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**2016  
COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING  
CONFERENCE**

July 21, 2016  
Tinley Park, Illinois

**Big  
Shoulders  
Fund.<sup>®</sup>**

**Playbook for College and  
Career Readiness**

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Big Shoulders Fund is an independent charitable organization that serves inner-city Catholic schools and provides a viable educational alternative for Chicago's children, thereby contributing to stronger communities. Our vision is that all Chicago children are prepared to succeed in life as thoughtful citizens who engage in their communities. The Big Shoulders Fund College Access program connects schools and scholars to resources that will prepare them for the college experience, from application to enrollment to persistence and graduation, and ultimately for career.

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**About Big Shoulders Fund**

- 82 Schools, 15 High Schools
- 66% of Families are low income
- 21,000 Students
- 5,100 High School Scholars



Big Shoulders Fund supports 82 schools, 15 of which are high schools.

<p><b>2016</b> <b>COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING</b> <b>CONFERENCE</b></p>	<p>July 21, 2016 Tinley Park, Illinois</p> 
<p><b>Playbook for College and Career Readiness</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Big Shoulders Fund College Symposium</li><li>• Quarterly College Access Newsletters</li><li>• Bi-annual Guidance Counselor Meetings</li><li>• Summer Enrichment Support</li><li>• Care Packages</li><li>• Mentorship Program</li></ul>	

During this presentation I'll cover the following strategies we employ to prepare and support students:

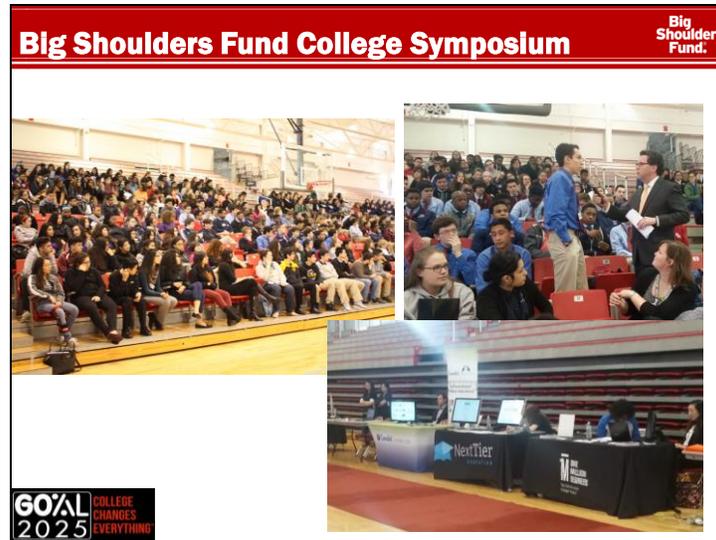
***Big Shoulders Fund College Symposium***

***Quarterly College Access Newsletters***

***Bi Annual Guidance Counselor Meetings + Summer Enrichment Support***

***Care Packages + Mentorship Program***

***College Attendance, Enrollment, and Persistence***



### Big Shoulders Fund College Symposium

Big Shoulders Fund hosts an annual college symposium for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade scholars from Big Shoulders partner schools and other catholic schools across the city. Around 600 scholars are invited to participate in workshops and informational sessions focused on the college admissions and financial aid processes, and academic and social readiness. The symposium takes place over ½ a day and each year it's held on a different college campus. Ideally by the time a BSF student is a senior, they will have toured and experienced 4 different local catholic colleges that have served as symposium host sites.

Experts from various public, private, and parochial universities, college access and readiness organizations, and educational support organizations deliver presentations to students and meet with guidance counselors in order to share their expertise. Guidance counselors are surveyed to gauge their interest in the educational support resources available.



### Quarterly College Access Newsletters

In addition to offering supports to students, Big Shoulders also engages school counselors in a variety of ways: professional development, networking sessions, and tool or resource selection. To communicate these opportunities, Big Shoulders reaches out to counselors with the quarterly College Access Newsletter, which includes spotlight articles on universities and career paths, introductions to new Big Shoulders Fund programming, tips and timelines for students, and reminders about useful products available through Big Shoulders Fund.

**Bi-annual Guidance Counselor Meetings and Summer Enrichment Support** **Big Shoulders Fund.**



Students who apply to summer programs at a college can qualify for full scholarships from Big Shoulders Fund through our Renewable Scholar Summer Enrichment Program.

**GOAL 2025** COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING

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Bi Annual Guidance Counselor Meetings

Beyond offering direct funding to schools so that they may design and implement programming for college readiness, Big Shoulders also connects schools with a variety of external resources that may further develop students' capacity to achieve their college attendance goals: ACT/SAT preparation, college essay writing, and soft-skills acquisition.

Big Shoulders works closely with high school guidance counselors to determine which resources work best for their students. We've begun meeting with counselors twice a year in a group setting in order for each counselor to have the opportunity to share resources and best practices, brainstorm, and express interest in resources. These meetings began as interest expressed in response to a survey that we distributed to counselors during our Annual College Symposium.

Summer Enrichment Support

Rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors have the opportunity to apply for Summer Enrichment support. As long as funds permit, students who apply are awarded with funding to attend a college summer program. On the screen you'll see that we have two students who receive scholarships to attend engineering camp at St. Louis University. This summer we are also funding a student to participate in a theatre program at Columbia College, and another student will be taking part in the 2016 Engineering Leadership Academy at Marquette University.

## Care Packages and Mentorship Program

**Big Shoulders Fund.**



WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU

### Big Shoulders Fund Interest Form

Big Shoulders Fund is interested in starting a mentorship program for upcoming college freshmen. If you want to continue to be involved with Big Shoulders Fund while in college and beyond, please fill out and return this pre-stamped postcard. If interested you will receive follow up information from Big Shoulders Fund regarding college level opportunities.

Yes, I am interested in Mentorship opportunities with Big Shoulders Fund.

While in college, I would love to receive care packages from Big Shoulders Fund.

I would like to be connected with other BSF scholars at my college.

I would like to stay in touch with Big Shoulders Fund.

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

College you'll be attending: \_\_\_\_\_

#### College Packing List

**Bathing**

- Shower caps
- Wash cloths and towels
- Flip-flops
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash/soap
- Toiletries
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Washie ✓
- Washie ✓
- Loose

**Laundry**

- Laundry detergent
- Laundry basket
- Laundry hamper/bag
- Mini Sewing kit ✓
- ESP 4-pairs ✓
- Wooling board
- Iron

**Shoes**

- Flippers
- Flip-flops
- Training container
- Training pants
- Band-aid

**Storage**

- Storage bins
- Hangers
- Locker and storage

**Food**

- Milk/ridge

GOAL

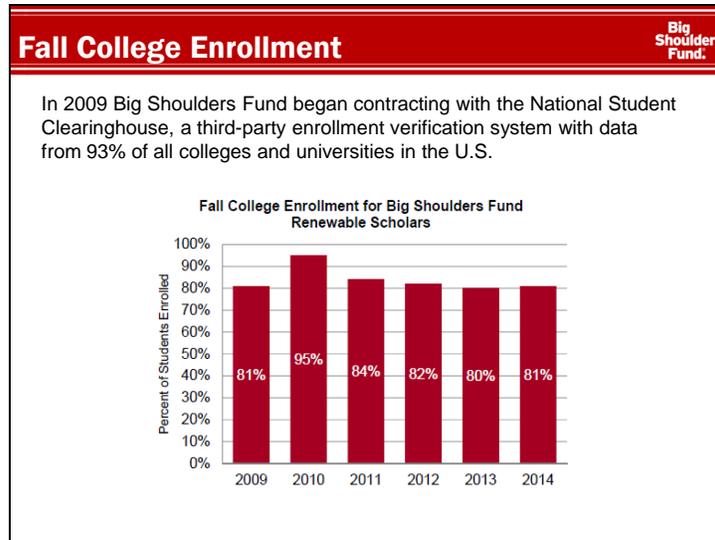
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### Mentorship Program + Care Packages

This year, as part of our mentorship program, we gifted many of our graduating seniors with care packages. The packages included a graduation card, packing list, amazon gift cards, BSF t-shirts, personal hygiene products, and school supplies that may benefit students when moving away from home.

Big Shoulders also partners with other college support programs and is in the process of developing a more robust set of activities to support alumni in college to ensure persistence through graduation.



**College Attendance, Enrollment + Persistence**

Big Shoulders schools deliver rigorous curriculum and opportunities for interactive and inquiry-based learning which prepare these students for the challenges of college preparatory high school and post-secondary institutions. In fact, 85 percent of Big Shoulders scholars from the class of 2014 enrolled in college last year. Since 2009, 86 percent of scholars have enrolled in college the year following high school graduation and on average 90 percent continue on in the next collegiate year.

A survey of Big Shoulders alumni found that 64 percent had, at a minimum, attained a Bachelor’s degree, compared to only 34 percent of adults nationally. These rates are a testament to the quality of the education they received in Big Shoulders’ supportive Catholic schools.

