



EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015



“The REACH Prep community has been a second home, supporting me and my fellow scholars in all our ventures....I attribute a lot of my interests to the opportunities that REACH Prep offered that inspire learning and personal growth.”

—Alex Bolanos, REACH Prep Cohort 14, Convent of the Sacred Heart ‘15, Princeton University ‘19



On Cover: Ian Parnell, Summer Advisor, REACH Prep Cohort 11, University of Pennsylvania ‘17 with Tayshawn, REACH Prep Cohort 22

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on our 20th Anniversary celebration last fall, we are reminded of all the people who helped us achieve this amazing milestone.

From our earliest days, there were the committed independent school partners who supported our mission and recognized the vital importance of supporting educational access. We honor the more than 340 dedicated students, and their families, who knew that with hard work, motivation and focus, they could overcome any challenges and explore life-changing opportunities during their 12-year REACH Prep journey, and ultimately graduate from some of the country’s top colleges and universities. We appreciate our many community and program partners who provided us with their endless support, encouragement and experience. We thank the Board of Directors whose stewardship and leadership created a thriving and sustainable organization. We deeply value the REACH Prep staff and faculty who brought the mission to life every day. And, of course, we thank our generous donors, both past and present, who ensured REACH Prep’s ability to provide such a wide array of programs and services.

Throughout the pages of this annual report, alumni, Scholars and school partners share their REACH Prep stories and the positive impact the program has had on each of them. The New York Times recently reported that, “college has become virtually a precondition for upward mobility...The gap between the earnings of students with a college degree and those without one is bigger than ever. [But] the sons and daughters of college-educated parents are more than twice as likely to go to college as the children of high school graduates.” With 90% of our college students graduating within six years, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college, it is clear that REACH Prep’s mission remains relevant and that our offerings are critical to changing the educational landscape in our country.

We are so grateful to those who have supported REACH Prep all these years, and who continue to recognize the important and necessary work we are doing to create lasting outcomes. Your investment and your involvement matter and ensure that we are able to continue our commitment to excellence in all areas of our programming. We are excited to write the next chapter of our organization’s history and to share with you – our dedicated friends and supporters – how impactful REACH Prep will continue to be for our inspiring Scholars and their communities.

With deepest gratitude,

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Chair of the Board of Directors

Gina Lucas
Chief Executive Officer

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"It has been an honor for me to be a part of REACH Prep for all these years. My association with REACH Prep has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life."

—Eileen Simmons, REACH Prep Board Member and 2015 Luncheon Honoree



THANK YOU PEGGY!

REACH PREP 2003-2015

Peggy Sarkela's unwavering commitment to high quality educational access for children from underserved communities and exceptional leadership and vision transformed REACH Prep into the highly regarded nonprofit organization it is today. During her over eleven years at REACH Prep, especially during her tenure as Executive Director, REACH Prep deeply enhanced its support to Scholars, systematized and streamlined its operations, expanded its donor base, and strengthened its partnerships with independent schools. It is because of Peggy's tireless efforts and her firm commitment to build an organization that would change the educational trajectories of students that REACH Prep is thriving and successful in its 21st year.

REACH Prep is indebted to Peggy for her service and leadership.



Left to Right: Liz Chicas, REACH Prep Cohort 14; Olivia Winn, REACH Prep Cohort 14; Peggy Sarkela; Gina Lucas, CEO of REACH Prep; Doug Lyons, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Independent Schools



This past May, Peggy was presented the CAIS Award by Doug Lyons, Executive Director of CAIS. The award ceremony was held at Greenwich Academy where Peggy taught for over 10 years and served as the Chair of the History Department. Congratulations Peggy!

REACH PREP: A 12-YEAR CONTINUUM



When students enter REACH Prep in the fifth grade, it marks the beginning of their 12-year, and ultimately lifelong, partnership with REACH Prep.

REACH Prep provides our Scholars with individualized and comprehensive support as well as rigorous preparation for their independent school experience and ultimately college success. Scholars receive this ongoing guidance throughout middle school, high school and college.

PREPARING FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Admission
REACH PREP identifies high-achieving, motivated Black and Latino fourth grade students from underserved communities in Fairfield and Westchester counties and the Bronx. The admissions process is rigorous and selective. Each year, approximately 20 students are accepted to REACH Prep and begin their 12-year journey through our program.

Prep Academy
Newly accepted Scholars attend Prep Academy, a rigorous 15-month academic program. Prep Academy offers academic enrichment taught by independent school faculty. This intensive, interdisciplinary program is designed to prepare students for the academic environment they will encounter when admitted to an independent school. Classes mirror the small size, accelerated pace and high expectations typical of an independent school education.

Independent School Placement
During the fall of fifth grade, REACH Prep guides each family through the independent school admissions process. This includes assistance with the application, preparing Scholars for the interview process, ISEE testing, as well as help with the financial aid application.

ENSURING ACADEMIC SUCCESS (Middle & High School)

Academic Support
A Scholar's academic progress is closely monitored and nurtured through personalized contact, school visits and grade level-specific programming. A REACH Prep counselor supports each Scholar from middle school through high school, identifying areas in which REACH can provide individualized guidance and academic support such as tutoring, test preparation, math and writing workshops and other critical support that promotes success.

Summer Enrichment Programs and Opportunities
REACH Prep strives to provide a constructive and enriching summer experience for Scholars. Through REACH Prep facilitated programs and summer opportunities offered by generous partners, our goal is to provide transformative, and otherwise unobtainable, experiences for personal growth, early career exploration, and academic enrichment.

ATTAINING COLLEGE SUCCESS (High School & Beyond)

College Guidance
As part of our mission, we seek to ensure our Scholars succeed and graduate from college.

REACH Prep provides supplementary and complimentary college guidance to enhance the excellent college guidance Scholars receive from their independent schools. REACH Prep is committed to make certain each of our Scholars have the best college options so that the goal of college completion will be met. Scholars receive individualized and family support including assistance with the application process, SAT/ACT test and interview preparation, college campus tours, navigating the financial aid process, and ultimately making the optimal college choice.

College and Alumni Support
REACH Prep's goal is to provide ongoing guidance for college students to maximize their success in their academic and professional pursuits. During college, REACH Prep assists Scholars with resume preparation, career counseling, navigating academic resources, referrals, and professional internships. REACH Prep college students are also invited to return as interns in our office or as Prep Academy Summer Advisors.

REACH Prep Scholars become alumni of the program upon graduation from college and join an ever-growing group of engaged young leaders who are exceptionally prepared and positioned to make a significant difference in their communities.



"When a REACH Prep Scholar walks across our stage as a graduate, I do not only think about the tremendous gifts Greenwich Country Day have bestowed upon them. I also reflect, with gratitude, on all they have given to our community and how they enriched our school. Their enthusiasm, optimism, resilience and sheer presence make our school a stronger and more vibrant institution."

—Adam Rhodie, Head of School,
The Greenwich Country Day School

Each year independent schools generously award more than \$4.5 million a year in financial aid to REACH Prep Scholars.

**PARTNER SCHOOLS
2014-2015**

Brunswick School
Canterbury School
Choate Rosemary Hall
Convent of the Sacred Heart
Eaglebrook School
The Ethel Walker School
Ethical Culture Fieldston School
Fairfield College Preparatory School
Fairfield Country Day School
Fordham Preparatory School
Greens Farms Academy
Greenwich Academy
The Greenwich Country Day School
Hackley School
Hamden Hall Country Day School
The Harvey School
Hopkins School
The Hotchkiss School
Horace Mann School
King Low Heywood Thomas
Loomis Chaffee School
The Masters School
The Montessori School
New Canaan Country School
Pierrepont School
The Rectory School
Ridgefield Academy
Rippowam Cisque School
Riverdale Country School
Rumsey Hall School
Rye Country Day School
St. Luke's School
School of the Holy Child
Soundview Preparatory School
The Stanwich School
The Stony Brook School
The Taft School
Whitby
Wooster School



“ The girls who come to us from REACH Prep have begun a life changing journey for themselves and their families. Their education will allow them to make a substantial impact on things that matter in this world, and to become a force for good.”

— Pamela Juan Hayes, Head of School, Convent of the Sacred Heart

Pamela Hayes pictured with Alexandra Bolanos, REACH Prep Cohort 14, CSH '15, Princeton '19

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

One hundred percent of REACH Prep Scholars matriculate at a four-year college or university. Since 2011 Scholars have been admitted to the following institutions:

Most Competitive

- Amherst College (2)
- Barnard College (2)
- Boston College (6)
- Bowdoin College
- Brown University (2)
- Claremont McKenna College
- Bryn Mawr College (2)
- Bucknell University
- Colgate University (3)
- College of William and Mary
- Columbia University (2)
- Cornell University (4)
- Dartmouth College (3)
- Davidson College (5)
- Duke University (2)
- Emory University
- Franklin & Marshall College (3)
- Georgetown University (2)
- George Washington University (4)
- Hamilton College
- Harvard University (3)
- Johns Hopkins University (2)
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University (4)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University (3)
- Rice University
- Swarthmore College
- Tufts University (4)
- University of Chicago (2)
- University of Miami
- University of North Carolina (3)
- University of Pennsylvania (6)
- University of Rochester
- University of Virginia (2)
- Vanderbilt University (2)
- Villanova University (4)
- Wake Forest University
- Washington and Lee University
- Washington University in St. Louis (3)
- Wesleyan University (2)
- Williams College
- Yale University (3)

Highly Competitive

- American University (2)
- Babson College
- Bentley College (2)
- Binghamton University / SUNY (7)
- Boston University (6)
- Clark University (2)
- Colorado College
- Dennison University
- Dickinson College (2)
- Elon University
- Fordham University (8)
- Gettysburg College
- Ithaca College (4)
- Lafayette College
- Mount Holyoke College (2)

- Northeastern University (4)
- Rollins College
- St. Lawrence University
- SUNY Stony Brook (5)
- SUNY College at Geneseo (3)
- Syracuse University (5)
- Trinity College
- Union College (4)
- University of CA-Santa Barbara
- University of Connecticut (8)
- University of Michigan
- University of Wisconsin
- Wheaton College (2)
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Very Competitive, Competitive and Arts/Design Schools

- College of Charleston (2)
- Drew University
- Drexel University (2)
- Fairfield University (4)
- George Mason University
- Goucher College (2)
- Hampton College
- High Point University
- Hobart & William Smith Colleges (3)
- Hofstra University
- Howard University (3)
- Iona College (4)
- La Salle University
- Lincoln University
- Loyola University, MD (3)
- Manhattan College (4)
- Manhattanville
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Miami University of Ohio
- Oberlin College
- Pace University (3)
- Penn State University (2)
- Philadelphia University
- Quinnipiac University (4)
- Rider University
- Roanoke College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Roger Williams University (2)
- Spelman College (3)
- Salve Regina University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- St. John's University (3)
- Temple University (3)
- University of Colorado
- University of Denver
- University of Hartford
- University of Massachusetts-Amherst (2)
- University of New Haven (2)
- University of Rhode Island (3)
- University of San Francisco
- University of Tampa (3)
- University of Vermont (5)

Categories as defined by Barron's 2015 Profiles of American Colleges.

100% of our 12th grade students gained admission to and enrolled in colleges...

“Brunswick so admires the efforts of REACH in preparing their students for our program. In addition, the ongoing support that they offer their students ensures their long term success as members of our community.”

— Tom Philip, Headmaster, Brunswick School

...including Princeton, Yale, Cornell, University of Rochester and the University of Virginia.

Tom Philip pictured with Lazare Zoungrana, REACH Prep Cohort 13, Brunswick '15, University of Virginia '19

20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



"When I look back at my childhood, my participation in REACH Prep was indisputably the experience which has most changed the path of my life."

—Jetson Leder-Luis, REACH Prep Cohort 9, The Masters School '10, Caltech '14, MIT Economics PhD Candidate



On November 1, 2014, REACH Prep celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the place where it began, Greenwich Academy. Thank you to all of our very generous donors who supported this Gala and raised over \$750,000!

Rhodes Scholar

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Sonia and Paul Jones

Summa Cum Laude

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Kimberly and Chris Clarke

Magna Cum Laude

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in 2015.

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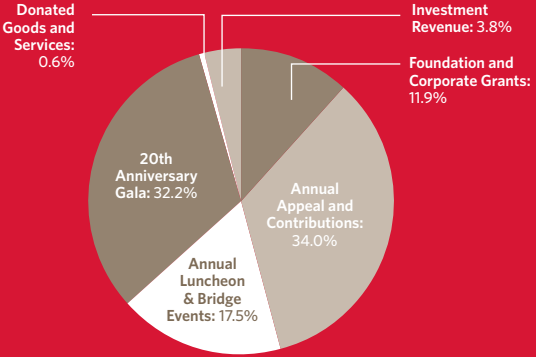
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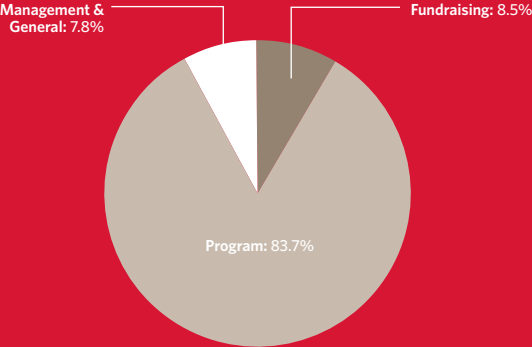
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Revenue Sources Total Revenue: \$2,051,530



Your Contributions At Work



For more information, please visit our website at www.reachprep.org or call us at 203.487.0750.

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Linda Tait
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Jacqueline Imbachi and George Torres
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Sardia and Owen Watson
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In Memory of Amanda Shoaf
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NFTE
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Summer Institute for the Gifted
The Road Less Traveled
Waterside School
Windsor Mountain

A special thanks to the photographers who contributed their photos to this Annual Report
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Angelique Fenton, REACH Prep Cohort 14, Bard High School Early College '15, Philadelphia University '19; Michael McKelvie, REACH Prep Cohort 14, Stanwich '15, La Salle '19; Leo Gomez, REACH Prep Cohort 14, RCDS '15, Yale '19; Alexandra Bolanos REACH Prep Cohort 14, CSH '15, Princeton '19



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REACH Prep helps motivated and talented Black and Latino students from underserved communities in Fairfield and Westchester Counties and the Bronx gain admission to and thrive in rigorous independent schools. Upon placement, students benefit from a twelve-year educational continuum, including comprehensive academic enrichment, leadership training and supplementary individual and family guidance, which prepares them to succeed at competitive colleges.

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