

eaop news

A NEWSLETTER from the EARLY ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

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An Effective Partnership: EAOP and school staff working together to make college dreams a reality

Each year, high school teachers, counselors and EAOP site coordinators team up to help put students on track to a college education. Teachers identify students who will benefit from EOAP. EAOP site coordinators provide the individual academic planning; informational workshops; and educational programs, such as Algebra Academies, AP Boot

Camps, and college field trips; that make up the program's effective combination of services. And school counselors provide the reinforcement and encouragement required for success: reminding students to attend the workshops, facilitating individual academic advising, and giving that extra push toward success. The reinforcement of EAOP's work by school counselors and teachers puts students who might otherwise not even have considered going to college on the path to a future in higher education.

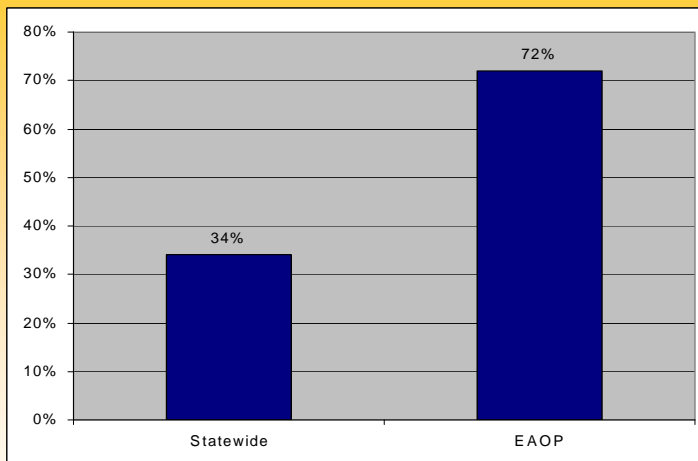
The effectiveness of this partnership is borne out in data about 'a-g' completion and college-going rates for EAOP students. For example, EAOP students are more

DR. KHALFANI



EAOP alumni Dr. Akil Khalfani credits EAOP with helping him set high goals and attain a college education.

'A-G' COMPLETION



EAOP at twice state average

EAOP students complete the 'a-g' requirements at twice the rate of students statewide.

than twice as likely to complete the 'a-g' requirements as non-EAOP students attending the same schools,¹ 74% for EAOP students compared to 34% for all students statewide.²

The successes of the high school-EAOP partnership go even further than 'a-g' completion. EAOP students took the required exams at more than twice the rate of non EAOP students in schools with an API of 1 and 2.³ For the entire cohort of EAOP seniors in the class of 2005, the overall college-going rate was 72%.⁴ A full 34% of EAOP students were UC eligible, two and half times higher than the statewide eligibility rate.⁵ Moreover, the persistence rates of EAOP students who attend UC are equal to or better than their campus counterparts.

EAOP alumni are grateful for this effective collaboration. Dr. Akil Kokayi Khalfani, who graduated high school in 1985, credits both EAOP and his college counselor (he still remembers her name) with helping him on his path to college.⁶ Akil recalls how his under-funded inner-city high school in Los Angeles did not have enough textbooks for all students, so he was not allowed to take his English composition text home at night. “I received A’s in English, but in the end my writing skills were poor. You can’t properly do composition homework without books.” A summer writing program helped Akil build his writing skills. Other “lasting memories” of EAOP include a field trip to UCLA and help with his college application.

But concrete help with writing and exposure to a college environment were not the only ways in which EAOP helped Akil, who went on to graduate from UC

Santa Cruz, receive a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, publish a book, found a research institute on African Diaspora populations, and direct the Africana Institute at Essex County College. Akil credits the collaboration between EAOP, high schools and families for creating a community which enables students to develop a new way of thinking about themselves. “EAOP and other academic preparation programs can open doors and broaden horizons to the future. They empower students to see other ways of achieving goals, to take advantage of opportunities, to expand and rethink what their goals are.”

For thousands of students like Akil, the partnership between EAOP and high schools has been an effective one, making it possible for students to envision themselves attending college and helping them take the steps to get there.

1. Denise Quigley, “The Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) and Its Impact on High School Students’ Completion of the University of California’s Preparatory Coursework,” Center for the Study of Evaluation, UCLA, March 2002, p. 17.
2. University of California, “A Report to the Governor and Legislature on Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships for the 2004-05 Academic Year” (2006), p. 39.
3. University of California, “A Report to the Governor and Legislature on Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships for the 2004-05 Academic Year” (2006), p. 40.
4. University of California, “College-Going Outcomes of EAOP Participants, 2004-05” (2006)
5. University of California, “College-Going Outcomes of EAOP Participants, 2004-05” (2006) and California Postsecondary Education Committee, “2005 College-Going Rates to Public Colleges and Universities, On-Line Data,” (<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/OnLineData/CAContext.asp>).
6. Dr. Akil Kokayi Khalfani, Telephone Interview by Jill Schlessinger Damty, October 30, 2006.

