



BE YOUR BEST

What: Summer College Prep Academy
Who: For teens and young adults between the ages of 16-22
Where: Riverland Community College, Austin Campus
When: Summer Session: June 11—August 2, 2012
Time: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Be Your Best Summer College Prep Academy is a free program for teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 22. At Be Your Best, students prepare for college level courses by improving in Math, Reading, Writing, and Study Skills. Be Your Best provides tutoring and advising to help students be successful. The Be Your Best Summer College Prep Academy is made possible through the continued generous support from *The Hormel Foundation, Austin Public Schools' Integration Grant and the Riverland Community College Foundation.*

Students interested in applying to Be Your Best must be nominated by a teacher, counselor, employer or other professional in a mentoring relationship with the nominee. High school students, graduating seniors, or youth who have graduated from high school but are not attending college or who left high school without graduating may be nominated.

Nominees should meet **AT LEAST ONE** of the following criteria:

- **I will be a first generation college student**
Neither of my parents received a four-year (Bachelor's) college degree.
- **My family faces economic barriers**
(for example, income level would meet eligibility requirements for reduced lunches at public schools)
- **I am a member of a racial/ethnic minority**

Graduates of Be Your Best have:

- Developed education and career plans
- Increased confidence and leadership skills
- Experienced college life and are able to access campus resources
- Improved in reading, writing, math, communication, and study skills
- Participated in educational seminars, out-of-class activities, volunteer opportunities, and field trips
- Made many new friends!

Are you interested?

Find someone to nominate you...teachers, counselors, advisors or other professional adults in a mentoring relationship who would be willing to tell us that YOU are a GOOD CHOICE for the program. Give them the Nomination Form and ask them to nominate you! *[If you know of a student who is interested and willing to commit to the Be Your Best Summer College Prep Academy, please share this information].*

To get started, complete a nomination form by **Thursday, March 1, 2012.**

If you have any questions about Be Your Best please call Yesenia at 507-433-0644 or 800-247-5039 or email: ymendoza@riverland.edu.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Mendoza
Be Your Best Coordinator



BE YOUR BEST

Nomination Packet Due: Thursday, March 1, 2012

Complete and submit to:

Attn: Be Your BEST Summer Academy
Riverland Community College
1900 8th Avenue NW
Austin, MN 55912

Or Hand-deliver your completed packet to:
Any Riverland Student Services Rep.

STEP ONE: Nomination Packet

Check List: *To be considered complete, packet must include ...*

- Nominee's completed personal information and signature**
(parent/guardian signature is required for nominees under 18 years of age)
- Completed personal narrative essay questions**
- One (1) copy of your official transcript**
(must be current through Fall Semester of 2011)
- One (1) completed Nomination Form**
(each Nomination form must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the signature of the individual who completed your nomination on the flap of the envelope)
- One (1) completed Riverland Community College Application**
(\$20 fee is waived for Be Your Best nominees. You only need (1) official transcript for BYB and Riverland Application)

***Students keep pages 1 and 2 for your reference and turn in pages 3-6 of packet including Nomination Form and attached Riverland Application*

STEP TWO: Accuplacer Testing

*Results must be submitted by **Thursday, April 5, 2012** for consideration.*

About the Accuplacer Test:

You will be required to take an Accuplacer college placement assessment by **Thursday, April 5, 2012**. This assessment will be offered on the Austin, Albert Lea and Owatonna Campus. You may also take the assessment at another public two-year college in Minnesota and have the scores sent to **Riverland Community College, ATTN: Be Your Best**.

Why is the Accuplacer Test required?

We are seeking students who are not yet ready for college-level coursework, but who have strong enough Math and Reading skills to handle the work in the Be Your Best Program. The Accuplacer college placement assessment will help us determine your level and ability to succeed in the program. If you do not meet the level we seek, we may do further investigation about your academics in order to make the best decision.

How to sign up for Accuplacer Test?

Accuplacer testing dates and times are available on the web at www.riverland.edu. Choose "Admissions" and under Testing and Placement, click on Accuplacer. Scroll down and click on "Register for Accuplacer" then follow instructions. Don't forget to bring a picture id (a driver's license or school ID will be fine) with you on testing day. There are Accuplacer study guides on the Riverland website if you want to review before the test.

STEP THREE: Advising and Counseling for Enrollment (ACE)

Nominee will complete STEP THREE only if accepted into the program.

ACE will be held at the Austin campus. The date will be sent out with your letter of acceptance to Be Your Best and it is REQUIRED for each nominee accepted to attend. At ACE, students will evaluate Accuplacer results, review their schedule and participate in the Be Your Best Orientation. If you need transportation to ACE or Accuplacer please call Yesenia Mendoza (507-433-0644) or Miguel Garate (507-433-0686). Parents are welcome to ACE!



BE YOUR BEST
Nomination Packet Due: Thursday, March 1, 2012
Complete and submit to:

Attn: Be Your BEST Summer Academy Or Hand-deliver your completed packet to:
Riverland Community College Any Riverland Student Services Rep.
1900 8th Avenue NW
Austin, MN 55912

Nominee Information: Complete your personal information listed below

Nominee Name: _____ Gender: Male Female

First Name MI Last Name

Address: _____

Number and street City State and Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone E-mail Address

Birth Date ____/____/____ (nominees must be 16-22 years of age on or before June 11, 2012)
(Month/Day/Year) *Nominees planning to stay in Riverland housing must be 18 years of age by June 11, 2012*

Current grade in high school: ____ Anticipated Graduation Date: ____ High School Name: _____

If not in high school, what was your last completed grade? ____ High School Name: _____

Nominee must meet at least ONE of these criteria. Please check all that apply to you:

- I will be a first generation college student
Neither of my parents received a four-year (Bachelor's) college degree.
- My family faces economic barriers
(For example, income level would meet eligibility requirements for reduced lunches at public school)
- I am a member of a racial/ethnic minority

Nominees must be willing to meet the following expectations:

- Commit to attend college classes as scheduled for 8 weeks in the summer
- Avoid vacations and family activities that disrupt more than one class day
- Utilize the study time and tutors but also take responsibility for additional homework
- Come to class and activities prepared to learn and demonstrate the maturity and readiness for college

Parent/Guardian Name: Complete your personal information listed below—if nominee is 18 years old, please provide Emergency Contact information:

First Name MI Last Name

Address: _____

Number and street City State and Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone E-mail Address

I have read and understand the commitments required for Be Your Best. By signing below, I give Riverland Community College and the selection committee of the Be Your Best Summer College Prep Academy permission to review my personal information, nomination forms, transcripts, submitted essay responses, and request financial information relevant to program selection. I give Riverland Community College and Be Your Best Summer College Prep Academy permission to publish and/or use verbal/written language and/or photos of me for display, news media or any other lawful purposes.

Student Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Required if nominee is under 18 years of age)



Personal Narrative Essays

Please answer the following essay questions in a legibly typewritten or computer-generated double-space document. A written statement of at least one paragraph is required in response to EACH of the following:

*Please use a separate sheet of paper

1. Tell us about your personal and educational or career goals. Describe an event/experience in your life that inspires you to pursue your intended career or personal goals.
2. Describe your past or present involvement in high school, community organizations and activities (include volunteer work, elected offices, honors you received, etc.). If you have not been involved, please explain why.
3. Be Your Best is an opportunity for students to improve in Reading, Writing, Math, and Study Skills. Riverland provides tutoring services, one-on-one advising sessions, lunch-seminars, fun out-of-class activities and field trips to reinforce learning and help students be successful. At Riverland we believe that *“Success is a journey, not a goal.”* We measure success by building every-day successes that lead to happier and more productive lives for our students. Be Your Best provides many resources but success ultimately starts with you, the student.

Explain how you would apply: “Success is a journey, not a goal...Success starts with you” to your participation in The Be Your Best Academy. Explain why you should be selected to participate in Be Your Best, in what ways will you contribute to the academy, and how this opportunity will help you be successful?

4. You will be expected to be in class for 8 weeks, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, there is required study time with tutors as well as homework assignments in the evenings and weekends. What challenges do you expect to face while managing this commitment? How will you overcome these challenges?



NOMINATION FORM

PART A: INSTRUCTIONS TO THE NOMINEE (Student):

This form MUST BE included with your Nomination Packet. It must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE as outlined in part B. Students must be nominated by a teacher, counselor, employer or other professional in a mentoring relationship with the nominee. Family members may NOT complete this form.

Release statement: I _____ give _____
(Student Signature) (Individual Giving Nomination – PRINT FULL NAME)
permission to release the following nomination on my behalf.

PART B: INSTRUCTIONS TO THE NOMINATOR:

Please answer the following questions. Your responses provide important information to the Be Your Best Selection Committee members as they seek nominees willing to commit to the 8-week summer program. Your input is confidential and will only be shared with the selection committee. When the Nomination Form is complete, place it in a sealed envelope, sign over the flap of the envelope, and return it to the student for submission with the entire Nomination Packet.

Signature of Nominator: _____ Date: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

**We will only contact you if we have questions about the nominee.*

1. Relationship to the applicant: Teacher Counselor Employer, Other, please identify _____

2. Please describe the nominee’s reliability with regard to attendance, engagement and performance in the classroom, work place, etc.

3. Please describe the nominee’s ability to interact with other students, employees, customers or peers.

4. What is the most outstanding quality of this nominee?

5. Why are you nominating this student for the Be Your Best College Prep Academy?

6. Please select the option that best reflects the strength of your nomination:
 Highly Recommend Moderately Recommend Reluctantly Recommend Do NOT Recommend

Please describe anything else you would like the Be Your Best Selection Committee to know about this nominee.
(Use back side of this sheet or on a separate piece of paper.)

