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## College Proficiency Data Takes the Guesswork out of College Prep

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**“It’s about making sure high schools can use the information every day to make sound, strategic decisions to launch their students to postsecondary success.”**

— The Promise of Proficiency: How College Proficiency Information Can Help High Schools Drive Student Success

High schools could do a better job of preparing students for college success if they had the data to demonstrate how well their students are doing the year after high school.

In the absence of information to determine how well students do in “Year 13,” schools often must resort to guessing at the best ways to prepare students for college. The situation is equivalent to trying to develop a cure for a disease and not knowing the results from clinical trials.

That assessment, by College Summit and the Center for American Progress, is explored in a report titled *The Promise of Proficiency: How College Proficiency Information Can Help High Schools Drive Student Success*.

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## Grad TX: Returning Students Can Use their College Credit to Complete a Degree on Their Own Schedule

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Texas just made it easier for adults to return to college to finish their degrees on their own schedules and to use the college credit they’ve already earned.

By visiting the **new web site** [GradTX.org](http://GradTX.org), adults hoping to return to college can preview how their credits will count toward a bachelor’s degree at one of eight participating Texas universities. They can also connect with advisers at each university who specialize in meeting the unique needs of returning students.



Pronounced “Grad Texas,” Grad TX is a program, launched in August by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), targeting adults in Texas who “stopped out” of college in an effort to get them to return to finish a degree. Over

the past five years, more than 40,000 adults in Texas stopped out of college with 90 or more credit hours before finishing the 120 credit-hour requirement to receive a bachelor's degree. Another 28,000 adults have at least 45 semester credit hours and no degree. **In total, some 3 million Texas residents over the age of 25 have some college credit and no degree.**

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## Advise TX Advising Corps Sends Trained College Advisers to 120 Schools Across Texas

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Thousands of students in high schools across Texas now have access to the best college advising available.



Advise TX College Advising Corps placed highly trained college advisers in 120 Texas high schools this fall in an effort to lead low-income and first-generation students to college. The advisers will guide students through the complex college and financial aid application process, a time-consuming task, that overburdened guidance counselors and faculty rarely have the luxury to take on.

"The advisers are exceptional recent college graduates from all fields of study, chosen for their leadership abilities and their desire to help students get into college," said **Dr. Nicole Hurd, Executive Director of the National College Advising Corps**, who oversees Advising Corps programs in 14 states.

"Before arriving at their assigned campuses in August," Hurd continued, "the advisers received six weeks of comprehensive training in college admissions and financial aid, from qualified professionals in public education, higher education, and government. We are truly grateful for their service and the creativity and innovation they bring to this important effort."

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## Meet the Advisers

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**Ashley Washington**

**2010, The University of Texas at Austin  
Serving Sterling High School in Houston**

“The college and financial aid application process can be overwhelming. I think I’ll be able to take a lot of pressure off of the students I advise by helping them explore their options, keeping them informed of deadlines, and following up to make sure they’re doing what they need to do to be admitted.”

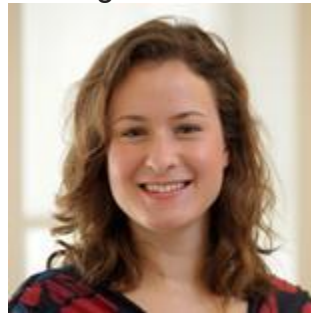


**Avery Callon**

**2011, Trinity University**

**Serving McCollum High School in San Antonio**

“I’m excited about meeting the students, learning about their backgrounds, and inspiring them to reach for high goals. It blows my mind that I could be a life-changing agent for students, by helping them to enter college.”



**Annie Hambright**

**2011, Texas Christian University**

**Serving Athens High School in Athens**

“We’ve been told everything we need to know to advise high school students about getting into college. Now it’s up to us to make a difference in their lives.”



**Arnulfo Gonzalez**

**2011, Texas A&M University**

**Serving Harlingen High School-South in Harlingen**

“A lot of kids in my community didn’t go to college because they didn’t have the

information they needed. I want the students at my high school to know that they have the opportunity to go to college and to encourage them to go.”



**Greilan Oliver**

**2010, The University of Texas at Austin**

**Serving Westbury High School in Houston**

“A lot of students who are qualified for college don’t know where to start or what to do. I’m anxious.”

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