

QuestBridge Announces National Winners of the College Match Program

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PALO ALTO, Calif., Dec. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- QuestBridge, a national nonprofit that connects talented, low-income students with top American colleges, today announced the winners of its prestigious College Match program. The QuestBridge College Match awarded 100 low-income students nationwide with full tuition, room and board, and selected living expenses to elite colleges including Princeton, Williams College, Stanford University, and Columbia University. It is the only program of its kind to combine a scholarship and college application to connect exceptional students with universities seeking to increase diversity among its student bodies.

"Many of the nation's top-rated colleges and universities partner with QuestBridge to increase the number of talented, low-income students on their campuses," said Tim Brady, CEO of QuestBridge. "We are impressed by the caliber of students in our College Match this year, and are happy to provide this opportunity and promote a positive college experience for the next generation of college-going youth."

Winners hail from 31 states, plus Washington, DC and Costa Rica. To win the four-year scholarship from the College Match, students had to fill out a rigorous multiple page application, with three essays and a host of short answer questions. Over 3,300 students nationwide competed for the scholarship. Finalists who did not win the award will have the opportunity to leverage the extensive application to apply for regular admission.

On the campuses of America's top 146 colleges, only three percent of the students hail from the bottom 25 percent family incomes, yet there are 30,000 low-income students annually whose SAT scores top 1300. QuestBridge helps these talented students achieve the dream of college, allowing graduates to enter the workforce without the burden of large school loans. QuestBridge partner colleges include Stanford University, Princeton University, Columbia University, Williams College, and Amherst College.

QuestBridge is a pioneer in providing educational opportunities for low-income kids, most of who come from families with a combined income of less than \$30,000. QuestBridge was the first organization to partner with some of the nation's top-ranked schools to identify and pursue talented, underserved students regardless of ethnicity, and to send 100 percent of its graduates to college. With a student body coming from 44 states and 47 percent from under-represented minorities, QuestBridge alumni represent the nation's geographic and racial diversity.

The QuestBridge College Match winners include:

*Jennifer Tiskus of Polsona, Montana, who will attend Stanford University. Jennifer's mother is unemployed and her father died of brain cancer four years ago. She is the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, which won first place in the state for newswriting and opinion writing, a state champion extemporaneous speaker, and the coach and organizer of a junior high school speech program.

*Johannes and Joshua Wilson, twin brothers from New York, who will both attend Williams College. Their single mother works two jobs as a home health aide to support four children and her mom -- all while living in Manhattan. Their father is dead. Both brothers are writing their own novels. Johannes is active in service, and is chairman of the Specialized High Schools institute. Joshua has been taking classes at Hunter College on his own initiative.

*Malcolm Bressendorf, from Richmond, VA, who will attend Columbia College. As a kid, Malcolm and his single mother Linda went through some bumpy times and were in and out of homeless shelters for a while. Now Malcolm has a passion for science and math and is President of the Technology Student Association at his school and co-captain of the robotics team. He is also already working as a research assistant in engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University.

About QuestBridge

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that links bright, motivated, low-income students with educational and scholarship opportunities with America's elite colleges and universities. Since 2004, QuestBridge has placed over 400 students in some of the nation's most highly-ranked colleges and universities including Williams College, Amherst College, Rice University, and Pomona College. Find more information about QuestBridge at: www.questbridge.org .

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