

# THE hope CENTER

For College, Community, and Justice

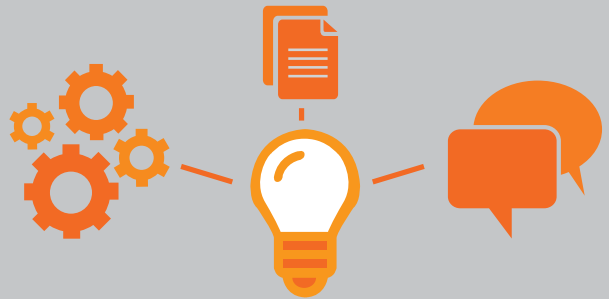
## AT THE HOPE CENTER FOR COLLEGE, COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE, OUR MISSION IS TO BUILD HOPE FOR THE COLLEGE STUDENTS MOST OVERLOOKED.

The evidence is clear: the basic needs of a growing number of undergraduates are not being met. Widespread food and housing insecurity, even homelessness, affect students across the country. Many academically talented, hard-working students leave college without credentials because life, logistics, and a lack of money got in the way. These are the challenges facing #RealCollege students who come from families under financial stress and who attend colleges with limited resources. The general public knows very little about them, but they are the majority of students who never put on a cap and gown.

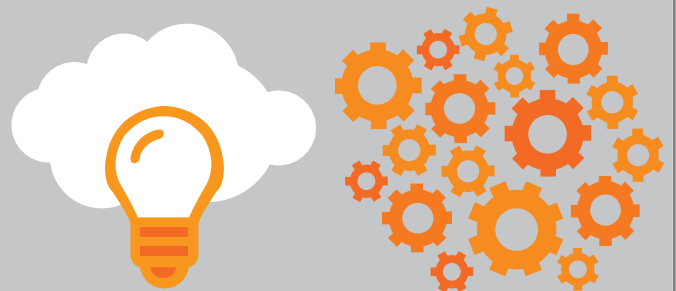
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, based at Temple University in Philadelphia, is home to an action research team using rigorous research to drive innovative practice, evidence-based policymaking, and effective communications about the strengths and challenges facing #RealCollege students.

Originally founded in 2013 with a gift from the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation, we began as the Wisconsin HOPE Lab. At the time of our launch, the higher education community had begun talking about challenges affecting college access and degree completion, particularly racial disparities. Still, discussions of college prices were limited to a focus on rising tuition, conversations about students' challenges in college centered on remedial education, and the number of practices at open and broad access institutions that had been rigorously evaluated was quite small.

## OUR STRATEGY



We develop and evaluate creative approaches to solving challenges of practice, policy, and public perceptions.



Our scientists work closely with thinkers and doers to ensure that effective approaches are implemented and scaled.



We spur systemic change by igniting a fire to engage others in taking advantage of what we have learned.

# BUILDING HOPE

Over the next five years, our research drew the public's attention to the living costs that make it so hard for students to focus on college. We documented a crisis of food and housing insecurity and worked to address these challenges by improving institutional practice and policy. Featured in the pages of the New York Times and the Washington Post, and appearing on the Daily Show with Trevor Noah, our efforts attracted more than \$12 million in philanthropic support, influenced more than two dozen pieces of state and federal legislation, produced a best-selling book, and spun off a nonprofit that is providing emergency aid to students around the country. We also trained more than 45 students and created new partnerships with researchers, advocates, practitioners, and policymakers around the country to strengthen and amplify our work.

In 2018, we moved our work to Philadelphia and our strategy evolved to recognize the complexity of the challenges today's students now face.

## #REALCOLLEGE STUDENTS INCLUDE

- FORMER FOSTER YOUTH
- VETERANS
- RETURNING CITIZENS
- LOW-INCOME STUDENTS
- STUDENT-PARENTS
- UNDOCUMENTED SCHOLARS
- STUDENTS OF COLOR
- FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS
- THE MISSING MIDDLE-CLASS

## WHERE HOPE HAS A STRATEGY

At the Hope Center, we create positive changes in the lives of #RealCollege students by altering the conditions shaping the status quo. We are broadly focused on addressing those #RealCollege issues that are often dismissed as “non-academic” in nature, or that fall in the cracks between higher education and other social institutions.

## ILLUSTRATIVE WORK

- Annual #RealCollege Conference: Bringing together the people making change happen.
- National #RealCollege Survey of Students' Basic Needs
- #Voices4Change Student Campaign: Giving students the microphone.
- Rethinking Emergency Aid: getting students the support they need it, fast.
- Food Scholarships in Houston: Helping community college students afford groceries.
- Housing Vouchers in Tacoma: Subsidized housing for community college students.
- Subsidized Meals in Boston: Making it possible for students to eat in the cafeteria.
- Rent-Free Housing in Florida: Cooperative living for low-income students.
- Innovating Financial Aid: Testing the efficacy of completion grants.
- Fighting Poverty with a Culture of Caring: Examining the impact of institutional change.

## A SHARED COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE

Courageous in our hearts, and persistent in our commitments, the Hope Center's team stands with communities that demand affordable, accessible, high-quality education from high school to higher education and beyond. Working towards a just system that recognizes the dignity and strength of every student seeking a college education is an ongoing process. We are honored and grateful to be part of the movement to help achieve this goal and we promise to be creative, inclusive, and impactful in all of our work.

VISIT [HOPE4COLLEGE.COM](https://hope4college.com) TO LEARN MORE  
OR CONTACT US AT [HOPE@HOPE4COLLEGE.COM](mailto:HOPE@HOPE4COLLEGE.COM)



For College, Community, and Justice