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December 5, 2008

Dear Supporters of Coliseum College Prep Academy,

I would like to thank those of you who have supported Coliseum College Prep Academy (CCPA) over the last three years. Because of you, we were able to expand our students' experiences outside the classroom. All of our 7th- and 8th-graders visited local colleges last year, and as a result, they are more excited about preparing for college. Please consider supporting CCPA this year with a donation for our **EXPANDING HORIZONS** campaign.

Founded in 2006 by teachers, parents, and community partners, CCPA is a public school in Oakland for grades 6-12. After one year of design and conversion from the large, over-crowded Havenscourt middle school, we opened our doors as a new small school in East Oakland, where we currently serve 260 students. Eighty-seven percent of our students come from low-income households, and 45 percent are English-language learners. Despite these challenges and CCPA's newness, the school continues to demonstrate academic growth compared to the old campus. Our 2008 California Standards Test scores in English Language Arts showed the **third-greatest improvement among Oakland's middle schools!**

To realize our long-term vision of preparing our students for college and an evolving technology-driven world, we need your help. Given the economic status of our parents, we do not have the resources of the schools in the Oakland hills where PTA programs raise up to \$600,000 per year beyond their government funds. The schools in Oakland's flatlands -- where the high school and middle school drop-out rates are among the highest in the state -- need additional funds to help our kids reach grade-level academic proficiency and be inspired to finish high school and go to college. CCPA has many strategies in place to ensure that our students do not become a part of the dire statistics befalling inner-city young people.

One important strategy is to EXPAND STUDENTS' HORIZONS through EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS AND COLLEGE TOURS. You may not realize that most of the young people at CCPA have never traveled outside of Oakland. Nearly all of our students will be the first in their families to go to college -- that is our dream for them. At CCPA, the staff talks to students starting in 6th grade about being prepared for college. Field trips and college tours make this abstract idea of college a concrete reality.

Our "**Expanding Horizons**" campaign is designed to get all 260 of our students traveling outside of Oakland and to other parts of the state and country -- to be inspired and hopeful about their futures.

Please help us reach our goal of \$25,000 this year to fund this campaign. Your contribution will pay for buses, meals, and supplies for the kids -- and you will be instrumental in inspiring our students to finish high school and realize their college dreams. We would not be where we are today without the help and support of our friends, families, and community supporters. You can make a tax-deductible contribution of any amount through the Oakland Small Schools Foundation website at www.smallschoolsfoundation.org (designating the gift to CCPA), or by mail (OSSF/CCPA, P.O. Box 20238, Oakland 94620.) We thank you again for your past gifts and for your 2007-08 support. And, please call me anytime to learn more about our school and arrange a visit.

Sincerely,

Aaron Townsend, Principal