

# The Missouri College Advising Corps: Helping Kansas City Students Go To College

*The Missouri College Advising Corps (MCAC), a college-access advising program was established in 2007 through a \$1M grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. MCAC helps high school and community college students understand that they can complete a 4-year college degree, find their “best fit” institution, and navigate the process of applying for admission and financial aid. MCAC, providing services across the state, is headquartered at the University of Missouri-Columbia.*



## KANSAS CITY REGION:

MCAC partners with the following 4 high schools and one community college in the Kansas City region:

- Grandview High School, Grandview School District, Jackson County
- Northeast High School, Kansas City MO School District (KCMSD), Jackson County
- Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts Schools, KCMSD, Jackson County
- Van Horn High School, Independence Public Schools, Jackson County
- Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley, Jackson County

In addition, a college guide was placed at Benton High School in nearby St. Joseph (Buchanan County) in fall 2009.

## KANSAS CITY REGION OUTCOMES:

2009-10 (August 2009 – January 2010):

- 4,769 students advised
- 1,455 students advised one-on-one
- 112 workshops delivered
- 3,314 students advised in workshops
- 90% of students advised are seniors and 7% juniors
- 79% of students advised are ethnic minorities
- only 18% of students advised are not first-generation college
- only 18% of students advised are not eligible for free and reduced lunch
- 52% of students advised are male and 48% female
- students have applied to 70 unique colleges and universities
- students have been admitted to 33 unique colleges and universities

*Note: These outcomes do not include those from Benton High School in St. Joseph.*

# The Missouri College Advising Corps: Helping Kansas City Students Go To College

*"Our goal is to help Missouri students and families see college as an attainable goal," Higgins said. "MCAC takes a particular interest in first-generation students. I find great joy in helping students and families make well-informed decisions about postsecondary education."*

– Adam Higgins,  
MCAC College Guide, Van Horn  
High School in Independence

*"This job allows me to be that 'go-to person' when students have no one else to turn to for college guidance," Snipes said.*

– Jonathan Snipes,  
MCAC College Guide,  
Grandview High School

*This is a wonderful program, and although I've just recently taken the helm of the Kansas City Missouri Public Schools, I have already heard about the quality of services that MCAC guides are delivering to our students who may not have considered college as a viable option for themselves and whose families do not know how to help them complete college admissions and financial aid applications.*

– Superintendent  
J. William Covington, Kansas City  
Missouri School District

## CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES:

- College Access Challenge Grant (overseen by the Missouri Department of Higher Education)
- The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (this grant launched the program)
- TG grant
- University of Missouri-Columbia

## PROGRAM COSTS:

Based on the distribution of MCAC college guides in 14 schools across Missouri, the annual program budget is ≈\$625K.

- \$241,200 – total Kansas City region program cost with 5 college guides
- \$48,240 – total cost of 1 college guide including program support costs

## CONTACT:



**Missouri College Advising Corps**  
<http://MCAC.missouri.edu>  
 Beth Tankersley-Bankhead, PhD  
 Executive Director  
 University of Missouri  
 573-884-1928  
[tankersleybankheaea@missouri.edu](mailto:tankersleybankheaea@missouri.edu)

  
 NATIONAL COLLEGE  
 ADVISING CORPS

**National College Advising Corps**  
<http://advisingcorps.org/>



Division of  
Enrollment Management