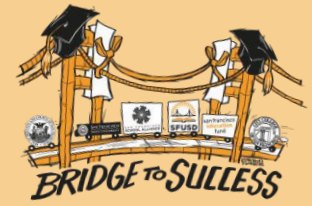


November 2012

# ISSUE BRIEF: Summer Bridge



## SUMMER ORIENTATIONS AND COURSE PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

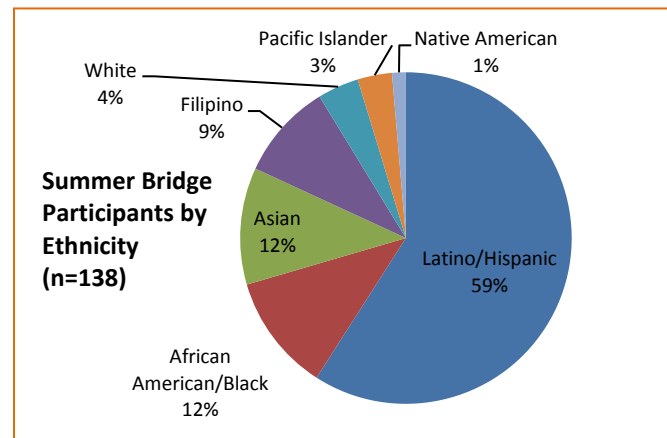
In Summer 2012, Bridge to Success partnered with Metro Academies to pilot a Summer Bridge program for graduating seniors from SFUSD who planned to enroll in City College in the Fall. Metro is a project of Community Health Works and a partnership of SF State University and City College to eliminate inequalities in health and education. Recognizing the need to better prepare students for college success, the Summer Bridge program offered three one-day college orientations and two week-long courses to provide students with information and resources for transitioning into college. 138 students participated in the Summer Bridge program, 75 in the orientation sessions and 63 in the courses. At least 76% of participants were first generation college students.

**Orientation Sessions:** With the assistance of City College students, faculty, and staff, the one-day orientation sessions offered students a review of City College's matriculation process, introduction to financial aid and support services, tips on placements tests, and completion of a one-page college plan that documented the steps and courses needed to pursue each student's career interests. 79% of the 75 students who attended the one-day orientations also attended FRISCO Day.

*"They gave me the push so that I can do it on my own rather than them having to do it for me... [In this program], you learn how to do it on your own. That's what I like about it and that's what I got out of this week."*

- Summer Bridge Participant

Pre- and post- surveys showed that participants learned new information to prepare them for college. For example, on a scale of 1-5 (5 highest), the percentage of students who rated 4 or 5 on knowledge about creating an education plan increased from 21% to 88%. Similarly, the percentage of students who rated 4 or 5 on confidence in taking or retaking placement tests rose from 17% to 85%.



**College Success Course:** The week-long course offered students academic credit, a taste of college coursework, and an opportunity to exercise critical thinking skills. Students worked on research projects with support from City College student mentors, and were able to build community as they adjusted into the college environment. 83% of the students who enrolled in the course had also attended the one-day orientation.

A focus group of program participants found that students felt better prepared to make the transition from high school to college because of the course. One student stated: "This makes me feel like I am prepared for college. At my high school they taught us about college over and over again, but I didn't listen to it. Now that it's getting closer, I need to pay attention so I know what I'm doing. I don't [want to] get stuck here for six years."

Pre- and post- surveys showed that students overall gained knowledge and confidence from the course. On a scale of 1-5 (5 highest), the percentage of students who rate 4 or 5 on knowledge about educational equity and justice rose from 26% to 87%. Also, students who rated 4 or 5 on knowledge of study skills rose from 31% to 67%.

For more information, visit [www.sfbridgetosuccess.org](http://www.sfbridgetosuccess.org)