Rutgers Future Scholars
invest in the future of today’s youth
the challenge:

New Jersey is a microcosm of a national educational crisis: Unfortunately, fewer and fewer young people from our big-city public schools are setting their sights on college.”

Chair, Board of Governors, Rutgers University

the response:

I am proud to announce a bold initiative to expand the pipeline of talented students coming to Rutgers from underrepresented communities. It is a project that we are fully committed to making a prototype for New Jersey and beyond.”

– Richard L. McCormick
President, Rutgers University
Many intelligent people can’t go to college just because they don’t have enough money. That’s why I am happy the Rutgers Future Scholars program was created, so that people like that can still go to college.”

– Female eighth-grader from New Brunswick

Students in my community face crimes, peer pressure to join gangs, teenage pregnancy, and broken homes. . . . Violence is always one corner away. . . . As a student, I face these situations every day in my community and I have vowed not to let them keep me from succeeding in school.”

– Female eighth-grader from Newark

One of the main challenges that students face is their financial problems. . . . They get sucked into the streets, but just can’t stop selling drugs. . . . It is hard for kids to resist their environment so it’s like they’re trapped.”

– Male eighth-grader from Camden

Because you see, I have chosen to be a Rutgers Future Scholar, and no matter what, no one can interfere with me and my dreams. . . .”

– Male eighth-grader from Camden
**The National Landscape**

The crisis in our urban school systems is widespread and well documented. Dropout rates for economically disadvantaged students, a high percentage of whom are students of color, continue to soar. Our two fastest growing student populations—Latinos and African Americans—are most likely to suffer the consequences of attending urban schools that fail to reach them. Educational disparity feeds economic disparity, leading to the increasing marginalization of these critical populations.

The cost to individuals is tragic. The cost to our society is shameful: the lost potential of each child left unskilled, and the larger economic burdens of increased social services, crime, and incarceration, bodes a compromised future. As the knowledge economy and global competition dominate economic trends, a diverse and highly educated workforce is not a luxury, but a necessity.

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**Rutgers: Uniquely Positioned to Respond**

As New Jersey’s premier public university, Rutgers has a long-standing commitment to accessibility and diversity in higher education. Our student body is highly diverse; many of its members are first-generation college students, and many receive financial aid. But all too often, offering a college opportunity to high school seniors is already too late. We must help to reach at-risk students earlier on.

Rutgers’ main campuses are located in three of the state’s major urban centers—New Brunswick/Piscataway, Newark, and Camden—host communities that reflect the diversity and the problems of our cities nationwide. Too few young men and women from these cities enroll at Rutgers; this makes them ideal locations to launch the Rutgers Future Scholars program.

The program makes college a realistic goal for academically promising, disadvantaged middle schoolers and provides the guidance—academic, social, personal, and economic—for the next five years to make the goal a reality. It holds the possibility for success as a model of national significance.
program overview

**Putting College Dreams Within Reach**

The Rutgers Future Scholars program introduces economically disadvantaged, academically promising middle school students from Rutgers’ four host communities—New Brunswick, Piscataway, Newark, and Camden—to the promise and opportunities of a college education. Each year, up to 200 students who are completing the seventh grade will be accepted into the program. These young students may become the first in their families to earn a four-year college degree.

Over the next five years, through eighth grade and high school, the Future Scholars will receive ongoing academic support, enrichment, personal guidance, and mentoring. They will learn about new subjects and career paths, and gain the confidence to plan for an exciting and challenging future. There will be residential experiences on campus in the summers, weekend seminars throughout the school year, and college admissions test preparation.

The goal of the program is to help these students stay in school, graduate from high school, and gain admission to Rutgers or another college of their choice. To ease the financial burden of higher education, Rutgers is guaranteeing free tuition and fees to all those who successfully complete the pre-college phase of the program, meet admission requirements, and choose to attend the university.

**Rutgers Future Scholars Applicants Must:**

- Live in New Jersey and attend one of the following school districts: Camden, LEAP Academy University Charter School in Camden, Newark, New Brunswick, or Piscataway
- Be in the seventh grade
- Be in good academic standing and highly recommended by teachers and school administrators
- Be first-generation college students, i.e., their parents are not four-year college graduates
- Meet financial need guidelines
- Have the full support of their parent(s) or guardian(s)

While the pilot program is necessarily focused on four New Jersey cities, Rutgers’ intention and commitment is to develop a prototype program with state and national implications.
Program Objectives

**Student Outcomes**
- Increase the number of economically disadvantaged, academically talented students who complete high school and pursue higher education
- Provide opportunities for educational growth, social development, cultural enrichment, and personal support and encouragement for the target population
- Reverse the significant social and economic loss that occurs when inner-city students do not finish high school or do not continue their education after graduation

**Community Outcomes**
- Increase the number of students from our host communities—Newark, Camden, New Brunswick, and Piscataway—who attend and graduate from college, including Rutgers
- Develop constructive partnerships with local school districts, social service agencies, and other community organizations that can contribute to the success of the program
- Help identify and educate talented young people who will contribute to their communities as tomorrow’s civic leaders

**Programmatic Outcomes**
- Develop a model for enhancing educational opportunities for low-income urban students that can prove effective across the state and nation
- Assess what characteristics are the most critical in predicting educational failure and what program components are most effective in counteracting those challenges
- Institute ongoing assessment that allows the program to grow, adapt, and mature over time

Gifts of all sizes are welcome. To make a gift online, visit http://em.rutgers.edu/programs/futurescholars. Rutgers Future Scholars is a part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.
Research and Assessment

The Rutgers Future Scholars program is committed to helping individual, disadvantaged students, one at a time, succeed in high school and college. But to be truly successful, the program must reach a much vaster audience. It will do this through its research of what works and how to replicate it.

Insightful assessment and evaluation are powerful tools that Rutgers University can uniquely bring to bear on the seemingly intractable problem of educational failure in our urban public schools. Through both self-assessment of the Rutgers program as it unfolds and the collection and analysis of data on programs throughout the country, Future Scholars is committed to developing a prototype of both state and national relevance.

First, the many variables that contribute to the definition of a young person being “at risk” will be isolated and followed over time to determine what characteristics are most critical in predicting failure and therefore the most vital to address. Then, the many types of intervention being offered by the program will be assessed for their relative importance and success. The development of a reliable quantitative assessment survey to be administered to the program’s participants each year is under way and is central to the assessment strategy.

The Rutgers Future Scholars research component holds the key to multiplying the positive returns of the program many times over—beyond the borders of our Rutgers communities and our state to the nation.
Gifts of all sizes are welcome. With your generous support, you will help this program succeed and change the lives of future scholars.

To make a gift or contribution to the Rutgers Future Scholars program, contact:

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