

## 6to16 - Executive Summary

The vast majority of urban public schools in the United States fail to provide students with the academic preparation and social support necessary for high school and college success. The national high school graduation rate of low-income children stands at 60% (Bedford et al. 2006). Only one-third enroll in college, with one in seven earning a bachelor's degree. In Chicago, only 8 percent of high school freshmen in 1995 graduated with a bachelor's degree 10 years later, according to a University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research 2006 study<sup>1</sup>. Just 2.5 percent of African American and Latino boys who were high school freshmen in 1995 earned a college degree by their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Given the level of knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in our economy and democracy, it is a national imperative to ensure that all students are college ready and college successful. To that end, the Urban Education Institute is launching **6to16** – a new classroom and online high school and college readiness tool for grades 6 to grade '16' (the completion of undergraduate degree).

6to16 is designed to foster college access and success for a new generation of young people across the nation. 6to16 targets low-income African-American, Latino, and first-generation students whose access to social, economic, and cultural capital undermines their aspirations of



attending four-year colleges. Students participating in 6to16 have a personal network of support consisting of a teacher/advisor, community members, friends and family, as well as college and career mentors based on student interests.

### About 6to16:

The 6to16 vision is college **graduation** for all students, and it seeks to vastly increase the number of low-income, first-generation students who are successful in high school, college, and beyond. 6 to 16 will provide 6-12th grade students, teachers, schools, and parents with a high school and college readiness solution that equips historically underserved students across the United States with the knowledge, beliefs, and skills to select, enter, and successfully graduate from college.

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<sup>1</sup> *From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College* (2008) Roderick, Nagaoka, Coca, and Moeller

**6to16 Goals:**

- Provide students with **early introduction** to high school & college awareness and planning (beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Increase student **efficacy** in **selecting and applying** to high schools and colleges that are “good fits”
- Enhance students’ **social capital** in support of high school and college attainment
- Foster **school-wide** and external ownership of **college-readiness agenda**
- Foster integrated **school-community partnerships**
- Augment **academic preparation** for high school and college

**6to16 Program Components:**

- Classroom and online college readiness curriculum for grades six through twelve. Students will have access to over 20 original online learning modules per grade, including activities such as *Sim U* in which students help a fictitious student navigate key decisions and milestones on the path to college and *Which Student to Admit?* in which students take on the role of college admissions counselor, and review transcripts and essays for four representative students.
- Web-based social network that allows mentors, advisors, and peers to support and advise students as they build skills and complete key milestones. It will also include a new *High School Navigator* tool and a rich repository of data about high school and college options.

The 6to16 curriculum has four key themes: Believe, Path, Readiness, and Connect.

<b>6to16 Curriculum Foundations</b>	
<b>BELIEVE</b>	The student will have an informed belief in his/her ability to graduate from college. S/he will be committed to this vision.
<b>PATH</b>	The student will know the process for getting into and graduating from college and demonstrate that s/he is on that path.
<b>READINESS</b>	The student will know, develop, and demonstrate the skills and competencies for success in high school, college and beyond.
<b>CONNECT</b>	The student will exercise agency and ownership over his/her educational process and identify and access external resources to support his/her goals.

6to16 is designed to be a national program and is currently being piloted in four Chicago Public Schools. The pilot will conclude in June 2009.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

For more information, contact [6to16@uei-schools.org](mailto:6to16@uei-schools.org) or visit <http://uei.uchicago.edu/innovate.shtml#6to16>

**About UEI**

The Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago is dedicated to creating new knowledge and educational models to address one of the nation’s most significant and enduring questions: how do we produce reliably excellent schooling for children growing up in urban America? UEI:

- Operates four charter school campuses designed to create a pathway to college success for students in grades pre-K-12. UEI also incubates and supports new Chicago public schools, sharing solutions and exemplary practices as school leaders and teachers learn together.
- Conducts research that improves children’s lives. The Consortium on Chicago School Research is nationally recognized for its work that has informed public policy and changed practice while examining issues of significance to school improvement nationwide. The

Committee on Education brings together distinguished faculty members who pursue questions of fundamental importance to education.

- Prepares and supports teachers and leaders for success in urban schools in Chicago and the rest of the nation. The Urban Teacher Education Program is a new model for teacher preparation creating the next generation of teachers and teacher leaders for the profession.
- Innovates and develops new tools and models to improve teaching and learning. Our solutions are based on deep analysis of real schools and collaboration with educators who work with students every day.