



GUIDED PATHWAY SUPPORT  
PROGRAM

March 1, 2017

Dear Counselor:

The Ron Brown Scholar Program is pleased to announce the opening of the Guided Pathway Support (GPS) Program 2017 application to welcome its second cohort of talented African American rising high school juniors and seniors. **Please pass this information to any qualified students** in your school so that they can be part of this exceptional program and opportunity.

Launched in 2016, GPS is a free program designed to help college-bound African American students navigate the admissions process by directing them to the most comprehensive and reliable resources available. Using our “high-tech and high-touch” approach, GPS narrows the college access gap with tele-mentoring through our exclusive GPS Workplace by Facebook community, direct interactions with admissions professionals and exposure to successful peer role models.

The Ron Brown Scholar Program has a twenty-year history of providing navigational resources to African American students at highly selective colleges and universities. GPS participants will benefit from invaluable peer-to-peer mentorship from Ron Brown Scholars and Captains, who are similar in racial identity, age, income, and life experiences to meaningfully engage GPS students. Ron Brown Scholars and Captains have already successfully navigated college journeys from hardship into America’s top colleges and universities, graduate schools and corporations and are eager to guide others.

GPS has seen enormous success with its inaugural cohort of high school juniors and seniors. GPS students represent many academic interests, ideologies, and passions that have helped to make the fabric of this program beneficial to all involved. Just in our first year, we enrolled 504 GPS participants (73 percent seniors, 27 percent juniors) from 35+ states. We are proud that 19 percent of GPS participants will be first-generation college students. Over 50 percent either receive or qualify for free/reduced lunch. Thus far, our current GPS Seniors have been accepted into 40+ selective colleges/universities, including *Harvard University, Columbia University, Yale University, Princeton University, Cornell University, Stanford University, Georgetown University, Vanderbilt University, and Duke University.*

Pertinent information regarding the 2017-2018 GPS application are as follows:

**How to apply?** Students must apply **online** at <https://ronbrowngps.fluidreview.com>.

**When to apply?**

The application for the 2017-2018 academic year will open **March 1, 2017**. The application deadline is **Wednesday, May 31, 2017**. Accepted students should expect to be notified on a rolling basis no later than **July 15, 2017**.

**Is the process competitive?** Yes

## What are the application requirements?

- A completed online application
- One letter of recommendation from an academic teacher
- An unofficial high school transcript
- Two writing pieces (75 words or fewer)

## Who should apply? To be eligible, students must:

- Be a current high school sophomore or junior at the time of application. *High school seniors enrolling in college in fall 2017 are ineligible to apply.*
- Have demonstrated leadership and active involvement at school and/or in the community
- Have a strong academic record
- Be African American

## What services will be provided?

- Exclusive Access to the GPS Workplace by Facebook Community. GPS students can receive strategic college and financial information any time of day from any place on the globe that a Wi-Fi connection can reach. Through our exclusive Workplace by Facebook platform, GPS participants can receive support in times of academic duress, connect with current students and alumni at their dream colleges, learn about last minute scholarship opportunities and have all of their college application and financial aid questions any time of day. Our Workplace by Facebook platform is a college admissions information hub, not a social site and does not interface with any personal Facebook or social media pages.
- College Application Advice & Strategies. Students selected will have access to information on SAT and ACT prep, AP and IB exams, college application advice and interventions, essay-writing, mock interviews, and other resources to help them make their very best college and career choices.
- Professional Development. GPS students are invited to participate in the College Journey Webinar Series, intensive, hands-on monthly webinars that guide students through every step of the college application and financial aid process.
- Peer-to-Peer Mentoring and Leadership Development. Participants in the GPS program receive customized counsel from Ron Brown Scholars and Captains -- African American undergraduates, graduate students and young professionals who have first-hand experience in traversing the admissions process to highly selective universities.
- Financial Aid Guidance. Information about how to navigate the financial aid process, including school-specific financial aid advice, information about scholarships, and guidance on applying for grants is available to GPS students.

Enclosed is a flyer for you to post for your students.

For more information about the Guided Pathway Support Program (GPS), please contact Liza Rubenoff at [lrubenoff@ronbrown.org](mailto:lrubenoff@ronbrown.org), Kiya Jones at [kjones@ronbrown.org](mailto:kjones@ronbrown.org), or contact the RBSP office at 434-964-1588.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Mallory  
President & CEO  
Ron Brown Scholar Program