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Contact:  
Grace Sun  
Associate Director, Communications & External Relations  
[press@questbridge.org](mailto:press@questbridge.org)  
650-331-3280 ext. 723

657 High School Seniors Awarded Full Four-year Scholarships  
with Admission to Highly Selective Colleges through QuestBridge

Palo Alto, California (December 1, 2015) – QuestBridge proudly announces the results of the 2015 National College Match (“College Match”), a national program that pairs talented high school seniors with full scholarships to the nation’s top colleges. This year, 657 exceptional low-income students hailing from 44 states have been selected as College Match Scholarship Recipients, far surpassing last year’s high of 501 recipients. Students selected for the College Match are “matched” to a partner college—admitted with a guaranteed full, four-year scholarship, including tuition, room and board, and other expenses. Since 2003, the QuestBridge College Match has successfully connected over 3,500 high-achieving, low-income students with full scholarships to QuestBridge colleges. These prestigious scholarships are generously provided to recipients by the partner colleges.

This year broke many records: in September, QuestBridge received an all-time high of 13,264 applications from across the country, from which 4,895 were selected as Finalists to continue in the College Match. Finalists are selected based on their academic achievement coupled with high financial need and are identified as being strong potential applicants to QuestBridge partner colleges. QuestBridge currently partners with 36 of the most rigorous and selective colleges in the nation, including Emory, Stanford, Williams, Yale, and MIT.

Additionally, this year’s selection of 657 College Match Scholarship Recipients is a 31% increase over the previous year. It is also the highest percentage of Finalists\*—16%—to be matched to a college through the College Match. Many more QuestBridge Finalists are anticipated to be admitted through Early or Regular Decision. Finalists who matriculate to a partner college are identified as QuestBridge Scholars.

“It is so exciting to see this great increase in the number of College Match Scholarships this year,” said Ana McCullough, Co-Founder and CEO of QuestBridge. “It really demonstrates our partner colleges’ deep commitment to providing opportunity to these deserving students and taking away the financial worry that attending college often presents.”

The caliber of this year's College Matches is exceptional. In addition to an average unweighted GPA of 3.91, the middle 50% have received between 1890-2140 on the SAT (out of 2400), and between 29-33 on the ACT (out of 36). Academically, 96% rank in the top 10% of their class, including 28% who rank 1<sup>st</sup> in their class. Financially, their median household income is \$30,245, and 84% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. The majority of these QuestBridge Scholars—75%—are also among the first generation in their families to attend a four-year U.S. college.

\*Note: Of the Finalists that submitted rankings to participate in the College Match.

**About QuestBridge:**

QuestBridge, a national non-profit based in Palo Alto, California, connects the nation's most exceptional, low-income youth with leading institutions of higher education and further life opportunities. By recruiting, developing, and motivating these students—beginning in high school through college to their first job—QuestBridge aims to increase the percentage of talented low-income students attending the nation's best colleges and to support them to achieve success in their respective careers and communities.

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