



## THANK YOU

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



### 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 Zapatas' ('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 Mousseline

Roasted Asparagus

Julienned 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

#### 

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

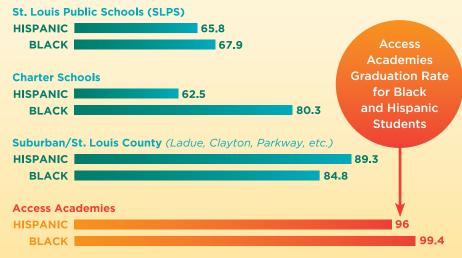


98% GRADUATED
high school on-time
(compared to 86%
nationwide)



96% ACCEPTED
to college or other
post-secondary
institution

#### REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES 2011 - 2021



#### 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\*

<sup>\*</sup>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

## Board of Directors

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**FORVIS** 



## Thank You to Our Sponsors and Supporters





















**Chris Schmidt &** Silvia Ledesma Ortiz





















Pershing Charitable Trust





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.



#### 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.<sup>TM</sup> 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.





future leaders

of St. Louis.







# BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ACCESS ACADEMIES' 14TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

## 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.

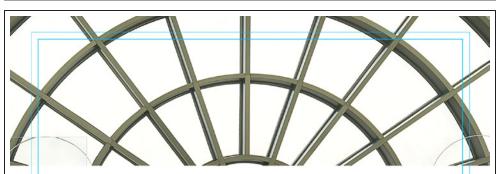






WHERE CUSTOMERS ARE FIRST AND CARS ARE SECOND TO NONE





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.

## **LEWIS RICE**

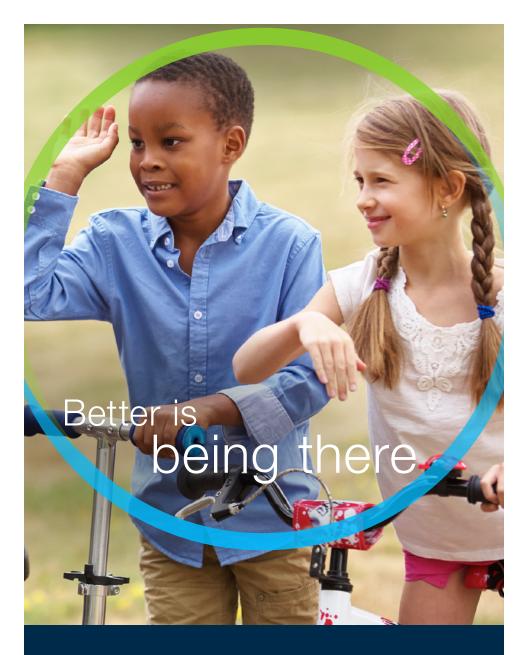
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# TOTAL COMMITMENT® TO OUR COMMUNITY



## Congratulations

to the students and graduates of Access Academies!



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We are proud to support Access

Academies in their mission to provide a quality education to all students.





## 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



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





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.

