



2018 Annual Report



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# CELEBRATING AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

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— 2018 —

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## — 2018 —

### 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.



Alexandra-Emmanuelle Zagbayou  
*Executive Director*



Dave Michelman  
*Chair, Board of Directors*



## — 2018 —

### 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.

# - EMPOWERING - STUDENT MENTORS



2018 Student U College Promise Leadership Fellows

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*





# - EMPOWERING - STUDENT PROFESSIONALS



From Left: Student U student, 2018 Summer Academy Teacher and YRP Family Head, Jaia Grady, Student U High School Program Coordinator, Michelle Norwood, and Student U student and 2018 Summer Academy Internship Coordinator, Ti'Vianna Webster.

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.

# - EMPOWERING - STUDENT JOURNALISTS



Student U Summer Academy “Voices of Student U” Program 2018

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.



From Left: Cindy Sigaran interviewing Bettina Umstead, and Esthela Vargas interviewing Marilyn Gamez.



## — 2018 —

### 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).

# - CELEBRATING - OUR FIRST COLLEGE GRADS



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  
Ruvimbo 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

# - CELEBRATING - OUR FIRST COLLEGE GRADS



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*



## - CELEBRATING - OUR FIRST COLLEGE GRADS



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*



# - CELEBRATING - OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS



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 Balderrama-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-Villagrana,  
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

Taleik 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

Mahogani Thomas, UNC - Greensboro

Angel Tucker

Teheran Underwood, Jr.

Reality Weaver, Durham Tech

Aryeona Wilson, UNC - Charlotte

Jessica Wright, Howard University

## — 2018 —

### 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



State Employees Credit Union's Reality of Money Event

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.



Summer Academy Career Day - Patrice Graham, Owner of Raleigh's only Black-Owned Yoga Studio - Colors of Yoga



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## The W.G. Pearson Center

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— 2018 —

### 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.





The W.G. Pearson Center

# - BUILDING - A HOME AT THE W.G. PEARSON CENTER



From Left: Max Alanis, Jannah Palmer-Bey, Zion Brown, Ayanna Parker, and Mario Reynoso cutting the ribbon to mark the official opening of The W.G. Pearson Center.

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.



The W.G. Pearson Center

# BUILDING A COMMUNITY



Student U, community partners, and public officials that made the renovation of The W.G. Pearson Center possible.

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.

— 2018 —

# - STUDENT U - ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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.



**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.

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.



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



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

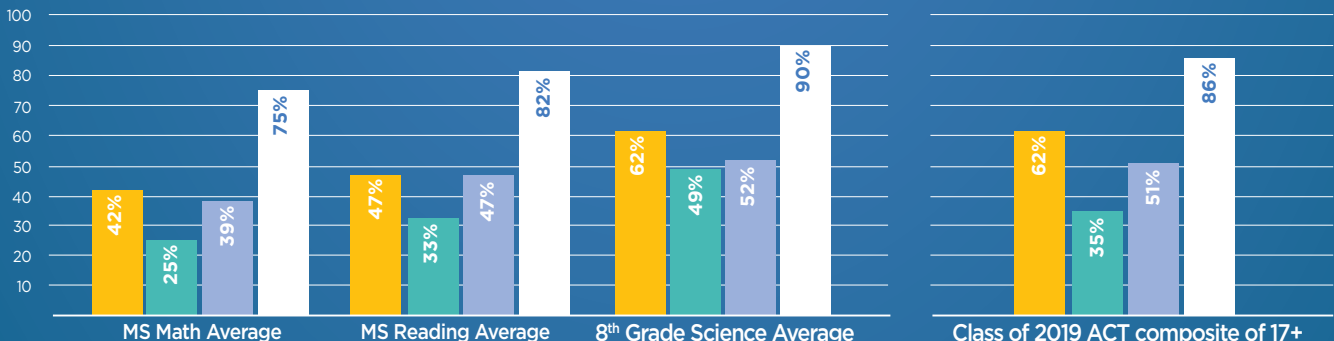


**Community Support**  
91% of students reported that they feel supported in their own development at Student U.



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

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.



\* 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.



# - STUDENT U -

## 2018 FINANCIALS

REVENUE		
Individuals	\$ 251,279	10.9%
Organizations & Corporations	\$ 127,837	5.6%
Foundations	\$ 773,027	33.7%
Government Grants	\$ 1,107,051	48.2%
Other / In-Kind	\$ 36,000	1.6%
<b>REVENUE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,295,194</b>	

EXPENSES		
Middle School Program	\$ 781,111	32.5%
High School Program	\$ 614,610	25.5%
College Success Program	\$ 242,508	10.1%
Management & General	\$ 572,319	23.8%
Fundraising	\$ 195,865	8.1%
<b>EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,406,413</b>	

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](mailto:amy.salo@studentudurham.org).

# - THANK YOU - FOR YOUR SUPPORT & COMMITMENT

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

## 2018 Investors - 5 or More Years

A.J. Fletcher Foundation	Jerry and Audrey Harnik	State of NC DPI
Deb Anderson	Matthew Hickson	Stewards Fund
Pat and Theus Armistead	Bernie and Judi Kimberg	The BIN Charitable Foundation
Frank and Anna Baldiga	Daniel and Amanda Kimberg	The Clorox Company
Tucker and Katy Bartlett	John and Celeste Kralovec	The Grable Foundation
Christina Bronec	Suzie and Ben Lowe	Bob and Shirley Thompson
Robb and Kate Cadwallader	Amanda Miller	Triangle Community Foundation
Kristin and Jacob Clauson	Albert and Kathleen Musciano	- Marcia Angle and Mark Trustin Fund
Grace Couchman and Eugene Oddone	Oak Foundation	- Schmidt-Nielsen and Claesson Family Fund
Radhika and Ian Deshmukh-McDiarmid	Emily Oliver and Benjamin Edwards	UNC Apples Service-Learning
Mark and Phyllis Dorsey	Charles Randazzo	United Way of the Greater Triangle
F.M. Kirby Foundation	Kenneth Rose and Beth Silberman	Ginger Young and Jonathan Wiener
Fox Family Foundation	Tim and Lisa Saunders	Alexandra Zagbayou
Lee and Marianne Hark	Andrew Short and Andrea Vizoso	

## 2018 Investors

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

# – YOUR INVESTMENT – IN ACTION

## 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.



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