



OF EVERY 100 STUDENTS ENTERING COLLEGE FROM LOW INCOME BACKGROUNDS



ONLY 15 COMPLETE BACHELOR'S DEGREES WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THIS PICTURE



The strongest predictor of *college completion* is academic rigor in high school, outweighing a host of family, peer, environmental, and financial factors.



Opportunities for *advanced coursework* are multiplying, yet students from low-income backgrounds often have difficulty mastering the material.



To close the gap between what it means to be *college eligible* and *college ready*, we need greater investment in innovations that help students push the boundaries of their academic potential before arriving on campus.



That's where Blue Engine comes in.





Our mission

To harness the power of service to advance educational equity and excellence in America. During one-year terms of service in high-need public high schools, teams of Blue Engine corps members conduct rigorous tutorials designed to help greater numbers of students acquire the advanced academic skills they will need to *compete* in college and *complete* their degrees on time. Here's how it works:



At each partner high school, Blue Engine corps members provide massive amounts of one-on-one direct instruction to students of all ability levels - 250+ hours per student per year. By aligning our instructional plans with school curricula and customizing our tutorials to the needs of every student, Blue Engine helps increase the number of:



Freshmen and Sophomores with strong foundations in algebra, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

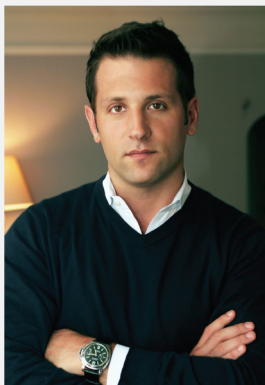


Juniors and Seniors who enroll in advanced courses and pass end-of-year examinations with proficiency.



Graduating seniors who enter college armed with the academic skills they need to succeed.

Leadership



Blue Engine CEO & Founder Nick Ehrmann has spent the past decade on the front lines of the fight to expand educational opportunities for low-income students. In the fall of 2000, Ehrmann began working as a fourth grade teacher with Teach for America in Washington D.C. In 2002, he founded Project 312, an extension of the national "I Have a Dream Foundation" which provided his students with a ten-year program of tutoring, mentoring, and the promise of tuition assistance for higher education. Most recently, Ehrmann completed his doctoral dissertation in sociology at Princeton University. His findings were collected over months of ethnographic research spent shadowing his former students in high school classrooms, living with their families,

and conducting extensive interviews in the local community. The final manuscript - *Yellow Brick Road* - tells an intimate yet troubling story of how educational aspirations become unhinged from reality in Washington D.C. Blue Engine is a direct response to what Ehrmann has learned, both at Princeton and on the streets of DC: that even in the presence of social, academic, and financial supports, sustained academic rigor is a prerequisite for long-term college success. In founding Blue Engine, Ehrmann was motivated by a desire to provide greater numbers of college graduates with an opportunity to make a measurable and lasting difference in the lives of young people. Ehrmann currently lives in New York City, where Blue Engine pilot programs will launch in the fall of 2010. He can be reached at nick@blueengine.org.

