# ACCESS : Annual ACADEMIES : REPORT

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#### Dear friends and supporters,

In 2005, we established ACCESS Academies to change the trajectory of students impacted by the challenges of poverty. Since that time, we have created educational opportunities and experiences for over 700 at-risk students through our program, positioning each one for college and career success.

The absence of high-quality schools in high-poverty areas perpetuates a poverty cycle that is both generational and situational. To address these issues, we have partnered and will continue to partner with urban parochial schools and embed our unique program model, providing 7+ years of full-scale counseling to each child, challenging them with after-school and summer enrichment programs, and contributing to significant scholarship funds toward quality, college-prep high schools.

We are most grateful for our other many partners – our students, parents, principals, teachers and



graduate support directors at the three middle schools we serve. And, we salute the high schools that make a significant investment in each of our graduates.

We also extend a special thank you to our donors. As stewards of the financial gifts we have been given, thank you for investing in ACCESS Academies. Your investment allows us to dedicate more time, energy, talent, and resources into our program, enabling our students to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

Marian "Bo" V. Mehan

Chair - ACCESS Academies

# **Our Mission**

ACCESS Academies serves to ensure socially- and/or economicallydisadvantaged students in the St. Louis area have access to a top-quality, values-based education.

**Our Students** 

**99%** 

are first-generation, college-bound learners

#### are Hispanic or African-American

97%

**86%** qualify for the free/ reduced lunch program

# **Our Programs**

With more than 700 students impacted to date, our programs are comprised of 3 main elements:

#### **Scholarships**

High School Tuition Work Study College Applications ACT Test

#### **Enrichment**

Extended Day Summer School Character Education Service Leadership **Counseling** 

7+ Year Commitment Family Engagement Advocacy Mentoring

Of ACCESS students are accepted to private, college-preparatory high schools.

Of ACCESS students graduate high school on-time.

**Our Results** 

**95%** Of ACCESS graduates gain admittance to college and postsecondary schools.

### **Scholarships**

#### HIGH SCHOOL TUITION

238 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS \$618,511 AWARDED

### **WORK STUDY**

46 PARTICIPANTS 153 STUDENTS SERVED

4,518 WORK HOURS LOGGED

### Student Success Story: Gaby A.

"I am Mexican American, a proud daughter of two immigrant parents who came to the United States to provide a better future for themselves and their family.

I attended Saint Cecilia School and Parish. Not only did Saint Cecilia accept my family with open arms, but the community also became part of our family. They have amazing programs that help students with studying, and resources like helping to fill out FAFSA, educating families about the importance of college saving, and helping the students with study halls

throughout high school and providing work study.

Being a firstgeneration student myself, I know the struggles that many of these kids face. Having to learn as you go and then having to explain it your family, even when you don't think you fully understand it yet. Wondering if vou're even good enough to attend the school, and realizing that you're going to need help. You can't do this by vourself.

ACCESS Academies has Academy Directors that help students know that they have a strong support system backing

them up. That they are not alone. People like Mrs. Klosterman, who worries about us as if we were her children and wants nothing but the best for us.

I was accepted to Notre Dame High school and graduated with a 3.5 G.P.A. I was accepted to all eight colleges I applied to, getting the best financial aid packets in my entire eighth-grade class."

The Work Study program engages our high school and college students in tutoring kids at their former middle schools. Half of their earnings are paid directly toward their tuition expense. "I'm now attending Webster University studying Pre-Dentistry and Spanish on a full scholarship. Although I just finished my first year of college I am considered a junior with all of the extra credits I've taken. I'll be applying to Dentistry School with a specialization of Orthodontics next summer."





# **35** challenging programs in the areas of ...

- Academic Development
- S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)
- Character & Health Education
- Arts (Performing, Fine, and Practical)

..... an additional 600 hours of instruction annually!





ACCESS students compete in the Clavius Project robotics tournament at St. Louis University High School.

### Enrichment

#### **Current Academies**

St. Louis Catholic Academy 4720 Carter Ave. St. Louis, MO 63115

Most Holy Trinity Catholic School & Academy 1435 Mallinckrodt St. Louis, MO 63107

St. Cecilia School & Academy 906 Eichelberger St. Louis, MO 63111

#### Opening in 2018!

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School 8213 Church Ln. East St Louis, IL 62203



## How a Graduate Support Director influenced one student's journey....

"Now, there is one specific person that I believe has had the biggest and most monumental influence on the young man that I am today, that would be my Graduate Support, Ms. Joslyn Sandford, perhaps the greatest thing that Access Academies could have ever given me. This woman has stuck by not only my side, but all of my fellow peers from Saint Louis the King, ever since my 8th grade year. Everyone has someone in their life that keeps them together, no matter how hard they have to knock some sense into you along the way. I have always looked forward to seeing Ms. Joslyn when she would

come to visit and check on

my progress at DuBourg. Most of the time, I had no problems so we would inevitably just end up sitting and talking until I had to return to class. From the bottom of my heart, I love you Ms. Joslyn, and I have no idea what I will do next year in college when I have no one to knock some sense into me, but I know that as long as I know you have faith in me, I will be just fine."

Aaron T., a graduate of St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral and Bishop DuBourg High School, was accepted to 49 colleges and universities, and awarded over \$2.9 million in scholarships and grants towards his higher education pursuits. He is currently attending Missouri University of Science and Technology and double majoring in Computer Science and Computer Engineering with a minor in Business.



#### Message from the Executive Director

As the new Executive Director, I just wanted to take this opportunity to provide you a brief glance of ACCESS from my perspective. Based on my four years on the Board of Directors; the tutoring my wife, Amy, I and do; and my first three months in this role; I've witnessed the effectiveness of our programs, especially the Graduate Support Directors in action at our schools. I not only see the counseling they provide, but the bond they have with their students, the compassion and care they



display. And I see them bringing out the huge potential in our kids. I'm inspired and already convinced we can grow our programs to impact more children, even past the high school years. Your generous support has made and will make all of our programs possible and is truly helping those with great needs overcome the challenges of poverty through education. I encourage you to reach out to me with your ideas and input and I'll be happy to share additional information about ACCESS and our future plans. Together, we will continue to make a huge impact on our community.

My best to you, Tom Mackowiak

To contact Tom, please call (314)898-0430 or email <u>Tom.Mackowiak@accessacademies.org</u>

#### Our Donors make it all possible....

Thank you for supporting us through our 9th Annual Scholarship Dinner, our Friends of ACCESS Fundraiser at McGurk's, our Year-end Appeal, and/or a general donation during the year. *Any time and every time you donate, you make a difference!* 

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## Because of You...

- over **180** middle school students are enrolled in an ACCESS Academy,
- over 170 ACCESS students are attending college-preparatory high schools across the St. Louis region, and
- over **230** are receiving significant high school tuition scholarships.

## **Board of Directors**

#### **Executive Committee**

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## **Our Financials**

Condensed Financial Statement as of August 31, 2017 (unaudited)

#### **ASSETS**

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,498,745
Restricted Funds	\$1,186,181
Fixed Assets	\$1,598
Total Assets	\$2,686,524

#### LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	\$9,400
Total Liabilities	\$9,400

#### **NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted	\$1,425,830
Restricted	\$1,251,024
Total Net Assets	\$2,676,854

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS ......\$2,686,254

Condensed Schedule of Activities for the year-ended August 31, 2017 (unaudited)

#### REVENUE

General Contributions	\$1,458,195
Special Event Fundraiser Contributions	\$645,479
Interests and Dividends	\$3,926
Total Revenue	\$2,107,600

#### **EXPENSES**

Middle School/Graduate Support/Other Support	\$449,467
High School Tuition Support	\$618,511
Special Event and Fundraising	\$162,450
General and Administrative	\$154,251
Total Expenses	\$1,384,679





## Scholarships ~ Enrichment ~ Counseling



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