



WHAT'S NEW AT BOTTOM LINE:



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**Boston Lawyers Group
Helps Students Prepare
for Law Careers**



BOTTOM LINE DECIDES TO BITE INTO THE BIG APPLE

After months of research, in-depth analysis, and conversations between the staff and board, Bottom Line has developed a lofty goal: to support 2,600 students annually by 2015.

Over the next few years, Bottom Line will expand in Massachusetts to support more college students. This means we will continue mentoring more of the students who we help apply to college while they attend college. To support our endeavor to demonstrate that helping students only “get in” is not enough, we will provide on-campus advising at more colleges and hire additional staff to ensure that the Bottom Line team is big enough to serve over a thousand college students.

To reach more low-income and first-generation students, Bottom Line intends to open an office in New York City in July 2011. Expanding to America's largest city will allow Bottom Line to offer our services where they're needed most, include another collection of colleges in our support network, and spread the word about the need for long-term college advising.

Jumpstarting our 2,600 student goal, Bottom Line will expand in the coming school year to serve 1,600 students from Massachusetts—650 high school seniors and 950 college students. We are grateful to our supporters for helping us continue expanding to fulfill our mission—we couldn't do it without you!



THE LONG PATH TO COLLEGE

After relocating from a refugee camp in Tanzania to the United States, Jeanie Harushingo became the main support for her family. Now that she is graduating from high school, she would like to earn a degree in international relations to help people in Africa. *Read her story. (Page 3)*



A STORY OF RESILIENCE

Kaylee Pena
Southfield High School 2010
Boston College, 2014

Kaylee lives in Roslindale with her mother and three siblings. She will be the first in her family to earn a college degree. Her older brother attended ITT Tech, but was shot three months before graduation. She helps care for her brother now that he is paralyzed.

Kaylee has earned impressive grades and been involved in many activities during her years at Southfield High. She has played soccer, basketball, tennis, and softball. She participates in Connects, a multicultural club, sings in the school choir, and volunteers at her old middle school. During her sophomore year, she was diagnosed with cancer, from which she has fully recovered. Kaylee continued to remain active in extracurricular activities and excel in her classes, even during that time.

She is interested in pursuing pre-med or nursing. With a compelling essay about overcoming cancer, an impressive SAT score, and a high GPA, she applied to Brandeis University, Lesley College, Suffolk University, Northeastern University, and Boston College, among others. Kaylee was accepted to every school and has decided to attend Boston College, one of Bottom Line's target schools. Bottom Line looks forward to supporting Kaylee as she works to earn her degree.

Oh the places they'll go...



Dennis Desmond
John D. O'Bryant High School, 2010
Wentworth Institute of Technology, 2014

Dennis aspires to become an engineer. Thanks to receiving a Boston City Scholarship, he can attend the Wentworth Institute of Technology. With hard work and guidance from Bottom Line, he will be the first in his family to earn a college degree.



Dianna Marcellus
Another Course to College, 2010
Mass College of Pharmacy, 2014

Dianna applied for many scholarships in order to attend her dream school, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She has received \$20,000 from the Foundation to Be Named Later and plans to study nutrition or veterinary science.



Laila Abdul Nabi
Malden High School 2010
Bryn Mawr College, 2014

After growing up in war-torn Pakistan and not attending school for the greater part of her young life, Laila quickly progressed in her studies after moving to the United States. She will attend Bryn Mawr College tuition-free on a Posse Foundation Scholarship.

COLLEGE



AN ASPIRING DOCTOR

Yussef Fakira
Brighton High School, 2010
Boston University, 2014

Yussef originally heard about Bottom Line through Bridge to Calculus, a mathematics enrichment program. He lives in Brighton with his mother, stepfather, and two brothers. His stepfather works as an EMT and his mother is a stay-at-home mom.

Yussef is valedictorian of his class and president of the National Honor Society at Brighton High. He has earned a 4.98 GPA, taken several AP classes, and feels prepared for college-level classes. During high school, Yussef has run track, played football, and competed on the swim team. He has participated in the Walk for Hunger and served as a volunteer CPR instructor, in addition to holding a summer internship at Bank of America.

Yussef is interested in studying public health or biology to pursue a pre-medical degree. With help from Bottom Line, he applied to Boston College, Tufts University, and Boston University, among others. Thanks to receiving a generous scholarship, he will attend Boston University this fall. He plans to take as many science courses as possible, in hopes of becoming a neurosurgeon.



THE LONG PATH TO COLLEGE

Jeanine Harushingo
North High School, 2010
Assumption College, 2014

Jeanine grew up in a refugee camp in Tanzania. Originally from Burundi, she fled her country with her family at age 3 when war broke out. Jeanine spent 12 years living in the refugee camp in crowded quarters with insufficient food.

Women in her country are offered little opportunity to pursue an education. Defying social rules, Jeanine secretly attended school. She eventually defended her right to obtain an education and her parents agreed to support her decision.

Jeanine came to the United States less than 3 years ago not knowing any English. Since then, she has become the main support for her family who lives with her in Worcester. Settling in the United States has been difficult for them: Jeanine's mom fell ill and the family often struggles to pay bills and rent. Jeanine was able to manage the household, work her way into North High School from a school for new immigrants, learn English, and earn a 3.8 GPA in honors classes.

Jeanine came to Bottom Line determined to attend college and study international relations so she can return home and help people in Africa. Out of the ten colleges she applied to, she was accepted at UMass Dartmouth, Assumption College, and Becker College. She will begin attending Assumption College this fall as a commuter student on a full scholarship.

ACCESS

DID YOU KNOW?

Bottom Line's College Access Program currently supports ~75% of Boston's and ~50% of Worcester's college-ready low-income and first-generation students.

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

Select Destinations: Bottom Line Class of 2010

Bentley University - 14 students

Boston College - 23 students

Boston University - 19 students

Bridgewater State College - 22 students

Clark University - 6 students

College of the Holy Cross - 18 students

Fitchburg State College - 8 students

Mass College of Liberal Arts - 13 students

Mass College of Pharmacy - 14 students

Northeastern University - 11 students

Quinsigamond C.C. - 15 students

Regis College - 12 students

Salem State College - 10 students

Suffolk University - 16 students

Syracuse University - 5 students

Tufts University - 9 students

UMass Amherst - 54 students

UMass Boston - 31 students

UMass Dartmouth - 25 students

UMass Lowell - 15 students

Wentworth Institute of Tech. - 15 students

Westfield State College - 9 students

Wheaton College - 5 students

Worcester State College - 14 students

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

During the past year, Bottom Line took a deeper look into our programs. To help us better understand the spectrum of support we provide to students, we worked with Wellspring Consulting, a local firm that specializes in the social sector. We have been able to think about our services in a new way and improve them to support students as best we can.

So what's Bottom Line's DEAL? It's the name of the model we developed for our College Success Program. While we used to think of our support to college students as mere problem solving, we now organize the guidance we offer students into four specific areas: **d**egree, **e**mployability, **a**id, and **l**ife. As part of developing this model, we created benchmarks that our college students should reach each semester to earn their degree on time, become employable by graduation, and—in the meantime—maintain their financial aid and manage



life's circumstances. Now our counselors can determine a student's progress and help them reach the incremental goals that we know will lead to their ultimate goal: graduating and going far in life. Thanks to improving our approach to mentoring and advising students, we believe that we can help a larger percentage of our students earn a college degree.



GIVING IT ALL HE'S GOT

Rey Dejesus
Brighton High School, 2009
UMass Boston, 2013

Rey was originally referred to Bottom Line during his senior year at Brighton High School by the Mellon City Access Program. Originally from the Dominican Republic, he is in the first generation of his family to attend college in the United States. Bottom Line helped him apply to affordable schools where he could major in one of his interests, Hospitality or Criminal Justice. After weighing his options, Rey decided to attend UMass Boston.

The first semester of college was a challenge for Rey. He struggled in his math and psychology courses and earned a low GPA. But the outcome of the semester left him wanting to work harder.

Determined to improve his performance, Rey now calls or meets with Bottom Line weekly. With Bottom Line's help, he has utilized more on-campus resources, developed better study habits, and made a huge effort to succeed in his classes. Proving that his hard work has paid off, Rey received a 95 on his latest English paper!

After dedicating himself to his studies this spring, Rey expects to receive straight B's in his classes. He is planning to declare his major in Criminal Justice after completing the pre-requisites during his sophomore year.

COLLEGE



TRANSFERRING TO PURSUE HER PASSION

Elizabeth Phan
North High School, 2009
UMass Boston, 2013

Elizabeth came to Bottom Line as a high school senior aspiring to become a physical therapist. She had hoped to attend the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences or Simmons College, but was unfortunately not accepted to either school. Elizabeth made the decision to attend UMass Boston and live with her brother in Dorchester during the week and with her mother in her hometown, Worcester, on the weekends.

She has worked hard to earn high grades in her Exercise and Health Sciences classes during her freshman year and also participates in the Exercise Club and Asian Club on campus. Still determined to reach her goal, Elizabeth applied to study at Simmons College or UMass Amherst next year. Elizabeth anxiously awaits a decision from Simmons, but has already been accepted to UMass Amherst to study nutrition.

BOTTOM LINE ON CAMPUS

With 84 current college students, 49 alumni, and 31 new freshman headed to its campus this fall, UMass Boston is one of Bottom Line's most popularly attended colleges. The public university's affordability, wide array of academics, and convenient campus on the Boston waterfront has made the school a hub for urban college students. However, only 33% of freshman who begin college at UMass Boston earn a degree within six years. Focused on improving this outcome, Bottom Line spends many hours on campus supporting our students.

On May 5th, a team of Bottom Line counselors made one of their regular visits to UMass Boston to hold one-on-one meetings with their students. With finals fast approaching, Bottom Line counselor Jen Kincaid made sure to check in about students' study strategies. For those who had not formed a plan of attack, Jen helped them schedule their time to adequately prepare for final exams and project presentations.

With summer just ahead, finalizing arrangements for jobs and internships is at the top of the "to do" list. Bottom Line counselor Justin Strasburger helped Kenia Cesar, a junior double majoring in Women's Studies and Sociology, update her resume to suit her interest in working at a women's shelter this summer. Together they searched the listings on Idealist.org for relevant jobs. After finding a few fitting prospects, Justin provided Kenia with a template to create cover letters.

May is also the time to register for fall semester courses. Selecting a well-balanced course load ensures students can succeed in their classes rather than becoming overloaded and struggling to maintain their GPA. With this in mind, Justin also reviewed Kenia's fall course selection with her, as well as the two courses she will take this summer.

While the discussions Bottom Line has with students at UMass Boston vary with the seasons, our presence is well known in the cushy chairs at the campus center. We're glad to be part of such a vibrant college community and hope that we can continue to help UMass Boston fulfill its goal to "respond to the academic and economic needs of the state's urban areas and their diverse populations."



SUCCESS

HOW WE HELP COLLEGE STUDENTS IN 4 AREAS

Degree:

- Select a major that plays to their strengths
- Assess their credits to track progress toward a degree
- Interpret their syllabi to succeed in each class
- Create and use strategies to improve performance
- Connect with tutoring, advising, and resources

Employability:

- Find the right career path
- Secure internships and part-time jobs
- Write and update their resume and cover letters
- Connect with Bottom Line-specific internships
- Build a unique professional "brand"

Aid:

- Renew scholarship and financial aid applications
- Figure out how to pay their balance
- Troubleshoot questions or problems with their bill
- Assess their debt
- Budget their money and make good financial decisions

Life:

- Send them seven cards and two care packages a year
- Visit campus monthly; call and e-mail often
- Challenge students to work hard to achieve goals
- Help students solve problems when we can

BOSTON LAWYERS GROUP HELPS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR LAW CAREERS

For nearly a decade, Bottom Line has connected college students to the Boston Lawyers Group Summer Internship Program. The Boston Lawyers Group (BLG) places these rising college sophomores, juniors, and seniors at over twenty Boston law firms for ten weeks during the summer. The internship program allows students to experience working at a law office, attend professional development workshops, connect with lawyers and law students, visit local law schools, and conduct a mock trial to experience a day in court.

Bottom Line students who have interned for the BLG have gone on to achieve great things beyond earning a college degree, such as working at the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic and attending law school.

Last summer, seven Bottom Line students enrolled in the BLG Summer Internship Program. This year, out of thirty-three Bottom Line applicants, four top students will be placed in an internship with one of the BLG's member organizations. From June through August, Jeanily Cruz, Massiel De Los Santos, Priscilla Guerrero, and Kayla Solis will experience the legal world from the front line and benefit from one more opportunity that will help them go far in life.

Interested in hiring Bottom Line students and alumni for internships or jobs? Please contact Erica Emery at erica@bottomline.org.



CAREERS



THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

Priscilla Amelia Guerrero
Brook Farm Business & Service Academy, 2007
Bridgewater State College, 2011

Priscilla studies Criminal Justice and Social Work at Bridgewater State and has wanted to intern at a law firm through the Boston Lawyers Group (BLG) since her freshman year. She applied for the BLG Summer Internship Program that year, but was unfortunately not selected. With Bottom Line's help, Priscilla was able to work at the VA Hospital as a nursing clerk.

During her sophomore year, Priscilla put her nose to the grindstone and worked even harder to succeed in her classes. She applied a second time for an internship through the BLG, but was again not selected for the opportunity. Instead, she worked full-time at the VA Hospital for a second summer.

Now a junior, Priscilla has earned all A's and B's while continuing to work part-time at the VA. She was selected as 1 of only 15 students to participate in Bridgewater State's Inside-Out Program, which has allowed her to work directly with 15 inmates at the Old Colony Correctional Center, see first-hand how a corrections facility operates, and lead student debates in various Criminal Justice topics.

Proving that persistence can make the difference, Priscilla was accepted to BLG's Summer Internship Program after applying for a third year in a row. She hopes that this experience will support her future career plans to work "directly with individuals who need help with the judicial or corrections process."

Staff

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Meghan Stetson
College Counselor

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Maxine Roca
Part-time Counselor

Ginette Saimprevil
Worcester Site Director

Yorkiana Mercedes
College Counselor - Worcester

Miriam Rubin
College Counselor - Worcester



WHAT A NIGHT: OUR 5th ANNUAL DINNER

More than 600 guests made it to the Boston Renaissance Waterfront Hotel on March 23rd to hear our students—such as Fatima (center)—share their incredible stories and help our organization continue making a difference in the community. Thanks to the leadership of Wes Thompson, President of Sun Life Financial US, and lead sponsors State Street Corporation and Sun Life Financial, Bottom Line raised over \$460,000 at the 2010 Get In, Graduate & Go Far Dinner to support our students.



BOTTOM LINE SAYS GOODBYE

For five years, Claudine Johnson (left) has been an exemplary member of Bottom Line's college counseling staff. Having been a Bottom Line student herself, she was an insightful member of our team. Although our staff and students will miss her, we wish her well as she joins Hofstra University on Long Island as Assistant Dean. Best of luck, Claudine!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Kevin Connolly, a Senior Vice President at State Street Corporation, joined Bottom Line's Board of Directors this April. A consistent supporter of our organization as a Leadership Committee member for the annual Get In, Graduate & Go Far Dinner, Mr. Connolly was an ideal candidate for the Board. We are fortunate to have him on our team as we begin carrying out our ambitious growth plans.

Board of Directors

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SUPPORT US

Help Bottom Line provide guidance to 1,400 students! Mail your gift in the attached envelope or donate online at www.bottomline.org.



Prisca will face many challenges while she attends college. That's why Bottom Line will provide her with one-on-one support until she graduates.

