

## DISTRICT 113

**Encouraged by their slogan, "Dare to Dream, Dare to Achieve,"** 21 District 113 CBO (College Bound Opportunities) students attended the 3rd annual Chicago Scholars Onsite Admission Forum held at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Oct. 27. Fifty colleges were represented who actively partnered with Chicago Scholars. Eighty-six high schools were in attendance bringing 250 student participants. Volunteer coaches who actively support the District 113 CBO scholars attended as did Superintendent of District 113, George Fornero and Director of Diversity and Grants, Andrea Johnson. Bonnie Shlensky, a District 113 Board of Education member and a CBO Board member and volunteer coach, described the event this way: "The event was motivational and inspiring. The CBO program and this event truly provide unprecedented opportunities for the District 113 students."

The mission of CBO as shared on their Web site, [cbo4edu.org](http://cbo4edu.org) is "to provide students who have academic potential and financial need the opportunity to earn college degrees, pursue careers of choice, and productively serve in their local communities." The day was specifically arranged to allow students to meet face-to-face with college admissions personnel in order for them to receive admissions decisions based upon their academic and personal achievements. Most District 113 applicants are the first in their families to go to college. One million dollars of financial aid is estimated to be awarded to the applicants who attended this event.

According to their Web site, CBO draws its candidates from low and moderate-income families in District 113, which includes Bannockburn, Riverwoods, Highwood, Deerfield and Highland Park, Illinois. Trained adult volunteers evaluate candidates for motivation and likely academic success evidenced by perseverance in the CBO application process and by secondary school grades.

CBO's one-on-one coaching services, also provided by trained adult volunteers, help scholars navigate the college application process including visits to college campuses and applications for financial aid from CBO and elsewhere; complete degree requirements; and apply for jobs during college and upon graduation. Scholars must comply with the terms of the CBO contract, demonstrate ongoing financial need and pledge to repay CBO's efforts through community service.

CBO has received generous support from individuals and organizations across the country as well as from the north suburban communities of Chicago. Video footage and additional information pertaining to the Chicago Scholars Onsite Forum is available on their Web site at [www.chicagoscholars.org](http://www.chicagoscholars.org)