



SEED

**College Transition
& Success Program**





SEED GRADUATE PROFILE *(Front cover and above)*

DOMINIQUE, SEED CLASS OF 2011
University of Tennessee, Class of 2015

“At SEED, I had the chance to travel, experience different cultures, and be exposed to different things for the first time. I’ve been to Greece and Australia and went to space camp in Alabama. With the opportunity SEED provided and college-like environment, the transition from high school to college was very smooth for me.”

When she wasn’t taking advantage of external opportunities, Dominique honed her skills on the volleyball court, tutored her peers, and paved the way to becoming valedictorian of her class. After she graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in business analytics, she followed her sense of adventure once again as she travels to China to teach English in fall 2015.

WHAT MOTIVATES US: A NATIONAL CHALLENGE

The dream of college is being denied to low-income and first-generation students. The odds are daunting:



Only half of all low-income high school graduates enroll immediately in college.



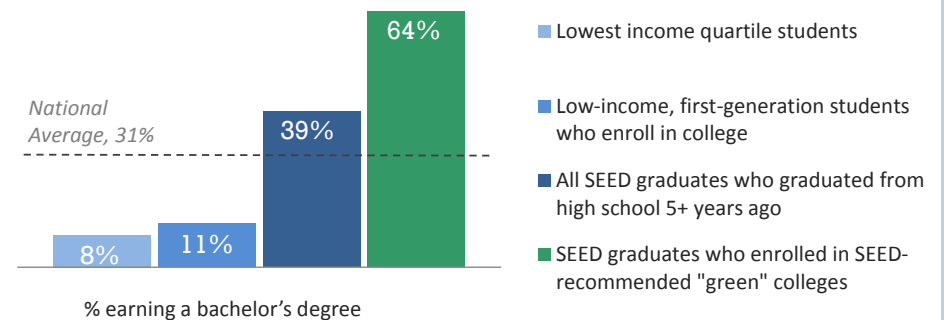
Even students who make it to college are unlikely to graduate. **Only one in ten low-income, first-generation students who enroll in college earn a bachelor’s degree.**

Over 80% of SEED graduates are first-generation students. And yet, they defy the odds starting early in their college careers and continuing through graduation day.

83% of SEED graduates enroll immediately in college; 93% eventually enroll.

SEED graduates complete college at **5x** the rate of students from the lowest income quartile families, and **3.5x** the rate of low-income, first-generation students who enroll.

64% of SEED graduates who enroll at colleges with track records of success for underrepresented students graduate (see page 6).



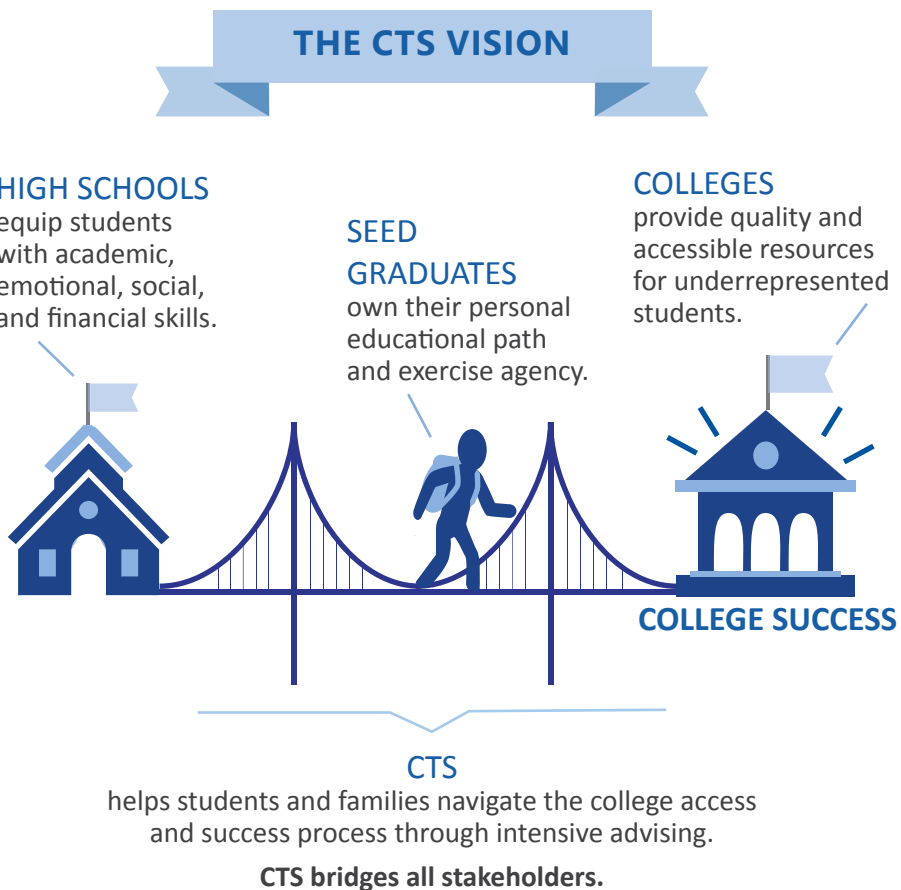
Our college success program works to make the dream of college completion a reality.

REALIZING SUCCESS: THE COLLEGE TRANSITION & SUCCESS PROGRAM

SEED's College Transition & Success (CTS) program helps students and families prepare for college, influences their college selection process, and teaches them to navigate and overcome obstacles to college graduation through individualized support.

Our CTS team builds relationships among key influencers in a student's college success: families, high school teachers and counselors, and college academic and financial advisors.

Our goal is to help SEED graduates become self-directed, self-motivated, and prepared to succeed in college and life.



SEED GRADUATE PROFILE

NAILAH & AYANA, SEED CLASS OF 2008
Brown University, Class of 2012

Twin sisters Nailah and Ayana have always set the bar high for themselves and each other. While they took advantage of different opportunities - extracurricular trips to Greece and Spain for Nailah, Chile and Brazil for Ayana - both soon developed a passion for medicine and for Brown University, their alma mater.

Now, Ayana is a dental student and National Health Services Corps Scholarship recipient. The scholarship covers all of Ayana's dental school tuition in return for her commitment to provide health care to communities in need upon graduation. Nailah's future is just as bright; she enrolled at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN in fall 2015.

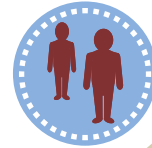
COLLEGE TRANSITION & SUCCESS SERVICES

Our CTS team builds students' capacity to graduate from college during middle school, high school, and beyond.



COLLEGE SUCCESS

COLLEGE CTS advisors provide guidance, counsel, and teach self-advocacy. Graduates learn to make academic and personal decisions proactively.



ADVISING

Building deep relationships with graduates is core to CTS's success. Every SEED graduate works with an advisor who acts as their advocate, mentor, expert, and cheerleader.



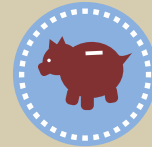
COLLEGE OUTREACH VISITS & SUPPORT

We visit SEED graduates on campus in their first year, ensuring they can access college services and build supportive connections. Our advisors stay in close contact with graduates, especially during critical periods like the start of each semester.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Success is about more than a GPA. Graduates develop - and practice - vital life skills such as networking and interviewing through workshops and one-on-one sessions.



FINANCIAL ADVICE

Students and families learn to make smart financial choices in college and life. Students apply for scholarships to minimize loans.



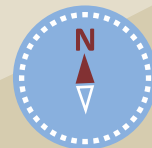
COLLEGE FIT & MATCHING

Students select the college that gives them their best chance at graduating using our College Matching Tier System (see page 6).



COLLEGE TRANSITION PROGRAMMING

Students and their families learn what to expect when they attend college through individual and group planning sessions and family seminars.



PRE - COLLEGE PROGRAMMING

SEED students learn what it means to go to college. They visit several colleges and hear about college directly from SEED graduates. Every dorm and classroom is named after a college, reinforcing the value of college success.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

HIGH SCHOOL CTS helps students and families make informed choices about college and financial aid.

COLLEGE EXPOSURE

MIDDLE SCHOOL SEED schools help students envision their futures as college students.

FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FIT

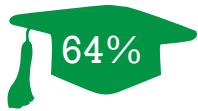
CTS's College Matching Tier System gives students and families a proven framework to make smart college choices. It uses criteria most critical to first-generation college student success:

**High College
Graduation
Rates**

**Affordable
Financial Aid
Packages**

**High-Quality,
Campus-Based
Support Systems**

We only endorse colleges with a track record of success for underrepresented students with strong performance in all three criteria. Here is why:



64% of SEED graduates who start at SEED-endorsed colleges graduate. That's more than double the rate for students who start at non-SEED-endorsed colleges.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTS EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the quality of our college's support services, which is elusive to measure, we rely on a framework borne from our ten years of experience and external research, the Institutional Supports Evaluation (ISE).

The ISE looks at the following supports...

- ✓ Academic Support
- ✓ Disability Support
- ✓ Social Engagement / Emotional Support
- ✓ Financial Aid

...and asks if these supports are:

- Available?
- Communicated?
- Accessible?
- Structured?

CTS staff, SEED graduates, and other stakeholders evaluate colleges, and colleges evaluate themselves. The result is a 360° view, one which can be used to help colleges implement best practices for improving services for underrepresented students. **Contact Vincena Allen at vincena@seedfoundation.com to learn more.**

AFFORDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FIT

Financial aid is an enormous obstacle for underrepresented students on their path to college success.

Our Financial Education Model teaches financial literacy, college affordability, and financial planning. Students and families complete practical exercises, analyzing the pros and cons of various aid types and learning how to avoid becoming overextended. Sessions are offered throughout the year and are led by finance professionals.

And when the time comes, CTS staff help graduates advocate for generous financial aid packages to reduce the financial burden on themselves and their families.



SEED GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

CORDELL, SEED CLASS OF 2011
Senior at Morehouse College

Though he was awarded a SEED-funded scholarship for college, Cordell still relied on his CTS family to assist him in financial planning:

"I had a tough conversation with my CTS advisors about how I planned to pay the remaining \$30,000 balance for my freshman year at Morehouse. We sat down Indian-style on the floor, and although I was stressed about the scholarship hunting process, they assured me that I possessed all of the necessary tools to make the impossible, possible. Four years later, I've earned over \$80,000 from six organizations."



THE SEED GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Pictured: 2015 Participants

The SEED Graduate Institute is a weekend focused on professional, personal, and financial growth, offered to recent SEED graduates each summer. Participants set goals and strategies for the coming year and practice critical life skills such as networking, interviewing, and financial planning with volunteer experts in those fields.

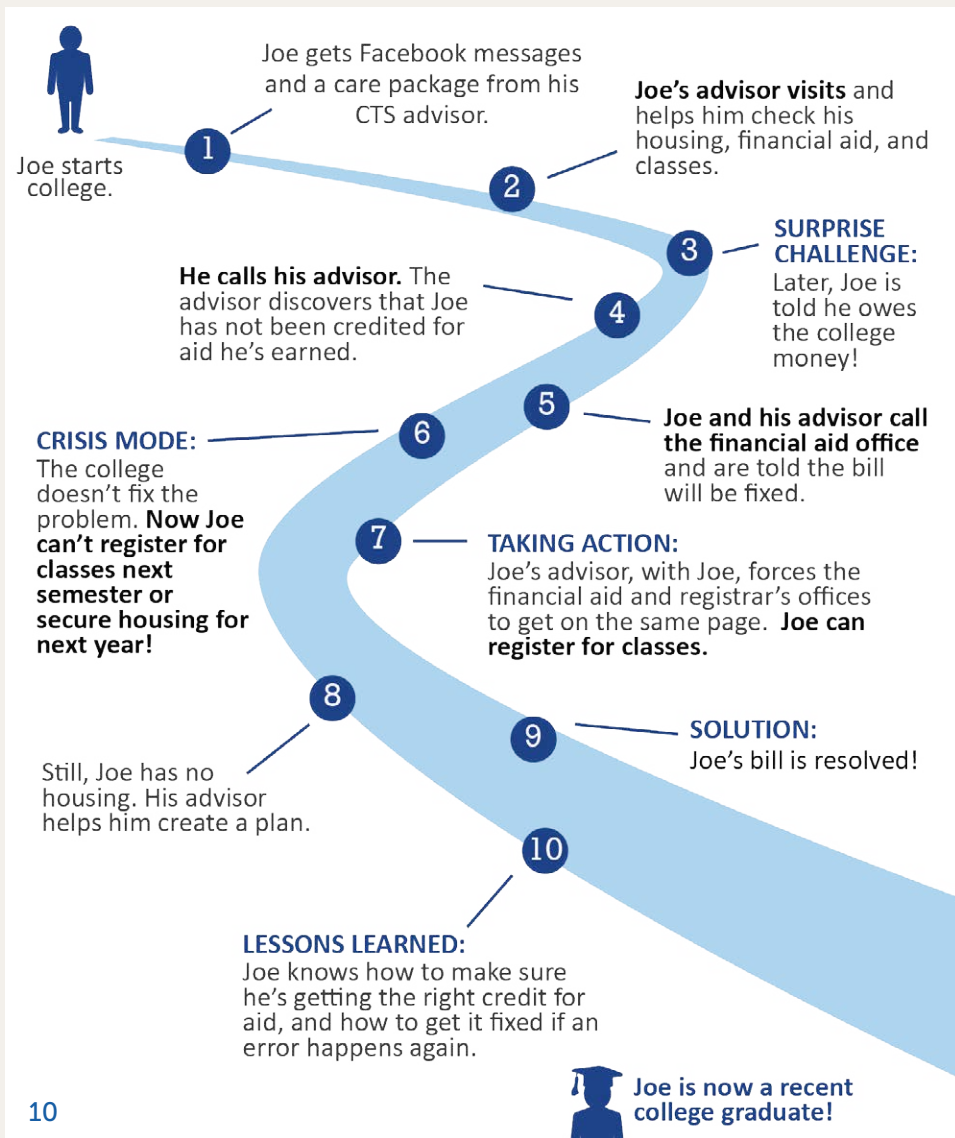
“The Institute is not professional development as you’ve seen it before. It’s time for you to reflect on what your life will really be like once you get to the real world.”

CHERRISE, SEED CLASS OF 2011
Virginia Commonwealth University, Class of 2015

INTENSIVE ADVISING WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

It's one thing to prepare students for college; it's another to help them stay on track when unexpected challenges happen. We actively build meaningful relationships with our students so that they seek our help while navigating these obstacles.

Here is a true story of how CTS assisted a graduate facing an unexpected challenge:



BRIDGING THE GAP: UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

CTS partners with colleges that are committed to increasing the number of underrepresented students who are admitted and that graduate. Our college partners work with us to:

- Host SEED high school students on campus visits
- Lead college and career fairs at SEED schools
- Facilitate college transition, college affordability, and financial literacy discussions at SEED schools
- Assist with college application fee waivers
- Participate in professional development for SEED staff, including college-led classes and workshops at SEED schools

Some of our partners include the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Virginia Tech, and Trinity Washington University.

SEED graduates have already thrived at our partners' campuses:

SEED GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

TAMIA, SEED CLASS OF 2010

Virginia Tech, Class of 2014

A first-generation college student, Tamia earned high grades while balancing a part-time job, peer mentorship, undergraduate research, and community service. Now, Tamia is giving back as an elementary school teacher through Teach For America. She is serving in Miami, FL, where she regularly visits and mentors students at The SEED School of Miami.

Tamia cites SEED as pivotal in her success:

When you leave SEED, they are not done with you yet. I wasn't just a statistic where they could say I went to Virginia Tech. They really are changing people's lives. I want to do that one day.



SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE PATHS

Every educational path looks different. That's why we support all SEED graduates for up to five years or through college graduation, whichever comes first. We also assist graduates seeking alternative postsecondary education credentials and military service. Whether a graduate has delayed college enrollment or taken a break from their studies, our support remains constant.

With CTS's help, students who delay enrolling in college persist in and graduate from college or an alternative program.

To learn more about one SEED graduate's unconventional path to college success, read Bradley's story below.

SEED GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

BRADLEY, SEED CLASS OF 2009
Towson University, Class of 2015
Pictured with his CTS advisor

Having recently earned his bachelor's degree and begun a career in fashion public relations, Bradley shares his own experience with CTS during transitional phases in his college career:

“Transferring from a college campus in Madrid, Spain to Allegany after a semester off wasn't easy. I had to first understand that I needed help. Then I had to figure out how to get that help and that's where CTS came in.

***They helped me to create goals for myself, navigate through financial crises, and get back on track. My advisor helped me find the school that was right for me, proofread my college essays, and helped me apply. When I decided to go to New York City for an internship, she helped me construct a great resume and gave me interviewing tips through a Skype workshop session. Through all of my changes, the CTS team was there. Because of that, I'm able to help myself more and help other people in similar situations.*”**





THANK YOU.

Thank you for helping to make more moments like this possible for the SEED graduates we serve, and for the graduates and the families we've yet to meet. We are honored and grateful to have you be a part of their journeys.

*Please contact Vincena Allen, Chief College Success Officer,
at vincena@seedfoundation.com
to learn more about partnering with our team.*

The SEED Foundation
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20036
www.seedfoundation.com