

**COLLEGE PREP PEER LEADER WORKSHOP SERIES**  
**Fall 2008**

**Participants:** Approximately 15 high school juniors & seniors from various community based programs (i.e. STEP, NEARI Jumpstart, Youth Leadership in the Arts, the former TRP, El Arco Iris) will be paired with 15 college student mentors from University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Hampshire College and Amherst College.

**Program Overview:** The high school students will be matched with a college student mentor, guided through a series of 4 workshops about preparing for and applying to college. The workshops will take place at Holyoke Community College, Hampshire College, Amherst College and University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Along with acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for applying to college, the high school students will also acquire leadership and facilitation skills, in preparation to act as role of Peer Leader in a College Awareness Workshop Series in the spring, which will be open to the younger students from the participating community based programs.

October 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>College Student Planning Meeting</b> <i>Bangs Community Center, Amherst 3:30 pm</i>
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Workshop 1</b> <i>4-6pm Hampshire College</i>
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Workshop 2</b> <i>4-6pm Holyoke Community College</i>
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Workshop 3</b> <i>4-6pm UMass Amherst</i> Using the Internet as a resource fore Introduction to FAFSA/Applying for aid.
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4-7pm Workshop 4 Amherst College</b> <i>4-7pm</i> <i>7pm- Dinner</i> <i>8pm-10pm DASAC Concert (Hip Hop/Step Performance)</i>
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Closing Celebration: Hip Hop/Open-Mic Event</b> <i>Lynch Middle School Holyoke, MA 6-10pm</i> High school students will be recognized for their participation in the workshop series.

*\*Location has not been finalized*

**Skills/Activities Covered in the Workshop Series (To be plugged into above chart)**

- Acquire basic college-prep vocabulary
- Write a resume and a personal statement.
- Fill out a college application.
- Use the internet as a resource for applying to college and searching for scholarships

- Be introduced to the process applying for Financial Aid.
- Acquire basic facilitation and presentation skills.
- Practice college admission/job interviews
- Develop a personal action plan for applying to college.

### **Other Details**

In order to develop a greater sense of community and to build relationships between local college and high school students, some of the workshops will include attendance at a social event directly after the workshops that all the workshop participants can attend (i.e. the DASAC event at Amherst College). This also serves to show high school students a different aspect of the college experience and to show that there are communities within the campuses that they can tap into.

The college students will take on the responsibility of coordinating attendance at the events (i.e. obtaining tickets) on their respective campuses.

### **Transportation**

Transportation is needed, to bring the high school students to and from the college campuses, and for the Amherst and Northampton based youth to attend the sessions in Holyoke. Last spring, the COPC grant was able to finance most of the costs of transportation and some transportation was covered by CPSC vans (Hampshire) and the community organizations.

There has been some conversation among Student Bridges and CPSC students about the possibility of getting some money to cover transportation, but outside funding is definitely needed for transportation

### **Food**

Snacks and/or dinner arrangements will be taken care of by each of the schools hosting the workshop (i.e.- Hampshire college students participating in the workshop series will provide food for the session taking place on their campus).

The college students and community partners will need to collaborate to provide food for the Orientation and the workshop being hosted at Holyoke Community College

### **Stipends**

We found it very important to provide stipends to the high school students for their consistent participation. Although there may not be funds to pay youth this semester, we hope to attain funds for the spring so that we can offer them stipends as peer-leaders for the spring College Awareness Workshops.

### **College Students Participating**

[Names here]