2018 Annual Report

CELEBRATING AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR
Contents:

Letter from Executive Director and Board of Directors........................................4
Empowering Student Leaders.................................................................................5
Celebrating Graduates..........................................................................................9
Investing in Financial Security............................................................................14
Building a Home and Community......................................................................16
Our Results and Financials..................................................................................19
Our Vision:
A Durham where all students can succeed.

Our Belief:
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.

Why We Exist:
Student U exists because, 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 entire community from reaching its full potential. Our work is rooted in this reality.
A fearless year for the Student U community.

We believe in dreaming fearlessly. For us, this means fervently holding on to our vision for a Durham where all children can succeed and believing we can create an educational system that equips and enables all children to thrive. We remain committed to the vision that one day, skin color, immigration status, parental education level, and income will not determine students’ outcomes. While we believe that our ambitious dreams are possible, we also know that we are far from them being true for our entire community.

We remain hopeful because of years like 2018. In May, we celebrated the college graduation of our pioneering class of 2014. As a result of their hard work, 89% of the class of 2014 have graduated college. This is an incredible achievement, and even more amazing in a nation where only 11% of low-income, first-generation college students will graduate from college in 6 years. We hold on to our fearless dreams because of our brilliant students.

On August 20th, Student U returned to the newly renovated W.G. Pearson Center. This $11 million project was made possible through public-private partnership between Durham County, Durham Public Schools, Self-Help, and generous individuals and foundations, demonstrating that when we come together around a vision, we can make the impossible happen for our community. We hold on to our fearless dreams because of our community.

We must dream fearlessly in order to build a more just and equitable Durham; the status quo does not enable our students to reach their full potential. Your continued support enables us to take the bold actions necessary to make our fearless dreams for Durham and our 550 students come true. We hold on to our fearless dreams because of your consistent and unwavering support.

Thank you.
Our Belief:
We believe our students are the next generation of leaders who will build a more just and equitable Durham.

Our Vision:
We envision a world in which our students and their peers have equal access to positions of leadership and power, then leverage those opportunities to create a more just world. We use our 11 years with students to provide them with the opportunities they need to develop the skills necessary to become the effective, equitable leaders we need to change the world.
Student U launched the College Promise Leadership Fellowship to expand our reach and support for college freshmen while also developing the leadership skills of upperclassmen mentors. Student U hires its own experienced college students as College Promise Leadership Fellows, who are paid to mentor and support the younger college students on their respective campuses. Since implementing this program, we have seen a stronger peer network that smooths the transition to college and increases engagement of freshmen, while being an opportunity for students to be leaders and critical agents in the success of their peers.

“I enjoyed being a Student U Leadership Fellow because I was able to develop stronger relationships with Student U students. This experience not only impacted me as I continue to grow in my leadership skills, but I know it impacted my mentees as they had a strong support system throughout their first year of college.”

- Tasia Bromell, Class of 2017
We believe that all people are worthy of experiences and opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential. We connect our students’ educational experiences to their future career aspirations by investing in pre-professional opportunities such as internships, professional development days, and staff positions. Student U students are serving as teachers and leaders in Student U’s programming. Over the past five years, Student U has employed sixteen students and alumni. In 2018, ten Student U students and alumni joined our teaching staff.

In 2018, High School students participated in Future Fridays, weekly professional development sessions to learn skills such as resume writing and interviewing.
We believe that in order to change the system and change outcomes, we must change the narrative around our community.

The “Voices of Student U” program was first piloted in 2018 as Student U’s newest effort to empower the students of Durham to own their voice. The “Voices of Student U” program elevates the voices of Student U high school students through journalism while building skills in technology use, storytelling, and critical thinking.
Our Belief:
We believe all students can succeed when adequately supported by their community, and education can be transformative when students are equipped with the academic skills and personal well-being necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

Why It Matters:
Nationally, 66% of Latinx students and 71% of African-American students will graduate from high school, and 11% of low-income, first-generation college students are expected to graduate from college within 6 years (Pell Institute).
After 11 years of walking alongside the pioneering Student U Class of 2014 to and through college, we were thrilled to celebrate their college graduations in May and December 2018. These graduates are now demonstrating what is possible.

Congratulations to our College Graduates:

Casey Barr-Rios, NCCU
Maritzelena Chirinos, Meredith College
Angelica Cohen, UNC Charlotte
Francis Dela Cruz, UNC Chapel Hill
Dante Evans, University of Maryland
Chakerya Garland, NCCU
Litehsha Garrett, UNC Greensboro
Ariana Johnson, NCAT
Kameron Johnson, Wingate University
Malcolm Jones, NCAT
Ana Krah, Appalachian State University
Christopher Lindsay, UNC Charlotte
Nelson Jared Lopez, UNC Chapel Hill
Rvimbo Makonyonga, NCAT
Alyzia McAlmon, ECU
LaTosha Ruffin, UNC Pembroke
Brenda Velzaquez, Durham Tech
Karl Von Zabern, UNC Chapel Hill
Tivianna Webster, NCCU
Joy Wright, NCAT
Ms. Maritzelena Chirinos is driven by her goals and passion to make an impact in her community. As a DACA recipient and activist, Maritzelena was chosen to present her research thesis, “An Identity Crisis: The Identity Development of DREAMers Post-DACA Termination”, at the Southern Sociological Society Conference in New Orleans, LA. Maritzelena has discovered her best self and shared her brilliance throughout her journey as an undergraduate student at Meredith College, and as a Frontline HPJ Fellow. Maritzelena received her B.A in Criminology and Sociology and is now in Washington D.C. interning at The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Her desire is to work on fixing the criminal justice system that is broken and particularly unjust when it comes to people of color.

As a Student U sixth grader, every day we would recite the quote, “Be the change you want to see in the world”, and discuss how we could incite change in our communities. Now as a college graduate, with the power of my education and my voice, I am ready to make a real difference.”

- Maritzelena Chirinos, Class of 2014
Mr. Chris Lindsay shares his brilliance to lift those around him and is committed to making a difference in his community. Chris is a graduate of the first class of Student U students and served as a mentor to his peers as a Student U College Promise Leadership Fellow and as a College Promise Advisor. He graduated from UNC-Charlotte in 2018 where he supported other students' success through his work as a mentor, advisor, residential counselor, and volunteer. As an avid writer and talented collegiate journalist, his dream is to become a live broadcast sports reporter. He is now pursuing his Master of Arts in Sports Journalism at Arizona State University. He also has a strong desire to serve his community beyond his career endeavors by mentoring young journalists to support them in thriving and achieving their goals.

“I plan to launch non-profit organizations, similar to Student U, to support youth entrepreneurial and journalistic dreams. With this keen appetite for both journalism and sports, my first non-profit will be to engage children with opportunities to develop their skills in the area of sports journalism.”

- Chris Lindsay, Class of 2014
The Student U community joined together for Decision Day to celebrate the choices our students made for their post-secondary experience. The class of 2018 continued the tradition of 100% graduation rate and is the fifth class of high school graduates that will transition into the College Promise Program.

Congratulations to our 2018 High School Graduates:

Naomi Atwater, NC A&T State University
Alanna Autry, UNC - Charlotte
Melani Balderama-Ceron
Zahra Bingham, Bennett College
TaeShaun Brewer
Krista Burden
Jeremy Caesar, Warren Wilson College
Angel Castillo
Marilyn Ceron-Almanza, NCCU
Gabivel Cruz-Castillo
Bryce Davenport
Daniel Garcia, William Peace University
Oliver Harper, IV, NCSU
Trinity Harris
Giselle Hernandez-Soria, UNC - Greensboro
Turunesh Lemons, UNC - Chapel Hill
Nicole Matute-Villagran, UNC - Asheville
Azion McDonald
Maurice McKellar, III, NCCU
Skylar McQueen, Winston-Salem University
Brian Ornelas-Ceron
John-Peter Osagie, High Point University
Zurisadai Perez, Wake Tech
Rosa Perez-Rojas, Durham Tech
Talek Pratt, Lees-Mcrae College
Andrew Reid-Smith, Wake Tech
Ibn Riggs, NCCU
Trey Riley, Durham Tech
Hope Roberts, Meredith College
Joel Rodriguez-Ramirez, UNC - Chapel Hill
Jasmine Rogers, NCCU
Tania Romero
LaShaun Ruffin, Norfolk State University
Stephanie Simmons-Cuevas, Durham Tech
Yaquelin Tejada-Peraza
Mahogany Thomas, UNC - Greensboro
Angel Tucker
Teheran Underwood, Jr.
Reality Weaver, Durham Tech
Aryeona Wilson, UNC - Charlotte
Jessica Wright, Howard University

– CELEBRATING –
OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS
Our Belief:
We believe that in order to reach their full potential and become life-long change makers students must have the knowledge and resources to achieve financial security as adults.

Why It Matters:
Students who graduate high school with $500 in a personalized savings account are 3 times more likely to enroll and 4 times more likely to graduate from college (University of Michigan).
- INVESTING -
IN FINANCIAL SAVINGS & LITERACY

In 2018, we launched a College Savings Program to support our families in raising $2550 before students leave for college. Student U is partnering with the Latino Community Credit Union (LCCU) to open College Savings Accounts for all of our middle school students.

In 2018, we held our first Financial Literacy Week during Summer Academy for students and parents to have opportunities to attend financial education workshops. Middle school students participated in a Money Matters lesson and Career Day. High school students attended the State Employees Credit Union’s Reality of Money event. LCCU hosted an evening parent workshop about financial literacy.
Our Growth:
After eleven years of operating as purely a direct-service organization, Student U is now building its capacity to explore advocacy work that extends beyond direct-service. Our mission will always rest on the belief that one day, all students in Durham can succeed, but we are critically thinking about how we can expand what we do to reach this goal. We are at a defining moment in which we are having imperative conversations about the impact of race and racial-equity in our work, increasing access to resources for families, and building a collective impact with our community and partner organizations.
In October 2018, we officially re-opened The W.G. Pearson Center! With input from our neighbors and community, we have defined a collective vision for The W.G. Pearson Center.

4 Vision Pillars for The W.G. Pearson Center

1. The W.G. Pearson Center will remain a youth-centered space that houses activities and programs that enrich the lives and outcomes of young people.

2. The W.G. Pearson Center will be accessible to the surrounding community of neighbors and organizations.

3. The W.G. Pearson Center tenants will collaborate to have the greatest possible collective impact on Durham.

4. The W.G. Pearson Center’s financial model will enable it to be sustainable in the long term.
We believe that building an equitable Durham is a shared responsibility and that our entire community must participate in this work. The collaborative that is housed at The W.G. Pearson Center seeks to create the structure and programming necessary for the realization of a healthy community. Since 2018, we have welcomed the following partners to The Center:

- **Book Harvest** works to remove barriers to book ownership, to fuel a lifelong love of reading among America’s children that will enable success in school and in life.

- **Dreams 2 Life** engages, equips, and empowers teens with dreams of entrepreneurship and leadership to become key contributors, brilliant servant-leaders, and problem solvers in their communities and beyond.

- **The Office on Youth** works with youth, City and County staff, elected officials, and community partners to elevate youth voices and enhance services and programs for youth.

- **Partners for Youth Opportunity** partners with the community to provide Durham youth with opportunities to connect, develop, and contribute through mentoring, employment and educational support.

- **Rebuild Fellowship** advances the Kingdom of God by making disciples who receive, respond, and reproduce The Gospel of Jesus Christ, for the welfare of the city of Durham and surrounding communities.

- **Village of Wisdom** works to eliminate racial injustices in schools by developing tools and resources that students, parents and teachers use to create learning environments for Black and Brown learners.

- **We Are** equips students, parents, and educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the complexity of racism and to extend anti-racist education with the ultimate goal of dismantling systemic racism.

Student U, community partners, and public officials that made the renovation of The W.G. Pearson Center possible.
We believe it is necessary for our students to achieve educational success to thrive beyond school. Student U students beat the statistics as a result of their tireless work and commitment.

We care about the holistic well-being of students and believe keeping our students socially, emotionally, and physically well is just as crucial to their success.

We use formal assessments to form a complete understanding of outcomes of programming and ground us in how much more work is required to create a system in which all students can succeed.

These charts show proficiency levels of Student U students on North Carolina End-Of-Grade, North Carolina End-Of-Course, and ACT exams compared to various segments of the Durham Public Schools population for the 2017-2018 school year. The data demonstrates the systemic challenges at the heart of why Student U exists.

---

**Academic Capabilities**
89% of students agree that they do very well at their classwork.

**Future Minded**
68% consider their future when making decisions.

**Community Support**
91% of students reported that they feel supported in their own development at Student U.

**Self-Confidence**
75% of students are confident in who they are.

---

**HS Graduation Rate**
100% of students from the classes of 2014-2018 have graduated from high school.

**College Enrollment Rate**
90% of graduating high school seniors have enrolled in college, a post-secondary institution, or the military within their first year after high school.

**College Persistence Rate**
88% of Student U’s college students from the classes of 2014-2018 have persisted in college, a post-secondary institution, or the military and are thriving on their campuses.

**College Graduation Rate**
89% of Student U’s college students from the class of 2014 have graduated college or a post-secondary institution and are thriving beyond school.

*All data represents students classified as active status in Student U programming. We have a 88% retention rate for students over an 11 year pipeline. Most common reason students are classified as inactive is due to moving.*
As a result of careful planning and preparation going into the first year of operating the W.G. Pearson Center, Student U covered all 2018 expenses without obtaining any debt.

*Student U’s 2018 operating income and expenses are reflected here, while the official audited financial statements vary based on new categorizations of funds due to the acquisition of assets and the renovation of The W.G. Pearson Center. For a copy of our audited financial statements please contact Amy Salo at amy.salo@studentudurham.org.
Thank you for continuing to empower our future leaders to build a greater Durham. Change cannot happen without the support of dreamers like you.

2018 Investors - 10 or More Years
Beth and Ed Anderson
Chris and Linda Bailey
Jerry and Anne Benson
Leigh and William Bordley
Tony and Teddy Brown
Richard and Cynthia Brodhead
Heidi and Scott Carter
Ruth Bardon and Michael Casey
Natalia Castillo - Escapada Living
Jennifer and Lawrence Crawford
Fennick Foundation
Bruce and Barbara Jentleson
Mark and Cynthia Kuhn
Bela Kussin
LabCorp
Stephen and Virginia Lang
Theodora Lovejoy
Melissa Malouf
Christian and Jonathan Mark
Sam and Sheila Miglarese
Eric Mlyn
Pete and Dana Moller
Morgan Creek Foundation
Navillus Foundation
Elizabeth and Wes Newman
Trudi Abel and Noah Pickus
Gianna and Michelson
Charitable Foundation
Office of Durham and Regional Affairs
at Duke University
Mark and Nancy Ratner
Steve and Lao Schewel
Bradley and Patricia Staats
The Robet & Adele Schiff
Family Foundation
Michael Ulku-Griner
Eric and Barbara Teagarden
Lauren and Jim Whitehurst
Emily Williams

2018 Investors - 5 or More Years
A.J. Fletcher Foundation
Deb Anderson
Pat and Theus Armistead
Frank and Anna Baldiga
Tucker and Katy Bartlett
Christina Broniec
Robo and Kate Cadwallader
Kristin and Jacob Clauson
Gabe Couchman and Eugene Oddone
Rachel and Ian Deshmukh-McDiamid
Mark and Phyllis Dorsey
F.M. Kirby Foundation
Fox Family Foundation
Lee and Marianne Hark
Jerry and Audrey Hamik
Matthew Hickson
Bernie and Judi Kimberg
Daniel and Amanda Kimberg
John and Celeste Kralovec
Suzie and Ben Lowe
Amanda Miller
Albert and Kathleen Musciano
Oak Foundation
Emily Oliver and Benjamin Edwards
Charles Randazzo
Kenneth Rose and Beth Silberman
Tim and Lisa Saunders
Andrew Short and Andrea Vizoso
State of NC DPI
Stewards Fund
The BHN Charitable Foundation
The Clorox Company
The Grable Foundation
Bob and Shirley Thompson
Triangle Community Foundation
- Marcus Angel and Mark Ruslin Fund
- Schmidt-Voisten and Claesson Family Fund
UNC Apples Service-Learning
United Way of the Greater Triangle
Ginger Young and Jonathan Wiener
Alexandra Zagbayou

2018 Investors
21st Century Community Learning Center
Tiwana and Frank Adams
Antonio Alanis
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Honda Foundation
Katie and Scott Anderson
Dan Baum
Harry Bell
Laura Benedict
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Biogen Inc.
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Cissie Cargill
Cisco
Mirella Cisneros
Laure Hays Coffman
Larry Crane
Virginia Crowder and David Jones
Crum and Forster
Barry Curtis
Lois Deloatch and Ed Gomez
Annette DuBard and Andrew Wang
Durham County
Gretchen Engel
Jonathan Farmer
FedEx Corporation
Fidelity Charitable Foundation
- Gwendolyn Brooks
- Holly Ivel and Matthew Smith
Robert and Donna Fryd
Margaret Gandy
Eli Gelber
Micah and Jamaica Gilmer
Good Street
Goodnight Educational Foundation
Sarah Haas
Martha Hankin Lefebvre
Lucy Hayhurst
Jesse Huddleston
Ricky Hurtado
International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering - Carolina Chapter
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Mary-Jo Keenan and Larry Reed
Clarence Laney
Wynetta Lee
Lesley Levine and Edwin Weinberg
Alexandra MacLeish
Haliee Mason
Michelman Family Fund
Patrick Minor
Jonathan Morris
Network for Good
Anneke Oppewal
Jack Page
Shell Parks
Sarah and Manesh Patel
Ruth Peebles
Julian and Jenevieve Perpignano
Kim Phu
PNC Financial
Marisa Ramos-Mason
Rebuild Fellowship, Inc.
Kevin Reiner
Jennifer Rogers
Roilita Sampson
SAS
Sarah Sebera
Elise and Graham Sharpe
Self-Help
Andrew Slater
Meg and Jose Solera
Susan Stankavage
Suntrust
The Sandra and Leon Levine Foundation
Thrills from the Grill
Tom Russell Charitable Foundation, Inc
Triangle Community Foundation
- Backyard Fund
- Carey Family Fund
- Durham Rotary Community Fund
- George and Alice Horton Fund
- Mark Higgins Community Enrichment Fund
- Red Fern Fund
- Regional Community Endowment Fund
Bettina Umstead
UNC Student National Medical Association
Steve Unruhe and Jennifer McGovern
Vaguely Reminiscent
Carmen Valdez
Emma Whitehurst
Our Belief:
We believe that all students in Durham, regardless of the color of their skin or how much money their parents have in their pocket, can succeed. Your investment helps us provide valuable programming and enrichment free of charge to our 550 brilliant students.

Why It Matters:
Your investment of any size makes a difference and demonstrates your support of our vision for a Durham where all students can succeed.

$10 A Month
Provides healthy lunches during Summer Academy for 1 student.

$65 A Month
Pays the stipend of 1 high school senior Summer Intern.

$90 A Month
Purchases all books for the year for the entire 6th grade.

$230 A Month
Sponsors 1 Summer Academy teacher.