

Percentage of Creatively College Bound High School Seniors Awarded Scholarships: 92%

Total Amount of Scholarship Money Awarded to Creatively College Bound Seniors: \$1,567,500+

**In its First Year (2007-2008) The Creatively College Bound Program:**

- Awarded over \$100,000 in college scholarships, including 2 full rides to the University of Wisconsin's First Wave program.
- Had full enrollment on-site in Manhattan and Brooklyn.
- Was offered at 7 off-site locations, including Eagle Academy for Young Men, supported by the Robin Hood Foundation, the Global Action Project, Brooklyn College, Baruch College and Lehman College
- Co-presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Urban Word and NY Knicks College Fair and Poetry Expo at the Hammerstein Ballroom attracting 3,500 teens, 25 colleges, and 350 youth poets/performers
- Conducted workshops and performances at 18 CUNY College Now sites
- Created and published *The Creatively College Bound Reader*

In its first year, Creatively College Bound students were accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Cornell University	Hofstra University	Wesleyan University	Messiah College
New York University	De Paul University	Ithaca College	CUNY Medgar Evers
Brown University	Amherst College	Clark University	CUNY Baruch College
Howard University	Syracuse University	Tufts University	CUNY City College
George Washington U.	Emerson University	St. John's University	CUNY BMCC
Georgetown University	Fordham University	Binghamton University	CUNY Hunter College
American University	University of Wisconsin	University of Michigan	CUNY York College
Mount Holyoke College	University of Rochester	Morgan State University	SUNY Albany
Morehouse College	Wheaton College	Rutgers University	SUNY Old Westbury
Bard College	Emory College	University of Vermont (UVM)	SUNY Buffalo
Boston University	Bryn Mawr College	McDaniel College	SUNY Geneseo
Rochester Inst. for Tech. (RIT)	Pace University	Simon's Rock College	SUNY Oswego
Seton Hall University	Berry College		SUNY Stony Brook