

## Career Beginnings Impact Evaluation

### Findings from a Program for Disadvantaged High School Students

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The Career Beginnings program was initiated by The Commonwealth Fund to enhance the life options of urban high school students from low-income families. The Gannett Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundation were major and significant partners in the effort. Launched in 1986, Career Beginnings targets high school juniors with average academic performance and seeks to assist them to enter college and upgrade their educational choices, as well as to help the non-college-bound to find better jobs than they would otherwise obtain.

The underlying premise is that these students usually receive little help or support from their families or schools in completing the steps necessary to secure admission to college. Ongoing technical assistance and oversight of Career Beginnings is provided by the center for Human Resources at Brandeis University. This final report presents findings on the services provided by Career Beginnings and the short-term impacts of the program.