



## ***2015 Scholarship Status Report***

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*Courtney E. Margraf- College Bound Coordinator*

***December 2015***

The College Bound Scholarship Program was first conceived in 2006 and awarded 109 scholarships. Now in its ninth year, College Bound made 572 awards in 2015. As it has since its inception, the program focuses on three key principles:

- Increase home ownership
- Make education a priority
- Improve the quality of life within the City

In order to receive the award, students must meet the program's academic and residence criteria. Academic requirements are:

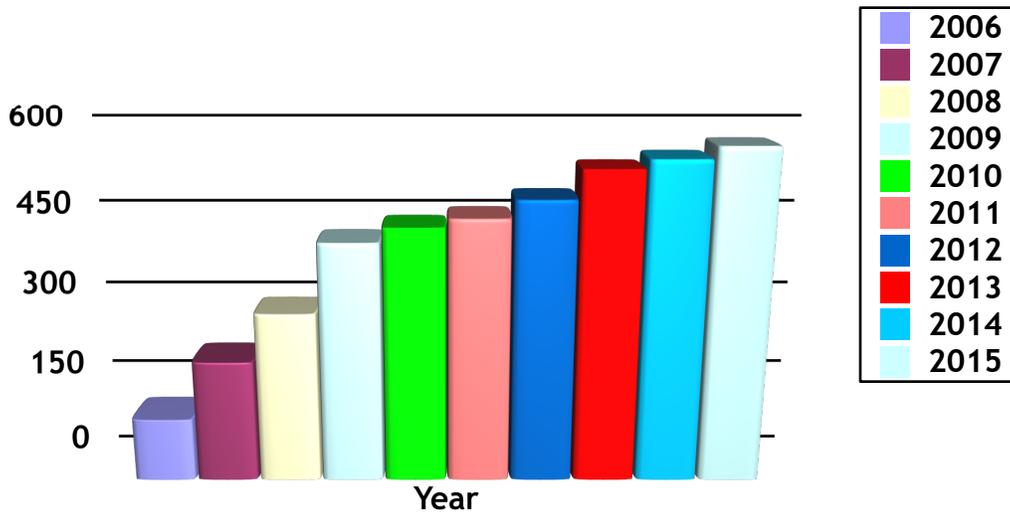
- A 3.0 cumulative grade point average (gpa), or
- A 2.5 cumulative gpa and either a 1,000 score on the Math and Critical Reading sections of the SAT, or
- A 2.5 cumulative gpa and either a 1,400 score on the SAT or
- A 2.5 cumulative gpa and a composite score of 21 on the ACT.

One of the more unique aspects of College Bound is that the program allows students who do not meet all conditions to file an exception, which is then reviewed (all exceptions are presented anonymously) by the Exceptions Committee.

Since its inception, a total of 4,068 awards (all awards are made on an annual basis) have been made. It also adds significant value to owning a home in Hammond, especially for families with more than one child. The average Hammond home is appraised at about \$100,000.00. Based on that value, a home with one child, adds 41% to its value.

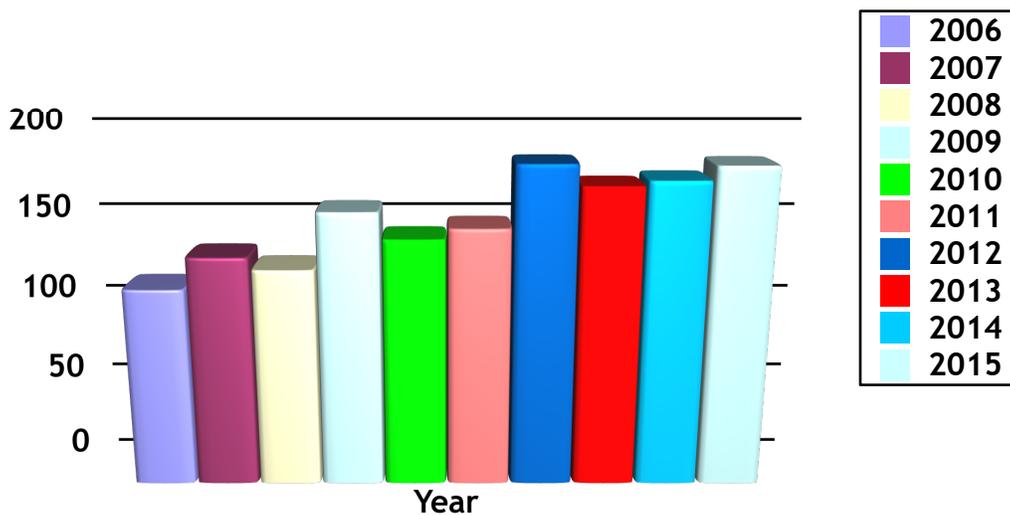
The overall results also indicate that the program is challenging more students to attend college. Using 2010 as a baseline (the first class that had a full four years to prepare for the scholarship), the number of recipients has increased by an average of 20% each year.

## Annual College Bound Scholarship Awards (Total Awards)



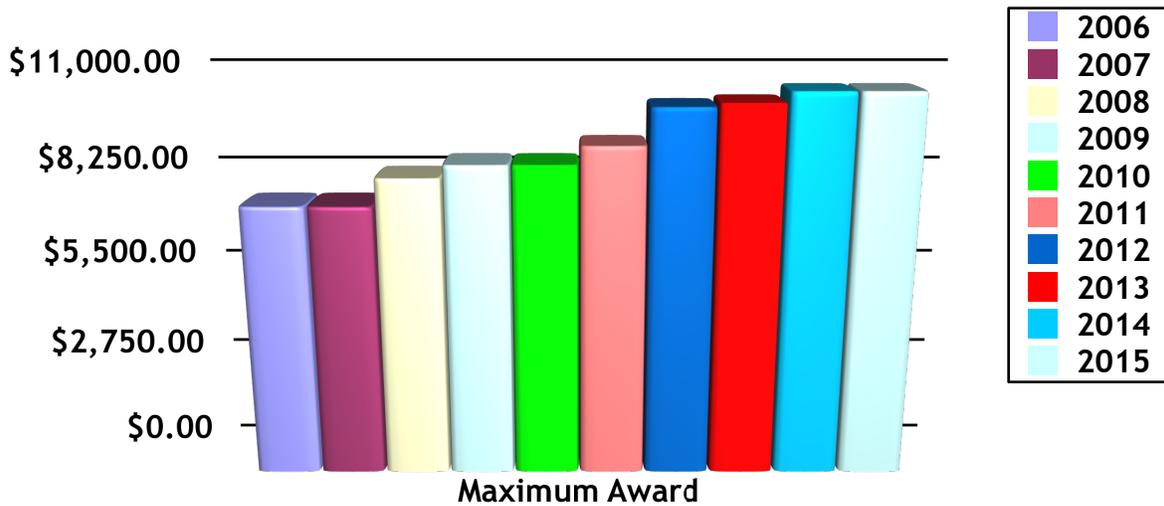
First year awards have grown since the program's inception from 114 to a high of 183 in 2012, to 189 in 2015. The actual numbers fluctuate annually in part due to graduating class size. For example, in 2008, Hammond Schools reported a 3% reduction in the overall number of students graduating from high school. Based on the history of the program, it is predicted that the number of first year students will average between 160 and 180.

## Annual College Bound Scholarship Awards (First Year Awards)



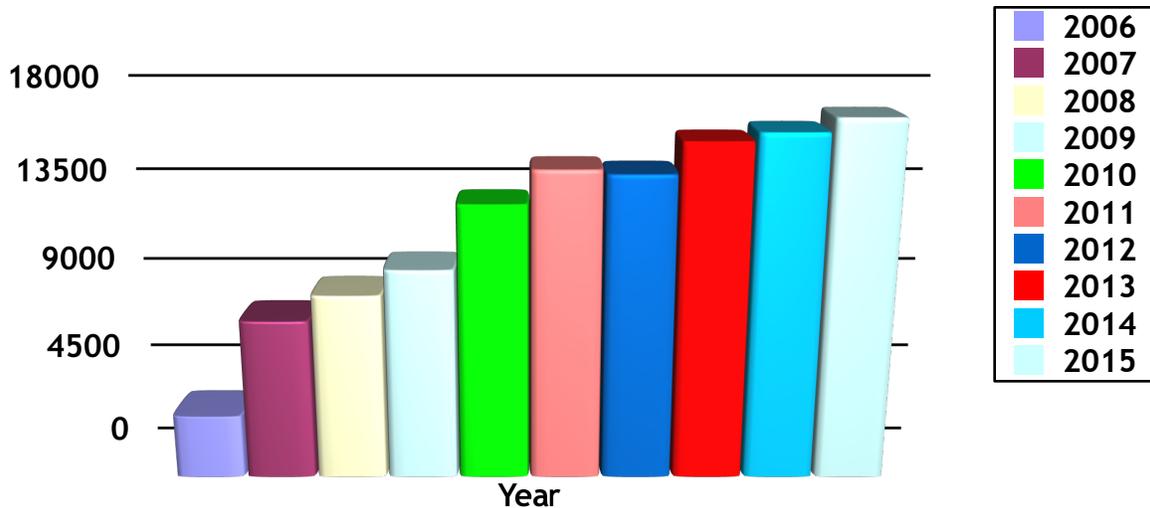
Until 2014, the size of the award was benchmarked against the annual tuition charged by Indiana University Bloomington. Over the past eight years, the maximum award has increased by a total of 36%. In 2014, the maximum award was set at \$10,500.00 per year, and the benchmark was changed to Purdue University Calumet (PUC). Under the new policy, set by ordinance, the award will not increase until the cost of tuition at PUC increases above the \$10,500.00 amount; which is not projected until 2021.

### Increases In College Bound Award 2006-15



**Community Service-** In addition to creating stability amongst single family dwellers, and attracting new home buyers, College Bound generates thousands of hours of community service annually. The community service component, originally a last minute addition to the program, creates widespread benefit to the City of Hammond and its residents.

## College Bound Community Service Hours



For the first nine years of the program, the amount of hours performed were determined by a sliding scale shown below. Given the renewal ordinance adopted in May 2014, all students who receive College Bound funding, regardless of the size of the award, must complete 40 hours of community service per year. The renewal ordinance also requires those students to complete those 40 hours prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of their first year of award. The change eliminates issues with completing hours after graduation.

College Bound Community Service	
Scholarship Amount Received	Hours of Community Service
Less than \$500.00	<i>To be determined</i>
\$501.00 - \$2,700.00	8 Hours of Community Service
\$2,701.00 - \$4,300.00	16 Hours of Community Service
\$4,301.00 - \$5,800.00	24 Hours of Community Service
\$5,801.00 - \$7,300.00	32 Hours of Community Service
\$7,701.00 - \$10,200.00	40 Hours of Community Service
<i>Amount is based per year</i>	

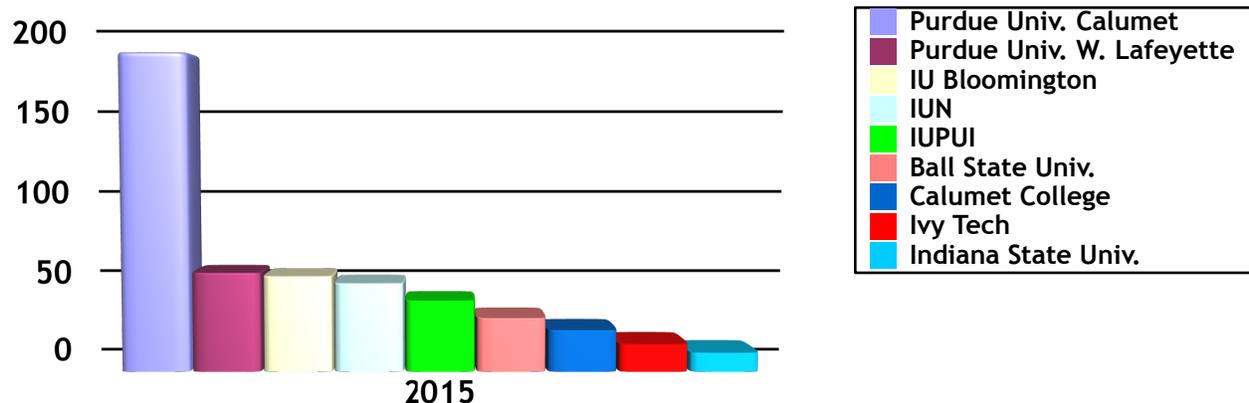
During the first year, the program generated just more than 3,000 hours. In 2015, recipients performed almost 18,000 hours of community service. Such service is used throughout City government, providing students a firsthand perspective of local government, and the City with much needed assistance. Students are assigned to a variety of functions from office duties, to conducting traffic studies, assisting in the maintenance of City parks and properties, beautification projects, and working at special

events and activities. To a certain extent, the program has also saved the City the cost of hiring additional help. Overall, the community service component has resulted in a significant impact to the City, its residents and to the students themselves.

For most students, the community service component is a non-issue. However, for a small portion of students, completing community service hours is somewhat problematic. Students who fall behind in completing their hours are notified that failure to complete community service hours will result in the loss of their scholarship. In 2013, 1 student lost eligibility due to not completing community service hours.

**Destination-** Although the program does not cover room and board, in only the second time since its inaugural year (2006), the majority of students participating in the College Bound program are attending school at away (residential) campuses. The program currently provides scholarships to 32 universities and colleges, with 272 students receiving College Bound (48%) attending a local college or university (Purdue University Calumet, Indiana University Northwest, Calumet College of St. Joseph, and Ivy Technical Community College). The largest percentage of recipients chose Purdue University Calumet, with 170 students, or 32% of all College Bound recipients.

## Largest College Bound Destinations



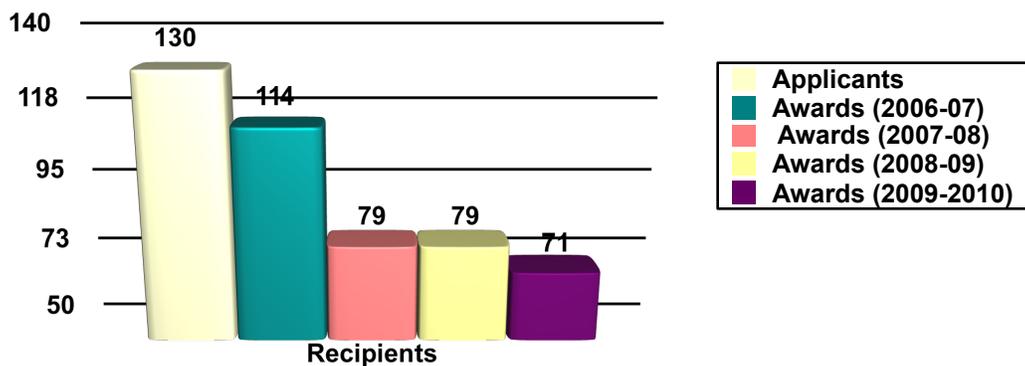
**Class of 2006** - During the program's inaugural year, a total of 109 students were awarded the scholarship out of 130 applicants. In 2007, however, the Oversight and Exceptions Committee approved 5 additional applicants from the Class of 2006 for various reasons. Including these additional awards, total awards to the Class of 2006 was 114 or a ratio of recipients to applicants of 84%. The total number of awards was in line with the original estimate of 110 applicants during the first year. Four awards were honorary since the student had received full funding from other sources for his/her college tuition.

Of the Class of 2006 recipients, 79 received the scholarship in 2007, which reflected a retention rate of 73%. There was no change in the number of 2006 students who received the scholarship in 2008. In 2009, 71 students remained in their fourth and final year of college, or 65% of original award recipients.

Of the 71 students who received the scholarship in 2006, 27 graduated in May 2010, while 11 more graduated by the end of 2010, for a graduation rate of 54% in less than 5 years. At first glance these numbers may seem low, but they actually exceed the 6 year graduation standard used by most colleges and institutions. The goal set by the US Department of Education which calls for 60% of students to complete a baccalaureate within six years by 2025. According to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, which prepared a report for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, local six-year graduation rates were 24.4 percent at Indiana University Northwest, and 21.5 percent at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond. Since the majority of students receiving the scholarship from the Class of 2006 attended local colleges, College Bound may have contributed to accelerating degree completion amongst those students.

It is also important to note that the results of the Class of 2006 may not be illustrative of overall program results and impact, as recipients had no time to prepare for or work

### Class of 2006



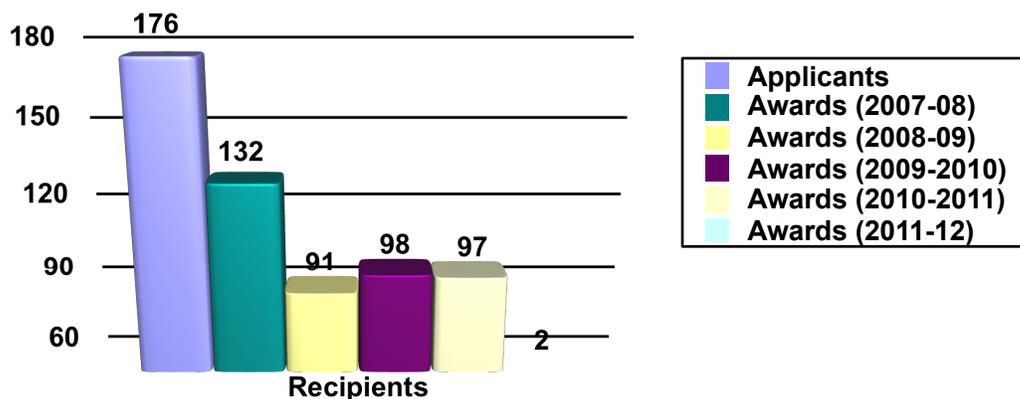
towards the scholarship, which was approved only two months before graduation.

**Class of 2007** - The program grew to 176 applicants and 132 awards in 2007 while the number of honorary awards remained at 4. In comparison to the Class of 2006, applicants from the Class of 2007 increased by almost 35%, while awards grew by 21%. The increase was probably due to increased awareness of applicants and families of the College Bound Scholarship and its benefits. By fall 2008, 91 students from the Class of 2007 continued in the scholarship program, or a retention of 69%.

In 2009, however, 98 students received the scholarship from the Class of 2007 for the 2009 school year, showing an increase in students. The reason for the increase was due to a number of exceptions that were granted to students who either had previously been in the program but not met continuing eligibility standards, or to students who had not previously met enrollment standards only to later prove their ability to handle the rigors of a college education.

In 2011, 31 of the students graduated with another 30 students needing one additional semester to complete their college studies, meaning that 62% of students graduated in less than 5 years. Two students remained in the program during the 2011-12 school year due to granted exceptions (the students began the program one year late). Both

**Class of 2007**



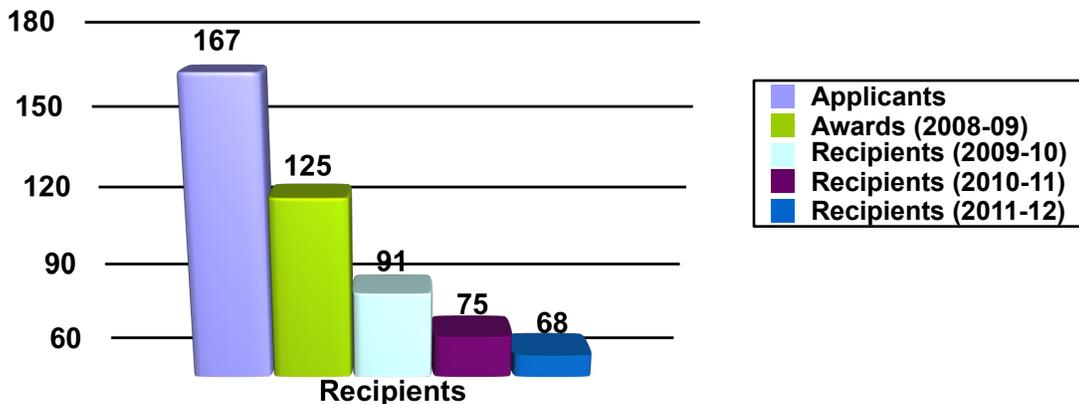
students graduated

in May 2012.

**Class of 2008** - The Class of 2008 received 125 awards out of 167 applications. Although at first glance the numbers appear to indicate a reduction, it must be noted that the graduating Class of 2008 was about 3% smaller on average (among Hammond high schools) than the Class of 2007. In 2009, 91 students remained in the program, dropping to 75 by 2010. By 2011, the number had dropped to 68; in 2012, nine students remained.

A total of 29 students from the Class of 2008 graduated in the spring of 2012, or 23%, which is indicative of averages for 4 year graduation rates. As noted in the 2011 report, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, which prepared a report for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, local six-year graduation rates were 24.4 percent at Indiana University Northwest, and 21.5 percent at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond.

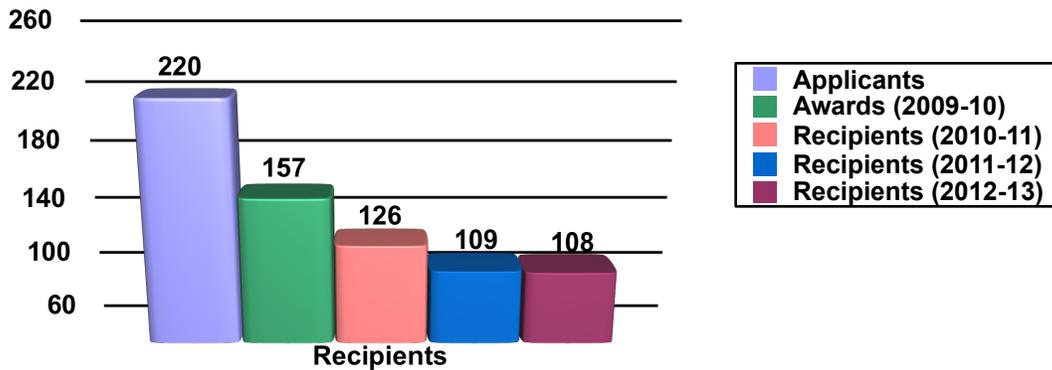
**Class of 2008**



Since the majority of students receiving the scholarship from the Class of 2008 attended local colleges, College Bound may have contributed to accelerating degree completion amongst those students. Further, colleges have made 4 year graduation more difficult by making summer studies almost a necessity. At the same time, the rising cost of college has made those studies unaffordable since most students need to work during the summer to help pay for their education.

**Class of 2009** - The program made a record number of awards, and also received a record number of applications. Of the 220 applicants, 159 received the award. It should be noted however, that many of the students applying for the scholarship failed to meet the program's minimum academic requirements.

### Class of 2009

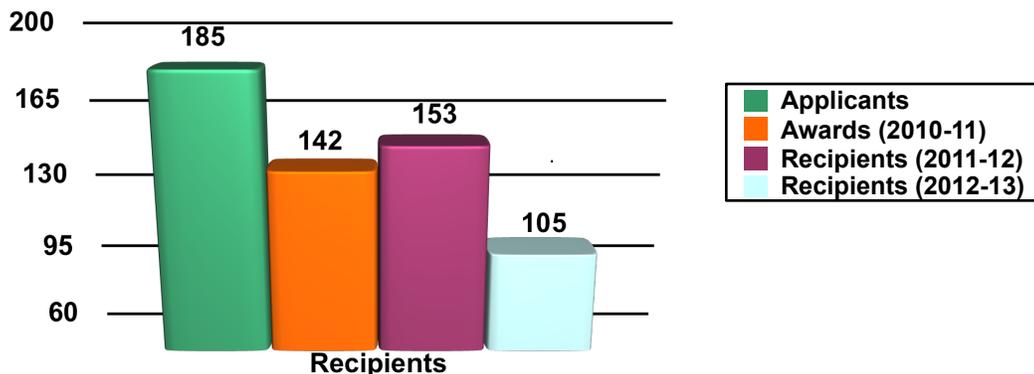


So that the student might be eligible at a later date when their academic performance improved, students were encouraged to still apply. One school also indicated that they did not feel comfortable in denying students who applied even if the student did not meet eligibility.

As of 2010, 126 students remained in the program. In 2011, 109 remained in the program, while in 2012, 108 students continued to receive the scholarship.

**Class of 2010** - This was the first class since the program was announced to have all four years of high school to prepare for attaining the College Bound Scholarship. A total of 142 students from the Class of 2010 were accepted into the program. As of fall 2011, the number increased to 153 due to exceptions and students transferring back to Indiana from out of state schools. In addition, 75 students from the Class of 2008, and 126 from the Class of 2009 continued in the program. In 2012, the number of Class of 2010 participants dropped to 105, a decrease of 32%, a decrease that was uncharacteristically large in comparison to other years prior to or following the Class of 2010, and therefore appears to be an anomaly.

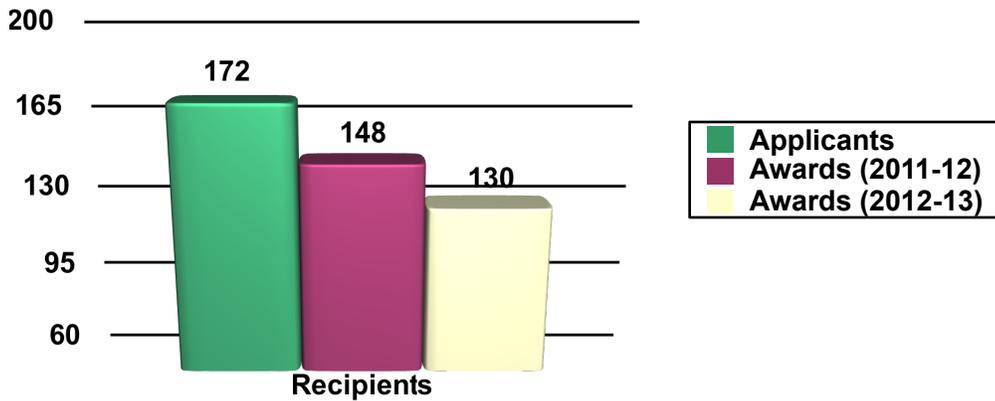
### 2010



Class

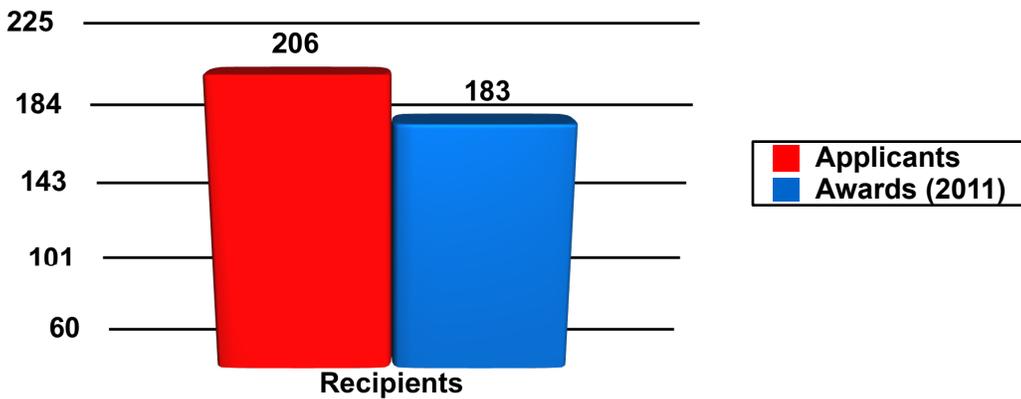
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**2011** - A total of 148 students from the Class of 2011 were accepted into the program, with 172 applying. In fall 2012, 130 students were still in the program or a decrease of 23% after the first year, which seems



comparable to other classes.

**2012**

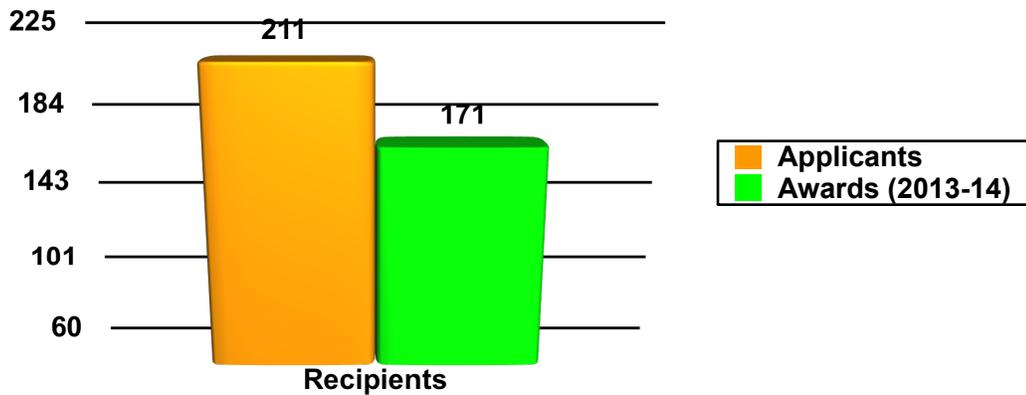


**Class 2012** - of 206

o f A total

students applied, and 183 students received the College Bound Scholarship; the largest number of recipients in the program's history, and an almost 20% increase over the Class of 2011.

**Class of 2013:** A total of 211 students applied, and 179 students received the College Bound Scholarship. Students from the Class of 2013 joined 356 students from the Classes of 2010, 2011, and 2012,



comprising a record number of total recipients (535).

**Class of 2014:** A total of 221 students applied; with 174 students receiving the College Bound Scholarship. Students from the Class of 2014 joined 377 students from the Classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013, comprising a record number of total recipients (551).

**Class Of 2015:** A total of 225 students applied; with 182 students receiving the College Bound Scholarship. Students from the Class of 2015 joined 390 students from the classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014, comprising total of (572) recipients.

**Exceptions Process-** Unlike most scholarship programs, College Bound was developed with a process that allowed for special circumstances, including medical issues, family tragedies, academic performance and missed deadlines. Since its inception, 420 applicants have requested an exception; with 198 of those requests granted. In keeping with the original intent of the program, all cases forwarded to the Exceptions Committee are provided **without** the student's: identity, race, ethnicity, sex, address, or the student's high school (unless absolutely necessary). Although the specific reasons vary, and each request is handled on a case-by-case basis, requests can be classified by certain general characteristics. The largest number of exceptions has been filed due to academic performance, followed by deadline issues.

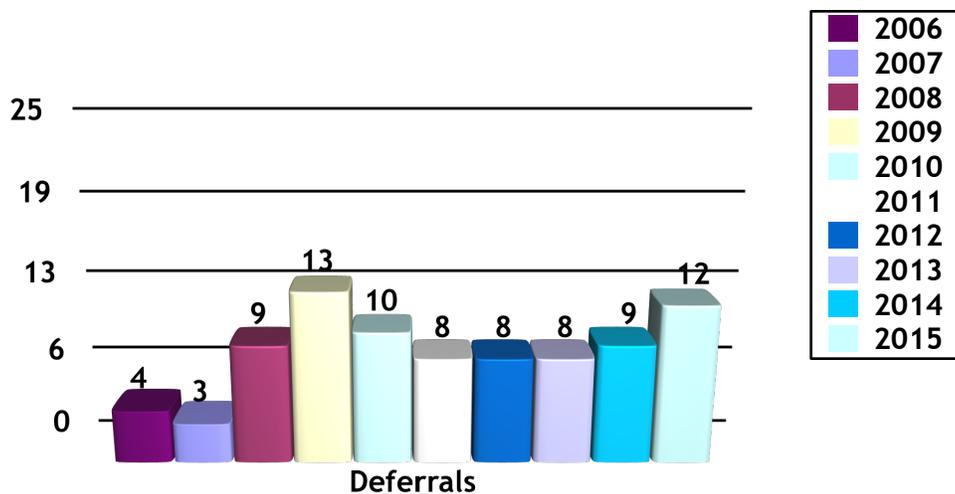
Although the number of cases filed due to missing a deadline has dropped significantly in recent years, in 2013, the Exceptions Committee voted to automatically double the community service hours of any student who turns in their application past the July 2 deadline – a move they hope will continue to deter the number of late applications.

Exceptions By Type/Reason	
Reason for Exception	Total Exceptions Filed
Residency Issues/home ownership	28
Not Attending An Indiana accredited college, or	6
Previously attended an out of state college	16
Academic Requirements	234
Did Not Meet Deadline; Given Wrong Deadline by School	53
Requested Funds Be Used For Other Than Tuition And Fees	19
Custodial Rights Issues	8
Other Issues (medical, given incorrect information regarding eligibility by school, citizenship, etc.) or failed to respond to requests for additional information	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>

As noted, the primary reason for filing an exception is due to academic reasons; often where the student missed the standard by a small margin. For example, many of the granted exceptions were granted where the student missed the SAT score by less than 5%. Another major factor for granting an exception has been due to legitimate health issues that impacted the student's performance. In these cases, detailed documentation was provided from both the school and the student's physician regarding a medical condition.

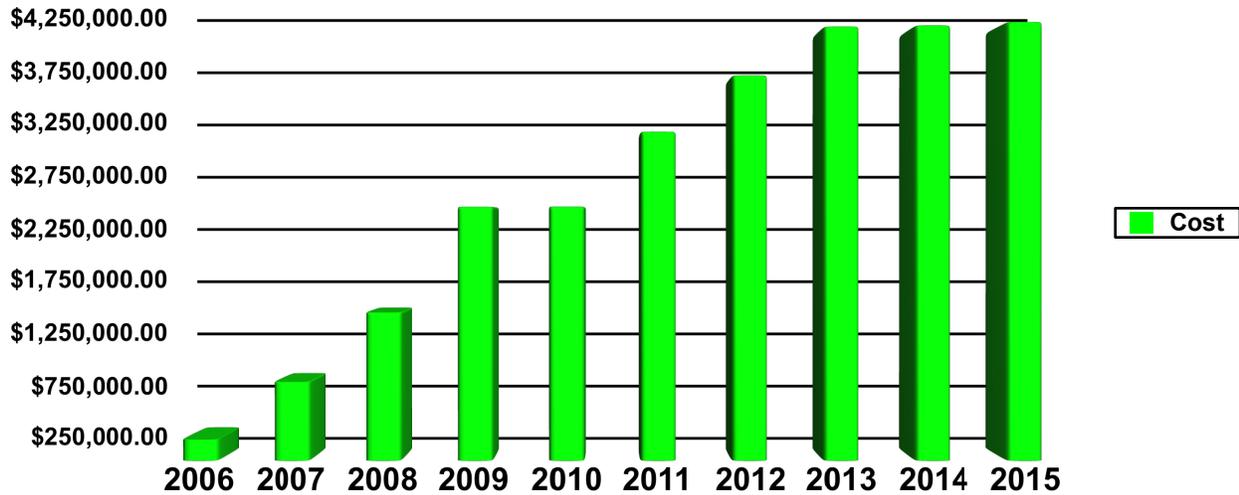
The Exceptions Committee continues the use of "approved deferrals" for those that do not meet the program's academic standards. A deferral allows a student to prove that they possess the ability to meet the challenges of a college education. In most cases, the student is asked to maintain a slightly higher grade point average (2.25 or 2.5 versus the normal 2.0, depending on the student's academic performance) for the following year while not receiving the scholarship, in return for receiving the scholarship for the remaining years of schooling. Essentially, it allows a student to "prove" themselves, and historically, the majority of students receiving that opportunity have met the requirement and gone on to receive College Bound.

### Deferrals Granted



**Program Funding/ Cost-** For the first 9 years, College Bound was funded through casino gaming revenue. The 2014 renewal shifted that cost to funds derived from selling water to Illinois communities. As part of the acknowledgement of that change, the College bound logo is being added to the Water Department storage tanks throughout the City.

## Cost Comparison 2006-15



### Impact on Home Sales

During the first two years of College Bound, data provided by the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of REALTORS (GNIAR) indicated that the time a single family home was on the market in Hammond was reduced; a trend attributed to College Bound (See: *Realtors signing onto College Bound; December 7, 2006 NWI Times*). As recently as mid-2008, GNIAR continued to see a correlation between College Bound and home sales. However, the Association notes that several near catastrophic events affected the housing market over the past five years: a deep recession; a near catastrophic financial crisis affecting banking institutions and in particular mortgage lending and a massive rise in foreclosures, all have had a significant impact on the housing market in Hammond. Due to the complexities and wide-ranging impact of these issues, it is almost impossible to identify and determine the specific impact of College Bound on the housing market.

### Recognition

College Bound is an academic honor for those students receiving the scholarship, yet it is not recognized at graduation ceremonies. The reason is that the program requires final transcripts from high schools before an award is made. However, in discussion with local educators, most students meet the requirements of the program before their final semester.

In 2013, many of the new students who were eligible and admitted into the College Bound Scholarship program received a certificate of award along with an official acceptance letter. A goal in the coming year is to have the various schools announce via the program book which students have received the scholarship, or have a representative of the city or program present the students with a certificate of award at the graduation or award ceremony. This effort will help make the scholarship a more rewarding experience for those who earn the scholarship, encourage early application, and promote College Bound.

### **College Bound Alumni Survey**

A survey was mailed to former students who received funds through College Bound and have completed four years of schooling. A total of 61 responses were received (a sample of 30 or more is considered statistically accurate and representative), providing the following information regarding program participants:

- 97% are employed or in school.
- 56% of students returned to Hammond after graduation, with several purchasing property in the city. An additional 3% are reporting a non-Hammond address while in graduate school.
- 66% of students completed college in four years, with another 23% graduating or anticipating graduating in five years. This is a significant statistic since it significantly exceeds the national average.
- 42% of College Bound students are seeking graduate degrees, including 7 MBA's, a Doctor of Osteopathy, a law degree, a Master's in engineering and a Master's in chemistry.

\*Attached is the list of Colleges and Universities that receive College Bound recipients\*

## List of 2006 – 2015 Participating Colleges/ Universities

<b>Art Institute of Indianapolis</b>
<b>Ancilla College</b>
<b>Anderson University</b>
<b>Ball State University</b>
<b>Bethel College</b>
<b>Butler University</b>
<b>Calumet College</b>
<b>DePauw University</b>
<b>Earlham College</b>
<b>Franklin College</b>
<b>Grace College</b>
<b>Goshen College</b>
<b>Huntington University</b>
<b>Indiana University (Bloomington)</b>
<b>Indiana University Northwest</b>
<b>Indiana University, Purdue University of Indianapolis</b>
<b>Indiana University South Bend</b>
<b>Indiana State University</b>
<b>Indiana Tech</b>
<b>Indiana Wesleyan University</b>
<b>Ivy Tech Community College</b>
<b>Manchester College</b>
<b>Marian College</b>
<b>Oakland City University</b>
<b>Purdue University (West Lafayette)</b>
<b>Purdue University Calumet</b>
<b>Purdue University North Central</b>
<b>Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology</b>
<b>Saint Elizabeth University</b>
<b>Saint Joseph's College</b>
<b>Saint Mary's College</b>
<b>Trine University</b>

<b>University of Evansville</b>
<b>University Of Indianapolis</b>
<b>University Of Notre Dame</b>
<b>University of St. Francis</b>
<b>University of Southern Indiana</b>
<b>Wabash College</b>
<b>Valparaiso University</b>