

you can go to college



let sutherland
show you how



SUTHERLAND

JUNIOR COLLEGE

Sutherland Junior College is a program sponsored by the law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP. Sutherland has partnered with Bell Multicultural High School for a number of years, helping with the Street Law and other curriculum-based programs. Bell has more than 600 students who come from approximately 30 different countries around the world. Bell students face a number of challenges – the vast majority are poor, most are not native English speakers, and many have arrived in the United States within the last few years.

Sutherland Junior College is offered at no cost to the students of Bell Multicultural High School.

The curriculum for Sutherland Junior College includes:

MOTIVATION

- Exposing students to the reasons college should be their goal
 - Success stories from socio-economically and culturally diverse attorneys and staff
 - Information on the financial and social benefits of college
 - Field trips to visit four-year college campuses and experience college life

SCHOLARSHIP

- Preparing students to get accepted to a quality college
 - Professional SAT tutoring
 - Academic counseling
 - Professional writing instruction

COSTS

- Educating students on their ability to afford college
 - Illuminating the true cost of college and how the financial aid system works
 - Identifying and facilitating students' abilities to obtain third-party aid
 - Providing scholarship money for completing Sutherland Junior College

GUIDANCE

- An attorney/mentor for each student in the program
 - The mentor is a partner and advocate for the student in the college process
 - Mentors and students have fun too – forging a real bond
 - Student and mentor develop trust and a relationship that will last well into college

SUCCESS

- Conveying the life skills to promote success once the student reaches college
 - Setting high expectations in a professional environment
 - Lessons regarding independence and empowerment necessary for college
 - Paid summer internships at Sutherland to put these life skills to use

“SJC makes college seem like it is a lot more important than what I thought it to be, and SJC is opening up my eyes to possible colleges for me.”

— Martha Medina, *SJC Student*

“Through its classes, field trips, social interactions and other activities, SJC makes a convincing case that college is not only achievable but desirable. This is an important message for kids who do not consider college ‘a given’ – kids who are often already working to help make ends meet – and nearly impossible to convey in a lecture.”

— Rebecca Day, *Sutherland Attorney and SJC Mentor*

Sutherland Junior College is designed to help a group of Bell juniors learn about, prepare for, apply to, get accepted to and attend a four-year college. It is not another program to help only the best students in the class – it’s a program designed to prepare and encourage students who might not otherwise have the motivation, support or ability to go to college. The program is a weekly after-school session during the student’s junior year, combined with periodic seminars and assistance during the student’s senior year.

Sutherland’s Commitment

Sutherland started this program in order to provide Bell’s students with college information and access on-par with students in wealthier suburban schools. Scores of attorneys and staff have volunteered their time as mentors, speakers, tutors, or to help with the curriculum and logistics of Sutherland Junior College. Sutherland has committed the necessary time and the resources to this program to help not only these individual students, but to enhance diversity generally in higher education and provide access to opportunity.

Who Is a Sutherland Junior College Student?

Sutherland Junior College students are nominated by their teachers to participate in the program. The teachers identify students who are smart enough to attend college, but may believe college is beyond their academic or financial grasp, may be concerned over the cultural or familial implications of going away to college, or may simply not know enough about college opportunity to be properly motivated to prepare for college. Our students have wide-ranging concerns, but concerns that can almost universally be met by providing information, applying compassion and engaging in basic problem-solving. Sutherland Junior College is designed to cut through failed understanding in an overworked public school counseling system to provide support for students when families cannot. When students are afraid of the cost of college, have never had a role model for college success, or only have a vision of college where they work all day and attend night school, college doesn’t sound like a goal that is either desirable or practical. Information and support are the keys to overcoming these problems and are the core of the mission for Sutherland Junior College.



“SJC has changed the way I think about going to college now because the first issue I had was about the money, but SJC has made me realize that there are programs and people that can help me get a scholarship for college.”

— Beverly Cruz, *SJC Student*

SUTHERLAND

JUNIOR COLLEGE

How You Can Help

Sutherland Junior College always needs more help!

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Everything from identifying the types of aid available to low-income and diverse students to teaching the nuts and bolts of the FAFSA is critical to making college a reality for Sutherland Junior College students. Finding unique and targeted scholarship opportunities for these students helps empower them. Every little bit helps.

Quality Colleges

Once students believe that college can be a reality, the daunting task of finding the right college or university can be overwhelming. Learning about schools that prioritize diversity and will provide support for Sutherland Junior College students continues to be central to our mission. In addition, the elements some students take for granted, such as arranging campus visits, can be challenging for these young men and women.

Life Skills

From financial independence to interpersonal skills, building the foundations for success is a critical component of the overall strategy of Sutherland Junior College. These students need to be prepared to meet the expectations of not only college, but life.

Questions?

If you have any questions about Sutherland Junior College or would like to help, contact Jay McDannell at 202.383.0421 or jay.mcdannell@sutherland.com.

you can go to college



ABOUT SUTHERLAND Sutherland is a law firm with global reach known for solving challenging business problems and resolving unique legal issues for many of the world's largest companies. Founded in 1924, the firm has grown to more than 500 lawyers handling matters in every part of the world. Seven major practice areas — corporate, financial services, energy, intellectual property, litigation, real estate and tax — provide the framework that contains an extensive range of specialty areas, allowing its lawyers to serve a diverse client base that includes a number of Fortune 500 companies.

