



MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY  
**BRIDGES TO SUCCESS**



# **Best Practices for College Access Programming: Past, Present, and National Pandemic**

**MDHE: Equity in Missouri Higher Education**

**April 15, 2021**

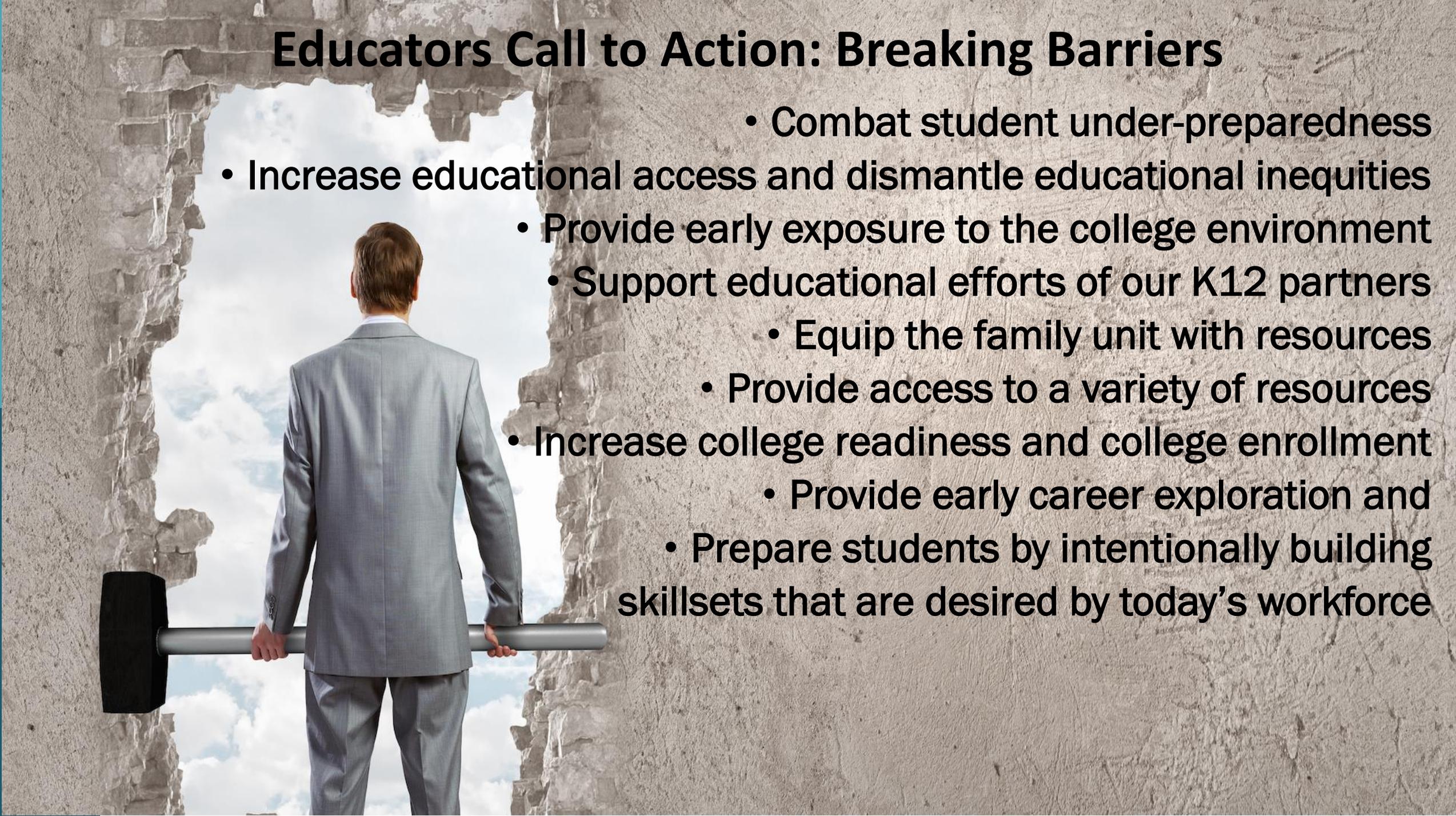
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# Historical Perspective: Here's What We Know About College Access



- Increasing challenges in the current educational system, calls to action an immediate focus on creating interventions to promote college persistence among youth, particularly minoritized students.
- The exploration of college access programs in the role of influencing persistence, retention, and degree attainment has existed for decades.
- Early intervention is imperative to aid in combatting the college attrition rates. College access programs have historically structured their services to improve college awareness and persistence to degree completion.
- Parental involvement in the process of fostering a college-going aspiration among our youth is imperative. In fact, the single most important factor according to researchers is the critical role of parental support and encouragement (Ishitani & Snider, 2006).
- College access programs have been in existence for decades, designed to increase college preparedness, attendance, and ultimately degree attainment.

# **Educators Call to Action: Breaking Barriers**

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- **Increase educational access and dismantle educational inequities**
    - **Provide early exposure to the college environment**
    - **Support educational efforts of our K12 partners**
      - **Equip the family unit with resources**
      - **Provide access to a variety of resources**
  - **Increase college readiness and college enrollment**
    - **Provide early career exploration and**
    - **Prepare students by intentionally building skillsets that are desired by today's workforce**

# Who Benefits? The Family Unit

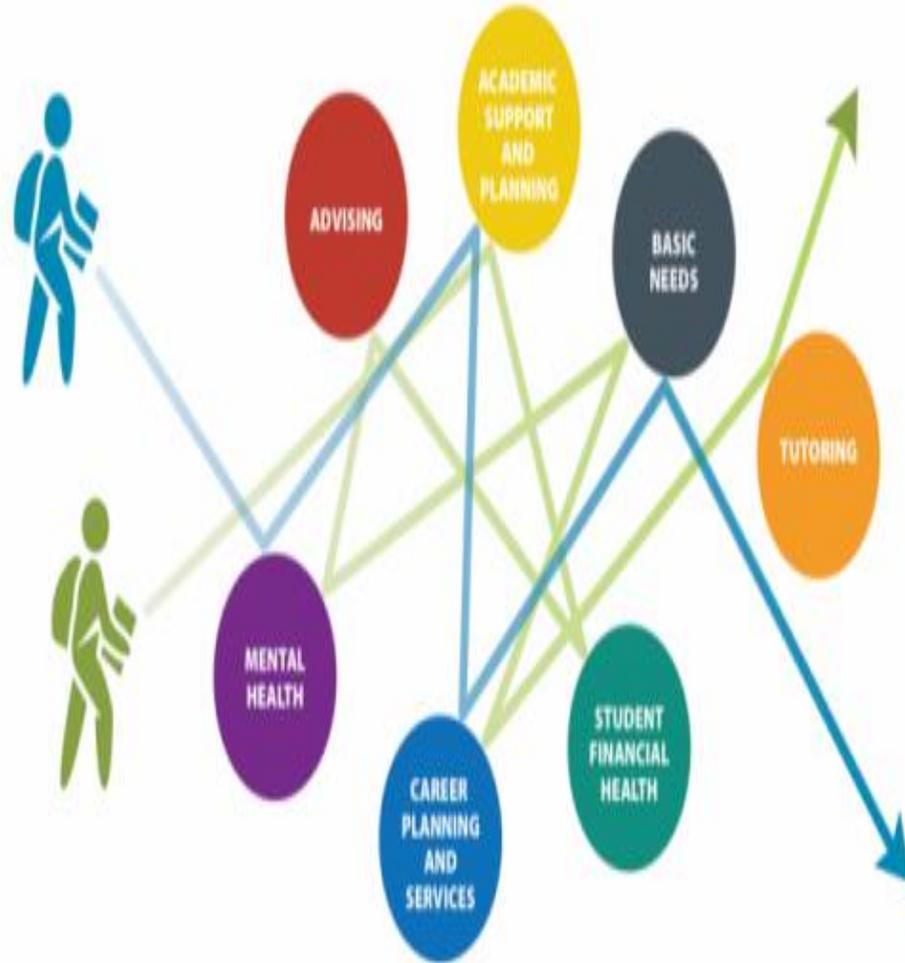


# Defining College Access

**College access** for this presentation is defined as efforts made to encourage 7th-12th student's early awareness, preparedness, and matriculation to postsecondary education or technical training. Such efforts include the engagement of family, community partners, campus faculty and staff, and K-12 institutions partnering in a collaborative effort to promote student persistence to degree completion.



# Comprehensive Support Model



**TYPICAL STUDENT SUPPORT**



**HOLISTIC STUDENT SUPPORT**

Achieving the Dream Holistic Student Support



**EMOTIONAL**  
Coping effectively with life and  
creating satisfying relationships

**FINANCIAL**  
Satisfaction with current  
and future financial  
situations

**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Good health by occupying  
pleasant, stimulating environments  
that support well-being

**SOCIAL**  
Developing a sense of  
connection, belonging,  
and a well-developed  
support system

**INTELLECTUAL**  
Recognizing creative abilities  
and finding ways to expand  
knowledge and skills

**WELLNESS**

**SPIRITUAL**  
Expanding our sense of  
purpose and meaning in life

**PHYSICAL**  
Recognizing the need  
for physical activity, diet,  
sleep and nutrition

**OCCUPATIONAL**  
Personal satisfaction and  
enrichment derived from one's work

Adapted from Swarbrick, M. (2006).  
A Wellness Approach. *Psychiatric  
Rehabilitation Journal*, 29(4), 311-314.

# UMSL Bridge Program Mission

For 35 years, the Bridge Program has provided unique and comprehensive college access services for students and parents in the St Louis metropolitan area. Bridge equips students with academic enrichment, diversity programming, college planning, professional development competencies critical for the successful matriculation to college



# Precollegiate Support Services

Bridge Middle School Summer Academy

Bridge Program Summer Academy

Bridge Program Saturday Academy

Bridge Program Parent Saturday Academy

Bridge to the ACT

Bridge Program Math and Science After School Clubs

Eyes on Diversity (partnership with College of Optometry)

Spend the Summer WRITE

Networking and Mentoring

Commit to Success: College Prep Talks

Scholarship Opportunities



# Comprehensive Student Support Model

Early College Campus Exposure and Engagement

Individualized College Planning

Academic Enrichment Coursework

Career Research, Assessment, and Identification

College Admissions Navigation (Awareness, Advising & Hands on Experience )

Financial Literacy Workshops, Scholarship Research & FAFSA

Parental Workshops and Engagement Activities

Personal, Professional and Cultural Enrichment Development

Professional Networking Opportunities

Standardized Test Preparation

Volunteer Opportunities



# Implement Access and Academic Support Holistic Model

- Expanded and enhanced college access programming and support services for students and guardians in the St Louis community.
- Created structures to empower students to become actively involved in their schools and UMSL campus experience.
- Implemented workshops that focused on academic, socio-emotional well being, leadership skill building, professional development, and cultural enrichment.
- Created programming and events to promote faculty-staff-student connectedness beyond the classroom setting
- Established strong cross-functional collaboration with K12 partners to ensure high touch practices were utilized to support the individual student in their district.
- Created opportunities for students to receive additional tutorial support for courses they are enrolled through Bridge or their school through after school club sponsorship or Academy functions.
- Practiced strong collaborative approaches to keep students, counselors, and their families engaged by providing prescriptive interventions and wrap around supports.



# UMSL Bridge Program Target



- K-12 Students (middle-high school)
- Open to all public, private, and home-school students
- SES status not used as qualifier for participation
- Partnerships with K-12 educators and community organizations
- Strong parent engagement and support through programming

# College Access Service Model

- College Campus Exposure
- Academic Preparation and Enrichment (Core Courses)
- College Admissions Advising, Awareness & Experience
- Financial Aid Advising, Literacy and Support Assistance
- Personal and Professional Development
- Career Research, Identification, and Exploration
- College Entrance Exam Preparation
- Socio-Emotional Support
- Networking Opportunities with Faculty, Staff & STL Leaders
- Scholarship Research, Application Completion & Awarding



**UMSL  
Bridge  
Program**  
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

**100% OF  
BRIDGE  
PROGRAM  
STUDENTS  
ATTEND  
COLLEGE!**

**JOIN  
THE  
UMSL  
BRIDGE  
PROGRAM**

**COLLEGE IS  
POSSIBLE**

# College Access Academic Support Model

## **Restructure college access support services that will:**

- foster a sense of belonging for each individual student
- provide effective resources to promote academic achievement
- promote student accountability, goal setting, and motivation to persist
- provide high-touch supports with intrusive coaching for focal populations
- assist students with leadership and professional development
- utilize staff to serve as a campus liaison and provide resources to participating students
- provide socio-emotional support with targeted workshops for minoritized students
- provide ongoing cross-training amongst your college access team
- implement best practices and information sharing
- reduce overlap in access services and maximize supports offered throughout the region
- consistently assess the needs of the whole family and provide support or a resource (i.e. food insecurity, housing needs, counseling support)

# UMSL Bridge Steps to Creating a Comprehensive Access Support Model

- Centralize college access efforts and academic supports under a newly created unit (SASS).
- Worked in partnership with K12 partners to ensure student/family issues were included as topics for program offerings.
- Intentionally target course offerings to address challenging courses students are enrolled.
- Establish trusting and collaborative relationship with students and parents.
- Maintain clear and ongoing communication efforts to your organization and community regarding college access and student support offerings.
- Create clear academic support expectations with consistent training and information training.
- Include diversity, equity and inclusion within your curriculum.
- Maintain a collaborative working environment with all faculty and staff, K-12 and community leaders.
- Create a student-centered approach (shift from transactional to holistic service support).



# UMSL Bridge Community Outreach and Engagement Outcomes



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>School Districts</b>	38	38	39	41	41	43	46	46	50	52	60
<b>Schools</b>	99	99	103	110	112	114	116	116	130	135	143
<b>Summer Academy Participants</b>	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	270
<b>Saturday Academy Participants</b>	550	570	570	570	634	671	707	733	879	772	631
<b>Parent Participants</b>	1175	1430	1445	1440	1490	1592	1664	1761	1973	1894	1172
<b>After School Club Participants</b>	201	210	156	157	110	99	152	144	168	191	TBD
<b>Bridge to the ACT Middle School Participants</b>										55	158
<b>Spend the Summer WRITE</b>											103
<b>Commit to Success College Prep Talks</b>											TBD
<b>Additional Community Workshops</b>	1005	1160	1165	1210	1190	1226	1250	1345	1958	1980	TBD
<b>TOTAL</b>	3181	3620	3586	3627	3674	3838	4023	4188	5228	5,142	TBD

# Bridge Program College Access Outcomes

- Maintains strong partnerships with more than **140 local public and private high schools**
- Approximately **56%** of graduating senior participants attend our UMSL campus
- In 2021, **107** graduating Bridge seniors were admitted to more than **130 colleges**, universities and other institutions of higher education nationwide.
- Collectively, 2021 Bridge seniors were offered more than **four million** in scholarship support from various institutions nationwide. 16% received full ride scholarships offers to at least one college or university and 60% received two or more scholarship offers.
- We average approximately 300-500 parents that actively participate in the Saturday Parent Academy.
- At least **50%** are admitted to four or more institutions of their choosing.
- The Bridge Program maintains a **100%** high school graduation and **100%** college matriculation rate.



# UMSL | Precollegiate Student Services

## 2021 VIRTUAL SUMMER PROGRAMMING

To apply, visit [umsl.edu/precollegiate](https://umsl.edu/precollegiate)

### SUMMER ACADEMY

Two-week virtual program offering enrichment in career and personal development, math, and science to students entering 10th and 11th grade. Offered Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Grades 10-11**

**Session 1:** June 14 - June 25

**Deadline to Apply:**

**Session 2:** June 28 - July 9

May 7

### BRIDGE TO THE ACT

Week-long virtual program to equip rising seniors with test-taking strategies for each section of the ACT. Offered Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Rising Seniors**

**Session 1:** June 7 - June 11

**Deadline to Apply:**

**Session 2:** June 21 - June 25

April 30

### SPEND THE SUMMER WRITE

Standalone virtual workshops to cover the outlining, writing, and editing process for three Common Application essay prompts. Offered three Fridays in June, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Rising Seniors**

**Dates:** June 4, 11, and 18

For Zoom details, email  
[precollegiate@umsl.edu](mailto:precollegiate@umsl.edu)

### COMMIT TO SUCCESS: COLLEGE PREP TALKS

An assortment of standalone virtual workshops covering various college preparation and college readiness material for high school students, parents, and community members.

**All Grades**

**Dates:** See website for full  
schedule of topics and dates

For Zoom details, email  
[precollegiate@umsl.edu](mailto:precollegiate@umsl.edu)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER ACADEMY

Two-week virtual program offering writing strategies, cultural enrichment, and personal development to students entering 7th-9th grade. Offered Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Grades 7-9**

**Session:** July 19-30

**Deadline to Apply:**

June 18

### EYES ON DIVERSITY: THE SUMMER EYE ACADEMY

Virtual program offering the opportunity for students entering 11th and 12th grade to learn more about becoming an optometrist, a primary eye health care provider. Offered on select Saturday mornings.

**Grades 11-12** **Dates:** June 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17, 24 **Deadline to Apply:** April 11

For more information, email [precollegiate@umsl.edu](mailto:precollegiate@umsl.edu) or call (314) 516-5196



Engage

Empower

Educate

# Bridge Program to celebrate latest college-bound graduates in 35th annual Award Recognition Ceremony

MAR/1/2021 | POSTED BY [STEVE VALENTIK](#)



Bridge Program students come from a range of academic backgrounds – public schools, private schools and homeschooled – and they include people from every racial, ethnic and socioeconomic group. Since 2003, 100 percent of Bridge graduates have matriculated to college. (Photo courtesy of Bridge Program)



# QUESTIONS

**Natissia Small, Ed.D.**

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**Thank You!**

