

February 3, 2011

To All 11th Grade Students and Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to invite your participation in an exciting and free opportunity for you and your child to receive training, information, and support in planning and funding a college education.

We know that today a college education is more important than ever, but navigating the ins and outs of the application and financial aid process can be overwhelming. Through a College Access Challenge Program Grant (CACPG), the UB Center for Collaboration, in partnership with the GEMS (Grace, Education, Mentoring, and Spiritual Development) program, we have developed a program called **Destination College!** for up to 500 Buffalo high school students in grade 11. The training and materials will be provided by NYC company Simply Student Aid LLC and its Simply College™ program but will be **free of charge to you.**

Here's how **Destination College!** will work. Every student will receive in-person training over 3 Saturdays from March to June detailing every task they must complete to find a best-fit school, secure admission and find an adequate amount of financial aid. Each participant will also receive a step-by-step workbook and the personal attention and assistance of a trained adult coach.

This opportunity is being offered to you and your church or community organization through the GEMS program which is a newly launched consortium of area churches and community organizations dedicated to empowering youth and their families. By working together with churches and their surrounding neighborhoods, we believe we can make our city a vibrant and healthy place for youth to live, work, and flourish.

We hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to support your child's success. Enclosed you will find a registration form and training schedule to be reviewed, filled out and returned to your church or community organization Destination College! Coordinator as soon as possible. **Please note that spaces are limited and training will begin in March.**

The program will be managed by the UB Center for Educational Collaboration (www.buffalo.edu/pk16) in partnership with your church or community group. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact your Destination College! Coordinator or email ubcollegeaccess11@gmail.com or tb29@buffalo.edu.

We look forward to working with you in preparation for this very important transition your child's life.

Sincerely,



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