

# College Readiness 21 - Wisconsin

A pre-college program administered by the Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges

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## What's College Readiness 21?

College Readiness 21 (CR21) initiates a new, diverse pipeline of talent to our state's colleges and economy. We now serve 445 students in three distinct geographic regions in the state: Milwaukee, Northeastern Wisconsin, and Racine and Kenosha Counties. Ninety-one percent of our students will be the first in their families to go to college, 69% come from low-income backgrounds, and 76% identify as racial minorities.

We stand alone in Wisconsin by targeting minority, low-income, and first-generation college prospects who earn average grades. Yet, given the opportunity, these students would flourish. CR21 students are able to access higher education and become our future leaders.



*Melvin McElrath (left), a College Readiness 21 Class of 2007 graduate, from Milwaukee's central city, is now a Marquette University Urban Scholar.*

*With College Readiness 21 and Brady Corporation's help, Melvin attended MSOE's Summer Camp for engineering. He was also sponsored by Harley-Davidson to attend a summer camp at Kettering University. Melvin attends Marquette University, tuition-paid through the Urban Scholars Program.*

## What has College Readiness 21 Accomplished?

One hundred percent of all CR21 alumni (now 117 students) graduated from high school (Class of 2006 & 2007).

To date, 97 CR21 alumni, or 83%, have realized their college dreams and now attend at:

- Wisconsin Private Colleges (29 alumni)
- University of Wisconsin System Schools (28 alumni)
- Wisconsin Technical Colleges (24 alumni)
- Out-of-State Colleges (16 alumni)

Ninety-five percent, or 41 out of 43, of CR21 Class of 2006 alumni moved on to their second year of college in 2007-08.

*Emily Shackleton (right) attends Marquette University. She is a first-generation student, and she said that CR21 helped guide her to college:*

*"As much as I wanted to go to college, my parents had never gone, so this was completely new to us. There are so many different aspects of college life that I wouldn't have thought about, and CR21 helped me through my decision."*



Huong (right), whose parents are from Vietnam, is a first generation American and college student. "My parents didn't go to college," she stated. "My mom didn't even finish third grade. And, my dad just finished high school. They really want me to go to college because they couldn't."



Like other CR21 students, Huong especially enjoyed CR21 campus tours and she was "surprised at how helpful the ACT prep was." Huong is a graduate of CR21's Class of 2006, and she is attending UW Madison and would eventually like to go to medical school.

### What Does College Readiness 21 Offer Students?

- Practical, academic instruction in reading, writing, math, and science.
- Personal, study, and life skills development.
- Admissions and financial aid advising.
- Standardized test preparation (ACT).
- Peer relations and mentoring.
- Career exploration meetings with young professionals.
- Shadowing college students on campus.
- Parental involvement.
- Transition-to-College Camp for graduates the summer before they start college.
- Scholarships to alumni who attend a private college in Wisconsin.



Erica (left) is a Class of 2006 CR21 graduate and is now a sophomore at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

She said that "CR21 is important for students who would otherwise procrastinate applying to colleges and for scholarships, and for those who are unfamiliar with the college application process."

### How Can I Get Involved?

- Donate as much as your means will allow to CR21.
- Help students learn about your profession at the CR21 Career Showcase.
- Help spread the word about CR21 by making referrals to your friends and colleagues who would help CR21 grow and excel.
- Give a student the means to afford college by contributing to CR21's Scholarship Fund.
- Visit CR21 on campus to witness the CR21 experience.