



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Reach for College! Students Receive Full Ride at GWU**

WASHINGTON, DC—March 25, 2011—The board of directors and staff at Reach for College! (RFC!) were excited to learn that students using the RFC! curriculum have been accepted to George Washington University and awarded full scholarships.

The news that seniors Moo Bae and Markus Batchelor of Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School were awarded the Stephen J. Trachtenberg Scholarship warmed the hearts of the entire RFC! family. It also reinforced the organization's belief that with proper guidance, preparation and resources, students from all walks of life can achieve a post secondary education, and attract the necessary resources to pay for it.

According to reports, the scholarship will cover the cost of tuition—about \$52,000 a year—room and board, books, and fees at GWU.

"We were just elated to hear that two of our students had excelled to the point that, not only are they going to college, but their hard work is being recognized and rewarded," said Jonathan Williams, executive director, Reach for College!."

"More and more colleges are doing what it takes to eliminate cost barriers that block young people who want to go to college," Williams added. "I applaud George Washington University for stepping up to the plate in this way."

Sanjay Mitchell, guidance counselor to Bae and Batchelor says that these scholarships are the culmination of a solid year of college prep for the young men. Both students were enrolled in Thurgood Marshall's senior seminar class, which utilizes Reach for College! workbooks. Using the RFC! curriculum, the students were walked through the college admissions process, including career exploration, college selection, exam preparation, and learning about the financial aid process.

"This is my first year using Reach for College!," Mitchell commented. "I learned about the curriculum at the RFC! College Readiness Institute last year.

"It has been a valuable tool for me," Mitchell added. "With RFC! I can deliver interesting and engaging lesson plans to my students.

"No longer do I have to search the Internet to piece together literature. It's all right here—well organized, comprehensive, and easy to use."

To get teens excited about college, Mitchell believes that a holistic approach is needed. Last fall, Mitchell partnered with RFC! to take his entire senior class on a college tour of the University of Virginia. From that visit, four of his seniors applied to UVA—one of them has already been accepted.

"My students love Reach for College!," Mitchell added. "They relate to the exercises, which keep them engaged to the point that many students have decided to keep the workbook for reference when they report to college."

Reach for College! is currently being used in select high schools in Washington, DC, New York and New Jersey. The curriculum has also been implemented in out-of-school programs in Prince George's County, MD, Massachusetts and Guam. Designed for 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders, RFC! is most effective when integrated into senior seminars, career readiness classes, and academic courses.

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**About Reach for College!**

Reach for College! was founded in 2005 by two urban educators who dedicated their careers to helping traditionally disadvantaged students realize their dreams of attending college. Our mission is to promote equity by increasing and supporting the number of disadvantaged students who pursue and complete postsecondary education. Through our curriculum-based college readiness program, we help students succeed in high school, set goals, learn about careers, prepare for, access, and graduate from college.

Reach for College! is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. We are part of the Consolidated Federal Campaign (CFC) and the United Way network of charities—CFC # 32839, United Way #9340.

Learn more about Reach for College! at [www.reachforcollege.org](http://www.reachforcollege.org).

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