

Taira Ford
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HB 624
First Generation College Bound

Hello everyone my name is Taira Ford and I am a junior currently attending Bowie State University. I was introduced to the First Generation College Bound program in high school and since then they have guided me through the college process. They showed me how to apply to schools and more importantly, how to apply for financial aid. My college experience has greatly benefited from being a recipient of the GA grant. In terms of paying for school, it has helped me feel more at ease. One of the greatest benefits I have been given is the knowledge that I have financial aid to pay for my education and individuals who will assist me while I am in school. My FGCB supports have been extremely helpful to me. Over the past few weeks, my school has encountered problems with my financial aid, but FGCB has supported me the entire time. They contacted me to ensure that my funds were in order, and we both shared updates. They were making calls on my behalf to MHEC to ensure that my GA grant was dispersed and that there were no additional documents needed from my university. They provided with all of the information they could in response to my inquiries and advocated with my university to ensure that the issue was resolved. Ultimately, they followed up to make sure I was okay, that nothing new had been discovered, and ensured that I received my grant without any further issue. Maryland State Need based Grants provide financial assistance to those with low incomes or those who cannot afford tuition, allowing them to avoid paying for it out of pocket or having mountains of college loan debt. I would not be aware of the grant or know that I could afford to go to college if it weren't for First Generation College Bound. First Generation College Bound's outreach provided me the needed advice, encouragement, and support to receive the Maryland Higher Education, Guaranteed Access grant and because of this I will be graduating next spring.

Thank you,

Taira Ford.