



*Belief in one's self is...*

*...the first key to success.*

### **STEP's Mission**

STEP's mission is to equip low-income, first-generation college-bound Arizona teens with the internal tools to succeed in college.

### **Student Qualifications**

- Sophomore in High School
- Low income (qualify or slightly above qualifying for free/reduced lunch)
- GPA of 3.4 or higher
- Neither parent has a 4-year college degree
- Planning to attend a 4-year college/university full-time immediately after high school and obtain a 4-year college degree
- Will commit to attending monthly college-prep workshops throughout their sophomore, junior and senior year in high school
- Interested in considering colleges around the country as well as Arizona

We are looking for students who are responsible, reliable, and committed to their studies and who are determined to attend a 4-year college/university directly out of high school and obtain a 4-year college degree. Our program is tailored for students who are interested in considering colleges around the country as well as Arizona and are on track to take AP courses in their junior and senior year.

### **STEP's College-Prep and Leadership Program**

STEP's College-Prep and Leadership Program works at the forefront of equipping low-income, college-capable Arizona teens with the confidence and internal tools to take the next step to college.

We do so through a two-step program including 1) focused guidance throughout the college preparation and application process, and 2) an immersion leadership program specifically designed to increase students' self-confidence, enhance their ability to meet unfamiliar challenges, and widen their view of what's possible for the future.

Students enter STEP's College-Prep Program in their sophomore year of high school and must commit to attending monthly college-prep workshops throughout their sophomore, junior, and senior year. These workshops are designed to guide students through the process of preparing for and applying to college, with an emphasis on what it takes to become a successful college applicant and student.

Those students who fully commit to participating in STEP's monthly college-prep workshops will be considered for a spot on STEP's 3-week Wilderness Leadership Expedition a year after they join the program. STEP partners with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) to provide this empowering and life-transforming experience. Our students return from their STEP/NOLS Expedition with increased self-confidence, a greater sense of independence and personal responsibility, a larger view of the world and their opportunities in it, and a recognition that they can tackle any challenge ahead of them as long as they believe in themselves and do the hard work.

