Dear Friends,

Greetings from The Partners Program at College Prep, Room N-3! Earlier this semester, two of our 8th graders, Maile from Claremont Middle School and Elijah from Downtown Charter Academy, helped launch Partners Academic Year Mentoring Program with a heartfelt announcement at College Prep’s all-school Assembly. These passionate and articulate young scholars celebrated their mentors, seniors Suah and Mary, who helped prepare them for classwork and build their confidence. Maile and Elijah admitted that before joining Partners, they were both shy by nature. They attribute “coming out of their shell” to their College Prep mentors who were not only super-enthusiastic, encouraging, and knowledgeable about academic content, but were also genuinely supportive of their personal growth and development. Proof positive: Telling this to 360 high school students!

For 32 years and counting, the Partners mentorship model has been the not-so-secret sauce in a thoughtful and effective community recipe. Partners supports our scholars with academic mentoring and tutoring throughout their three years in the program with an innovative curriculum and adaptive learning tools implemented through the after school and summer academies. As Maile and Elijah remind us: the critical core of the Partners experience is—and will always be—the high-quality, personal relationship between these Oakland middle schoolers and their College Prep mentors.

In her blog from The Chronicle of Evidence-based Mentoring, research pioneer Dr. Jean Rhodes highlights the features of highly-effective mentoring, of which a key component is the alliance between mentor and mentee. According to Dr. Rhodes, creating a collaborative, purposeful bond around common goals and tasks, with empathy and attunement, fosters a safe, productive framework for teaching and learning. This aptly describes the Partners experience.

In this year’s report, you will have the opportunity to view and celebrate the Partners mentorship framework: caring, helping relationships; bonds of trust and forays into risk; and mutual collaboration and high expectations. Our advocacy for educational equity and social justice—Partners’ enduring strengths—would not be possible without your generosity. Thank you for your open-heartedness and support!

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

With gratitude,

Samuel F. Beltran
Director, The Partners Program
SUMMER ACADEMY (SA) 2018

Partners Summer Academy 2018 energized the idyllic College Prep campus for the 32nd consecutive year from June 16 through July 14. 90 students from 23 different middle schools in Oakland and the surrounding East Bay area engaged enthusiastically in academic skill-building, socio-emotional learning, and the mentorship model. This summer’s theme was to unpack the often used terms “Grit” and “Resilience.” Angela Duckworth’s research on grit and resilience applies to the Partners mode: Partners scholars’ three-year experience supports the development of passion and perseverance towards goals, aspirations, and hopes. The 22 ninth graders of the Partners Class of 2018 matriculated to ten different high schools in the Oakland area. The Partners community celebrated the Class of 2018 graduation on July 14—each mentor praised each ninth grader in detail and challenged them all to create a high school experience filled with joy, success, and college-bound intentions! 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 another high-tech, innovation workshop for our scholars called “the Raspberry Pi Robot Car,” which was a STEM-infused introduction to coding and robotics. We continued our electives, such as Science Lab, Improvisation and Yearbook, as well as grade-level field trips to an Oakland urban farm (7th grade), San Francisco Chinatown history and cultural institutions (8th grade), a visit to Youth Radio, and a college tour of UC Berkeley for the 9th graders, complete with a presentation by the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP). EAOP collaborates with Partners and other peer programs to empower under-resourced students and prepare them for college and career success.

Cynthia Geddes Service Award Recipient: Breana Townsend

Breana Townsend was a Partners student from 2011-2014 and served as a Partners Summer Academy Mentor from 2015-2018. Hailing from Westlake Middle School, Breana went on to graduate from Envision Academy (Oakland) in 2018 and now attends Stanislaus State College. Breana is the recipient of the 2018 Cynthia Geddes Service Award because 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

PARTNERS IMPACT

100% Partners scholars identify as college-bound
32 Years that Partners has been serving the Oakland community
75% Partners scholars qualify for Federal free or reduced meals
100% Students of color in Partners
$0 The cost to a Partners family for their child to attend Partners for three years
17 College Prep students/alumni as Summer Academy 2018 Mentors
6 Partners alumni as Summer Academy 2018 Mentors
60 High school mentors/tutors in 2017-2018 Academic Year Mentoring after school tutoring
ACADEMIC YEAR MENTORING (AYM)

Partners Academic Year Mentoring (AYM) continued the momentum in between summers with its best-practice, 1-to-1 ratio tutoring model. After piloting a small expansion in 2017, Partners increased its reach and range in 2018 beyond its three formal partner middle schools. In 2018, Partners mentors worked after school with 45 students from nine middle schools in Oakland. Partners mentors traveled weekly to KIPP Bridge Charter and Claremont Middle School. In addition, Partners tutored after school on-campus at College Prep on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. More than just a homework club, Partners AYM challenged our scholars and built-up their skills weekly through an adaptive learning software platform from Freckle Education. Freckle utilizes a differentiation platform for student learning allowing them to learn and grow at their personalized level and pace. Through the generosity of the Joseph and Vera Long Foundation, Partners mentors collaborated with their middle school students using new Chromebooks over the adaptive Freckle platform. The Partners 1-to-1 AYM afterschool mentoring and tutoring model is thriving and evolving to support Partners scholars and meet their needs at every level during the academic school year!

HIGH SCHOOL ADVISING (HSA)

The Partners High School Advising component provided guidance and advising to our 8th grade scholars throughout the OUSD public, charter, parochial, and independent school applications process. The high school application season began in September 2017 with the Lick-Wilmerding High School Fair, where 8th grade public and parochial school students were invited to learn about Bay Area high school options. Partners provided workshops and family advising conferences throughout the Fall and Winter. Also, Partners staff were available to 8th graders and their families for support with the student’s personal statement and family essay on a regular weekly basis leading up to the application deadline. Partners provided 8th graders with a standardized test prep and test skills workshop on Wednesdays through a collaboration with The Compass Education Group, a national leader in the field of test preparation. Partners continued the high school information nights with the College Prep Admission Office to present an in-depth seminar for students who are 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 school experience for a student of color and about important financial aid issues. The results for 2017-2018: 22 Partners scholars matriculated into 10 top-tier, college preparatory high schools in the Oakland area.
Partners Alumna: Hannah Anderson

The impact of The Partners Program continues far beyond a three-year, academic enrichment program. The skills that students learn and the experiences they have at Partners set them on a successful path for high school and beyond. Partners alumna, Hannah Anderson, says it best, “The Partners Program helped me feel confident in who I am and gave me a leg up in high school.” Graduating from The Partners Program and Claremont Middle School in 2014, she entered Oakland Technical High School ready to take on the challenges of high school. Hannah pushed herself to enter the Computer Sciences and Engineering Academy and reached out to her teachers to pursue exciting internships at The Oakland Education Fund and to network with professionals at Uber and Pinterest. Hannah credits The Partners Program with giving her the skills to take those risks, noting that Partners gave her the ability to “present my ideas, speak with adults, and take advantage of summer learning rather than confining learning to the school year.” With these skills, she participated in a Makers Workshop, learning how to code in C++ and Python, and eventually developed a fire danger meter. Hannah gave back to Partners by working as a mentor during the Academic Year Mentoring program in the 2016-2017 school year. She developed a wonderful relationship with her mentee, Dinah Cobb—a Claremont Middle School 7th grader at the time—who now attends Oakland Technical High School with Hannah! The Partners Program is excited to continue supporting Hannah as she applies for college!

Mentors / Mentees

Student: Ja.Marr Robertson, 8th grade, KIPP Bridge Charter Middle School
Mentor: Hannah Hayes, College Prep ’19

What’s your favorite thing about Partners?
Ja.Marr: I love Summer Academy Family Group Advisory (a period during summer when a co-hort consisting of students from 7th, 8th and 9th grades meet with their mentors to learn about social emotional learning) and hanging out with mentors and friends. I also love academic class time and field trips!
Hannah: My favorite part of Partners is chatting with my mentee. I enjoy hearing about their day and hearing stories from their week. I also really enjoy elective clubs during the summer because it’s an extended period of time to get to know the students outside of an academic setting. One final part of Partners I love is seeing the students grasp a concept that they were struggling with.

What are some things you’ve gained through Partners?
Ja.Marr: I’ve learned how to be kind, how to give and get love from everyone at Partners, and I’ve learned a lot more about math!
Hannah: I have gained better conflict resolution skills. I have also learned new ways to explain math and I’ve gained an appreciation and respect for middle school students.

Student: Ratia Hernandez, 7th grade
Edna Brewer Middle School
Mentor: Aaron Ouyang, College Prep ’19

What’s your favorite thing about Partners?
Ratia: I really enjoy the people I get to meet at Partners and the help the mentors give me. The activities are also fun!
Aaron: My favorite thing about Partners is the opportunity to teach students important academic skills. Through that teaching, I get to form close bonds with the students!

What are some things you’ve gained through Partners?
Ratia: I’ve learned a lot about how to work in groups and build teamwork. Partners has also helped me with my English work and I’ve made a ton of friends!
Aaron: I’ve learned how to effectively break down concepts to teach to mentees and how to build close friendships with them. It’s a joy to watch a mentee finally understand a difficult concept.
2017-18 Generous Supporters of Partners
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Oakland Unified School District
Planting Justice
UC Berkeley Admissions Office
Youth Radio

Academic Year Mentoring (AYM) Program
KIPP Bridge
Salomé Portugal, Upper School Lead
Inti Chomsky
Maria Ronquillo
Claremont Middle School
Jonathan Mayer, Principal
Edana Anderson

Summer Academy Field Trip Destinations
Cal Adventures Ropes Course
Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco
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Youth Radio

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Thank You!
We appreciate everyone who generously supports The Partners Program!
A Note from Our Chair

Dear Friends of Partners,

I have the distinct pleasure to assume this role from my predecessors, Jim Gilliland and Steve Berger, the previous Chairs of The Partners Program Board of Trustees. On behalf of the entire Partners community and The College Preparatory School, I would like to extend an enormous debt of gratitude for Jim and Steve’s tireless work over the past decade and more. Their dedication, devotion, financial support, and care for the Partners’ community of middle school students, mentors, and teachers remains unmatched.

The Partners Program exists due to the extraordinary support of donors, the committed administrative team, and the effective mentors who understand the power of changing a student’s trajectory through education and mentorship. The Partners model is to go “deep” rather than to go “big”—it is a craft approach geared to make a lasting impact on almost 100 students’ lives each year since 1986.

The Partners Program mentoring model is unique in its approach to helping motivated Oakland Unified School District students develop the study habits, learning skills, and drive to push their academic and social development to the next level. Its “near peer” model during the Summer Academy and in the Academic Year Mentoring components allows for a natural and meaningful relationship to develop between middle school students, high school mentors, and dedicated teachers.

The Board’s goal is to continue the governance work that began under the leadership of Jim and Steve, and to ensure that Partners thrives academically and financially for years to come. Partners is now over 32 years old and we continue to build on the thoughtful work of all who conceived of and grew this relevant program.

With your help, we will continue to inspire and support a love of learning in generations of students. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

Sincerely,

Arpad Molnar
Chair, The Partners Program