

*Contributed by Rose Windmiller of Washington University*

**Washington University's Access Initiatives**

“College Opportunity Commitment: Washington University in St. Louis made several major commitments. We committed to serving a larger number of students from low-income families. The University pledged to raise \$400 million in philanthropic gifts for financial aid for needy families. Additionally, we committed to joining the National College Advising Corps, to increase the number of first-generation college going, low-income, and/or underrepresented students who apply, enter, and complete college. Recent Washington University graduates were identified to serve as full-time college advisors in underserved high schools in St. Louis. We committed to partnering with "Say Yes to Education," a national nonprofit group that helps organize and galvanize entire cities around the goals of making higher education accessible and affordable for children in their communities. The university committed to helping talented students from the St. Louis region who face challenging circumstances prepare for admission to selective colleges through the creation of the Washington University College Prep Program. Finally, Washington University committed to expanding its sponsorship of charter schools in the City of St. Louis.

“Progress Made: Washington University has raised \$280 million in philanthropic support for financial aid for needy families, progressing more than halfway to its goal of \$400 million. In addition, in one year, the University increased the number of Pell-eligible enrollees in its incoming freshman class from 6% to 8%, a trend the University will continue and accelerate. Washington University is in the process of becoming a formal partner institution of the National College Advising Corps. The University is coordinating with the organization to hire a local program director and provide 8-10 advisors, the advisors being selected from a competitive pool of recent Washington University graduates. Our partnership with "Say Yes to Education" was formalized last year. The University had two students from the Say Yes New York City Chapter in the Washington University High School Summer Scholars Program.

“In addition, two University representatives will attend the national conference in November. Officially launched in summer 2014, the Washington University College Prep program is a multi-year college residential readiness experience for St. Louis area high school students. The first cohort enrolled 26 students from 20 different high schools. All will be first generation college students. Due to the success of the entering cohort, Washington University has committed resources to expand the number of students served by this program. Beginning with Summer 2015, the College Prep Program intends to nearly double the size of the incoming class to roughly 50 students targeting the expansion to area school districts where the average rate of students receiving free and/or reduced lunch is 50% or greater. Finally, Washington University sponsored a second Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) charter school in the summer of 2014. Expansion of up to five KIPP schools in the City of St. Louis is planned over time. The University also agreed to sponsor the Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls that will open in fall 2015.”