**College Advising Corps – UVA Graduate Policy Proposal**

College Advising Corps is an evidence-based, data-driven, high-impact program that seeks to bring talented, enthusiastic advisers to every community that wants them and to every student who needs them. College Advising Corps seeks to help schools and districts help to overcome the national student-to-school guidance counselor ratio gap. The current ratio of students to guidance counselors is 491:1 meaning that the average student spends 20 minutes per year talking to a counselor. Through a nationwide consortium of colleges and universities in partnership with a national 501c3, College Advising Corps aims to increase the number of low income, first-generation college, and underrepresented students entering and completing higher education. College Advising Corps is unique in its combined in-school, whole school and virtual models, in that it is no cost to students and families, and its consortium is anchored at partner universities. Furthermore, our advisers are near-peer, recent college-graduates and 80% of advisers are low-income, first-generation college and/or

underrepresented themselves.

**Points of Contact**

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**Project title: The impact of free community college on post-secondary enrollment and college match**

**Overcoming postsecondary undermatch for first-generation and low-income college students through financial fit**

* **A landscape analysis of free community college legislation**: what states have passed these laws? What have been the implications on college-going rates? Who has this impacted? Is it actually “free”? What do students need to take advantage of said opportunities? Who is “free community college” right for in certain states?

**Project Description:**

* As CAC defines its college match strategy, it seeks to determine a point of view on community college as both a necessary and sufficient entry to the postsecondary space. While many states have invested in community college through free community college policies and legislation, there has been varying improvement in postsecondary completion rates. Furthermore, states are not investing equal amounts of funding in the community colleges and institutions themselves to meet the needs of students on campus. CAC seeks:
  + A landscape **analysis of free community college legislation**: what states have passed these laws?
  + To understand the implications of these policies on college-going rates. Who has benefited from these policies? Why?
  + To understand the costs, benefits, and burdens of these policies for these students: are they actually free?
  + To develop a strategy and point of view around the following: for whom is community college a great first step? Does it depend on the state? Why or why not?
  + What strong programs exist in the community college landscape to support students through persistence and transfer to 4-years?

Deliverables would include:

* An analysis of our current 2-year student data; which community colleges are most popular to students, where are students most likely to succeed, what are the financial aid policies or packages that may have encouraged students to attend?
* A landscape analysis
* Recommendations around community college strategy and/or highly recommended list of schools