

## For Press: Educational Industry Statistics and Notes

- **First-generation college students from low-income communities face systemic barriers to earning a college degree**, from under-resourced environments to oppressive systems that promote negative attitudes and beliefs about themselves and their belonging in an academic environment.
- **Just 21% earn a Bachelor's degree, compared to 57% of their higher-income peers.** This means low-income students are almost three times less likely than their affluent peers to graduate from college.
  - o Source: [http://www.pellinstitute.org/downloads/publications-Indicators\\_of\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Equity\\_in\\_the\\_US\\_2016\\_Historical\\_Trend\\_Report.pdf](http://www.pellinstitute.org/downloads/publications-Indicators_of_Higher_Education_Equity_in_the_US_2016_Historical_Trend_Report.pdf)
- **A college degree increases lifetime earnings by about \$1m (vs. a high school degree)** and given that parents pass on their educational advantage to their children, a ripple effect is created by supporting students from low-income communities to earn a college degree.
- **Programs like Summer Search are needed to bridge the widening educational opportunity gap** in order to ensure that we have college educated leaders from all (socio-economic) backgrounds, which will positively impact the social and economic health of our country.
- There are many organizations that provide short-term services for youth whose families are in low-income brackets. Most of those programs are designed to increase high school graduation rates and provide access to college—but that's where it stops. **Summer Search's combination of mentoring, experiential opportunities, and college advising supports students whose dreams are bigger than graduating from high school.**