

Tre' Wafford

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

With a strong drive to increase access to higher education and build up educational equity throughout Milwaukee, Tre' Wafford completed three terms of AmeriCorps service with College Possible Milwaukee.

During his first term, Tre' served as a Transition Coach at the College Possible Milwaukee Office, working with graduating seniors and college scholars over the spring and summer months to combat "summer melt," when students on track to enroll in college in the fall or continue their studies might drop-out over the summer. For his second term, he served as a high school coach working with students at Milwaukee High School for the Arts.



Over the last school year, Tre' worked with 33 aspiring college students at Casimir Pulaski High School to break down the barriers to enrolling in higher education. Tre' strove to form a strong relationship with his students and develop a deep understanding of their strengths. He strove to understand them within their unique cultural contexts as people of color and/or as recent immigrants and refugees. Tre' serves with intention and the awareness to change his approach when needed to help his students navigate the complex college application process. During his service he reflected that the goals he was setting for his students were too broad, so he adjusted to make their goals more detailed and scaffolded, modeling the steps for students to help them continue to progress independently when needed.

His dedication to his students went beyond the school day, as Tre' designed his schedule around his students' needs, making himself available to them on nights and weekends. When it came time for students to fill out their FAFSA applications, which includes sensitive financial information that many families closely guard, Tre' jumped at the chance to help his students and their families complete the forms in-person. Throughout this process, he worked with numerous students and families, including many that were not a part of his cohort, so that more students would have access to the financial resources necessary to enroll in college. His attentive, personalized approach yielded positive results. 84% of the students Tre' worked with intend to enroll in college, and 60% intend to enroll in a BA-granting institution, which is ten times the school average.

Throughout his service Tre' put particular focus on his students as individuals, including the way they learned and how he needed to mentor them individually to help them achieve their academic dreams. Tre' believes if he invests in his students as complex individuals with potential, the return will be compassionate thoughtful leaders ready to make the city of Milwaukee, the state of Wisconsin, and the entire country, a better place. Tre's service with College Possible truly cultivated future leaders who will without a doubt benefit from his support for years to come.