



**COLLEGE  
POSSIBLE™**  
Open a world of opportunity

## **CAPS, GOWNS AND BETTER FUTURES FOR MORE LOW-INCOME STUDENTS**



Evaluation from Harvard's Dr. Christopher Avery shows that **intensive, tailored coaching significantly increases college enrollment** for low-income students.

“Educating our promising low-income students is not only the right thing to do, it is the only way to maintain our country’s strong workforce in a competitive global economy. **This randomized controlled trial shows that College Possible has found an effective approach.**”



Jim McCorkell  
CEO and Founder,  
College Possible

### **THE FINDINGS: A PROVEN SOLUTION, TACKLING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP**

Key findings of a three-year randomized controlled trial of the College Possible coaching model, the first to rigorously examine the impact of a college success program using randomized controls:

- A significant increase in four-year college enrollment for students served.
- A significant increase in college applications submitted by students served.

“I always thought that college was supposed to be the engine of economic mobility. When the process of getting there gets in the way, it goes against the ideal of education that’s inspired me and so many others. College Possible has helped position their students for future success.”

Dr. Christopher Avery, Roy E. Larsen Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School



“Because of College Possible and my coach, I’ve not only graduated from college, but I’m starting graduate school at Johns Hopkins University this fall. No one but my coach would have believed that was possible for me back then.”

*Nico Salas, Beloit College Class of 2012*



College Possible National  
540 Fairview Ave N, Suite 304  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
884-434-2885

[CollegePossible.org](http://CollegePossible.org)

*Working toward more college graduates  
in the following cities:*

College Possible Minnesota  
Established 2000

College Possible Milwaukee  
Established 2008

College Possible Omaha  
Established 2011

College Possible Portland  
Established 2012

College Possible Philadelphia  
Established 2013

College Possible Chicago  
Established 2015

## THE CONTEXT: EXPANDING COLLEGE ACCESS = A RICHER, STRONGER AMERICA

- Upper income students are nearly nine times more likely to attend college than their lower income peers, yet a four-year college degree is the surest path out of poverty.
- By 2020, America will face a shortfall of 5 million workers with postsecondary education according to a Georgetown study.

## THE RESEARCH APPROACH: RIGOROUS METHOD UNCOVERS RARE, POSITIVE RESULTS

- The **gold standard of evaluation**, the randomized controlled trial involved 238 students assigned to either a treatment or control group.
- The rigor of this study sets an extremely high bar for finding significant impact. Only 12 percent of such evaluations find positive results.

## THE RESPONSE: GROWING A PROVEN, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

- As the first organization to apply the AmeriCorps model to college success, **College Possible is able to provide intensive services at 1/5<sup>th</sup> the cost of similar programs.**
- College Possible successfully delivers services to 30,000 students at 64 high schools and online, and at more than 300 colleges.

## ABOUT COLLEGE POSSIBLE:

College Possible™ is a nationally-growing nonprofit organization making college admission and success possible for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support.

Founded in Minnesota in 2000, College Possible is serving 30,000 students across the country in 2016-17 with plans to serve 50,000 students and partner with 400 colleges by 2021.

College Possible is thankful to the generous foundations, corporations and individuals who have made college graduation likely for thousands of low-income students. College Possible is especially grateful to the Spencer Foundation for making this research possible.