

Pathways

Spring 2007



Bottom Line

Get in • Graduate • Go far
Success depends on you

WHAT'S NEW AT BOTTOM LINE:



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High School Seniors Make
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in Hayden Scholarships



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Get In, Graduate, Go Far
Dinner is Tremendous Success



Celebrating Success: 54 Bottom Line Students Earn Their Degrees

*Join us on Tuesday, June 26th to honor the 54 students in
Bottom Line's newest class of college graduates!*

Bottom Line's 9th Annual
Recognition Night
Tuesday, June 26th
6:30pm to 8:30pm
The Colonnade Hotel
120 Huntington Ave, Boston



May is always our favorite time of year at Bottom Line. The weather is warmer, our high school students have all decided where they are going to college, and our college students have completed another successful year at school. And of course, it's also graduation season, which means we have the privilege of watching students that we have supported for 5, 6, and 7 years put on a cap and gown and accept their hard-earned college degrees!

On Tuesday, June 26th we will celebrate the success of the 54 graduating Bottom Line students at our 9th Annual Recognition Night. We have followed and supported these students for up to 7 years and we are proud that they have earned a college degree. Recognition Night gives us a chance to see how proud our students and our entire community are of their achievements as well. In a time when graduation rates for disadvantaged students are as low as 14% and the graduation rate for the entire population is only 55%, seeing our students graduate reaffirms the importance of our program and the drive and will power of our students. If you would like to join us for this wonderful evening, please RSVP to mike@bottomline.org.



PROGRAM STAFF**Greg Johnson**
*Executive Director***Dave Borgal**
*Founder, Program Director***Mike Wasserman**
*Development Manager***Miguel Mendoza**
*Senior Counselor***Claudine Johnson**
*Senior Counselor***Ginette Saimprevil**
*Senior Counselor***Sarah Hedges**
*Senior Counselor***Malia Hamilton**
*College Counselor***Kaitlin Meelia**
*Part-time College Counselor***Erin Gerber**
*Part-time College Counselor***BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Margaret Andrews****Peter Bishop**
*Goldman Sachs***George Chu**
*Citizen Schools***Lynette Correa**
*Alumni Representative***Emerson Foster**
*Stop & Shop***Viola Morse****Peter Pavlina - Board Chair**
*Hammersley Partners***Peter Pedro**
*The Bostonian Group***The Hon. Patti Saris**
*Federal District Court***Dave Terry**
*Salveus***Mike Volo**
*Fidelity Investments***BOTTOM LINE'S NEWS IN BRIEF****Bottom Line Receives \$250,000 Grant from First Marblehead Foundation****The First
Marblehead
Foundation
for Education**

We were all very excited on May 14th to hear that the First Marblehead Foundation for Education has decided to support Bottom Line with a \$250,000 grant to be divided over the next three years. The grant is made in support of Bottom Line's continued capacity building efforts. By the time the three-year grant concludes, Bottom Line expects to be serving over 1,300 high school and college students every year and employing 17 staff members. Thank you First Marblehead Foundation!

Bottom Line's Back to School Online Auction is Coming Soon!

Get ready to bid during Bottom Line's first Back to School Online Auction from September 3rd to September 24th. You will be able to win great items, from Red Sox Playoff Tickets (is it too soon to say that?) and Wine Tastings to private parties at local Boston venues and weekend stays at Boston hotels. The best part of the auction is that by having fun you will help us support 920 high school and college students as they return to school. You can visit the auction website at www.bottomline.cmarket.com. If you would like to donate an item or help us plan this exciting new online event, please contact Mike Wasserman at 617-524-8833 or mike@bottomline.org.

Pepsi Scholarship is Refreshing News for Bottom Line Student

This year, Pepsi Bottling Group chose Bottom Line as one of only two organizations that could nominate students for the Boston Pepsi Rising Star Scholarship. Every year, Pepsi awards 5 Rising Star Scholarships in Boston. Each scholarship provides an incoming freshman with \$2,500, which can be renewed for up to 4 years. Bottom Line is proud to announce that Priscilla Santana has been awarded one of the Rising Star Scholarships. Priscilla was born in the Dominican Republic and moved here in 2000. She will begin attending Suffolk University in the fall.

Bottom Line is on CBS TV-4 and TV-38

CBS News' Paul Burton visited our office on April 27th to film a story on Bottom Line's innovative approach to college access and success. Rising college freshmen Richard Pierre was interviewed for the piece along with Executive Director, Greg Johnson. Pierre praised Bottom Line's comprehensive approach to college access and was thankful for the support he has received and will continue to receive as he goes to Bentley College in the fall. "Knowing what they've done for me so far," said Pierre, "I want to keep it going, so I know I have someone to lean on in case I stumble."



MAY 1ST: DECISION DAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

May 1st is when it all comes together, when the hard work of our students and counselors over the last 8 months finally pays off; it is the day that colleges across the country require deposits from students attending their school, which means it's the final day for students to choose which college to attend. All of the school searches, college visits, essay writing, and filling out applications paid off for our students as acceptance letters poured in last month.

The 360 seniors in Bottom Line's program sent more than 2,880 applications to 249 colleges. UMass Amherst was the most popular school receiving 228 applications. Boston College and Boston University received about 100 each, and Harvard got 25. So far, nearly 50% of all of the applications have resulted in acceptance letters.

Where are they going? Top 20 College Destinations

UMass Amherst	23	Bunker Hill Comm. College	8
Bridgewater State College	18	Smith College	8
Salem State College	18	Regis College	6
UMass Boston	18	Wheaton College	6
Boston College	14	Emmanuel College	5
Bentley College	12	Tufts University	5
Northeastern University	11	Brown University	4
Suffolk University	10	College of the Holy Cross	4
UMass Dartmouth	10	MCPHS	4
Boston University	8	Mount Ida College	4

COLLEGE APPLICATION SUCCESS STORIES



Esther Fan Fan is a high school senior living in a low-income, single parent home in Dorchester. She is excited to be attending Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in the fall.



Zhong Gao is a senior at Charlestown High School. Although he moved from China only three years ago, he has excelled academically. Zhong will attend Brown University in the fall.

WHAT DO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS THINK OF BOTTOM LINE?

This month, we sent out our annual survey to Bottom Line's high school seniors. Anonymous feedback from our students helps us improve our program from year to year. Here are some statistics from the student responses.

64% of students said "I don't know what I would have done without my counselor."

72% of Bottom Line students say that they would be going to a different college or not going to college at all without the help of Bottom Line.

80% of students said their parents were "only involved a little bit" or "not involved at all" in the college process.

98% of students said their counselor "knew everything" or "knew most things" about the college application process

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ADVOCATE: OPENING DOORS AND CHANGING THE FUTURE



Iris Gonzalez had her heart set on attending Smith College since the beginning of the year. When she was accepted to Smith, she was ecstatic! However, when her financial aid showed a \$16,000 gap, it appeared she would not be able to attend, despite working hard to get in. With Bottom Line's help, she received \$8,000 more in financial aid and will now be able to attend her dream school!

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SPRING 2007 |

Since the beginning of the school year, Iris Gonzalez, a senior from Boston Latin Academy with high grades and a strong SAT score, had her heart set on Smith College, one of the elite women's colleges in America. In late March, Iris was ecstatic to receive her acceptance letter to Smith!

However, days later when Iris received her financial aid package from the school, she began to worry that her dream of attending Smith would be dashed. Despite having an Expected Family Contribution of \$0, Iris was very surprised to find a \$16,000 gap in her financial aid award - an amount she knew her family could not afford. Iris and her parents had expected the school to offer more financial assistance. Confused and disappointed, Iris turned to her Bottom Line counselor, Claudine Johnson, for clarification and assistance. Claudine did some investigating and learned that Smith determined that despite her family's low household income, they still technically had enough assets to justify a contribution of \$16,000.

This reality was nerve-racking for Iris and her family - it appeared that she might have to go to a more affordable public institution, which neither Iris nor

Bottom Line thought was as good a match for Iris as Smith College. Being close to Iris and having knowledge of her family's financial circumstances, Claudine helped Iris appeal her financial aid decision and write a letter asking Smith to reconsider her package. Claudine and Iris crafted a letter, and faxed it to Smith's financial aid office the week of April 23rd. Claudine also alerted both the admissions office and financial aid office that Iris still really wanted to go to Smith, but her decision hinged on the outcome of her appeal.

Fortunately, on April 30th, the day before enrollment deposits were due, Iris learned that Smith granted her an additional \$8,000 in scholarship money. This additional money still leaves Iris with an \$8,000 balance, but she is determined to come up with the money - some from her parents, some from working this summer, and some from private scholarships she has been applying for all spring.

Iris's story underlines the reality that "Getting in to college" means more than simply being accepted. It takes steady guidance and support, and it takes an advocate to ensure that students don't just "get accepted" but are actually able and prepared to attend school.

BOTTOM LINE ALUMNI TO GATHER FOR WINE TASTING

Bottom Line Alum Rosa Stamatos, coordinator of Discover Your Palette Tastings, is working together with our Alumni Board to offer a Wine Tasting event to benefit Bottom Line. Tickets are \$10; all are welcome to attend.

Event Details:

Thursday, June 7th
5:30pm to 7:30pm
Breezeway Bar and Grill
153 Blue Hill Avenue in Boston.
\$10 Cover Charge

RSVP to Discover_your_palette@yahoo.com
We hope to see you there!



CHARLES HAYDEN FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 TO BOTTOM LINE STUDENTS



Jeanette Sanchez is a top student at English High School. No one has ever gone to college in her family. They want her to be the first, but can't help pay for it. Jeanette fell in love with the Communications program at Emerson College. She was accepted in April, but has a \$15,000 financial gap to meet. Bottom Line has given Jeanette an \$8,700 Hayden Scholarship to make her dream a reality.

Bottom Line is working with the Charles Hayden Foundation to award \$100,000 to our students this year. The scholarships will allow students to attend schools that they could otherwise not afford, and scholarship winners will be able to re-apply for financial support for all four years of college. These awards will make sure that students who have earned a place in their dream college won't be denied a chance to attend for financial reasons; Jeanette Sanchez is one of those students.

Jeanette Sanchez was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Boston when she was 5. Her father still lives there and she doesn't speak with him. She lives in Roslindale ("in the projects", she says) with her mother Noemi, 40, and her little brother Gabriel, 8. Her mother works as a janitor at Harvard University, and Gabriel goes to the JFK Elementary School. No one has ever gone to college in her family, and she says there is a lot of pressure on her to go to a good school. She doesn't think there is any way her mother can help out financially--there is no

extra money. Jeanette is one of the top 5 students in the senior class at English High School; she has a 4.5 GPA. Jeanette is a good writer and has fallen in love with the Communications program at Emerson College, where she was accepted in April. She was also accepted to Emmanuel College, Lesley University, and Wheaton College.

Emerson College is providing Jeanette with approximately \$24,000 in scholarships and grants. The cost of attendance at Emerson is \$39,672. Including loans, Jeanette and her mother have to come up with approximately \$15,000 to go to Emerson. Coming up with this money would be nearly impossible for the Sanchez family. Therefore, Bottom Line and the Charles Hayden Foundation are awarding her a renewable \$8,700 scholarship. Jeanette still has challenges ahead, but she is thrilled to be attending Emerson College in the fall, and she is motivated to succeed.

YOU CAN HELP A STUDENT GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE!

The cost of college continues to increase, and it is harder than ever to afford a college degree. Now you can personally help students pay for books and make college affordable by joining Bottom Line's Sponsor-a-Student Program.

When you make a \$500 donation to our Sponsor-a-Student program, we will provide one of our students with a \$250 book scholarship, in addition to continuing support through our College Success services. So, not only will each sponsored student receive mentoring, problem solving support, regular cards, care packages, dinners on campus and be able to participate in our Career Fair and Recognition Night, but they will also get help with one of the largest costs they face each year- buying books.

When you participate in our Sponsor-a-Student program, you will receive updates on the progress of the student you are supporting, so you know the impact your donation has on the lives of our students.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1986, the cost of textbooks for college students has tripled, increasing by 186%.

For students at 4-year public institutions, the cost of textbooks is 26% of their entire tuition and fees.

BOTTOM LINE RAISES \$315,000 AND HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS

Bottom Line held its Second Annual **Get In, Graduate and Go Far Dinner** on Tuesday, February 27th at the Westin Copley Place Hotel. At the event, Bottom Line honored Dr. Carol T. Christ, President of Smith College, and Ralph C. Martin II, Chairman of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and Partner at Bingham McCutchen. Three Bottom Line students also spoke at the event, relating their stories of adversity and their difficult journeys toward a college degree.

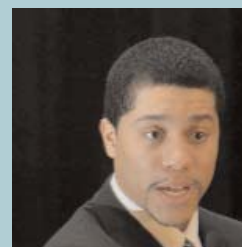
Bottom Line chose to honor Dr. Carol T. Christ and Smith College for the partnership the two organizations have developed. Currently, Bottom Line supports 18 students at Smith College as they pursue their degrees. Dr. Christ spoke about the need in our country to support diverse and disadvantaged students who have college aspirations and to ensure that college is an affordable option for all students. Ralph C. Martin II was honored at the dinner as well for his leadership in Boston's corporate community, and his efforts to make Boston a place where diversity is embraced.

The event was attended by roughly 550 guests and raised more than one third of Bottom Line's 2007 Fiscal Year operating budget. Sun Life Financial and Stop & Shop Supermarket Companies were the main sponsors of the evening, and they were joined by over 50 other sponsoring companies and individuals. Not only was the

evening meant to honor the efforts of Smith College and Ralph C. Martin II, it was also a way to demonstrate the important work that Bottom Line is doing in the community. In

order to communicate Bottom Line's impact, three students spoke honestly about their lives and their struggles toward a degree.

High School Senior Haja Fofana spoke about witnessing brutal destruction and massive violence during the revolution in Sierra Leone, but then escaping to America and now preparing to go off to college with Bottom Line's help. Smith College Sophomore Rochelle Valdez discussed the challenges of coming from the Dominican Republic and being the first person in her family to attend college. Finally, Lex Vega, a 2006 graduate of Worcester State College spoke about his childhood, growing up with an abusive drug dealer father, and then spending time in foster care. His amazing story, like so many other stories from Bottom Line students, concluded with his successful graduation and a promising career ahead of him.



HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISORY BOARD KICKS OFF!

As Bottom Line's college student population grows, we have seen an increased need to support students with their searches for jobs and summer internships. To respond to this need, Bottom Line has partnered with a group of committed Human Resource professionals from some of Boston's top employers and created an HR Advisory Board. The first meeting of the board took place earlier this month. The Advisory Board will work with Bottom Line to build partnerships at local corporations and identify employment opportunities for our students. The board will also act as a resource for Bottom Line as we develop a sustainable employment program.

HR Advisory Board Members include:

Lori Bastoni - Pepsi Bottling Group
Jennifer Castillo - Wal-Mart
Amy Crabtree - Starbucks
Liz Diggins - Target Stores
Emerson Foster - Stop & Shop

Ive Gonzalez - Eastern Bank
Sarah Miles - Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Gabrielle Pineau - Staples
Christina Suh - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

THANK YOU TO BOTTOM LINE'S RECENT SUPPORTERS!

Our staff and students are grateful for your investment in our mission.

\$50,000 +

Charles Hayden Foundation
Cosette Charitable Trust
Jane's Trust

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Boston Foundation
Fleet Charitable Gift Fund
Stop and Shop Supermarket Company
Sun Life Financial

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Citizens Bank
Louise Crane Foundation
Fidelity Investments
Lyle and Sarah Fulkerson
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Larson Family Foundation
Mifflin Memorial Fund
Wellington Management Charitable Fund

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Rachel Paster
James Venable
Howard and Kim Venable
Kerri Walsh
Jayme Winnick



Tammy Mak is a high school senior at Josiah Quincy Upper School. She will begin attending Smith College this fall.

GET IN



Keon Brown just completed his first year at Northeastern University. He will work for Sun Life Financial this summer.

GRADUATE



Noelani Guerrero graduated from Boston College this May. This summer, she will begin working at Building Excellent Schools.

GO FAR

DONATE TO BOTTOM LINE

Your support can make a difference in the life of a student.

Donating to Bottom Line provides the services that disadvantaged students in Boston need to get in to college, graduate from college, and go far in life. To be a part of Bottom Line's success, you can make a donation through our website or by mail.

CONTACT

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At Bottom Line we are changing the face of college access and retention for Boston's disadvantaged communities.

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