

**Are You 16-25 and Interested in a Brighter Future?** The NET Program offers the *Getting Beyond the System®* (GBS) seminar to motivated young adults who want to develop the skills that lead to success and to go on an Informational Interview with a professional leader in their chosen career field. Whether you want to become a Detective, Filmmaker or a Hair Stylist, you will meet with a professional leader in that field, at their office. You can ask questions about their career preparation and get advice on securing internships and entry-level jobs. Select GBS graduates will receive scholarship funds to take classes at Montgomery College.

## Here is what Kendall Franklin, A GBS Graduate says he learned from the seminar:

### Setting Goals

When I began the GBS Seminar, the facilitator asked what I was striving to be, and I replied: "A CEO of a Fortune 500 company." However, I can't just jump to that level, especially considering that I did not know what being a Fortune 500 executive entailed. With GBS I came up with a bunch of smaller goals, such as graduating college, figuring out what kind of corporation I would want to run, etc. Now I feel as if I am actually on track to reaching my long-term goals.

### Recognizing Goals of Organizations

About a year ago, I had an interview for a job at a camp. In past interviews, I tried telling them about myself but never got the job. In GBS, I learned that people have more incentive to help you if you understand what they want to do and can tie your goals and/or strengths in with theirs. So I recognized that the camp strived to provide a safe but entertaining vacation for children, typically homeless children. I told them about my experiences working with children and living in the shelter system to show that I can relate. Getting the job was a piece of cake.

### Negotiating

You may not think so but people negotiate all the time.. After a little time in GBS I learned that it isn't just asking, but the way you ask for it. You don't ask, "Will you do A, if I do B?" It's more like, "I would like to receive a raise in order to pay for college courses which will benefit your organization by giving me great insight on how to manage this store."

### Finding Mentors and Allies

Before I started the GBS seminar I knew I wanted to go into business, but I didn't know anyone in business or what it took to get there. Last year, the Youth Advocacy Center sent me on an informational interview with a financial executive from HBO. He gave me advice on how to start working toward my goals, and I remain in touch with him to this day. Just last month he informed me about the CPA accounting license exam and reminded me of the summer internship program at HBO.

### Identifying Personal Strengths

A coach chooses you for a team because he or she thinks you have what it takes to benefit the team. It's the same thing when looking for employment. By committing to the GBS Seminar, you will learn how to present your many strengths in a way that will show people how great you are.

**The NET Program** is an initiative of Future Link, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit which provides youth coaches, self-advocacy education and other academic, vocational and career supports to assist vulnerable yet motivated young adults successfully transition into adulthood.

## Interested in learning more about Future Link, Inc.?

Contact Mindi Jacobson, Future Link Executive Director at [mjacobson@myfuturelink.net](mailto:mjacobson@myfuturelink.net) or 240-393-9443

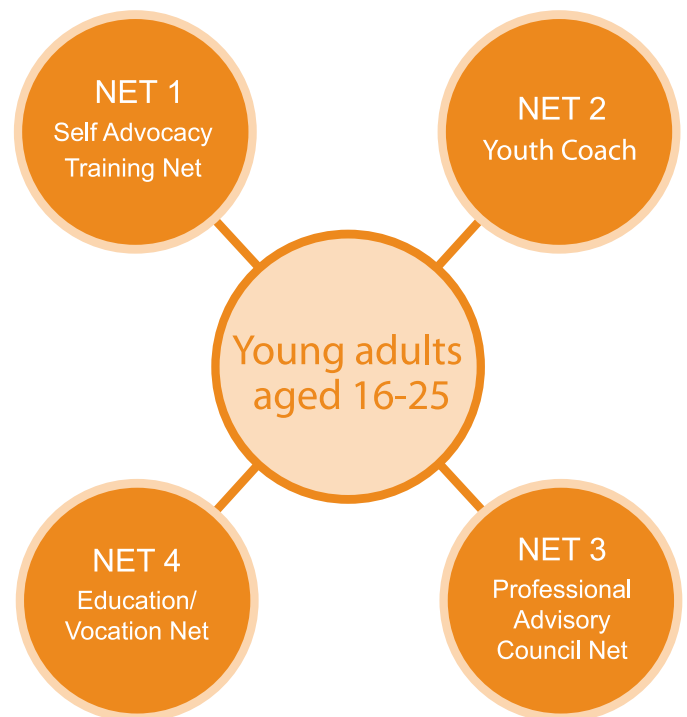
**1 Learn Self-Advocacy Skills:** Future Link, Inc. offers the *Getting Beyond the System*<sup>®</sup> seminar through a collaboration with the NYC Youth Advocacy Center. This seminar uses the Socratic Method to explicitly teach critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students learn how to establish short and long term career and personal goals, identify and present their strengths and understand the needs of others, ask good questions and obtain useful information when meeting with an adult in an educational or professional setting, present a positive image, develop workable solutions to problems and maintain mentoring relationships.

**2 Work with a Coach:** Work with a trained volunteer to explore your dreams, set personal goals, and develop educational/ vocational plans with specific details of where, when and how. NET coaches are carefully screened and trained to work with young adults who face significant challenges and obstacles but are determined to have a brighter future.

**3 Meet with a Professional in the Field of Your Interest:** Informational Interviews are available to NET program participants. These interviews link young adults with professionals in the field of their interest. Students arrive prepared to explain their strengths and interests and to learn more about:

- Career training requirements;
- Internships;
- Entry level job opportunities;
- Specifics of the work environment

**4 Obtain a Scholarship/Get a Meaningful Job:** Future Link, Inc. assists NET program participants start on their career path by providing scholarships and financial aid application assistance. The Montgomery College Foundation has established a matching tuition fund for those attending Montgomery College. The nonprofit aims to establish additional collaborations and scholarship support to provide additional post-secondary education and training opportunities for qualifying youth.



## Interested in Applying to the NET Program?

Contact Clare Herington, NET Program Director at 301-461-5197 or [cherington@myfuturelink.net](mailto:cherington@myfuturelink.net)