Happy 30th birthday to The Partners Program! For three decades, Partners has embraced continuity and change in the Oakland educational landscape. In 1986, Partners pioneered a summer-only academic program for middle school students to address "summer slide" in which students lost academic gains from the school year. Ever evolving, Partners took the next step and bridged the summer programs for our students by collaborating with Oakland middle schools to provide engaging, skills-based, 1-on-1 afterschool tutoring and mentoring. Now, Partners serves our students with programming that is well-structured and keeps our students engaged in a year-round cycle throughout middle school.

With this milestone we ask: How does Partners keep up the momentum of 30 years? How do we stay true to our mission? To ensure continued success and relevance, we convened the Partners Strategic Planning Committee whose dedicated work created the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, a roadmap for Partners. The Plan identifies four areas of focus:

1. **Whom Do We Serve**: Determine optimal size; evaluate partner-school model; re-design admissions process

2. **How Partners Carries Out Its Mission**: Strengthen the Summer and Academic Year alignment; improve training for teachers and mentors; enhance high school advising

3. **How Program Measures Its Effectiveness**: Implement assessment tools for students; develop and administer surveys to constituencies; create a student information management system and database

4. **Financial Sustainability and Governance**: Plan strategically for long-term sustainability; nurture relationship with College Prep; bolster the Partners Endowment; increase profile in the Oakland community and school district; expand Board membership

The 2016-2020 Strategic Plan defines our priorities as we stay true to our mission to open pathways for Partners students to be college-bound and fulfill their dreams. We are committed to creating effective programming, and dynamic collaborations that will energize and guide us for the next thirty years.

Thank you for your inspiring generosity and dedication to these terrific middle school students and their mentors! Let me hear you say... Partners!

With gratitude,

Samuel F. Beltran
Director, The Partners Program
Our Programs

SUMMER ACADEMY (SA) 2016

Partners held its 30th Summer Academy from June 18 through July 16, 2016, graduating 25 ninth graders and serving 90 middle school students, primarily from the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). The theme for SA 2016 was “Student Voices” in which the Partners community celebrated and nurtured the power of our students to reach their goals, advocate for themselves, and seek improvement relentlessly. Once again, our student retention rate was over 90% and faculty/staff return rate was 75%. At Summer Academy, students thrived in tight-knit and supportive learning environments: small classes (only 10 students/class); a rich Arts component focused on Dance and the Visual Arts; Language Arts, rooted in Literary Analysis and Writing; Math skills development in small pods; daily mentoring from high-achieving mentors (a ratio of 1 mentor to 3 middle school students); electives such as Science and Yearbook; and field trips to an urban farm, cultural institutions, and a campus tour of UC Berkeley.

“Partners has without a doubt provided me with some of the best moments of my time in high school. I love interacting with the kids in and out of the classroom. Partners challenges me in ways that I can’t anticipate, which definitely keeps me on my toes! I look forward to it every summer!”

— Danielle Reed
Academic Year Mentor and Summer Academy Mentor, College Prep ’17

Cynthia Geddes Service Award Recipient: Zander Sante

Zander is the recipient for the 2016 Cynthia Geddes Service Award because he exemplifies the very best that we see in our Mentors:

- Dedication to the ideal of equity in education
- Love and compassion as a path to social justice
- Energy and enthusiasm
- Willingness to jump in at any moment and take on a job, a responsibility, a challenge
- Sound judgment and a strong moral compass to guide his every decision
- A kind heart and thoughtful spirit
- A desire to make a difference in the world

Zander Sante receives his award from Stefani Berger, Assistant Director for Leadership and Mentorship Programs

Partners recognizes Stefani Berger’s extraordinary service and commitment over the past fifteen years. Thank you, Stefani!
HIGH SCHOOL ADVISING (HSA)

The High School Advising program completed the 2016 high school application admissions cycle with good news to share. Partners provided four workshops throughout the Fall/Winter high school applications season. In workshops, Partners volunteer mentors assisted families with the application process for independent, parochial, public charter, and traditional public schools, successfully enrolling 25 eighth grade students in 13 diverse high schools in the Oakland community. The format leverages small groups with a one-to-five ratio of staff to families to ensure students are researching schools that match interests and future plans. The workshops also provide at least two community members who speak languages other than English.

ACADEMIC YEAR MENTORING (AYM)

Academic Year Mentoring had another productive year with our partners, KIPP Bridge and Westlake Middle School. In addition, we re-energized our collaboration with a third community school, Claremont Middle School. During the year, 24 students per semester were mentored at KIPP in grades 6-8. With nine tutors, a Site Leader, and a Manager in support, we maintained a three to one student-mentor ratio. Our focus is tutoring and specialized homework support for core classes. This personalized approach allowed for intensive, Common Core-based instruction for each grade and extra support for foundational gaps. We continued two-days-a-week at Westlake, with an average of 20 students weekly. The consistent pairing of the same mentor and mentee provided high quality skill-building. The second day extended our impact on time management, organization, and study skills to augment homework, test preparation, and reviewing concepts. One day per week, we piloted on-campus mentoring at College Prep for four to five Claremont Middle School students.
Partners Family Association (PFA)

The Partners Program has always been grateful for the support and dedication of our middle school students’ families. Last year, Partners strengthened these relationships by founding the first Partners Family Association. Each grade has two representatives, two communication officers, and two event coordinators. Families that did not serve in one of these positions volunteered to staff events throughout the year. The PFA and family volunteers were instrumental to the success of increased efficiency in communication. Even more important, the PFA strengthened the bonds between families and created a sense of community within each grade level. Partners staff also gained a deeper understanding of each student’s and family’s needs, leading to more effective and individualized support.

Mentors / Mentees

**Student:** Aaliyah Iwayemi, 7th Grade  
Westlake Middle School  
**Mentor:** Sunaina Sekaran, College Prep ‘18

**What’s your favorite part of Partners?**

Aaliyah: I love the mentors! Also, that we get homework done while having fun.

Sunaina: I look forward to Partners because Aaliyah and I have a lot of fun together. We laugh, talk, and eat Goldfish.

**What’s one thing that you’ve gained through Partners?**

Aaliyah: I gained friendship and knowledge.

Sunaina: I learn from Aaliyah and she learns from me. Also, I’ve become a better listener and a better singer. Aaliyah has an amazing voice!

**Student:** Benjamin Dunn, 7th Grade  
Montera Middle School  
**Mentor:** Marcella Wiggan, College Prep ‘19

**What’s your favorite part of Partners?**

Benjamin: I get to learn over the summer and not play video games!

Marcella: I like helping Ben with his work and hearing about what he is interested in, both in and out of school.

**What’s one thing that you’ve gained through Partners?**

Benjamin: How to do my homework better.

Marcella: An appreciation for being able to work with, and help my mentee! He learns from me, but I also learn a lot from him.

DID YOU KNOW?

30 Number of years that Partners has been serving the Oakland community

200 Number of high school and middle school students involved in Partners

75% Percentage of Partners students who qualify for federal free or reduced meals

15 Number of Oakland zip codes represented at Partners

100% Percentage of students of color in Partners

1:1 Ratio of Mentor to Student in Academic Year Mentoring afterschool program

93 Number of families in the Partners Family Association

7 Number of Partners 9th graders given full scholarships to private high schools (1 at College Prep)

80% Percentage of first in family to attend 4-year college

$0 The cost to a Partners family for their child to attend Partners throughout middle school

$200 The cost for school supplies, meals, and field trips for a Partners student during Summer Academy

The Partners Program 2015-16 Board of Trustees

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Chair, The Partners Program

Monique DeVane  
Head of School, College Prep

Anne Buckley  
Board Chair, College Prep

Murray Cohen  
Kate Freeland

Jim Gilliland  
Nancy Levin

Larry Ricksen
Last year we were proud to partner with three Oakland middle schools—Claremont, KIPP Bridge, and Westlake.
Summer Academy offers opportunities in arts and academics on The College Preparatory School campus.
2015-16 Generous Supporters of Partners
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

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Lanesplitter Pizza
Inkworks Press
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Oakland Unified School District
Top Dog
Westlake Middle School
UC Berkeley
Claremont Middle School
Planting Justice
Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco
Hotel Oakland
UC Berkeley
CREAM

Academic Year Mentoring (AYM) Program
KIPP Bridge
Principal Lolita Jackson
Yesenia Duarte
Nydia Tamayo
Claremont Middle School
Edana Anderson
Jonathan Mayer
Westlake Middle School
Phylis Hall
Misha Karigaca
Bryan Massengale
Morgan Schindler

Summer Academy Field Trip Destinations
Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco
Hotel Oakland
UC Berkeley
Planting Justice

Parent Volunteers
Debby Barach
Kathy Kaspar
Anjali Kalagutkar

College Prep Book Fair Co-Chairs
Busy Gray
Cindy Pierson
Sarah Riley
Katty Sandhu

Partners Family Association (PFA)
7th Grade
Allana Samuel
Angelic Salmeron
Dyna Crease
Felicia Bradley
Geannell Robinson
Elaine Lopes
8th Grade
Lakisha Hill
Faustina Bokaye
Dominique Lacey
Julia Lawson
Angelique Taylor
Lakisha Ashley
Greta Shelby
9th Grade
Sharon Williams
Maria Reyes
Yanidou Seye
Maria Ronquillo
Amalia Castanon Hill
Shannon Perkins

IN MEMORIAM
James G. Gilliland, Jr.
Board Chair, The Partners Program
May 25, 1954 - October 27, 2016

We are deeply saddened by the sudden death of Jim Gilliland. The parent of four College Prep alumni (David ’02, Jeff ’05, Matt ’08, and Lisa ’10), he made an incredible impact on College Prep as a Board member and Co-Chair. Jim joined the Partners Board in 2015, and lead the Strategic Plan Committee in creating a comprehensive road map for Partners. This fall, he became Chair of the Partners Board. At the time of his passing, Jim was deeply engaged in actualizing the Strategic Plan to ensure the future of The Partners Program. We will do our very best to honor his memory with our efforts.

Thank You!
We appreciate everyone who generously supports The Partners Program!
Dear Friends,

We are all greatly saddened by the loss of Jim Gilliland (see page 7), but his impact on Partners will be a continuing testament to his incredible ability to bring a clear focus to our mission, provide leadership that inspired, and to engage and energize our community to continue making Partners a powerful force for improving the lives of those it touches.

Jim directed our five-year planning process over twelve months, the last three as board chair. He reached out deeply into our community for ideas, concerns, understanding, and aspirations. The resulting Strategic Plan is as compelling as it is succinct. This guiding document re-affirms what Partners does so well, while setting clear priorities to make Partners even better.

We will examine what we do, how we do it, how we measure success, and how to be sustainable. Following Jim’s fine example, we will continue to engage the Partners community for input and ideas as we answer these questions and continue on our path of commitment to our students’ academic and emotional growth. Together, we will make Partners thrive today, and for future generations.

With gratitude,

Steve Berger

Acting Chair, The Partners Program

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A Note from our Chair

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With gratitude,

Steve Berger

Acting Chair, The Partners Program