



# College Now! What Needs to be Done to Give Urban Students a Real Path to Success

*Scott Mendelsberg*

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This remarkable, first-hand account reveals the impediments and challenges to educating inner-city secondary students when so much is arrayed against them and how believing in all kids helped save a school and change education in the state of Colorado. In 2 years, Principal Scott Mendelsberg took his school from a 17% to a 73% college matriculation rate. He didn't get new teachers, a new building, different kids, or a new curriculum. He just made sure students realized that college was an option for them.

## **Advance Praise for *College Now!***

“Through funny, sad, and triumphant stories, Mendelsberg lays out the power of high expectations; the need to support and hold educators accountable; and the strategies for creating a learning environment that embraces rigor and engagement. Additionally, he makes the case for competency-based learning with digital resources, self-paced learning, and performance gateways where students demonstrate readiness.”

—From the Foreword by **Tom Vander Ark**, CEO of Getting Smart

“School reform, up close and personal from the desk of a principal. Lively. Insightful. Honest.”

—**Brad Jupp**, Senior Program Advisor, United States Department of Education

“If you're suffering a bit from reform fatigue and wondering whether anything works in really changing schools, you must absolutely read this book because it will give you renewed hope.”

—**David Longanecker**, executive director, Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, and former Assistant Secretary of Education under President Clinton

“Scott is truly a ‘principal's principal.’ His experience in the urban high school setting provides new principals with a guide for exploring their own thinking about how to lead their schools in increasing student achievement.”

—**Lynn Fair**, principal, Aurora Central High School, Aurora, CO

“Brilliant! With the skill of a master storyteller, Scott Mendelsberg has written a primer for all school administrators. His grasp of leadership principles is keen and his insights right on the mark, making *College Now!* a must-read for educators.”

—**Mike Miles**, superintendent, Dallas Independent School District

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