

AT&T Aspire: The Urban Prep Fellows Program

Graduating Students, One Community at a Time



Program Description:

The Urban Prep Fellows Program is a one-year service opportunity for recent college graduates interested in working with urban youth at a network of all-boys, charter public high schools in the city of Chicago.

Fellows are recent graduates who work with students in small groups called “Prides”, named after the Urban Prep mascot, the Lion. The Fellows’ primary goal is to build bonds with their Pride members that create opportunities for intellectual, social and personal growth. These relationships are essential in meeting each student’s individual needs for academic and social-emotional development.

The program’s innovative instructional approach has Fellows leading six ‘Tutorials’ – small 45-minute lessons with approximately four students – each day. This unique approach helps to radically improve the amount of personal attention that students receive, which in turn rapidly increases student engagement and success in school.

Fellows build deep relationships with students by supplementing their tutorials with after school tutoring, chatting in the hallways and lunchroom and individual conferences about everything from music and movies to behavior and grades. Fellows also work to weave a network of support for the student through conversations with parents, coaches, other mentors and teachers who can utilize their own relationships with students to promote their maturation and academic performance.



Urban Prep’s teachers and staff report that one of the most difficult aspects of their jobs is to understand the issues and challenges that face each of their students.

Urban Prep Fellows close this crucial gap by taking a 360° view of each student’s life, circumstances and interests. Fellows then share this knowledge to coordinate opportunities, programs and enrichment activities between the student, his teachers, the school community and outside resources.

- Urban Prep is a 501(c)(3) organization that operates the nation’s first network of charter public high schools for boys.
- **100 percent** of Urban Prep’s graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities; **96 percent** enroll in college – the highest rate in the city of Chicago among public schools; and they persist in college at rates twice the national average for African-American males.



Students:
1,000



Funding:
\$300,000

- Urban Prep has been recognized internationally for its success in improving the academic, social and emotional development of urban young men.
- Urban Prep now operates three schools serving high need communities in the city of Chicago.

“Urban Prep relies heavily on financial support from companies like AT&T and we are very excited to receive this major contribution to support the Fellows program. We wouldn’t be able to execute important programs like this were it not for generous donors like AT&T which, through this contribution, is allowing us to continue operating this program for the next two years.”

Tim King, Founder of Urban Prep