



AIM High (At a Glance)

Goal

Every student in the AIM High mentoring program will attend and graduate from college.

Background

In 2006, the University of Chicago announced results from a long-term study indicating that **only 6% of Chicago public high school freshman would receive a Bachelor's degree by age 25**. In response to these statistics, Center for Companies That Care, a national Chicago-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, along with a team of professionals from both the education and business world, created the AIM High mentoring program. AIM High ensures that vulnerable, low-income students, graduate from college, and are prepared for tomorrow's workplace.

Strategy

The AIM High mentoring program matches small teams of employees from participating companies with individual students in 9th grade to engage in a long-term mentoring relationship throughout the high school years. Using a customized, 4-year curriculum, Center for Companies That Care trains participating companies to mentor students via face-to-face events and structured email curriculum. The program rests on eight pillars that inform the annual programming:

- Goal Setting
- Academic Support
- College Preparedness
- Work Readiness
- Cultural Exposure
- Community Service
- A Day in the Student's Life
- Recognition

Expected Outcomes

100% of those who remain with their mentors for the full four years of high school will receive both a high school and 4-year college degree. Additionally, AIM High students will:

- learn to conduct themselves in the professional world and understand the requirements of holding a job;
- receive ongoing encouragement and academic support (in person and via frequent email contact with their mentors);
- enhance their technology and professional skills;
- gain exposure to the world beyond their neighborhood through organized group events;
- be guided through the college selection, application and financial aid process;
- learn to be resourceful and self-advocating.

How Your Organization Can Get Involved

- **Become a Student Sponsor** with a tax-deductible contribution of \$5000/year for four years. Every student requires a sponsor to be enrolled in the program.
- **Become an Event Sponsor** by sponsoring one of the eight AIM High events held during the year.
- **Mentor Students** by organizing a team of dedicated volunteers (3-5 employees per student). It takes only 45 hours per year *per team* to fully participate and make a critical difference in a student's life.

Current Participants

AIM High currently matches 48 students from public schools Urban Prep Academy- Englewood campus and University of Chicago Charter School- Woodlawn campus and Chicago Talent Development High School **with 200 mentors from various Chicagoland companies.**

- **Participating companies include:** ADP, Baxter Credit Union, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Convergent Technologies LLC, Curcio Webb LLC, Enterprise Fleet Management, Fertile Ground Foundation, Friedler Construction, General Growth Properties, Grant Thornton LLP, KPMG LLP, Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, McDermott Will & Emery, NeigerDesignInc, Office Depot, Inc., Oliver Wyman Group, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Sysmex Corporation, The Care of Trees, University HealthSystem Consortium and Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

www.companies-that-care.org/education