LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When I assumed the role of Board Chair three years ago, Access Academies was embarking on an exciting new chapter. The ink was drying on its partnership with Saint Louis University, Shelly Williams was taking the helm as Executive Director, and our promising College and Career Success Initiative was still getting off the ground. Today, I am happy to report that with your generous support and the incredible dedication of our students and families, Access continues to provide transformative opportunities that inspire our region’s youth to think, dream, and achieve big!

This year, we have much to celebrate. We expanded our College & Career program by adding a third counselor and doubling the amount of our college scholarship. We grew our enrichment program with inspiring new courses, advanced our comprehensive multi-year program evaluation through SLU’s School of Education, and raised over $650,000 at the Celebration Dinner. Further still, we added five new talented members to the board and witnessed more of our high school seniors accepted to Saint Louis University than ever before. To say that I am proud of what our students, families, and staff have accomplished over the last 12 months is an understatement.

Our success would not have been possible, however, without the enduring vision of our founder John Vatterott and the relentless dedication of board member and former Graduate Support Director Terry Mehan. This fall, both John and Terry passed away. And while we miss them dearly, we have found comfort in knowing that their legacies will continue to impact the lives of our students across the region.

As we look ahead, I turn the reins over to incoming Board Chair, Tom Wheeland. Tom joined the Access Board in 2021 and has since served as a member of the Finance Committee. In his professional life, Tom is the National Practice Leader at FORVIS, and he earned his J.D. from St. Louis University and his B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Notre Dame. A good friend of John Vatterott, Tom is enthusiastic about the opportunity to further his mission and is especially excited to help Access accomplish new milestones as we approach our 20th anniversary in 2025.

In closing, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Access family — our dedicated students, families, supporters, donors, and partners — for entrusting me to lead this organization. It has been an honor and a joy to know that together we are shaping a brighter future for the next generation and are giving every student, every chance, every day.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brian Day
Chair, Board of Directors
Investing In Our Students

$16,560
average 4-year investment in each high school student

$7,041
average 3-year investment in each middle school student

210
STUDENTS
in 40 high schools, including 209 in 20 private, college-preparatory schools

149
STUDENTS
in 3 partner middle schools

129
STUDENTS
in 45 colleges or other post-secondary institutions

11+
years of counseling, mentoring, and advocacy for each student

15
college visits offered to each Access student from 8th grade to high school graduation

1,035
hours of extended-day and summer enrichment instruction provided annually

$742,457
total amount awarded in high school scholarships and fees

$71,600
total amount awarded in Access College Scholarships since 2020

$3,663
average annual high school tuition award per student

$189
average monthly high school tuition payment per family

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 2005:

$9 million
awarded in high school & college scholarships

1,397 students
benefited from our programs
**Our Programs**

**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 and persist in school, work, and life. Our individualized counseling ensures every student’s academic, social, financial, and emotional needs are met.


**Challenging Our Youth to Dream**

Access provides over 1,000 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 gifts are 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.”

**Illuminating a Path by Reducing 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 $9 million in financial scholarships to high school and college students. It’s an investment that reduces financial barriers for our families and uplifts the St. Louis region.

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**Impacting Our Region**

- **98% Accepted** to college-preparatory high schools
- **97% Graduated** high school on-time (compared to 86% nationwide)
- **93% Accepted** to college or other post-secondary institution

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**Regional High School Graduation Rates 2011 - 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Year 11 - 12</th>
<th>Year 12 - 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS)</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>80.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban/St. Louis County</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Academies</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access Academies’ high school graduation rates for both African American (99%) and Hispanic (96%) students exceed the national averages for both racial and ethnic groups, as well as the graduation averages for schools in St. Louis City (including St. Louis Public Schools and St. Louis Charter Schools), which are less than 90%.
Our Valued Partners

Access Academies is proud to partner with a distinguished list of educational institutions across the St. Louis region to provide scholarship, enrichment, and leadership opportunities to our scholars.

PARTNER MIDDLE SCHOOLS

SCHOLARSHIP PARTNER HIGH SCHOOLS

Althoff Catholic High School
Bishop DuBourg High School
Cardinal Ritter College Prep
Chaminade College Prep
Christian Brothers College High School
Cor Jesu Academy
De Smet Jesuit High School
Duchesne High School
Gibault Catholic High School
Incarnate Word Academy
Lutheran High School North
Lutheran High School South
Marquette Catholic High School
Nerinx Hall
Notre Dame High School
Principia 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
Ursuline Academy
Villa Duchesne
Visitation Academy
Westminster Christian Academy

COLLEGE & POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS

This year, 129 Access scholars attended 45 colleges, universities, and post-secondary programs across the country. We awarded our college scholarship to 54 collegians and have now provided over $71,600 in scholarship funding since 2020.
Our Financials

Your Dollars at Work
(Fiscal Year 9.1.22 - 8.31.23)

2022-2023 Revenue

- General Contributions & Grants: $1,413,979
- Annual Dinner Campaign: $654,609
- Interest/Other: $182,478
- Cedar Creek: $28,134

2022-2023 Expenses

- Tuition Scholarships & Fees: $872,077
- Enrichment & Graduate Support: $778,851
- Additional Programs & Support: $349,208
- Fundraising & Outreach: $314,975
- Administrative: $67,262

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Archdiocese of St. Louis
Bayer Fund
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Boniface Foundation
Cass Commercial Bank
Chris Schmidt & Silvia Ledesma Ortiz
Emerson
Food Service Consultants
FORVIS
Joan & John Vatterott Family Foundation
John and Margie Simon
Lewis Rice LLC
Mercy
Merrill Lynch
Moneta
Pershing Charitable Trust
Saint Louis University
Saint Louis University School of Education
St. John Vianney High School
The Simon Law Firm
Thompson Coburn LLP
Vatterott Foundation

Thank you to everyone who made a gift this year! Scan here to see the complete list of our 2022-2023 donors.
Our Leadership Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

John C. Vatterott  
Founder & Chair Emeritus  
Retired, Vatterott  
Educational Centers

Pat Erb  
Marketing Committee Chair  
Consultant

Terry Mehan  
Program Committee Chair  
Retired, Access Academies

Robert J. Mathias  
Retired, Cass Bank

Members

Marian ‘Bo’ V. Mehan  
Vice Chair  
Lewis Rice LLC

Angela Carr  
Nine PBS

Nikki Doughty  
Washington University  
in St. Louis

Dr. Tiffany Patton  
Program Committee Chair  
Riverview Gardens School District

Christopher J. Schmidt  
Bryan Cave Leighton  
Paisner LLP

John Simon  
The Simon Law Firm

Brianna Tobais  
Steadfast City Economic &  
Community Partners

Thomas Wheeland  
Incoming Board Chair  
FORVIS

STAFF

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Director of Communications

Joslyn Bland  
Graduate Support Director

Naomi Carranza  
Graduate Support Counselor

Amy Clark  
College & Career Director

Vivian Garcia  
Graduate Support Director

Jeanette Katic  
College & Career Counselor

Jordyn Hale  
Graduate Support Director

Skylah Hunter  
College & Career Counselor

Peg Lord  
Development Associate

Carmelita Spencer  
Graduate Support Director

Shelly Williams  
Executive Director

* A special thanks to Brian Day for his service as Board Chair from 2020-2023. Tom Wheeland succeeded Brian as Chair in November 2023.

A Lasting Legacy

John Charles Vatterott  
1943-2023

Founder & Chair Emeritus  
“We believe every child can reach  
his or her potential if given the right  
structure, environment, education,  
motivation, and inspiration.”

Terrence James Mehan  
1951-2023

Program Committee Chair  
Graduate Support Director  
Director of Development  

“We seeing young men and women succeed in life  
when given the opportunity is the greatest  
personal reward I have received.”
Donate
Help our students think, dream, and achieve big! Please consider giving at accessacademies.org/donate or by returning the enclosed envelope.

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