



## For Immediate Release

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### **Bottom Line Receives 2010 National College Access Organization Award of Excellence**

**Boston, October 19, 2010** – The National College Access Network (NCAN) announced the winners of their annual excellence awards on October 11, 2010, during the NCAN Annual Conference. Bottom Line, a Boston-based non-profit that helps low-income and first-generation students earn college degrees, was awarded the 2010 College Access Organization Award of Excellence at this ceremony.

With fourteen years of experience, Bottom Line’s scalable model promotes the college attainment of low-income and first-generation students by providing them with one-on-one guidance in academic, employment, financial, and personal areas during the college application process and throughout college. Their College Success Program has achieved a 73% 6-year graduation rate, which continues to rise.

The College Access Organization Award of Excellence was presented by Kyle Malone, Senior Program Officer of USA Funds. The award included a \$5,000 grant from USA Funds. Executive Director Greg Johnson accepted this award on behalf of Bottom Line among nearly 300 NCAN members from peer organizations. The award serves to honor the work of a college access program that fulfills NCAN’s mission “to improve access to and success in postsecondary education for first-generation, underrepresented, and low-income students.” Nominations for the award included quantitative and qualitative data of the program’s evidence-based results.

“We are thrilled that our work with thousands of students in Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts, has been recognized so highly,” said Mr. Johnson. “We believe that our model of one-on-one support is necessary to improve the low college graduation rates of our student population.”

This award from NCAN comes to Bottom Line shortly after the completion and release of a study that illustrates the effectiveness of the organization’s program model. Conducted by Kolajo Paul Afolabi, a doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the evaluation’s key findings show that a student who participates in Bottom Line’s College Success Program is up to 43% more likely to graduate within 6 years than he/she otherwise would be.

“We are hopeful that our selection for this award will further demonstrate that helping students ‘get in’ is not good enough,” said Mr. Johnson.

#### **About Bottom Line** -----

Bottom Line was founded in 1997 to help disadvantaged students get in to college, graduate from college, and go far in life. The organization serves approximately 1,600 high school seniors and college students from Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts. Bottom Line plans to expand to New York City in July 2011.