Dear Colleague,

Greetings from Williams College! While we have just put the finishing touches on the incoming class, I know that your work with scholars in the class of 2013 is already well underway. With that in mind, I want to make sure that you are aware of the opportunities that will be available in the coming months as Williams continues its efforts to increase college access for low-income and first-generation students.

As in previous years, we will offer fully-funded campus visits to approximately 150 high school seniors from around the country through Windows on Williams (WOW). WOW affords prospective applicants the opportunity to experience life as a Williams student and participate in programming designed to shed light on admission and financial aid processes at Williams and other highly selective institutions. I have included a link to access the online WOW application below and hope you will share it with your rising seniors. For your reference, the URL for the application is http://tinyurl.com/WOWApp2012. Though we encourage students to use the online application, I have also included a link to the PDF version of the application if it is easier to distribute by hand. We have set July 1st as the priority submission deadline, but will accept and review applications through late August.

WOW Application—Online Version

WOW Application—Paper Version

Though WOW is our primary means of bringing first-generation and low-income students to campus, we also encourage large-scale visits by high schools and community based organizations. I realize that funding is particularly difficult in the current economic climate, but hope you will consider including Williams among your visits. We would be thrilled to welcome you to campus and provide you with a campus tour and information session geared towards your students’ backgrounds and questions.

Over the past several years, Williams has truly transformed its student body. Today, roughly 17% of our students are the first in their family to attend college and an additional 10%, while not first-generation, have been identified as low-income. Overall, more than half of our students receive generous financial aid packages. Additionally, the class of 2016 is the most diverse in Williams College history as 38% of the class self-identify as domestic students of color, including a record 71 students who identify as Hispanic or Latino/a. Though we celebrate the diversity of our student body, we know that we cannot continue this trend without your help. In that vein, I eagerly look forward to working with you in the coming year and hope you will not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions or I can help in any way.

Until then, best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Ahmmad Brown
Diversity Recruitment Director
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