

Syed Al Mashrafi
First Generation College Bound
Testimony for SB 517

Hello, my name is Syeed Al Mashrafi and I am a student in First Generation College Bound's College Access Program. Before finding First Generation College Bound (FGCB), the whole college process was a mystery to me. I didn't know about grants or scholarships, let alone how to navigate through it all. FGCB changed everything. They not only showed me the opportunities available but also provided the guidance and support I needed. Without them, I wouldn't have considered college as an option for my future.

What sets FGCB apart is that it goes beyond just information. They organize eye-opening field trips, engaging career workshops like the career puppy sessions where we discover our strengths, and various activities that expand our horizons. Additionally, they offer workshops on crucial topics like FAFSA, MDCAPS, college applications, essay writing, and choosing the right college based on our family situation and income.

Thanks to FGCB, especially my high school coach, Mr. Gasbarro, who's been a constant mentor. He guided me through the college application process, impacting my life positively and helping me get accepted into good colleges. FGCB introduced me to inspiring people and career paths I never knew existed. It's more than a program; it's a life-changer. I'm now equipped to imagine a greater future and aspire to be a future leader, all thanks to FGCB.