#### **Abstract Title Page**

Not included in page count.

**Title**: Effects of College Access Programs on College Readiness and Enrollment: A metaanalysis

#### **Authors and Affiliations:**

Eleanor L. Harvill, Abt Associates Inc. Rebecca A. Maynard, University of Pennsylvania Hoa T. H. Nguyen, University of Pennsylvania Claire Robertson-Kraft, University of Pennsylvania Namrata Tognatta, University of Pennsylvania

Development of this paper was supported in part by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, through Grant R305C050041-05 to the University of Pennsylvania. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **Abstract Body**

Limit 4 pages single-spaced.

#### **Background / Context:**

#### Description of prior research and its intellectual context.

Despite modest increases in the U.S. high school graduation and college enrollment rates over the past decade, approximately 25 percent of ninth grade public school students do not go on to earn a high school diploma four years later (Chapman, Laird, & KewalRamani, 2010). Furthermore, among high school graduates, only 70 percent enroll in higher education (Snyder & Dillow, 2010). Additionally, recent research has demonstrated that a large proportion of high school graduates have not developed the skills necessary to succeed academically in college (Callan, Finney, Kirst, Usdan, & Venezia, 2006; Greene & Winters, 2005). Of high school graduates who enroll in two- or four-year colleges, only about 35 percent earn a bachelor's degree (Carnevale & Fry, 2000). Almost half of students in four-year institutions and two thirds of students in two year institutions require remedial coursework (Kirst & Bracco, 2004). Overall college enrollment rates have increased, yet students whose parents did not attend college, students of lower socioeconomic status and students of minority backgrounds are considerably less likely than their peers to graduate high school, pursue post-secondary education, and persist upon entry (College Board, 2010).

For decades, college access programs have aimed to improve college readiness and enrollment rates, particularly for underrepresented populations. Though several published reports have produced comprehensive inventories of college access programs (Gandara, 2001; Perna, 2002; Tierney, Bailey, Constantine, Finkelstein, & Hurd, 2009), no systematic review and meta-analysis of the evidence regarding their effectiveness exists.<sup>1</sup> This paper fills that knowledge gap by systematically gathering, reviewing, and synthesizing the findings on the effectiveness of programs designed to improve college readiness and enrollment for disadvantaged populations. In so doing, it is intended to provide guidance for policymakers and practitioners implementing college access programs, and to identify important gaps in the scientific evidence base that warrant further research.

#### Purpose / Objective / Research Question / Focus of Study:

#### Description of the focus of the research.

The purpose of this review is to summarize the evidence regarding the effectiveness of college access programs on college readiness and college enrollment. We address the following questions: (1) What evidence is available to judge the effectiveness of programs aimed at increasing college readiness and enrollment? (2) What does that evidence base tell us about the effectiveness of these programs? More specifically, what are the estimated average impacts of programs on college readiness outcomes within the following four domains: math achievement, language arts achievement, completed coursework, and high school graduation? What is the estimated impact of programs on college enrollment?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guide *Helping Students Navigate the Path to College*, a panel of experts identified promising practices high schools engage in to increase college access (Tierney et al, 2009). A comprehensive search of the literature and review of studies by the WWC was performed to determine the level of evidence supporting the specific recommendations of the panel (Tierney et al, 2009). In contrast, this paper reports the effects of college access programs systematically, without limiting attention to particular strategies for increasing access.

#### Setting:

#### Description of the research location.

Evaluations of college access programs that have been fielded since 1990, were conducted in the United States or in developed countries with similar secondary and higher educational systems, and are written in English are eligible for inclusion in this review. See the results section for a description of the settings of the interventions identified through our preliminary search.

#### **Population / Participants / Subjects:**

*Description of the participants in the study: who, how many, key features, or characteristics.* The review only includes studies of interventions that target students between grades six and 12, or students of comparable ages who have not yet graduated from high school or earned a General Education Development certificate. The review excludes studies in which less than 75 percent of the sample falls within the target population for this review. See the results section for a description of the participants in the studies identified through our preliminary search.

#### **Intervention / Program / Practice:**

*Description of the intervention, program, or practice, including details of administration and duration.* For this review, we define college access programs to be pre-college interventions that explicitly identify increasing college readiness and/or college enrollment as a primary goal of the program. This review examines two broad categories of college access programs: pre-packaged whole school reform efforts; and supplementary services provided at the student level. We use Gandara's (2001) taxonomy to characterize components of college access programs. See the results section for a description of the programs identified through our preliminary search.

#### **Research Design:**

#### Description of the research design.

This project conducts a Campbell Collaboration systematic review and meta-analysis of the effect of college access programs on college readiness and college enrollment. This literature review is systematic in that attempts to uncover all existing research on college access programs within a set of pre-specified bounds. We defined these bounds in a systematic review protocol that describes our search strategy, our criteria for screening studies for relevance and quality, the aspects of the studies that will be coded for analysis and our analytic approach.<sup>2</sup>

Our relevance screening identifies studies that use an eligible study design to measure the impact of a college access program on at least one of our key outcomes and that fall within the bounds described above. Eligible study designs include randomized controlled trials (RCTs), quasi-experimental designs (QEDs) and regression discontinuity designs (RDDs).

To pass quality standards, a randomized control trial must meet the What Works Clearinghouse attrition standards. RCTs that do not meet this standard are treated as QEDs. Quasi-experimental designs must establish baseline equivalence of the analytic sample to be included in the review.<sup>3</sup> In addition to these quality standards, the protocol establishes requirements for data collection, reporting and analysis.

## **Data Collection and Analysis:**

Description of the methods for collecting and analyzing data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> We are in the process of revising and resubmitting the protocol to the Campbell Collaboration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Our preliminary search has not identified any RDD studies. Should one be identified, we will screen them for quality on a case-by-case basis.

For this systematic review, data collection involves conducting an extensive literature review and systematically coding the studies identified. To attempt to identify all quantitative studies of the effects of college access programs, we perform electronic database searches, search online conference programs for the three most relevant conferences, browse online repositories of research related to college access, perform cited reference searches, search the web and solicit feedback from subject experts. Our electronic database search involves keyword searches of general bibliographic databases, full-text journals, a dissertation and thesis database, two grey literature databases and subject-specific databases for education, economics, psychology and sociology (Table 1). We perform additional controlled language searches for the subject-specific databases.

Bibliographic information and abstracts for all studies identified through our search process are entered into a RefWorks database. Abstracts are reviewed for all studies, and the full text of the study is obtained for all studies that might measure the impact of a college access program. We then screen the study for relevance. Studies that pass relevance are screened for quality. We record full study details for those that pass quality screening.

We record effect size data for five key outcomes of interest: language arts achievement, math achievement, completed coursework, high school graduation and college enrollment. For the math achievement and language arts achievement domains, outcome measures are continuous. In the finished paper, these study impact estimates will be reported in natural units (where possible) as well as converted to standardized mean differences. Both the standardized mean differences and the standard error associated with each standardized mean difference are calculated as described by Lipsey & Wilson (2001, p. 49). Analysis of impacts on completed coursework, high school graduation, and college enrollment are reported as percentage point differences.<sup>4</sup> The standard error of these differences is calculated as given in Fleiss & Berlin (2009, p. 239). In all cases, the pooled impact estimate is given by the weighted average of these effect sizes, where the weights are given by the inverse of the squared effect size standard error (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001 p. 113-114).

#### **Findings / Results:**

#### Description of the main findings with specific details.

Please note that these findings are preliminary. The full search process is still being conducted. As we identify additional studies for inclusion in the analysis, our results may change.

The preliminary literature search located 1175 unique citations from electronic database and online sources. A total of 28 studies passed relevance and quality screening. See Table 2 for the number of studies retained through each step of the screening process. Of these studies, 14 reported their results in sufficient detail for inclusion in the meta-analysis.<sup>5</sup> These studies report the impact of 12 different college access programs, as several studies had multiple, independent evaluations. <TABLE 2 HERE>

The studies included in this review represent a wide range of programs that vary in terms of the target population, source of funding, key program components and study design. Four of the 12 programs implemented pre-packaged whole school reform initiatives–three at the high school

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Note that these calculations assume that the outcomes are reported as binary measures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The most common reason for exclusion at this stage was failure to report standard deviations for the continuous measures.

and one at the middle school level. The remaining eight programs provided a range of college access supports, typically from outside agencies, to supplement the regular education program. All 12 of the programs included in the analysis targeted low-SES students, although there was variation in whether these students were academically high- or low-performing (not shown). Nine of the evaluated programs received federal funds, four received state funds, three received local funds, five received non-profit or foundation funds, and three received private funds (not shown). The average program costs per differed substantially across programs (not shown).

Programs also diverged in terms of key components (Table 4). The majority of programs included an academic enrichment program and a counseling element, while fewer programs provided personal enrichment and social integration, mentoring, parental involvement, or scholarships. Within each of these broader components, the duration and intensity of offered services also varied by program. <INSERT TABLE 4 HERE>

Six of the 14 studies were randomized controlled trials (RCTs), while the remaining eight were based on quasi-experimental designs (QEDs) (Table 4). Several of the QEDs used advanced techniques, such as propensity score matching. No regression discontinuity studies were identified.

Of the five key outcomes of interest, only high school graduation and college enrollment data were available for a sufficient number of studies to support a meta-analysis. Table 5 presents effect size data for language arts and mathematics achievement outcomes. We were unable to construct such a table for completed coursework measures because too few studies reported measures of completed coursework. <TABLE 5 HERE>

On average, college access programs increase high school graduation by eight percentage points. However, among the three programs evaluated by RCTs, the estimate of the average impact was not statistically significant. <INSERT FIGURE 2 & TABLE 6 HERE>

The average impact of college access programs on enrollment in a 2-year or 4-year college is a 12 percentage point increase. The impact of programs evaluated by RCTs is also positive and statistically significant. These programs increase enrollment by 4 percentage points on average. <INSERT FIGURE 2 & TABLE 7 HERE>

#### **Conclusions:**

Description of conclusions, recommendations, and limitations based on findings.

Given that our results are still very preliminary, we are hesitant to draw strong conclusions at this time. However, two aspects of our preliminary analysis are striking enough to comment on.

Measures of completed coursework are the best pre-college predictors of college graduation (Adelman, 2006; Rose & Betts, 2001). We encourage evaluators to consider including these outcome measures in their evaluations of college access programs.

The sharp differences in the size of estimated impacts between QEDs and RCTs raise questions about the extent to which QEDs are identifying causal impacts. We must proceed carefully when interpreting the results of the QEDs.

#### Appendices

Not included in page count.

#### **Appendix A. References**

References are to be in APA version 6 format.

- Callan, P. M., Finney, J. E., Kirst, M. W., Usdan, M. D., & Venezia, A. (2006). *Claiming common ground: State policymaking for improving college readiness and success*. San Jose, CA: The Institute for Educational Leadership, The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and The Stanford Institute for Higher Education Research.
- Carnevale, A. P., & Fry, R. A. (2000). *Crossing the great divide: Can we achieve equity when Generation Y goes to college?* Washington, DC: ETS Public Leadership Office. Retrieved from <u>www.ets.org/research/dload/CrossingDivide.pdf</u>
- Chapman, C., Laird, J., and KewalRamani, A. (2010). *Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972–2008* (NCES 2011-012). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch">http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch</a>.
- College Board. (2010). 2010 College-bound seniors: Total group profile report. Retrieved from http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/2010-total-group-profile-report-cbs.pdf
- Gandara, P. (2001). Paving the Way to Postsecondary Education: K-12 Intervention Programs for Underrepresented Youth, *Report of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative Working Group on Access to Postsecondary Education*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
- Fleiss, J.L., & Berlin, J.A. (2009). Effect sizes for dichotomous data. In Cooper, H., Hedges, L.V., & Valentine, J.C. *The handbook of research synthesis and meta-analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). (pp. 239-253). New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Greene, J. P., & Winters, M. A. (2005). *Public high school graduation and college-readiness rates: 1991–2002* (Education Working Paper Number 8). New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.
- Kirst, M. W., & Bracco, K. R. (2004). Bridging the great divide: How the K-12 postsecondary split hurts students and what can be done about it. In M. W. Kirst & A. Venezia (Eds.), *From high school to college: Improving opportunities for success in postsecondary education* (pp. 1-30). San Francisco, CA: Wiley and Sons.
- Lipsey, M. W., & Wilson, D. B. (2001). *Practical Meta-Analysis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
- Perna, L. W. (2002). Precollege outreach programs: Characteristics of programs serving historically underrepresented students. *Journal of College Student Development*, 43(1), 64-83.
- Snyder, T.D., & Dillow, S. A. (2010). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2009* (NCES 2010-013). Washington DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

Tierney, W.G., Bailey, T., Constantine, J., Finkelstein, N., & Hurd, N. F. (2009). Helping students navigate the path to college: What high schools can do: A practice guide (NCESS #2009-4066). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U. S. Department of Education. Retrieved from http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/praticeguides/

#### **Appendix B. Tables and Figures**

Not included in page count.

Table 1: Keywords for free-text searches of electronic databases

Table 2: Summary of Search Results (Number of Studies)

Table 3: Intervention Program Components for College Access Programs Represented in the Review

Table 4: Study Citation and Design

Table 5: Estimated Impacts on Language Arts and Mathematics Achievement in Effect Size Units

Table 6: Estimated Impacts on High School Graduation Rates Measured as Risk Differences

Table 7: Estimated Impacts on College Enrollment Rates Measured as Risk Differences

Appendix Table B.1: Descriptive Data on Studies Estimating Impacts on High School Graduation Rates

Appendix Table B.2: Descriptive Data on Studies Estimating Impacts on College Enrollment

Figure 1: Forrest Plot of Estimated Impacts of Programs on College Enrollment

Figure 2: Forrest Plot of Estimated Impacts of Programs on College Enrollment

| Table 1: | Keywords | used for | Electronic | Database | Searches |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|

| Торіс                   | Intervention | Evaluation |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| pre-colleg*             | program      | evaluation |
| precolleg*              | intervention | experiment |
| college AND transition* |              | effect*    |
| "college access"        |              |            |
| "college enrollment"    |              |            |
| "college readiness"     |              |            |
| "college preparation"   |              |            |
| college AND outreach    |              |            |
| college AND bridge      |              |            |
| "college going"         |              |            |
| "college attendance"    |              |            |

| Search Source              | Citations<br>Identified | Unique<br>Citations | Reviewed | Meeting<br>Relevance<br>Criteria | Meeting<br>Quality Criteria |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Electronic Databases       |                         |                     |          |                                  |                             |
| EBSCO Megafile             | 169                     | 133                 | 24       | 4                                | 3                           |
| JSTOR                      | 7                       | 6                   | 1        | 0                                | 0                           |
| Econlit                    | 20                      | 11                  | 1        | 0                                | 0                           |
| ERIC                       | 444                     | 294                 | 47       | 1                                | 1                           |
| Dissertation Abstracts     | 745                     | 432                 | 92       | 16                               | 7                           |
| Project Muse               | 659                     | 275                 | 3        | 0                                | 0                           |
| US Department of Education | 8                       | 8                   | 8        | 5                                | 5                           |
| Hand Searches              | 16                      | 16                  | 16       | 14                               | 8                           |
| Total                      | 2068                    | 1175                | 192      | 40                               | 28                          |

 Table 2: Summary of Search Results (Number of Studies)

Note: of the 28 studies meeting the relevance and quality criteria, only 14 both estimated impacts on outcomes that fall within the protocol for this review and reported outcomes with sufficient detail that the findings could be included in the review. These 14 studies represent studies of only 12 separate programs.

# Table 3: Intervention Program Components for College Access Programs Represented in the Review

| Program                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                    | Program Cor | mponents  |             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Name &                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                     |                  | Social             | Academic    | -         | Parent      | Scholar- |
| Citation                                                                | Program Goal                                                                                                                                                        | Counseling       | Enrichment         | enrichment  | Mentoring | Involvement | ships    |
|                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                    |             |           |             |          |
| Whole Sch                                                               | ool Reforms: Comprehensive in                                                                                                                                       | itiatives implen | nented at the scho | ol level    |           |             |          |
| Advanceme                                                               | ent via Individual Determination (                                                                                                                                  | AVID)            |                    |             |           |             |          |
| Prepare mo<br>for college<br>academic p<br>students the<br>classes and  | re underrepresented students<br>by focusing on improving the<br>erformance of a select group of<br>ough placing them in advanced<br>giving them additional support. | Х                | Х                  | Х           |           |             |          |
| Career Aca                                                              | demies                                                                                                                                                              |                  |                    |             |           |             |          |
| Enhance str<br>school and<br>credentials<br>successful t<br>education a | udents' performance in high<br>provide them with the<br>and skills needed to make a<br>transition to post-secondary<br>nd eventually a career                       | X                | X                  | X           |           |             |          |
| Early Colle                                                             | ge                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |                    |             |           |             |          |
| Prepare stu<br>years with a<br>associate's<br>transferrabl              | dents to graduate in four to five<br>a high school diploma and an<br>degree or two years of<br>e college credit                                                     | X                |                    | X           |           |             |          |
| Gear Up                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                    |             |           |             |          |
| Increase po<br>success am<br>targeting te<br>high povert                | stsecondary attendance and<br>ong low-income students by<br>achers, parents, and students at<br>y middle schools.                                                   | X                | Х                  | Х           | Х         | Х           | Х        |

| Supplemental Services: Support provided to s | students in add | lition to the reg | gular education pro | ogram, typically                                                                                                | from outside age | encies |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| FAFSA intervention with H & R block          |                 |                   | 5                   | ndifference of the second s |                  |        |
| Provide families with additional             |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| information and support in filling out the   |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| FAFSA so that they will be more likely to    | Х               |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| enroll in college                            |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Upward Bound                                 |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Increase college enrollment and graduation   |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| rates of low-income students and students    |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| whose parents did not complete college       | Х               |                   | Х                   | Х                                                                                                               | Х                |        |
| Upward Bound Math & Science                  |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Improve the academic achievement of          |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| economically disadvantaged students in       |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| math and science and to increase the         |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| number of disadvantaged students that        | Х               | Х                 | Х                   |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| become math and science majors               |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Sponsor A Scholar Program                    |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Motivate at-risk students to enroll in and   |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| attend college                               | Х               | Х                 | Х                   | Х                                                                                                               |                  | Х      |
| Outerture Organiturity Program               |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Using at rick high school age youth          |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| reducts from high school and arroll in       |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| postsocondary education and training         |                 | v                 | v                   | v                                                                                                               |                  |        |
| possecondary education and training          |                 | Λ                 | Λ                   | Λ                                                                                                               |                  |        |
| Talent Search                                |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Help low-income, potentially first           |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| generation college students prepare for and  |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| gain access to college by targeting students | Х               |                   | Х                   | Х                                                                                                               |                  |        |
| who have academic potential                  |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| Tech Pren                                    |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |
| 1 con 1 cp                                   |                 |                   |                     |                                                                                                                 |                  |        |

| Develop systemic links between secondary<br>and postsecondary institutions to better<br>prepare students for high tech careers                | X  |   | X  |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|----|---|---|---|
| ACE Plus<br>Reduce dropout rates among at-risk<br>students and help them make a smooth<br>transition to community colleges or<br>universities | X  | Х | Х  | Х | Х | X |
| Total Number of Studies                                                                                                                       | 11 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 3 |

|                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | RCT  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | or   |
| Program Name                                                                              | Citation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | QED? |
| Advancement via<br>Individual<br>Determination<br>(AVID)                                  | Black, A. C., Little, C. A., McCoach, D. B., Purcell, J. H., &<br>Siegle, D. (2008). Advancement via individual determination:<br>Method selection in conclusions about program effectiveness.<br><i>Journal of Educational Research</i> , <i>102</i> (2), 111-124                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | QED  |
| Career Academies                                                                          | Kemple, J.J. & Snipes, J.C. (2000). Career Academies: Impacts<br>on students' engagement and performance in high school;<br>MDRC, New York                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | RCT  |
| Early College                                                                             | Edmunds, J. A., Bernstein, L., Unlu, F., Glennie, E., Willse, J.,<br>Arshavsky, N. Yamaguchi, R., Dallas, A. (2009). <i>Expanding the</i><br><i>College Pipeline: Early Results from an Experimental Study of</i><br><i>the Impact of the Early College High School Model</i> , Paper<br>presented at the annual meeting of the American Education<br>Research Association, San Diego, California.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | RCT  |
| Gaining Early<br>Awareness and<br>Readiness for<br>Undergraduate<br>Programs (GEAR<br>UP) | <ul> <li>U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, <i>Early Outcomes of the GEAR UP Program – Final Report</i>, Washington, D.C., 2008</li> <li>U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Under Secretary, Policy and Program Studies Service, <i>National Evaluation of GEAR UP: A Summary of the First Two Years</i>, Washington, D.C., 2003</li> <li>Cabrera, A. F., Deil-Amen, R., Prabhu, R., Terenzini, P. T., Lee, C., &amp; Franklin Jr., R. E. (2006). Increasing the college preparedness of at-risk students. <i>Journal of Latinos &amp; Education</i>, <i>5</i>(2), 79-97.</li> </ul> | QED  |
| Excel                                                                                     | Bergin, D.A., Cooks, H.C., Bergin, C.C. (2007). Effects of a college access program for youth underrepresented in higher education: A randomized experiment, <i>Research in Higher Education</i> , 48 (6), 727-750.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | RCT  |
| FAFSA<br>intervention with<br>H&R Block                                                   | Bettinger, E., Long, B. T., Oreopoulos, P. & Sanbonmatsu, L.<br>(2009). <i>The role of information and simplification in college</i><br><i>decisions: Results from the FAFSA experiment</i> . Retrieved 02/04,<br>2010, from                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | RCT  |

|                                   | http://www.uis.no/getfile.php/SV/Eric%20Bettinger.pdf                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |     |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Upward Bound                      | <ul> <li>Myers, D., Olsen, R., Seftor, N., Young, J., &amp; Tuttle, C. (2004).<br/>The impacts of regular Upward Bound: Results from the third<br/>follow-up data collection. Washington, D.C.: Mathematica Policy<br/>Research, Inc.</li> <li>Seftor, N. S., Mamun, A., &amp; Schirm, A. (2009). The impacts of<br/>regular Upward Bound on postsecondary outcomes seven to nine<br/>years after scheduled high school graduation. Princeton, N.J.:<br/>Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | RCT |
| Sponsor A Scholar<br>Program      | Johnson, A. W. (1997). Mentoring at-risk youth: A research<br>review and evaluation of the impacts of the Sponsor-A-Scholar<br>program on student performance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | QED |
| Quantum<br>Opportunity<br>Program | <ul> <li>Maxfield, M., Schirm, A., &amp; Rodriguez-Planas, N. (2003). The Quantum Opportunity Program demonstration: Implementation and short-term impacts. Washington, D.C.: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.</li> <li>Schirm, A., &amp; Rodriguez-Planas, N. (2004). The Quantum Opportunity Program demonstration: Initial post-intervention impacts. Washington, D.C.: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.</li> <li>Schirm, A., Stuart, E., &amp; McKie, A. (2006). The quantum opportunity program demonstration: Final impacts. Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | RCT |
| Talent Search                     | <ul> <li>D.C.: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.</li> <li>Constantine, J. M., Seftor, N. S., Martin, E. S., Silva, T., &amp;<br/>Myers, D. (2006). <i>Study of the effect of the Talent Search</i><br/><i>program on secondary and postsecondary outcomes in Florida,</i><br/><i>Indiana and Texas. Final report from phase II of the national</i><br/><i>evaluation</i>. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education.</li> <li>Cahalan, M., Silva, T., Humphrey, J., Thomas, M., &amp;<br/>Cunningham, K. (2004). <i>Implementation of the talent search</i><br/><i>program, past and present: Final report from phase I of the</i><br/><i>national evaluation</i>. Washington, D.C.: Mathematica Policy<br/>Research, Inc. Retrieved from<br/>http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/highered/talentsearch/index.htm<br/>1</li> </ul> | QED |
| Tech Prep                         | Cellini, S. R. (2006). Smoothing the transition to college? The effect of Tech-Prep programs on educational attainment. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 25(4), 394-411.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | QED |
|                                   | Ball, J. F., Jr. (2005). Tech Prep: A study of high school career and technical students' preparation for college (Unpublished                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | QED |

|             | <ul> <li>doctoral dissertation) Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.</li> <li>Brodsky, S. M., Newman, D. L., Arroyo, C. G. and Fabozzi, J. M. (1997). <i>Evaluation of Tech-Prep in New York state: Final report</i>. New York State Education Department, Albany; Bureau of Postsecondary Grants Administration, Retrieved on January 12, 2011 from</li> <li><a href="http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nf">http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nf</a></li> </ul> | QED    |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|             | ExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED412355                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        |
| Achieving a | Fowler, M. (2007). A program evaluation of achieving a college                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | QED    |
| Due Program | eaucation plus. (Ed.D., Northern Arizona University)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |
| (ACE Dlue)  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
| (ACE I IUS) | (DCTs and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
| Total       | 6 RC1s and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ð QEDs |

Note: RCT refers to a randomized controlled trial and QED refers to a comparison group quasiexperimental design study.

|                                              |                                                |        |     | Effect    | Standard |                |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|-----------|----------|----------------|
| Outcome and Study Authors                    | Program                                        | Design | Ν   | Size (ES) | Error    | 95% CI         |
| Language Arts Achievement Outcomes           |                                                |        |     |           |          |                |
| Cabrera, Prabhu, Terenzini, Lee and Franklin | GEAR UP                                        | QED    | 219 | -0.62     | 0.14     | (-0.89, -0.34) |
| Ball                                         | Tech Prep: Health                              | QED    | 30  | 0.03      | 0.37     | (-0.69, 0.75)  |
| Ball                                         | Tech Prep: Business/Engineering                | QED    | 89  | 0.23      | 0.26     | (-0.27, 0.74)  |
| Black, Little, McCoach, Purcell and Siegle   | AVID                                           | QED    | 52  | 3.14      | 0.48     | (2.20, 4.08)   |
| Mathematics Achievement Outcomes             |                                                |        |     |           |          |                |
| Cabrera, Prabhu, Terenzini, Lee and Franklin | GEAR UP                                        | QED    | 219 | 2.05      | 0.19     | (1.67, 2.43)   |
| Ball                                         | Tech Prep: Business/Engineering<br>Pre-Algebra | QED    | 69  | 0.35      | 0.28     | (-0.20, 0.90)  |
| Ball                                         | Tech Prep: Business/Engineering<br>Algebra     | QED    | 55  | 0.45      | 0.33     | (-0.20, 1.10)  |
| Ball                                         | Tech Prep: Health Pre-Algebra                  | QED    | 20  | 1.22      | 0.53     | (0.19, 2.26)   |
| Ball                                         | Tech Prep: Health Algebra                      | QED    | 18  | 1.04      | 0.55     | (-0.03, 2.11)  |

## Table 5: Estimated Impacts on Language Arts and Mathematics Achievement in Effect Size Units

Source: See Table 4.

Note: RCT refers to randomized controlled trials and QED refers to comparison group quasi-experimental design studies.

|                                               |                                |        | Sample | Risk       | Standard |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Study Authors                                 | Program                        | Design | Size   | Difference | Error    | 95% CI        |
| Fowler                                        | ACE Plus                       | QED    | 120    | 0.18       | 0.08     | (0.02, 0.34)  |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Florida         | QED    | 43414  | 0.14       | 0.01     | (0.12, 0.16)  |
| Cellini                                       | Tech Prep                      | QED    | 7211   | 0.11       | 0.01     | (0.09, 0.13)  |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Texas           | QED    | 34869  | 0.09       | 0.01     | (0.08, 0.10)  |
| Brodsky, Newman, Arroyo & Fabozzi             | Tech Prep: New York            | QED    | 1854   | 0.07       | 0.01     | (0.05, 0.09)  |
| Maxfield, Schirm and Rodriguez-Planas         | Quantum Opportunity<br>Program | RCT    | 1069   | 0.06       | 0.03     | (0.00, 0.12)  |
| Kemple and Snipes                             | Career Academies               | RCT    | 1482   | 0.00       | 0.02     | (-0.05, 0.04) |
| Myers, Olsen, Seftor, Young & Tuttle; Seftor, |                                |        |        |            |          |               |
| Mamun & Schirm                                | Upward Bound                   | RCT    | 2292   | -0.01      | 0.01     | (-0.04, 0.02) |
| Pooled Effect Size: All Studies               |                                |        |        | 0.08       | 0.00     | (0.07, 0.09)  |

Table 6: Estimated Impacts on High School Graduation Rates Measured as Risk Differences (In Descending Order of the Size ofEstimated Risk Differences)

Source: See Table 4 for study citations. See Appendix Table B.1 for data related to these computations.

# Table 7: Estimated Impacts on College Enrollment Rates Measured as Risk Differences (In Descending Order of the Size of Estimated Risk Differences)

|                                               |                                |        | Sample | Risk       | Standard |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Study Authors                                 | Program                        | Design | Size   | Difference | Error    | 95% CI        |
|                                               |                                |        |        |            |          |               |
| Johnson                                       | Sponsor-A-Scholar: Class of 95 | QED    | 130    | 0.26       | 0.08     | (0.11, 0.41)  |
| Fowler                                        | ACE Plus                       | QED    | 120    | 0.22       | 0.08     | (0.06, 0.37)  |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Texas           | QED    | 34,869 | 0.20       | 0.01     | (0.18, 0.22)  |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Florida         | QED    | 43,414 | 0.16       | 0.01     | (0.13, 0.19)  |
| Johnson                                       | Sponsor-A-Scholar: Class of 94 | QED    | 73     | 0.08       | 0.09     | (-0.10, 0.26) |
| Bettinger, Long, Oreopoulos and Sanbonmatsu   | FAFSA Support                  | RCT    | 786    | 0.08       | 0.03     | (0.03, 0.13)  |
| Maxfield, Schirm and Rodriguez-Planas         | Quantum Opportunity Program    | RCT    | 1,069  | 0.07       | 0.03     | (0.01, 0.13)  |
| Bergin, Cooks and Bergin                      | Excel                          | RCT    | 83     | 0.05       | 0.10     | (-0.16, 0.25) |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Indiana         | QED    | 10,927 | 0.04       | 0.02     | (0.01, 0.07)  |
| Myers, Olsen, Seftor, Young & Tuttle; Seftor, |                                |        |        |            |          |               |
| Mamun & Schirm                                | Upward Bound                   | RCT    | 2,292  | 0.03       | 0.02     | (-0.01, 0.07) |
| Cellini                                       | Tech Prep                      | QED    | 7,211  | 0.02       | 0.02     | (-0.01, 0.05) |
| Kemple and Snipes                             | Career Academies               | RCT    | 1,482  | -0.01      | 0.03     | (-0.06, 0.04) |
| Pooled Effect Size, All Studies               |                                |        |        | 0.13       | 0.01     | (0.12, 0.14)  |

Source: See Table 4 for study citations. See Appendix Table B.2 for data related to these computations.

|                                               |                        |        | Treatment Group |        | Control Group |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
|                                               |                        |        | Proportion      | Sample | Proportion    | Sample |
| Study Authors                                 | Program                | Design | Graduated       | Size   | Graduated     | Size   |
| Fowler                                        | ACE Plus               | QED    | 0.80            | 60     | 0.62          | 60     |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Florida | QED    | 0.84            | 900    | 0.70          | 42,514 |
| Cellini                                       | Tech Prep              | QED    | 0.86            | 1,125  | 0.75          | 6,086  |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers  | Talent Search: Texas   | QED    | 0.86            | 4,027  | 0.77          | 30,842 |
| Brodsky, Newman, Arroyo & Fabozzi             | Tech Prep: New York    | QED    | 0.97            | 1,050  | 0.90          | 804    |
| Maxfield, Schirm and Rodriguez-Planas         | Program                | RCT    | 0.46            | 580    | 0.40          | 489    |
| Kemple and Snipes                             | Career Academies       | RCT    | 0.74            | 817    | 0.74          | 665    |
| Myers, Olsen, Seftor, Young & Tuttle; Seftor, | Upward Bound           | рст    | 0.80            | 1 265  | 0.00          | 1 027  |
|                                               | Opward Doulld          | KC I   | 0.07            | 1,205  | 0.90          | 1,027  |

Appendix Table B.1: Descriptive Data on Studies Estimating Impacts on High School Graduation Rates

Source: See Table 4 for study citations.

|                                                                 |                                |        | Treatment Group |        | Control Group |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
|                                                                 |                                |        | Proportion      | Sample | Proportion    | Sample |
| Study Authors                                                   | Program                        | Design | Enrolled        | Size   | Enrolled      | Size   |
| Johnson                                                         | Sponsor-A-Scholar: Class of 95 | QED    | 0.84            | 61     | 0.58          | 69     |
| Fowler                                                          | ACE Plus                       | QED    | 0.83            | 60     | 0.62          | 60     |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers                    | Talent Search: Texas           | QED    | 0.65            | 4,027  | 0.45          | 3,0842 |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers                    | Talent Search: Florida         | QED    | 0.73            | 900    | 0.57          | 42,514 |
| Johnson                                                         | Sponsor-A-Scholar: Class of 94 | QED    | 0.84            | 31     | 0.76          | 42     |
| Bettinger, Long, Oreopoulos and Sanbonmatsu                     | FAFSA Support                  | RCT    | 0.19            | 390    | 0.12          | 396    |
| Maxfield, Schirm and Rodriguez-Planas                           | Quantum Opportunity<br>Program | RCT    | 0.37            | 580    | 0.30          | 489    |
| Bergin, Cooks and Bergin                                        | Excel                          | RCT    | 0.67            | 43     | 0.63          | 40     |
| Constantine, Seftor, Martin, Silva and Myers                    | Talent Search: Indiana         | QED    | 0.56            | 1,083  | 0.52          | 9,844  |
| Myers, Olsen, Seftor, Young & Tuttle; Seftor,<br>Mamun & Schirm | Upward Bound                   | RCT    | 0.72            | 1,265  | 0.69          | 1,027  |
| Cellini                                                         | Tech Prep                      | QED    | 0.55            | 1,125  | 0.53          | 6,086  |
| Kemple and Snipes                                               | Career Academies               | RCT    | 0.42            | 817    | 0.43          | 665    |

## Appendix Table B.2: Descriptive Data on Studies Estimating Impacts on College Enrollment

Source: See Table 4 for study citations.

## Study name

## Risk difference and 95% Cl



**Meta Analysis** 

# **College Enrollment**

#### Study name

## **Risk difference and 95% CI**



Meta Analysis