

COME TO BELIEVE

WHO WE ARE

The Come to Believe Foundation (CTB) assists higher education institutions in developing and launching a two-year college model that provides a pathway for underserved students to receive four-year degrees. First developed at Arrupe College at Loyola University Chicago, the CTB model provides students with small classes, dedicated faculty advisors, mental health services, generous financial aid and other supports. The results are exemplary, with graduation rates four to six times the national average, and over 80% of graduates transferring to four-year schools. CTB operates as an accelerator within the higher education ecosystem: identifying, supporting and investing in institutions that can successfully replicate CTB's model on their campuses.

THE PROBLEM

Students from underserved communities often lack the resources and support they need to pursue their dreams of higher education. Without the academic credentials or financial means required to attend selective colleges and universities, these students often enroll at institutions that don't offer the support they need to receive a degree. As a result, many students incur debt but don't graduate.

OUR SOLUTION

The high retention and completion rates at CTB host colleges result from the CTB model's innovative design. The model provides the specific supports our students need to succeed. They include:

- **Rigorous Academics:** Students take classes at the same level of instruction they would at a selective four-year college or university.
- **High-Touch Staffing Model:** Class sizes are purposefully small and each student has a faculty advisor (20:1 ratio) to provide personalized support.
- **Holistic Student Supports:** Students receive breakfast and lunch, access to a food pantry, a financial aid officer, two full-time social workers, laptops for schoolwork and much more.
- **Transfer Pathways:** Students earn two years of credits that are fully transferable to bachelor's degree programs, with full-time staff assisting students throughout the transfer process.
- **No Student Debt:** With federal, state and institutional aid, 90% of students graduate with no debt.

OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Graduates of CTB model colleges have not only obtained degrees, but also taken steps toward their dream jobs.



Brandon Thomas, an Arrupe College alumnus from the inaugural 2017 class, went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in higher education and student affairs at Loyola University Chicago. He was a founding member of Arrupe College's alumni board and now works as a student services administrator at the University of San Francisco.



Khadra Sharif graduated from Dougherty Family College (DFC) in 2021 and completed her bachelor's degree at University of St. Thomas in 2023 with a major in international business. She's working as an executive team lead at Target, which is where she did her first internship at DFC.



Asia Singleton graduated from Arrupe College and went on to receive her bachelor's in Media Studies from Loras College and a master's from Loyola Chicago in Digital Media and Storytelling. After interning at WTTW's "Chicago Tonight" and WBEZ's "Curious City," she is now a Marketing Communications Coordinator at The Center for Enriched Living.