

Testimony for Britney Crawford
Zoning Commission Hearing
Georgetown University Campus Plan
May 16, 2011

Good evening. My name is Britney Crawford and I am here to tell you about all that Georgetown University has done for me and peers over the years. I am a native Washingtonian, who was raised in, and currently resides in Ward 7.

Georgetown University entered my life when several of their students visited my 6th grade class at Ron Brown Middle School. The students had been selected and trained as facilitators to visit designated schools in DC twice a week as part of an early college awareness program called Kids2College. During the 6-week program, we had an opportunity to ask questions about college and to hear about their personal experiences of college life, pre-college accomplishments, and career interests. Additionally, the program allowed us to explore careers and the educational requirements necessary to reach our career goals. It concluded with a day-long visit to Georgetown's campus and *the Shadow Day Experience*, where students, faculty, and staff from Ron Brown toured Georgetown University's campus, participated in a scavenger hunt, met GU faculty and staff who talked about their college experiences, attended seminars, and had lunch with some university staff and students.

When I entered 7th grade, Georgetown University stayed with me. I participated in their Schiff Scholars College Preparation Program (now known as the Meyers Institute for College Preparation or MICP) and continued with this incredible journey until I graduated from high school - and even into my freshmen year at Howard University. The program, which started in 1989, is designed to provide comprehensive support to DC Public Schools students in Ward 7 from middle school through high school, and to empower them to graduate from high school and succeed in college. But it does so much more than that. It not only helped me academically, but also taught me the value of hard work and discipline.

The impact of Georgetown's program is immeasurable for students, like me, who might not have graduated from high school and certainly would not have considered college. In 2004, I graduated from Martha Washington Vocational School in the District and attended Howard University, where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. This was a milestone in my family because I was the first to attend and graduate from college. I am now employed as an archivist with the National Archives, and I am currently attending the University of Maryland seeking a Master's degree in Information Technology. None of this would have been possible without the individualized attention and support I received from Georgetown University's staff, students and faculty. My

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experience at Georgetown University completely prepared me for the rigors of college and my current success in the work world.

I was also exposed to the world outside of my Ward 7 community. We were treated to cultural experiences to help broaden our worlds. In 9th grade, we spent a week in Belize, which really helped improve our Spanish. I couldn't believe I was actually visiting a place outside of the United States! Of course it was my first time out of the country and it was an experience that I will never forget. As a result I was motivated to do 6-months study abroad to Ecuador when I was a college student.

More than anything else, I value the mentoring Georgetown's staff provided to my family for the duration of the 6-year program; especially when I applied for college. They guided my mother and me through the entire process of seeking the best educational opportunities available. They offered assistance with the college applications, helped identify and narrow down financial aid opportunities, and even took the students on a college tour.

Georgetown University is a special place for me and all the students who completed the Schiff Scholars Program or Myers Institute for College Preparation over the years. I now have an opportunity to give back to the program which has given me so much. I currently teach history to MICP students every Saturday and I volunteer with the program in the summer.

The Myers Institute for College Preparation is the "jewel" of Georgetown University's Ward 7 Initiative, through which they make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many in Ward 7. People at Georgetown University truly care about the community. I thank you for the opportunity to speak about Georgetown University and I urge you to support their Campus Plan, giving them the resources they need to continue their good work.

WHO WE ARE

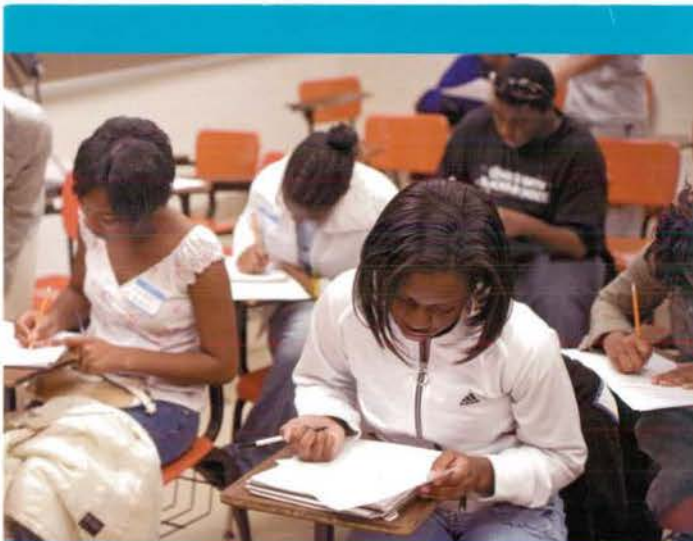
The Georgetown University Meyers Institute for College Preparation (MICP) is a pre-college academic enrichment program that provides comprehensive support to the District of Columbia area public middle and high school students to empower them to graduate from high school and succeed in college. Georgetown's MICP adopts students, starting in the 7th grade, from targeted middle schools and supports them through their first year of college. MICP strives not only to educate in the academic sense, but also to instill confidence in students and to build a desire for education in students by providing them with highly enriching experiences. MICP works collaboratively with College Access and community partners.

According to a 2006 Bridgespan Group report, of every 100 students who enter 9th grade in District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and charter schools, only 9 students graduate within 5 years of enrolling in college. MICP adopts students primarily from Ward 7, one of the more severely underserved sections of the city, where the high school graduation rate is only 33% and only 13% of adults aged 25 years and older have earned a bachelor's degree.

The work of Georgetown University's Meyers Institute for College Preparation provides strong evidence that consistent, comprehensive, long-term academic support, coupled with parental engagement, can have a significant impact on students by helping them complete high school on time and become adequately prepared to attend and succeed in post-secondary education.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

Since the program began in 1989, 98% of the more than 100 program participants in the Classes of 1995, 2001, and 2005 have graduated from high school. Of the Classes of 1995 and 2001, 85% have graduated from college or university within 5 years. The Class of 2005 enrolled at colleges and universities across the U.S. and successfully graduated in 2009. 100% of our students in the Class of 2009 graduated from high school. 20 out of 21 students received a college acceptance and 100% of those students went on to enroll in a post-secondary institution. MICP students have gone on to various post-secondary education options including the United States Armed Forces, and traditional colleges/universities such as Barnard College, University of the District of Columbia, Georgetown University, Howard University, North Carolina A&T University, Temple University, or University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



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MICP

THE SATURDAY ACADEMY

- 7th-12th grade students attend classes on the Georgetown University campus
- 9am-2pm most Saturdays during the academic year
- School success strategies: boost studying and test-taking skills
- Rigorous course work in English, Math, Spanish, and electives
- Workshops and meetings for parents/guardians

THE SUMMER INSTITUTE

- 7th-12th grade students attend classes on the Georgetown University campus
- Every weekday for 3-5 weeks during the summer
- Special focus on Science and new electives
- Experiential learning opportunities and career exploration

SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES

- College tours
- Summer Study Abroad (past trips included Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize)
- New York City Broadway play trip
- Ski Liberty Mountain Resort ski trip
- Science camping trip
- Harper's Ferry bike trip
- Residential Summer Institute on Georgetown's campus

WHAT OUR MICP STUDENTS RECEIVE

- Rigorous academic enrichment
- Free six year scholarship to the MICP Program
- Educational and cultural trips within the US and abroad
- College tours throughout the US
- Academic advising and mentoring
- Tickets to cultural and athletic events
- Free transportation for incoming students and meals

ALUMNI TRANSITION SUPPORT

The program provides comprehensive support services to MICP alumni and their families as they transition to post-secondary education. MICP staff members facilitate communication between graduating students' college admissions offices, financial aid offices, faculty advisors, and academic deans, as well as monitor students' academic progress at their institutions. MICP staff members also coordinate and host student reunions and keep a long-term contact with alumni of the program.



INSPIRING INTEREST & HOPE IN HIGHER EDUCATION



1. Studying in an SAT Preparation class. 2. Explaining algebra concepts to an 8th grade mathematics class. 3. Participating in a District of Columbia history class. 4. Visiting the Georgetown University campus during the Study Abroad experience at the end of the 6th grade Kid2College Program. 5. Bookbinding for the first time on a snowmaking trip to the Bocas del Toro Islands, Panama. 6. Analyzing "A Raisin in the Sun" play in a Summer Institute English class. 7. Rolling on the Rio Naranjo in Costa Rica. 8. Identifying bird species on a Study Abroad trip to Belize. 9. Hiking the slopes on a ski trip to the Ski Liberty Mountain Resort. 10. Exploring through the rainforest canopy layer in Costa Rica. 11. Exploring the geology of the Poas Volcano crater in Central America. 12. Bicycling to Harper's Ferry on the C&O Canal. 13. Conducting research in an 8th grade Summer Institute environmental science class.



PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- Students and families must make a multi-year commitment to MICP.
- Students are to act as good citizens and maintain positive academic standing at their neighborhood schools.
- Students must show a positive academic progress in the program.
- Students must attend and participate regularly in all program activities.
- Families of MICP students are required to attend MICP workshops, meetings, and other program events.
- Eligibility for Signature Activities will be based on performance and compliance with the above Program Expectations.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible to participate in the Meyers Institute for College Preparation, students must be enrolled in the 7th grade and meet either of the following criteria:

A. Students must attend targeted District of Columbia public schools in Ward 7 and be potential first-generation college students.

B. Students must be a sibling of a current or former MICP Scholar.

The Meyers Institute for College Preparation makes every effort to include as many eligible students as space permits.

MICP reserves the right to make final decisions about registration. Priority will be given to: students who show potential for improved academic performance; or students who, along with their families, display a sincere commitment to working with MICP throughout secondary school.

