Strive For College is a national non-profit organization dedicated to solving inequality in access to higher education. We leverage the energy, influence and knowledge of students from local colleges to mentor underserved high school students through the process of applying to, enrolling in, paying for and staying in school. Our mission is that every qualified, low-income high school student has the information and support necessary to successfully enroll in their best-fit college.

**The Need**

- **Idaho ranks last**…50th out of all states in students going from high school to college
- Only 68% of Idaho students persist to their sophomore year and only 27% graduate ([higheredinfo.org](http://higheredinfo.org))
- Every year, over 400,000 qualified low-income students do not apply to college
- This causes an annual economic shortfall of $400-670 billion ([McKinsey & Co.](http://www.mckinsey.com))
- College education is the most consistent way to break the cycle of income inequality

**Our Work**

- Set up college student organizations, clubs or “chapters” to recruit undergraduate mentors
- Mentors work with underserved juniors & seniors on college application & financial aid process
- Weekly sessions cover comprehensive Strive curriculum and use online collaboration tools
- Virtual or e-mentoring allows students to connect through video conferencing

**Our Results**

- 95% of Strive students enrolled in college, 76% of them in 4-year colleges
- 91% intend to persist to sophomore year, when graduation odds skyrocket
- 36% of Strive students require zero debt for tuition
- National work recognized in Forbes, Time.com and as a 2013 CNN Heroes nominee

**Idaho Program**

- Funding and partnership from J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation and Go On initiatives
- Started at Boise State University and based out of the Honors College
- In the first year…
  - More than 80 Boise State students volunteered and mentored for Strive
  - Over 100 students at 5 high schools received over 860 individual mentoring sessions
- Developed and piloted Strive curriculum integration with English 101 service learning course