We are studentU

3116 Academy Road
Durham, NC 27707
919-267-3958

DISCOVER YOUR
Best Self

STUDENTUDURHAM.ORG

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DISCOVER your Best Self

Student Art: Burns High School - Rebecca Alba

StudentArt. burnthigh2015 - Rebecca Alba

We are studentU

ANNUAL REPORT 2015
Dear Friend of Student U,

As a board member and a parent with two children in Student U, I HAVE WITNESSED A SPARK IGNITED IN MY CHILDREN TO CHANGE OUR COMMUNITY. My sons exemplify this in many ways. Most notably, before college tours during the Summer Academy, my oldest son gathers college-related questions from his peers who are not in the program. He then ensures that he asks these questions on college tours, because all students will have the same access that is afforded by Student U.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Guardians for Student U Parent Council, and Student U staff, I would like to thank you for your generosity over the past year. We are one step closer to making our dream a reality. Your time and belief is integral to our success and together, we will continue work to create a Durham where all students can succeed.

- Tiwana Adams
  Parent, Board Member

WE HAVE MUCH MORE WORK TO DO TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS, NOT JUST MY CHILDREN, HAVE WHAT IS NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE AND BEYOND.

I hope that as we work together, no student will need to serve as a facilitator of questions on college tours, because all students will have the same access that is afforded by Student U.

Typically students qualify for free and reduced lunch and will be the first in their families to attend college. Students are then selected through a random lottery to become our students.

Each year, elementary school guidance counselors and fifth grade teachers nominate students for STUDENT U. Typically students qualify for free and reduced lunch and will be the first in their families to attend college. Students are then selected through a random lottery to become our newest dream makers. Once students begin their journey as rising sixth graders, they continue to participate in STUDENT U through college.

- Tiwana Adams
  Parent, Board Member

SHARE YOUR Brilliance

OUR STUDENTS

Board of Directors

Tiwana Adams - Chair, Guardians for Student U, Parent Representative, Real Estate Agent, Founder & Director of 3D Women
Deb Anderson - Chair of the Board
Director, Wood Partners
Mark Anderson
Attorney at Law, McGuire Woods LLP
Theus Armistead
Retired Business Leader, Former AT&T Executive
Robert Cadwallader
Real Estate Entrepreneur
Jennifer Crawford - Secretary of the Board
Pediatrician, Teaching Assistant, Durham Academy
Stephen Farmer
Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Micah Gilmer
Senior Partner, Frontline Solutions
Lee Harp
Assistant Head of School and Upper School Director, Durham Academy
Mark Kuhn - Treasurer of the Board
President and Founder, Kuhn Advisors, Inc.
Bela Kussin
Educational Consultant
Jerome Leathers
Principal, Southern High School, Durham Public Schools
Wynetta Lee
Professor, North Carolina Central University
Joan Lipsitz
Senior Fellow, MDC
Eric Mlyn
Assistant Vice Provost for Civic Engagement, Executive Director of Duke Engage, Duke University
Emily Oliver
Consultant, Art & Science Group
Lauren Whitehurst - Vice-Chair of the Board
Founder, Sidekick Consulting
In 2015, Student U received a prestigious $2.25 million challenge grant from The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. This is a 1:1 matching grant, meaning Student U is tasked to raise $2.25 million in new or increased gifts over the next two years to ensure the award is matched. Written by Student U Students, the grant will take Student U towards our 10th Anniversary in 2017. To craft this grant, students led several listening circles centered on the student experience, future hopes for Student U, and future dreams for the broader Durham community. As a result of our students writing this grant, they have created an opportunity for any gift to Student U to be doubled over the next two years. In order to receive these funds, Student U must match the following in new or increased donations.

2016: $1.25 million
2017: $1 million

Written by Student U Students: Nicholas Alston, Casey Barr-Rios, Danielle Evans, Ava Grady, Kيفة Lyon, Dajuan Miranda, Ana Santamaria, Ti-Vianna Webster, Marzielle Oehring, Francis de la Cruz, Kameron Johnson, Ana Krah, Chris Lindsay, Alyzia McAlmon, Daniel Odeh, Jared Lopez, Angelica Cohen, Izzya “Izzy” Hargrove

We are Destined To Change the World

Danielle served as a lead writer for the “We Are Destined to Change the World” grant. Throughout the process, Danielle co-organized several focus groups with students of all ages to give students an opportunity to dream fearlessly together about the future possibilities of Student U. Danielle and her classmates believe that each student has the potential to change the world, and they crafted this grant application to reflect that powerful message. She hopes this grant and giving opportunity will allow Student U to continue its work and serve as even more motivation for our students to become leaders and create a Durham where all students can succeed.

Brilliant Grant Authors: Nicholas Alston, Casey Barr-Rios, Danielle Evans, Jaia Grady, Kiya Lyon, Dajuan Miranda, Ana Santamaria, Ti-Vianna Webster,

Kenan Grant Excerpt:

“We are formally requesting funds over the period of three years because we, the Student U students, are on the path of becoming leaders, educators, community activists, organizers, and most importantly, world changers. This money allows us to not simply fill the resources and opportunities needed to set us up individually on a path to graduate from college, but while doing so, prepare to lead our future communities and change the world. We have no more crazy dreams than one day we will impact society. We are putting forth the effort and continuously striving to discover our best selves while sharing our brilliance with the world.”

Written by Student U Students: Danielle Evans

TJ Underwood

TJ consistently has high academic expectations for himself. His commitment to his own success, however, is not enough. Over the past year, TJ has developed high expectations for his peers as well, encouraging them to continually improve in their academics. TJ has even taken the initiative to organize the first meeting of Student U students at his high school. Through his strong commitment to himself and his community, he has impacted the students of Kestrel Heights to work to their full potential.
The MISSION of STUDENT U is to empower students in the Durham Public Schools to own their education by developing the academic skills and personal well-being necessary to succeed in college and beyond.
Student U engaged over 100 members of our community in a Strategic Visioning Process. The most significant finding was the need to **REDEFINE THE PROBLEM** we strive to solve.

As a result of structural racism, poverty, and other systemic injustices, first generation college-bound students face significant personal and institutional obstacles to educational success. This situation prevents our community from reaching its full potential.

**Student U** engaged over 100 members of our community in a Strategic Visioning Process. The most significant finding was the need to **REDEFINE THE PROBLEM** we strive to solve.

The Student U Approach to Change:

- We believe that a Durham where all children can succeed is possible.
- We believe that children are the most powerful change agents our community can leverage to realize that vision.
- We believe that Student U’s role in creating a Durham where all children can succeed is in expanding the educational opportunities available to our students so that they may unlock their full potential and be the advocates for change within our community.

As such, our long term goals are:

1. Students achieve educational success.
2. Students have the knowledge to achieve financial security as adults.
3. Students are on the path to reaching their full personal potential.
4. Students become traditional and non-traditional leaders in Durham and other communities and are equipped to contribute to long term systemic change.
Our Commitment

- 84,760 hours worked by middle school students
- 30,810 hours worked by high school students
- 2,160 hours worked by college students
- 24,704 hours worked by parents & families
- 1,332 hours worked by 17 members of the Board of Directors
- 3,680 hours worked by volunteers
- 37,104 hours worked by part-time staff
- 25,840 hours worked by full-time staff

“By all coming together in partnership, we are creating a community driven by our dreams, grounded by our core values, and illuminated by the brilliance of our students.”

- Dan Kimberg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

THERE IS POWER IN THIS COMMUNITY.

There is power in our students who are working tirelessly to make the most of their stories. There is power in our parents who commit their time to not only advocate for their students, but to advocate for all students. There is power in our staff, our 18 full-time employees and our 150 part-time employees, who all walk humbly and passionately with our students on their journeys. There is power in all of us, in all members of our full community who believe deeply in the value and worth of every person, and who can envision a time in Durham in which all students can succeed.

Together, we are on a purposeful and powerful journey to write a new story. There is power in this community. There is power in our students who are at-risk of saying some are dream makers and some are dreamers, some are powerful and some are power seekers. If we allow this to happen, if we allow there to be a chasm in our own community, all of our dreams and all of our goals will come crashing down.

If we value equally and utilize fully all of the power in our community, we can show the world what is possible when a community comes together around one clear vision. We can show the world what is possible when a community journeys. There is power in all of us, in all members of our full community who believe deeply in the value and worth of every person, and who can envision a time in Durham in which all students can succeed.

Together, we are on a purposeful and powerful journey to write a new story of what is possible when a community comes together around one clear vision. We are at-risk of saying some are dream makers and some are dreamers, some are powerful and some are power seekers. If we allow this to happen, if we allow there to be a chasm in our own community, all of our dreams and all of our goals will come crashing down.

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Lean in and listen to the collective wisdom that only can be felt after hearing this moment, and with hearts full of empathy that only can be felt after hearing the stories of others, let us go and co-write our future. Lean in and listen. Lean in and listen to the collective wisdom that only can be felt after hearing this moment, and with hearts full of empathy that only can be felt after hearing the stories of others, let us go and co-write our future. Lean in and listen. Lean in and listen to the collective wisdom that only can be felt after hearing this moment, and with hearts full of empathy that only can be felt after hearing the stories of others, let us go and co-write our future. Lean in and listen. Lean in and listen to the collective wisdom that only can be felt after hearing this moment, and with hearts full of empathy that only can be felt after hearing the stories of others, let us go and co-write our future. Lean in and listen. Lean in and listen to the collective wisdom that only can be felt after hearing this moment, and with hearts full of empathy that only can be felt after hearing the stories of others, let us go and co-write our future.

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Suzie Lowes - Suzie ensures that her financial contribution to Student U is not the end of her commitment. She serves as a volunteer, driving from her home in Burlington, North Carolina to Durham twice a week to facilitate individual academic interventions with Student U middle school students who need additional support in particular subjects. Suzie’s consistency in her commitment to Student U, both as a financial supporter and as a volunteer has made a lasting impact on our journey to ensure that all students are prepared to succeed through college and beyond.

Francis De La Cruz - Student U Class of 2014 - as a member of the Student U Class of 2014 and a current participant in the College Promise Program, Francis owns his role as a leader in our community by finding ways to support younger students on their journeys to and through college. Francis believes that a strong support system is the key to ensuring students’ success, and therefore makes time to mentor two Student U college first-years and to tutor middle school students in our after school program.

Francis’ continued commitment to this community is a display that students are equipped to be the needed change makers our society. Francis will earn his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Book Harvest
America Reads America
Counts at Duke University
Augustine Literacy Project
Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate Program
Capital Associated Industries
Carolina Theatre
Crayons2Calculators
Duke Bereavement Center
Durham Arts Council
Durham Arts Guild
Durham CAN
Durham Chamber of Commerce
East Durham Children’s Initiative
El Centro Hispano
Emory Ky. Carter
Essilor Vision Foundation
Farmer Foodshare
Full Circle Interpreting
Huepa Culture
Lebanese League of Durham and Orange Counties
Kidznotes
Made in Durham
MoneyThink at UNC Chapel Hill
NC Write
North Carolina Central University Summer of Service
Partners for Success at Duke University
Racial Equity Institute
Sacrifice Poets
SEEDS
The Adelante Coalition
Thrills from the Grill
UNC Chapel Hills APPLIES Service-Learning Program
YMCA of the Greater Triangle

Our Collaborators