



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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March 27, 2013

Bill Basl
Director, AmeriCorps
Corporation for National and Community Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Mr. Basl:

I am writing to voice my strong support for College Possible's AmeriCorps grant application to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

In 2001 College Possible began serving 35 students in two Saint Paul High Schools and has since grown to serve 8,600 low-income high school and college students at 19 high schools and 150 college campuses across the country by making college admission and success possible. College Possible achieves remarkable results for the students they serve: 98% earn admission to college and, according to a Harvard study, they are ten times more likely to earn a college degree than low-income students nationally.

Our country is truly fortunate that there is no shortage of young college graduates who are ready to help change the world by dedicating a year or two to service. This year College Possible received five applications for every available AmeriCorps position. Many AmeriCorps members find their service so fulfilling that they choose to return for a second year and carry what they've learned into public sector work. In a difficult budget climate, we must focus our support on organizations like College Possible that deliver outstanding results and a high return on our investment.

College Possible has been a responsible steward of public funding and delivers a remarkable value to society with those dollars. This is an organization that yields four dollars in private support for every dollar of federal funding it receives, making it a cost-effective investment in our future. The success of our economy, both here in Saint Paul and beyond, depends on building an educated workforce and College Possible is doing just that. At a time when demographics are shifting and populations that are traditionally underrepresented on college campuses are growing, College Possible's work is critical. There are thousands more students in the Twin Cities alone that could benefit from College Possible's services, and I hope the organization can continue to expand to meet this need.

The City of Saint Paul is proud to be the home of this organization that has now received international recognition for its innovative model. This year College Possible has requested \$1,190,000 in AmeriCorps funding to support a total of 119 AmeriCorps members who would provide services to support more than 14,000 high school and college students in the Twin Cities of Minnesota; Milwaukee, WI; Omaha, NE; and Portland, OR. It is with great enthusiasm that I urge you to continue supporting College Possible's growth to break the cycle of poverty for even more youth and their families.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor