

# Getting to College

## Closing the Achievement Gap for Students

(NAPSA)—According to The Pell Institute, students who are from a low-income background and are first-generation college students have the odds stacked against them more than any other student population when it comes to earning a college degree. Only 10.9 percent of these students graduate with a bachelor's degree within six years—but there are ways to change that.

### A Solution

In stark contrast to this number are the outcomes for certain seniors who are from the same population.

These achievers are part of AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a college readiness system that provides educators with specific academic strategies and tools for students who are often underrepresented in college. These tools improve student engagement and create a robust and rigorous learning environment regardless of the student background.

### Outcomes

According to the National Student Clearinghouse, of the AVID seniors from the class of 2010 who are from a low-income background and first-generation college students, 15 percent have already graduated with their bachelor's degree. Forty-eight percent have either earned an associate's degree or are still continuously enrolled in college. It's clear these students are outpacing their peers in college persistence, despite being the least likely student population to graduate from college.



**With the proper tools, more students are able to graduate college.**

### One Student's Story

Defying odds is nothing new to many AVID students. For example, Jesula Jeannot moved to the United States from Haiti shortly after the devastating earthquake there and overcame a language barrier, bullying and a new, challenging environment. Like many students in AVID, she credits AVID with changing her outlook. "AVID changed my life. AVID made me change my ways and made me understand that I have to make my obstacles become my strengths to move forward." There are thousands of AVID students like Jeannot across the nation, and they continue to fight the odds because they have learned that determination is critical to achieving goals.

### Awards

Because of its commitment to closing this opportunity gap for all students, AVID was recently recognized by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and has received many other awards over the years.

### Learn More

For further information, visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org).