



New Orleans, Louisiana
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
Jan. 31 – Feb. 3, 2016



NCCEP/GEAR UP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE

**SKILL-BUILDING SEMINAR:
Making an Impact on Your GEAR UP
Deliverables Through Effective Near-
Peer Mentoring Programs**

Effective Near-Peer Mentoring



During this session, participants will learn about near-peer mentoring models and explore opportunities to incorporate near-peers in their strategy to increase college matriculation.

Facilitators:

- Jennifer Tywater, Chief Program Officer, College Advising Corps
- Audree Hernandez, Regional Program Director, College Advising Corps
- Micaela Vazquez-Hahn, Director, GEAR UP 4LA

Effective Near-Peer Mentoring



Session Objectives:

- Why near-peers?
- Near-peer strategies:
 - College Advising Corps strategy
 - GEAR UP 4LA strategy
- Q+A: Lessons learned along the way
- Activity: Laying the groundwork to implement near-peer mentoring in your community

Audience Poll



- How many of you...
- Have an existing near-peer mentoring program?
- Are interested in finding ways to enhance your existing programs?
- You know you need to start one, but haven't yet?

Effective Near-Peer Mentoring



Why near-peers?

- Students from lower-income families have the greatest need for college counseling, yet have the least access to counselors.
- The national student to counselor ratio of 471:1, means that the average student spends 20 minutes a year talking to their counselor
- A substantial number of coaching and mentoring programs demonstrate effectiveness at increasing college application submissions, FAFSA completions and college matriculation.
- Today, we will explore two programs that leverage near-peers to support college-going activities and mobilize social capital in schools across the country.

Source: College Board Research Brief, October 2014

College Advising Corps Model



College Advising Corps is an **evidence-based, data-driven, high-impact program** that seeks to bring talented, enthusiastic advisers to every community that wants them and to every student who needs them.

Through a nationwide consortium of colleges and universities, the College Advising Corps aims to **increase the number of low-income, first-generation college, and underrepresented students** entering and completing higher education.

College Advising Corps Model



College Advising Corps | Increasing Opportunity for America's Students

532
ADVISERS

NATIONWIDE WITH
14 STATES 24 UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

SERVING 10-YEAR IMPACT:
531 SCHOOLS 688,700 STUDENTS ADVISED

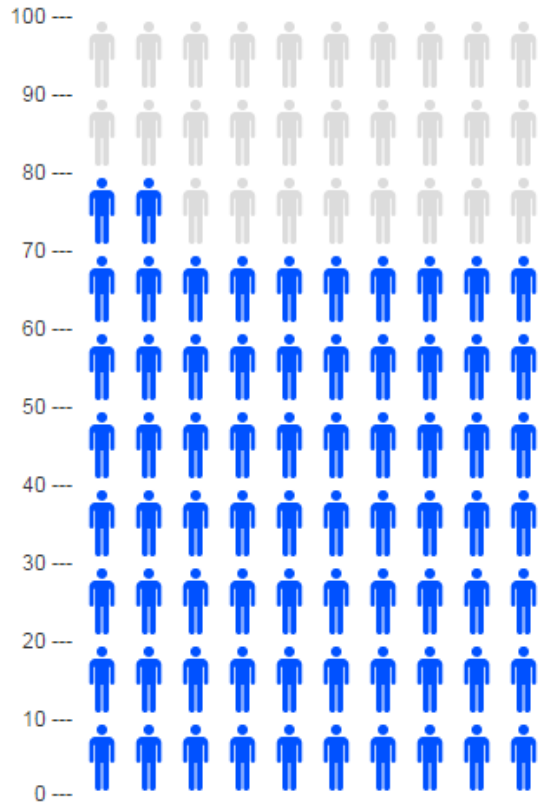
ADVISINGCORPS.ORG

Our Innovative Model:

- ✓ Near-peer college advisers serve full-time in high schools
- ✓ Research-based, “college match” strategy
- ✓ Open-door, whole school (non-cohort) approach
- ✓ Serves students through partnership
- ✓ Anchors at postsecondary institutions



Near-Peer Model is Key CAC Priority



72% of **students** are eligible for Free and Reduced-price lunch



62% of **advisers** were Pell eligible in college





Key Performance Indicators

Service Activities/Key Performance Indicators

- ✓ College campus visits
- ✓ College representative visits
- ✓ College fairs
- ✓ SAT/ACT registration
- ✓ College-related workshops
- ✓ Match and fit post-secondary application submissions
- ✓ FAFSA registration and completion
- ✓ Scholarship dollars
- ✓ Parent engagement



College Advising Corps Impact



College Matriculation and Persistence Outcomes

- The Advising Corps has proven to be effective in both urban and rural markets. In Providence, RI, Advising Corps treatment schools showed a **14.4 percentage point increase in college-going compared to control schools.**
- Partner high schools see a significant increase in scholarship support for their college-going students.
- A preliminary study in NC shows **88% persistence at 4-year colleges from year 1 to year 2** for Advising Corps students -- outperformed average of 82% for all UNC-system schools.

Creating a New Generation of Public Servants

- 92% of advisers report intentions to attend graduate school
- 24% plan to study education/higher education
- 19% plan to study counseling
- 50% plan to attend grad school immediately





Impact on College-Going Culture



Seniors who have met with the CAC adviser in their school are:



30%

more likely to apply to a college/university

22%

more likely to attend financial aid workshops

27%

more likely to submit the FAFSA

22%

more likely to have heard of Pell Grants, and

17%

more likely to take the ACT



GEAR UP 4 LA



GEAR UP 4 LA (GU4LA) consists of two grants operating at school sites in the LAUSD. We receive approximately **\$5 million** in federal funding every year to serve approximately **6,500 students** in schools with at-risk populations.

- 100% FRPL
- 98% Hispanic/Latino/a
- 30% English Learners in LAUSD
- 40% of
- ELLs graduate

* HS data



Mentoring Program



1999/2000

-No real peer mentoring program until HS

2005

- Began using HS to mentor MS students

2011

- Started mentoring in MS

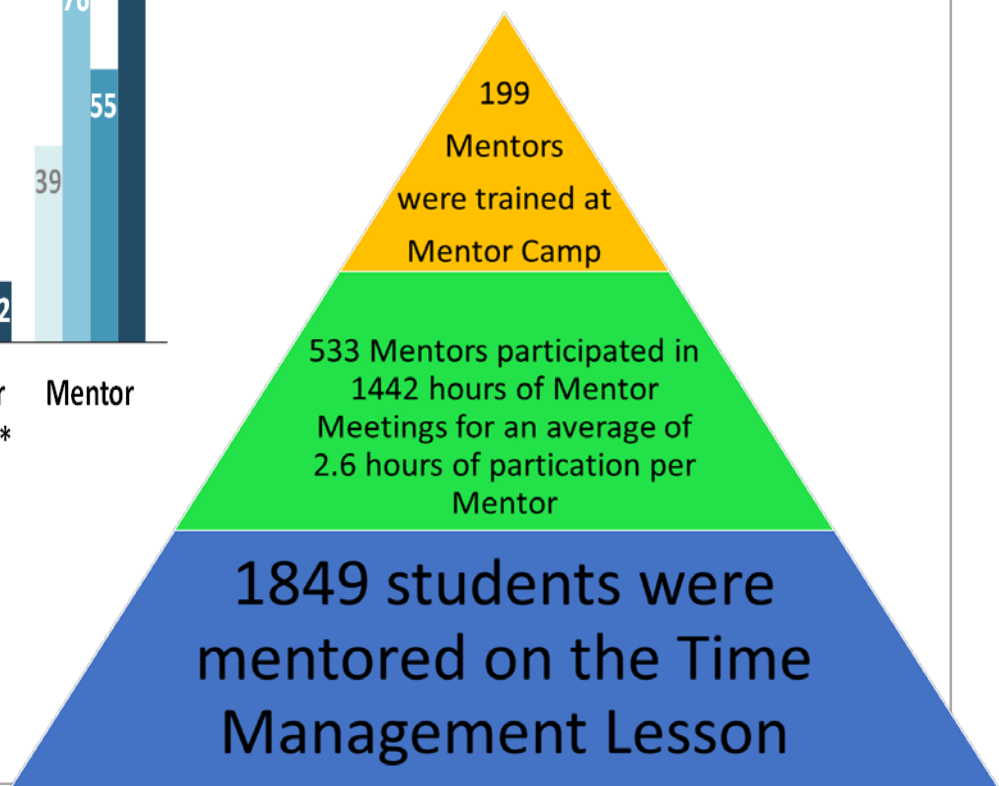
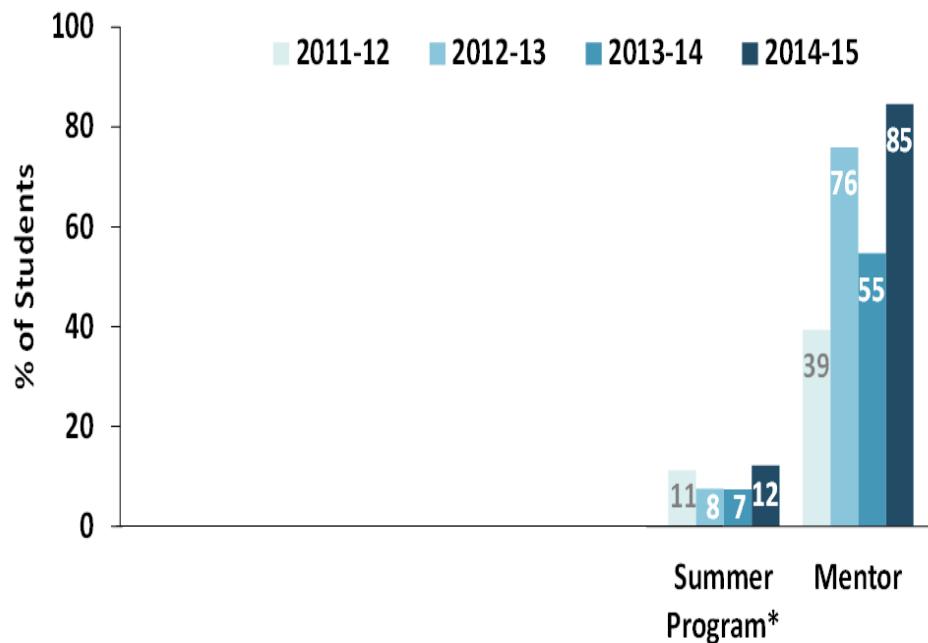
Why Peer Mentoring?



- Video



Outcomes



Q&A: Lessons Learned



Activity



Broadening the Lens on Near-Peer Mentoring Programs:

1. How can near-peers support your existing programs or help address unmet needs?
2. What structures do you need or should you have in place for program implementation or improvement?
3. What data are you collecting/should you collect?
4. What can you learn from data to improve practices and impact?
4. What management challenges have you encountered or do you anticipate?



Thank You



Thank you for your participation and attention!

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