



Every year, Tulsa-area high school students are leaving millions of dollars on the table that could assist with post-secondary enrollment. By 2025, 77% of Oklahoma jobs will require credentials beyond a high school diploma.¹ The majority of Oklahoma students remain in the state following graduation; therefore, postsecondary credentials will be imperative for students to become self-sufficient adults. According to the National College Access Network, 90% of high school seniors who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) enroll directly in college, versus only 55% who do not complete the FAFSA.² Brink strives to bridge the gap, motivating students on the brink of success.

Brink is comprised of members of Cohort 9 of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). YPI is a youth development program funded by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation that teaches leadership, philanthropy, and self-awareness through the creation of a social entrepreneurship project. YPI enables groups of Tulsa-area high schoolers to identify and address issues facing teens over three years. Each cohort is also given \$30,000 to develop their project. We chose FAFSA completion because we felt a personal connection to the post-secondary enrollment process since we are applying to universities ourselves. We found that finances were a lead cause of the lack of enrollment and saw that assistance was available

¹ Prickett, A. (2016, December 29). Gov. Fallin launches goal hoping to increase Oklahomans post-secondary education. Retrieved from <http://ktul.com/news/local/gov-fallin-launches-goal-hoping-to-increase-oklahomans-post-secondary-education>

² Morgan, E. (n.d.). Why Invest in Increasing FAFSA Completion. Retrieved from <http://www.collegeaccess.org/WhyInvestFAFSA>

³ What information do I need to complete the FAFSA? Retrieved from <http://www.impacttulsa.org/fafsa/>

through the FAFSA. Brink's passion for philanthropy and drive to enhance the quality of our community has fueled our success.

Brink partnered with ImpactTulsa in the Spring of 2016 to increase rates of postsecondary enrollment and FAFSA form completion. ImpactTulsa partners with over 300 organizations and is impacting over 170,000 students. Their mission is to align the community to provide a pathway for all students to thrive. The FAFSA is a crucial step for students hoping to attend post-secondary institutions with the assistance of financial aid. The FAFSA provides students from any financial background the opportunity to apply for free post-secondary aid. Students who qualify for large financial aid packages are often eligible for grants or need-based scholarships at some colleges. In fact, some colleges and community colleges require FAFSA completion in order to attend the school. FAFSA completion requirements are simple, and the completion of FAFSA is often falsely perceived as a long and painful process. In order to complete the FAFSA, all that is needed from the applicant are the following six items³:

- Your Social Security Number
- 2016 Federal Income Tax return and W-2s
- Any bank statements, investments or records of untaxed income (if this applies to you)
- A Federal Student Aid ID (you can easily get one at fafsa.gov)
- A list of schools you want to receive the results of your FAFSA
- Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

Brink, with assistance from ImpactTulsa, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, and local schools, has created a free, sustainable, and effective curriculum for creating a FAFSA-focused ecosystem in schools to promote college-forward thinking. ImpactTulsa assisted in the additional 4% increase in FAFSA completion rates in Tulsa from 2016 to 2017. Brink's curriculum includes a step-by-step plan for any school system to implement. The plan includes instructions on creating a steering committee of people within the school, hosting successful FAFSA events, filling out the FAFSA form, and spreading awareness about FAFSA within a school's ecosystem. The Brink timeline coincides with the FAFSA schedule to produce the most

successful completion experience. Each dated subsection includes school announcements and reminders as well as eye-catching, informational posters and visual aids to keep a continuous push. Students may believe that filing the FAFSA is a difficult process, but Brink aims to ensure that the process is as effortless as possible. We are the connection that is essential to some students' success.

Brink held a FAFSA Summit this past September to promote and inform about our curriculum for increasing FAFSA form completion. This event was attended by representatives from varying school districts and the Department of Education. We met face to face with counselors and administration from local schools who have implemented Brink in their schools and are well on their way to creating FAFSA-focused ecosystems. We are currently searching for and accepting new schools to partner with for the 2017-2018 school year. If you think your school would be interested in adopting or promoting this free curriculum, please contact us at brinktulsa@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://www.impacttulsa.org/brink/>.

Purpose: Lead others to want to implement Brink in their local school

Outcome: Create a more FAFSA-focused environment in Tulsa

Methods:

Talk about who we are

It is easy to implement our curriculum

FAFSA is important for post secondary enrollment/education

Available to everyone