A Note from Our Director

Dear Friends,

This fall, on the first day of Partners’ Academic Year Mentoring afterschool tutoring program, Dinah (8th grader from Claremont Middle School) spotted one of her Summer Academy mentors, Gaby (College Prep junior). Dinah called out “Gaby! Gaby!” and ran toward her. A quick reunion ensued, complete with high-fives, hugs, and a rapid download of Dinah’s triumphs and tribulations. Their immediate connection was palpable. I was inspired to kick off the school year!

Earlier that day, I had read the Oakland Unified School District’s Pathway to Excellence plan, which is the district’s 2015-2020 roadmap to ensure that all Oakland students thrive and succeed. For over 30 years, Partners has collaborated with Oakland middle schools in our afterschool tutoring and summer academic enrichment programs to support positive outcomes for our scholars. Partners’ own unique, 3-year “pathway to excellence” is what Dinah and Gaby embody: the mutually empowering and energizing nature of a shared experience through mentorship. A 2015 report on mentorship, published by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership and Ernst & Young, concluded:

For today’s youth, especially those from under-served communities, mentors can help them find pathways to productive, fulfilling, sustainable lives. Youths with mentors are more likely to be successful in school, more likely to be leaders in their communities, and more likely to enter into young adulthood with opportunities for ongoing education and career choices.

In this year’s report, you will have the opportunity to read updates that illuminate and celebrate mentoring at Partners. As I was inspired by Dinah and Gaby, I trust that our work will resonate with you. Our commitment to, and passion for, our scholars secures many roads to success.

Our advocacy for educational equity and social justice—Partners’ enduring strength—would not be possible without your generosity. Thank you for your openheartedness and support!

Let me hear you say...PARTNERS!!!

With gratitude,

Samuel F. Beltran
Director, The Partners Program
Our Programs

SUMMER ACADEMY (SA) 2017

Partners completed its 31st Summer Academy in 2017, graduating 24 ninth graders and serving over 90 middle school students in total, primarily from Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). Our summer theme was “Roots” and our deep family and community roots were reflected in classroom content, all-community events and especially on our summer t-shirt design! The Partners Class of 2017 ninth graders matriculated to ten different high schools in the Oakland area (traditional, charter, parochial, and independent schools). This summer, in addition to the core curriculum of Language Arts, Algebra, Life Pathways (our social-emotional learning strand), Visual Arts, and Dance, Partners piloted our Innovation Workshops which included Coding, Virtual Reality, Financial Literacy, and Nutrition. We continued our electives, such as Science and Yearbook, as well as field trips to an urban farm, cultural institutions and a tour of UC Berkeley, including a presentation by a campus group that advocates for under-represented college-bound scholars from the Bay Area.

“I think the opportunity to meet these amazing middle schoolers is my favorite part of Partners. I've had the privilege of working with motivated, kind, creative, and hardworking middle schoolers who are all striving to be the best versions of themselves.”

— Audrey Jones
Academic Year Mentor and Summer Academy Mentor, College Prep ’18

Cynthia Geddes Service Award Recipient: Bennett Fleming-Wood

Bennett is the recipient for the 2017 Cynthia Geddes Service Award. She 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 her every decision
- A kind heart and thoughtful spirit
- A desire to make a difference in the world
ACADEMIC YEAR MENTORING (AYM)

The Partners Academic Year Mentoring component experienced another active and successful year through weekly, after school tutoring in our 3 partner schools in the Oakland Unified School District: Claremont Middle School, KIPP Bridge Charter and Westlake Middle School. During the 2016-2017 academic year, 9 scholars per semester were mentored at Claremont in grades 7-8; 10 scholars per semester were mentored at KIPP; and 8 scholars per semester were mentored at Westlake. In addition, Partners tutored 25 scholars weekly on the College Prep campus. Our format: tutoring and specialized homework support for our scholars in their core classes. The significant positive impact of mentoring is now public knowledge. It is no different at Partners! According to the National Mentoring Partnership, mentoring yields specific outcomes on two early-warning signs that a student may be at-risk:

1. Absenteeism: those with mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to miss a day of school and 37% less likely to miss a class;

2. Recurring behavior issues: mentored youth are more positive about school and education

Through AYM, Partners mentors continued their legacy in the Oakland community of mutual respect and understanding, open communication, and unconditional support towards our Partners scholars.

HIGH SCHOOL ADVISING (HSA)

The Partners High School Advising process yielded impressive outcomes for the 2016-2017 high school admissions cycle for 8th graders. As usual, Partners provided workshops and family advising conferences throughout the Fall/Winter high school applications season. In addition, Partners collaborated with the College Prep Admissions Office to present an in-depth applications seminar for students under represented in independent high schools. Partners scholars and their families welcomed the opportunity for a more personalized experience; they asked pointed questions about the quality of life for a student of color and about important financial aid issues in the admissions process. The results for 2016-2017: 24 Partners scholars matriculated into 10 top-tier, college preparatory high schools in the Oakland area (7 OUSD high schools; 2 private parochial high schools; and 1 private independent school).
Partners Family Association (PFA)

The Partners Program Family Association (PFA) continues to strengthen and deepen relationships between Partners families. Now in its second year, PFA volunteers increased family communication and provided support during all Partners events. They had a strong presence at our Orientation, Lake Temescal Picnic, Community Day, Final Friday Talent Show, and Graduation. This year, PFA volunteers served as translators during all events and during the interviews for our new 7th grade class! Their presence ensured that every family received important information and could ask questions when needed.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **31** years that Partners has been serving the Oakland community
- **75%** of Partners students qualify for federal free or reduced meals
- **1:1** Mentor : Scholar ratio in Academic Year Mentoring afterschool program
- **100%** students of color in Partners
- **24** Oakland and neighboring zip codes represented at Partners
- **91** scholars in Summer Academy 2017
- **$0** The cost to a Partners family for their child to attend Partners for three years
- **14** Oakland middle schools represented at Summer Academy 2017
- **17** College Prep students on Summer Academy 2017 Staff
- **6** Partners alumni on Summer Academy 2017 Staff
- **65** high school mentors in 2016-2017 Academic Year Mentoring
- **55%** of at-risk students are more likely to enroll in college due to a mentor

Mentors / Mentees

**Student:** Mario Rodriguez, 7th grade
**Mentor:** Samantha Martin, College Prep ‘19
**What’s your favorite part of Partners?**

Mario: They help us with our homework.
Samantha: My favorite part of Partners is helping my mentee understand something new.

What’s one thing that you’ve gained through Partners?
Mario: I’ve learned tricks in math and they basically help me with every part.
Samantha: I’ve learned different approaches on how to explain things to different types of learners.

**Student:** Ivyna Truong, 7th grade
**Mentor:** Mary Shin, College Prep ‘19
**What’s your favorite part of Partners?**

Ivyna: I love how much talking and collaboration there is in the classes.
Mary: My favorite part of Partners is working with one person on a consistent basis and getting to know them.

What’s one thing that you’ve gained through Partners?
Ivyna: I’ve gained a friend and trust!
Mary: I’ve gained another friendship/trusting relationship through Partners.

The Partners Program 2016-17 Board of Trustees

Steven Berger
Chair, The Partners Program
Monique DeVane
Head of School, College Prep
Jim Cervantes

Murray Cohen
Kate Freeland
Nancy Levin
Arpad Molnar
Larry Ricksen
The generous gifts honor
Jim Gilliland by funding
30 Partners Students
Renee and Peter Aitelli
Burt Alper ’87 and Jennifer Alper
Anonymous
Paula Hughesman and Steven Berger
Reid and Anne Buckley
Nancy Levin and Daniel Caraco
Joanne Casey
Patricia and Dane Gillette
Carolyn and Jim Gilliland
Henry Hecht
Virginia and Bickford Hooper
Tonia and Michael Hsieh
Lily and Robert Huang
Robby Huang ’03
Andrew Imbrie ’76 and Sherryl Fawx
Glen Jarvis
Katie and Jim Mahon
Maya Chorengel and
Arpad Molnar ’87
Ann and Robert Spears
Pamela and Frank Stapleton
Diana Staring and Lawrence Hobel
Marc Sugiyama ’84
Anonymous
Jennifer Chatman and Russell Barnett
Barbara Peterson and Tom Beach
Alicia Benito
Graciela Benito ’83 and Jeff Lindquist
Carol Jue and Theodore Brown III
Jean Mitchell and Frederick Cannon
Jane Carney
Byron Chin
Murray Cohen
Janet Connor ’07
Christine Werme and
Michael Connor
Kim Coull
Adria Perez Douglas
Monique DeVane and Brian Driscoll
Louise and Thomas Duff
Madeline and Bruce Feingold
Gail Foorman ’80
Katherine Frost
Marsha Audrey and Michael Gardner
Eva and Dennis Gavin
Betsy and David Girard
Lexy Green ’81 and John Seal
Alex Hobel ’04
Bob Houghteling
Philippa and Eliot Jubelirer
Janice Johnson and Edward Kassab
Thomas Kozel
Karen Lambert
Olga Lambert
Sue Lin and Reuben Rivera
Tracy Salisbury and Ron Matthias
Margaret and Kirk McInerney
Nora Monette
Steven Moore
Nancy and Robert Mueller
Victoria Parraga
Cecily Peterson and Christine Daniel
Madeline Petri
Sara Sackner and Andrew Behar
Samuel Schectman
Anne Shuttee
Jayne and David Stockton
Linh Tran Tsang and Garson Tsang
Mark Wincek
Mary Lee and Kenneth Winnert
Dennis Young
Meeta Gandhi and
Prashanth Ajampur
Adam Berger ’03 and Marni Berger
Eric Berger ’00 and Renata Berger
Ann and Gil Berkeley
Alissa Stolz and Timothy Bertucco
Nhat Bui ’07
Carolyn Blum and Harry Chotiner
Donald Curtis
Clara Daniels ’88
John Faggi
John Fanning
Kate and H. Theodore Freeland, Jr.
Rebecca Freeland ’00
Diane and Bruce Friend
Diane Gorman
Jeanie and Charles Harris
Silvia and Michael Hughes
David Johnson
In honor of Steve Berger
Avril Kenney ’07
Wendy and David Kistler
Lannon Leiman
In honor of Jessica Leiman ’88
and Timothy Leiman ’91
Deborah Levine
In memory of Ben Caraco
Emily and Stephen Mendel
Sandra Nichols
In honor of Jackie Edwards Kircher
Meera Ratnesar ’97 and
John Querio ’95
Romesh Ratnesar ’92 and
Lauren Strickle
Marian Wolfe and Scott Scheffler
Janet and Steven Schwarz
Abigail Turin ’89 and
Jonathan Gans ’89
Barbara Malina and Scott Wachter
Kate Berkeley Walker ’95
Jacinta Pister and Richard Whitmore
Ann Wilkins
Candy Wong ’00
Jack Woodruff
Special Thanks
Gifts in Kind
Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco
Claremont Middle School
CREAM
Eagle Village
Food for Thought
Inkworks Express
KIPP Bridge Charter Middle School
Lanesplitter Pizza
NeedleWorks Embroidery
Oakland Unified School District
Planting Justice
UC Berkeley Admissions Office
Westlake Middle School

Academic Year Mentoring (AYM) Program
KIPP Bridge
Principal Lolita Jackson
Inti Chomsky
Maria Ronquillo
Claremont Middle School
Principal Jonathan Mayer
Edana Anderson
Westlake Middle School
Principal Jonathan Ferrer
Phyllis Hall
Bryan Massengale
Morgan Shidler

Summer Academy Field Trip Destinations
Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco
Planting Justice
UC Berkeley
UC Berkeley Early Academic Outreach Program

College Prep Book Fair Committee
Busy Gray
Cindy Pierson
Sarah Riley
Katty Sandhu
Jane Thrush

Partners Family Association (PFA)
7th Grade
Sherry Akioka
Laura Ascencio
Cammeran Johnson
Vanessa Morones
Aisha Patterson
Chamayne Pierce
Shamica Zancanaro
8th Grade
Felicia Graham
Elaine Lopez
Chantal Reynolds
Angelica Salmeron
Allana Samuel
Cheryl Serame-Turk
9th Grade
Lakisha Ashley
Shelly Burks
Shavonne Jones
Julia Lawson

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

It is hard to believe that it has only been one year since our last newsletter—so much has happened with your support and engagement. Partners’ students are coming of age in a rapidly changing world. Educators are barraged with new technologies, new discoveries, and novel approaches at an exponential rate. Although it is impossible to know what the classroom of the future will be, what is absolutely clear is that our children cannot thrive without powerful learning skills. Partners focuses on building the foundation to help our students explore and master subjects and approaches that will serve them well throughout their lives. During Summer Academy—in addition to academic study—much of our effort supports social-emotional learning: overcoming obstacles, facing challenges, developing positive mindsets and study habits, working in groups, participating, speaking up, communicating clearly and effectively, and much more. Our students’ academic and personal growth is then reinforced in the Academic Year Mentoring program where College Prep students tutor middle schoolers throughout the school year, with great success.

Our alumni frequently tell us how their experience in Partners instilled confidence, raised their expectations, and gave them the tools to excel in middle school, high school, college, and beyond. One of the most inspiring indicators of the value of The Partners Program is that former students return to work as assistant teachers, college interns, and faculty. (Six Partners alumni were on staff at the Summer Academy 2017!) Clearly, this is a virtuous cycle that has powerful benefits for all involved.

Thank you for making a gift to The Partners Program. You help ensure that we continue to inspire and support a love of learning in generations of students!

Sincerely,

Steven Berger
Chair, The Partners Program