



12th ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

September 9, 2021
The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis



**Proud to support
Access Academies
in its efforts to ensure
every student has every
chance to thrive every day.**

Our Mission

Access propels middle school students who have been historically underserved through high school and on to college and career success with enrichment, counseling, and scholarships.

Making An Impact Despite The Challenges of COVID-19

Last year, Access Academies:



Supported 508 students — from middle school through college — with individualized mentoring, guidance, and advocacy.



Funded over \$734,000 in high school tuition scholarships and registration, technology, and testing fees so that 191 students could attend one of our 25 private, scholarship-partner high schools.



Provided 175 Academy middle school students with more than 400 hours of critical, extended-day and summer enrichment courses designed to bolster core subjects and teach new skills.



Delivered \$20,000 in gift cards to 319 Access families to help offset the devastating economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic; Outfitted each of our 53 rising 9th graders with \$400 in uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies.



Awarded 24 collegians the new Access College Scholarship — worth up to \$3,500 per student.

**Data from 2020-2021 academic year during Covid-19. Normal program year data is available on pages 10 - 14.*

Program Schedule

7:00pm	<u>Live Stream Begins</u>
7:10pm	<u>Program Welcome and Introduction</u> Brian Day, Board Chair and Shelly Williams, Executive Director A special note from Joan and John Vatterott
7:15pm	<u>Master of Ceremonies</u> Gabrielle Hays, Digital Correspondent, PBS NewsHour <u>Premiere of Exclusive Access Academies Documentary</u> Josie Garcia, St. Cecilia School and Academy, Class of 2022 David Garcia, St. Louis University High School, Class of 2023 Brandy Johnson, St. Louis Community College, Florissant Valley, Class of 2023 Marlene Garcia, Cor Jesu Academy, Class of 2025 Yannah Murphy, Althoff Catholic High School, Class of 2025 <u>Panel Discussion With Students From Film</u>
8:10pm	<u>Mission Appeal</u> Terry Mehan, Access Board Member and Former Access Graduate Support Director
8:30pm	<u>Closing</u> Thank You For Your Support

Menu

Starter

Romaine and Baby Kale Caesar
Shaved Parmesan
Toasted Garlic Ciabatta Croutons
Herb-Roasted Tomatoes
St. Louis-Originated Mayfair Dressing

Entree

Braised Short Rib of Beef with Sherry Gastrique
Grilled Salmon with Sweet Tomato Glaze
Forest Mushroom Risotto
Roasted Cipollini Onions
Asparagus, Baby Carrots

Dessert

Flourless Black Forest Bar
with Cherry Chutney and Chantilly Cream
or
Vanilla Bean Cream Brulee
Honey Orange Madeleine

Exclusive Access Academies Documentary

Take a deep dive into the lives of our students, with an exclusive Access Academies documentary screening. You'll hear firsthand about the dreams and aspirations of our students, the hurdles they face, and how the support Access provides keeps them on the path to success.

Documentary Panelists



Gabrielle Hayes, Emcee

Digital Correspondent, PBS NewsHour

Gabrielle Hays was born and raised in North St. Louis City. She graduated from Cardinal Ritter College Prep and then later from the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Journalism. After years as a local news reporter in Knoxville, Tennessee, she went on to report and produce for Nine PBS here in St. Louis. Today she is a digital correspondent for the PBS NewsHour. When she's not reporting, she's spending time with her little sister through the Big Brother Big Sister program or volunteering with local organizations. Gabrielle is also the co-founder of a scholarship at Cardinal Ritter that seeks to ensure financial hardship doesn't prevent students from graduating high school and attending college.



David Garcia

St. Louis University High School '23

St. Cecilia School & Academy '19

David is a junior at St. Louis University High School and a member of the soccer team and Hispanos Unidos, a club dedicated to celebrating Hispanic and Latino culture. He's an aspiring doctor who hopes to study medicine at Saint Louis University. Last year, David was one of only 50 local high school sophomores selected to participate in the highly prestigious Washington University College Prep Program, which prepares future first-generation college students to thrive academically and socially in college.

Josie Garcia

St. Cecilia School & Academy '22

The youngest of the four Garcia children, Josie is an 8th grader at St. Cecilia School and enjoys studying science, learning about animals, and participating in the Artscope enrichment program at Access. She is an avid video gamer who would like to compete on the Notre Dame High School e-sports team.



Marlene Garcia

Cor Jesu Academy '25 | St. Cecilia School & Academy '21

This fall, Marlene (and fellow classmate Annie H.) became the first Access Academy graduates from St. Cecilia School to enroll at Cor Jesu Academy. While there, she intends to join the Diversity Club and dreams of one day becoming an attorney who helps 'protect those who can't protect themselves.' Like her older brother, David, Marlene enjoys spending her free time playing soccer.





Brandy Johnson

St. Louis Community College, Florissant Valley '23 | Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School '19 St. Louis the King '15
Brandy Johnson loves to bake, and she wants the world to enjoy her delicious desserts. A Cardinal Ritter graduate and second-year student at St. Louis Community College, Brandy plans to study business in pursuit of fulfilling her dream: owning a bakery or catering company. Brandy has two younger sisters — one of whom is in the Access program at Lutheran North High School — and there's only one thing she enjoys as much as baking: roller skating.



Yannah Murphy

Althoff Catholic High School '25 | Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School '21
A member of Access' first graduating class from Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School in East St. Louis, Yannah started at Althoff Catholic High School this fall. She is an aspiring orthodontist who plays both the piano and the violin, and she hopes to join the Althoff volleyball team next season. When not playing music or volleyball or studying her favorite subject, math, Yannah enjoys watching movies with her puppy, Ace.

Our Board of Directors

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Special thanks to Anja and Birch for their many years of service and dedication as Access Academies Board Members.



Your Donation Provides Critical Support

Counseling: Individualized Support Increases Academic Success

Research proves that strong relationships are the foundation for student success. At Access, every student is embraced and supported by a community of trusted, caring adults who help them succeed in and persist in school, work, and life. Our individualized counseling ensures every student's academic, social, financial, and emotional needs are met.

Enrichment: Challenging Our Youth to Dream

Access provides over 1,179 hours of high-quality after-school and summer enrichment programming to 165 middle school students each year, a support that promotes student achievement, encourages positive behavior, and expands their definition of success. Our donors can be confident that their support is making a lasting difference. According to the Afterschool Alliance, "Afterschool programs also provide a significant return-on-investment, with every \$1 invested saving at least \$3 through increasing youth's earning potential, improving their performance at school, and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency."*

Scholarships: Illuminating a Path by Eliminating Financial Barriers

At Access, we believe in equity: that every student should have every chance to thrive every day. Since our founding in 2005, Access has contributed more than \$7,254,348 in financial scholarships to high school and college students.

An investment that eliminates financial barriers for our families and uplifts the St. Louis region.

**This is Afterschool' Fact Sheet. Afterschool Alliance. (2020, March).
<http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/National-One-Pager-2020.pdf>*

Our Schools

Empowering Students Across
the St. Louis Region
Since 2005

This academic year, Access will serve a total of 511 students in 3 partner middle schools, 40 local area high schools — including 21 private, college-preparatory schools — and 48 colleges and post-secondary institutions across the country.

Partner Middle Schools

St. Cecilia School & Academy (South St. Louis)
St. Louis Catholic Academy (North St. Louis)
Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School (East St. Louis)

High Schools

Althoff Catholic High School*
Belleville High School East
Bishop DuBourg High School*
Cahokia High School
Carnahan High School of the Future
Cardinal Ritter College Prep*
Chaminade College Prep*
Charles H. Sumner High School
Christian Brothers College High School*
Cleveland Junior Naval Academy
Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience
Cor Jesu Academy*
De Smet Jesuit High School*
Duchesne High School*
The Grand Center Arts Academy
Granite City High School
Hazelwood East High School

High Schools (continued...)

Incarnate Word Academy*
Jennings Senior High School
& College Prep Academy
KIPP
Lift For Life Academy
Lutheran High School South*
Lutheran High School North*
Marquette Catholic High School*
McKinley Classical Leadership Academy
McCluer South-Berkeley High School
Nerinx Hall*
Normandy High School
Notre Dame High School*
Principia School
Ritenour High School
Rosati-Kain High School*
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School
South Technical High School
Saint Louis Priory School
St. John Vianney High School*
St. Joseph's Academy*
Saint. Louis University High*
St. Mary's High School*
Ursuline Academy*
Villa Duchesne*
Visitation Academy*
Westminster Christian Academy

**Denotes Scholarship Partner*



**99%
ACCEPTED**
to college
preparatory
high schools



**98%
GRADUATED**
high school
on-time
(compared to
84% nationwide)



**96%
ACCEPTED**
to college or
other post
secondary
institution

Post-Secondary Acceptances

Congratulations to our graduating seniors who have been accepted to the following colleges and universities.

Bradley University
Central Methodist University
Creighton University
Drury University
Fontbonne University
Hampton University
Harris-Stowe State University
Howard University
Kansas State University
Loyola University-Chicago
Maryville University
Missouri Baptist University
Missouri State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Missouri Western State University
Morehouse College
Ohio State University-Main Campus
Ranken Technical College

Rockhurst University
Saint Louis University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southwest Baptist University
St. Louis Community College
St. Mary's University
University of Central Missouri
University of Dayton
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Kentucky
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University of North Alabama
Western Illinois University
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana

Thanks To Your Support

We partnered with Saint Louis University this year to offer a proprietary ACT Prep Program for the first time. The program served 16 students and included 42 hours of instruction and practice tests over seven weeks.

Thank You To Our Sponsors and Supporters

Sponsors



John and Margie Simon



Supporters



Pershing Charitable Trust





Proud to support Access Academies in its mission to propel middle school students who have been historically underserved through high school and on to college and career success with enrichment, counseling, and scholarships.



The Simon Law Firm, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors at Law



MONETA

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

We are financial advisors who empower our clients, and our community, to navigate life's path toward goals. Moneta Momentum is the collective effort of our employees who volunteer hundreds of hours every year to impact our community positively. In addition to time, Moneta's Charitable Foundation, now in its 21st year, has granted nearly \$3.5 million to local nonprofits to date. We do more – so our community can too.



Gast Freeman Team
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Mercy is proud to sponsor Access Academies and the work it does to develop the future leaders of America.



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Thank you to Access for giving every student, every chance, every day

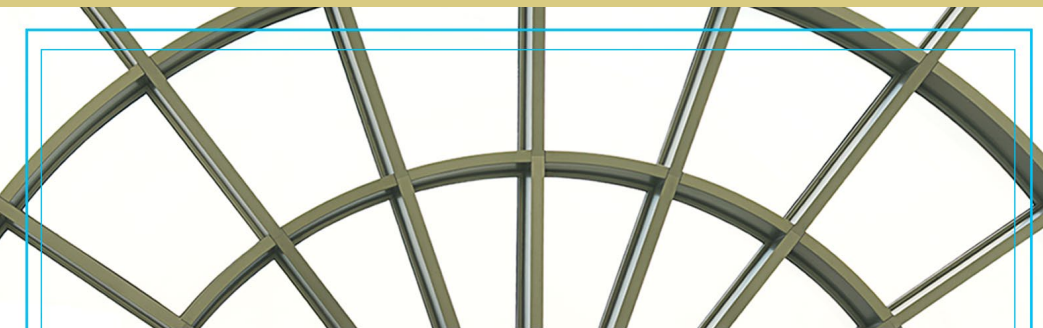




Proudly serving Access Academies'

partner middle and high schools

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Proud to support Access and its mission
to propel underserved middle school students through
high school and on to college and career success.

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**Congratulations
to the students
of Access
Academies**



**Enterprise Bank
& Trust proudly
supports Access
Academies**



*Thank you for
making a difference*



We Find Winners.
And then we invest for strong returns.



**"We are proud to be associated and to invest with the winners
of Access Academies. Good education pays the best returns of all."
- Charlie Erker, Merrill Lynch Advisor**

**The Simon Family supports
the 12th Annual Celebration
Dinner of Access Academies**

John and Margie Simon



**Thank you
to Access
Academies
Graduate
Support
Directors
and
College
and Career
Counselor**
for leading
their students
on the *path to
success.*

**The Joan and John
Vatterott Family
Foundation**