

Newsletter: December 2018

Dear Friends,

As we look to 2019, we are excited to honor our 25th anniversary year with the entire REACH Prep community. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to building on our efforts in the year ahead. In this season of gratitude, I especially want to thank our families, staff, Board of Directors, independent school partners, friends and donors who help ensure that our Scholars can gain access to and thrive in top academic environments that pave the way to college success.

Thank you for being part of REACH Prep and I hope to have the opportunity to celebrate our 25th year milestone with each of you in the upcoming year. I am pleased to share this latest edition of our newsletter that highlights what has been a very active few months of programs and events. Happy Holidays and I wish you happiness, health and joy for 2019!

With gratitude,



Gina Lucas
Chief Executive Officer

Donate to REACH Prep's Annual Fund

Upcoming Events

REACH Prep's Annual Benefit

Benefit Luncheon on **Monday, April 29, 2019!**

This year's Luncheon holds special significance, recognizing and celebrating REACH Prep's 25th Cohort of Scholars.

[Early Patron tickets are now available!](#)



Program Highlights



REACH Prep Kicks Off 25 Years with Scholars and Families

On December 15th REACH Prep kicked off our 25th anniversary year with our Scholars and families at our annual Winter Potluck Celebration! Nearly 300 students and families were in attendance and together we shared our excitement for this milestone! We look forward to continuing this momentum and energy into 2019. [Visit our website](#) to see photos from the event!





Over 20+ Colleges Visit REACH Prep this Fall

This fall admissions representatives from 21 colleges and universities visited REACH Prep. In addition to providing valuable information regarding their particular institutions, seasoned college admissions representatives also presented on various topics related to the general college admissions and financial aid processes to our high school students and families. [Visit our website](#) to read more about the college admissions presentations at REACH Prep this fall.

Young Heroes Project

Cohort 24 participated in a project at Prep Academy where they were asked to research, write an essay, and present to their class about a young person who has created positive impact in their local or global communities. Students were encouraged to reflect on the qualities and actions they believe make a true hero and share how they plan to help their own communities by pursuing causes they are passionate about. [Click here](#) to read more about what our students had to say about their young heroes!



REACH Prep Currently Accepting 4th Grade Applications

Do you know a highly motivated and talented fourth grader who is seeking more of an academic challenge? Admission into REACH Prep is in the fourth grade and we are currently accepting applications for Cohort 26! [Visit our website](#) to learn more about the



2nd Annual Evening Event in NYC

On October 24, 2018, REACH Prep celebrated its 2nd Annual Evening Event in New York City with over 150 guests in attendance. This event featured Scholar, Alumni and parent speakers along with dynamic live and silent auctions offering one-of-a-kind experiences. We are proud to announce that this event raised over \$325,000 to support our programming, all of which create access, opportunity and long-term impact for our motivated REACH Prep students. View our [event page](#) for pictures or visit [Fairfield County LOOK](#), for the full gallery of photos.



REACH Prep Earns 4 Stars on Charity Navigator

We are proud to report that REACH Prep's strong financial health and transparency have distinguished us as a 4-star rated organization according to [Charity Navigator](#), the largest independent charity evaluator in the nation. Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive 4 stars, and we are thrilled to receive this distinction for the first time in the organization's history!

Junior Council Sponsors College Care Packages

REACH Prep's Junior Council generously underwrote over 50 college care packages through personal donations and fundraising efforts in November this year. A big thank you to our Junior Council for providing this special gift and motivation for our college students to help get them through finals for the second year in a row!



Welcome Samantha O'Brien, Director of High School Programs (9th & 10th Grade)

Creating a path to equity and access for underserved students became Samantha's passion while teaching 5th and 6th grade through Teach for America in Hartford, CT. She left the classroom to pursue her M.S. in Nonprofit Management from Columbia University in 2015, completed her studies in May of 2018 and joined the REACH Prep team in October of this year. [Click here](#) to learn more about the newest addition to REACH Prep's team!

We Love REACH Prep Connections!



Two REACH Prep high school students visited our college students this fall! Leah A., RP Cohort 18 and Greens Farms Academy '19 visited Ayna R. from RP Cohort 16 at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where Ayna is a freshman (right).

Jayla T., RP Cohort 19 and Horace Mann '20 visited Rachel M. of RP Cohort 17 at Howard University in her first semester there (left)!

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