

The Missouri College Advising Corps: Helping St. Louis 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.



ST. LOUIS REGION:

MCAC actively partners with the following 3 high schools and one community college in the St. Louis region:

- Jennings High School, Jennings School District, St. Louis County
- Riverview Gardens High School, Riverview Gardens Schools District, St. Louis County
- Soldan International Studies High School, St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis City County
- St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, St. Louis County

In addition, many students from East Central College in Union, another MCAC partner site, transfer to 4-year colleges and universities within the St. Louis region.

MCAC INVOLVEMENT IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION:

MCAC is an active member in the College Access Pipeline Initiative of St. Louis. The St. Louis Regional College Access Pipeline (CAP) Project is working to develop a coordinated, collaborative strategy for increasing the number of low-income students in the St. Louis area who enroll and succeed in college. CAP is an advocate for awareness and action in college access and convenes practitioners, funders, and stakeholders. The project is directed by a Steering Committee which includes a representative of MCAC as well as leaders from other regional nonprofit agencies, corporations and foundations.

ST. LOUIS REGION OUTCOMES:

2009-10 (August 2009 – January 2010):

- 1,467 students advised
- 309 students advised one-on-one
- 37 workshops delivered
- 1,158 students advised in workshops
- 94% of students advised are ethnic minorities
- only 12% of students advised are not first-generation college
- only 2% of students advised are not eligible for free and reduced lunch
- 48% of students advised are male and 52% female
- students applied to 37 unique colleges and universities
- students were admitted to 34 unique colleges and universities

Note: These outcomes do not include those from East Central College

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"The positive impact MCAC leaves in the community does not end with the students we see today; a lasting impression has been embedded in students we work with. Not only are they more likely to obtain a college education, but their children and future generations to come are more likely to go to college."

– Sarah Keith, College Guide,
St. Louis Community College-
Florissant Valley

"Being a college adviser has been an invaluable experience for me. Helping students matriculate from high school to college, connecting with my community, and improving my leadership and communication skills has definitely made this a rewarding profession! I am proud to be a part of MCAC!!!"

– Loren Moseley, College Guide,
Riverview Gardens High School

Working with the "dedicated" Ms. Butler was amazing. I as well as many of my previous classmates at Soldan International Studies High School was blessed to have someone like her in our lives. Ms. Butler was more than just a Missouri College Advisor, to many she was a counselor, teacher, mentor and most of all a friend. She teaches all of us, "If excellence is possible, good is not enough." I can honestly say that without her guidance many of my peers would have settled for less and ultimately given up on attending college.

– Kaylan D. Holloway, Soldan
International Studies High School
Graduate

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 fourteen schools across Missouri, the annual program budget is ≈\$625K.

- \$192,960 – total St. Louis region program cost with 4 college guides
- \$48,240 – total cost of 1 college guide including program support costs

CONTACT:



Missouri College Advising Corps

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Division of
Enrollment Management