

Think **BIG**
DREAM Big
ACCESS ACADEMIES
14TH ANNUAL
Celebration Dinner



Thursday, June 1, 2023 | The Ritz-Carlton, St Louis



Access

Every student. Every chance. Every day.



THANK YOU

to the Access Academies
Graduate Support and
College & Career Teams for
leading their students on a
path to success.



**Joan & John Vatterott
Family Foundation**

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.

Our Vision

A vibrant St. Louis community where equity in education allows every child to think, dream, and achieve big.

This year, Access Academies:



Supported **488** students — from middle school through college — with individualized mentoring, guidance, and advocacy.



Helped raise the composite ACT score of our high school students by an average of **3** points through **60** hours of weekend instruction.



Funded over **\$781,651** in high school tuition scholarships and registration, technology, and testing fees so that **209** students could attend private, partner high schools.



Increased the amount of the Access College Scholarship from **\$3,500 to \$6,500** over the course of a student's four-year college career. This year, we awarded the scholarship to **54** collegians and have now provided over **\$71,600** in scholarship funding since 2020.



98% of Access students graduate from high school on time, a graduation rate for Black and Hispanic students that is above the national average and that of the region's public and charter schools.

(see page 10 to learn more)

Program Schedule

6:30 PM

Welcome Enrichment Program Performance

EncoreSTL: 'En Mis Zapatatas' ('In My Shoes')
Directed by Effrem Grettenberger,
Founder and Instructor

Invocation

Diamond Hamilton
Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School 2023

7:30 PM

Chairman's Remarks and Program Introduction

Brian Day, Board Chair
Shelly Williams, Executive Director

Access Pillar: Counseling

Amy Clark, Director
Access College & Career Success Initiative

Access and Saint Louis University: Impact Report

Gary W. Ritter, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean
Saint Louis University School of Education

Access Pillar: Enrichment

D'Laurea Trice
Access Alumna and Enrichment Instructor
Prolific People

Access Academies Pillar Award

2023 Recipient Marie Kenyon
Presented by Bob Mathias, Board Member

Access Pillar: Scholarship

Celia Pérez-Vazquez, Access Parent

8:15 PM

Mission Appeal

Shelly Williams
Cheryl Pettus, Board Member

8:30 PM

Thank You For Your Support



Menu

FIRST COURSE

Beets Three Ways

Roasted, Pickled, and Redux, Red Oak Leaf,
Sunflower Seed Brittle, Shaved Radish, Shaved Asparagus,
Red Wine Vinaigrette

SECOND COURSE

Braised Short Rib, Natural Jus
Red Snapper Dill Beurre Blanc

Potato Mouseline

Roasted Asparagus

Juliened Summer Vegetables

Saffron Braised Fennel

DESSERT

Mango Passionfruit Mousse Torte

Tropical Chutney and Strawberry Whipped Cream

Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee
and Selection of Hot Teas



Speakers

DIAMOND HAMILTON

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School '23

A natural leader with a positive attitude and compassion for others, Diamond is a recent graduate of Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School and will attend Nerinx Hall this fall. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, High Honor Roll, and Peacemakers. Diamond is an aspiring entrepreneur and plans to pursue degrees in business and nursing.



D'LAUREA TRICE

St. Louis Community College

Rosati-Kain High School '20

St. Louis the King '16

A graduate of Rosati-Kain High School, D'Laurea attends St. Louis Community College and is working toward her degree in social work. In 2021, she founded Prolific People, a youth mentoring program aimed at promoting unity and encouraging students to give back to their communities. She currently teaches the Prolific People enrichment course at all three Access partner middle schools.



CELIA PÉREZ-VAZQUEZ

Originally from Jalisco, Mexico, Celia has been a proud St. Louisan for the last 22 years. As the loving wife to her husband Alfredo Vasquez and a hard-working mom of two Access children, Dennys (Saint Louis University '22) and Judith (St. Joseph's Academy '23), Celia is a longtime champion of Access Academies and high-quality education. She loves "that the Access staff is always available and ready to help our kids through their challenges" and feels "the financial aid has been an amazing support for our family."



Enrichment Performances



'En Mis Zapatos' ('In My Shoes') is a drama and self-discovery program for 6th and 7th-grade girls taught by Effrem Grettenberger, founder of EncoreSTL. Through improvisation, character building, and reflection exercises, students explore different perspectives, develop empathy, and gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others, while also honing their acting skills and building confidence.



Prolific People is a youth mentoring program that focuses on service, educational growth, and community involvement. Through a variety of health and wellness activities, Prolific enables young people to be involved and proactive while having fun networking with their peers.



Taught by Julie Gates, Writing Lab helps students master the fundamentals of grammar and writing. From practicing parts of speech and diagramming sentences, to developing proper paragraph structure, to writing creative essays, letters, and poems, the Lab's curriculum builds skills and confidence and helps students take their writing to the next level. The poems displayed on each table at tonight's dinner were written by seventh graders in the Writing Lab.

Our Three Programming Pillars

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 persist and succeed 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 1,035 hours of high-quality after-school and summer enrichment programming to our 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 and improving their performance at school."*

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

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 \$8,182,020 in financial scholarships to high school and college students. It's an investment that eliminates financial barriers for our families and uplifts the St. Louis region.





Pillar Award Winner

MARIE KENYON

The Access Academies Pillar Award celebrates an individual who enthusiastically reflects our dedication to giving every student, every chance, every day. This year's inaugural winner is Marie Kenyon, Director of the Office of Peace and Justice and founder of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis.

An early advocate and member of Access' first Board of Directors, Marie has been an energetic and ardent supporter of our students for almost two decades. Deeply committed to the Access mission and tireless in her efforts to recruit and attract resources for the organization, she possesses an innate, faith-fostered compassion that makes the well-being of Access' students her constant concern.

Empowering Students Across the St. Louis Region Since 2005

Access Academies partners with **25** private, college-preparatory schools and has supported students in more than **47** local high schools across the St. Louis region. This academic year, Access served a total of **488** students in **3** partner middle schools, **40** area high schools — including **20** private, college-preparatory schools — and **45** colleges and post-secondary institutions across the country.

Our Impact



99% ACCEPTED
to college-preparatory high schools



98% GRADUATED
high school on-time (compared to 86% nationwide)



96% ACCEPTED
to college or other post-secondary institution

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES 2011 - 2021

St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS)



Charter Schools



Suburban/St. Louis County (Ladue, Clayton, Parkway, etc.)



Access Academies



Access Academies Graduation Rate for Black and Hispanic Students



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)

Partner High Schools

Althoff Catholic High School*
Belleville High School East
Bishop DuBourg High School*
Cahokia High School
Cardinal Ritter College Prep*
Carnahan High School
of the Future
Chaminade College Prep*
Charles H. Sumner High School
Christian Brothers College
High School*
Cleveland Junior Naval Academy
Collegiate School of Medicine
and Bioscience
Confluence Academy
Cor Jesu Academy*
De Smet Jesuit High School*
Duchesne High School*
Gibault Catholic High School*
The Grand Center Arts Academy
Granite City High School
Hazelwood East High School
Incarnate Word Academy*
Jennings Senior High School &
College Prep Academy
KIPP
Lift For Life Academy
Lutheran High School North*
Lutheran High School South*

Marquette Catholic High School*
McCluer South-Berkeley
High School
McKinley Classical
Leadership Academy
Nerinx Hall*
Normandy High School
Notre Dame High School*
Principia School
Purpose Driven Academy
Ritenour High School
Rosati-Kain Academy*
St. John Vianney High School*
St. Joseph's Academy*
Saint Louis Priory School*
St. Louis University High*
St. Mary's South Side
Catholic High School*
Soldan High School
South Technical High School
SIUE East St. Louis Charter
High School
Ursuline Academy*
Villa Duchesne*
Visitation Academy*
Westminster Christian Academy*

**Denotes Scholarship Partner*



Post-Secondary Acceptances

*CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS WHO HAVE BEEN
ACCEPTED TO THE FOLLOWING
52 COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES.*

Alabama A&M University
Arizona State University
Blackburn College
Chapman University
Clark Atlanta University
Coe College
Florida Agricultural and
Mechanical University
Grabber School of Hair Design
Greenville College
Hampton University
Harris-Stowe State University
Illinois College
Illinois State University
Jackson State University
Jefferson College
Lincoln University of Missouri
Lindenwood University
Loyola University-Chicago
Maryville University

McKendree University
Missouri Baptist University
Missouri State University
Monmouth College
Murray State University
North Carolina A&T State
University
North Carolina Central University
Northwest Missouri State
University
Prairie View A&M University
Ranken Technical College
Rockhurst University
Saint Louis University
Southeast Missouri State
University
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville
Southwestern Illinois College
St. Charles Community College
St. Louis Community College
Stevens - The Institute of
Business & Arts
Tennessee State University
Tuskegee University
University of Central Missouri
University of Kansas
University of Memphis
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Missouri-St Louis
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Notre Dame
University of Southern Indiana
Washington University in St Louis
Webster University
Western Illinois University

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MONETA

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

We celebrate Access Academies' commitment to empowering young members of our community to think big, dream big!

Supporting students through enrichment opportunities, counseling, and scholarships creates tangible benefits, not only for students and their families, but for our entire community.

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Education, mentoring, advocacy, and guidance lead to extraordinary outcomes.

At Moneta, our team's mission echoes that perspective: *Helping people accomplish their goals in life so they can spend it on what matters most.*

As fee-only financial advisors for individuals, families, and organizations across the U.S., Moneta empowers clients in all stages of life to think big, dream big, and enjoy the *richness of life.*™ Moneta's Charitable Foundation was created to advance our communities through transformational giving, while Moneta Momentum encourages our employees to volunteer their time and talent.

Together we can support the bold ideas and big dreams of those who will lead our world in the future.



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Meet our team!



We salute
Access and
its work to
develop the
future leaders
of St. Louis.



**BRYAN CAVE
LEIGHTON PAISNER
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE ACCESS ACADEMIES'
14TH ANNUAL
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THINK BIG DREAM BIG

About Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

With over 1,275 lawyers in 31 offices across North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP is a fully integrated global law firm that provides clients with connected legal advice, wherever and whenever they need it. The firm is known for its relationship-driven, collaborative culture, diverse legal experience and industry-shaping innovation and offers clients one of the most active M&A, real estate, financial services, litigation and corporate risk practices in the world.



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We are 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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Thank you to
Access for giving
every student,
every chance,
every day.



John and Margie Simon



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TOTAL COMMITMENT® TO OUR COMMUNITY



Congratulations

to the students and graduates of Access Academies!

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SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

We are proud to support Access Academies in their mission to provide a quality education to all students.



ST. JOHN
VIANNEY
HIGH SCHOOL

Think **BIG**
DREAM Big



FORMING
MEN of CHARACTER
& **ACCOMPLISHMENT**
WITH ACCESS ACADEMIES

#BEAGRIFFIN

We Find Winners.

And then we invest for strong returns.



Merrill Lynch

“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



We are honored to recognize the incredible work of Access Academies' Class of 2023.



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



Think Big, Dream Big!



We are proud to partner with Access Academies
as they work to create equity in education
across the St. Louis region.

VATTEROTT
FOUNDATION
