Executive Director Message

As we reflect on another year of living through the pandemic, I’m struck by how much this community has stepped up. You have been adaptive, giving, and creative in how to link arms with our young people in moving forward. Students are making progress on their goals, and are navigating new transitions to education or careers. Our collective has been a consistent and stabilizing support for returning students — and it takes all of us to make that happen. Thank you for the many ways you have shown up for our community!

In this annual report, you’ll see a snapshot of what our work has looked like throughout a pandemic response. You’ll see that we served fewer students, but we went deeper with the students who were able to stay connected to us. Our direct service hours increased as we navigated shifting and emerging challenges with students — interpreting vaccination protocols for different schools, tracking changes in class modalities, and connecting to community health resources. The drop in total students served and completions reflects the larger community disconnection that we’re seeing in K-12 and colleges. The numbers of young people who remain disconnected from K-12 schools across Washington state after the last school year is daunting (around 25,000). Many communities and technical college partners are down in enrollments by 10%, so we have work to do as we turn a corner in the pandemic.

And yet—through the challenges of the past year, we found joy: the artistry of a student’s puppet show at our first-ever Talent Show, celebrating new graduates, welcoming new staff and volunteers. Thank you for your steadfastness during the pandemic, and for your excitement as students hit milestones.

Onward!

Laura DiZazzo

Executive Director, Northwest Education Access
Student Survey

NW Education Access conducted a survey in winter 2021 with the purpose of deepening our understanding of how students are experiencing our program. We are beginning to implement improvements to our program, based on student insight collected through the survey. Survey topics included school preparation and connection resources, school climate, social and emotional learning, Education Advocate support and relationships, frequency of contact with Education Advocate, mental health, and COVID-19 impacts on education.

We collected a variety of demographic information from students. 305 students responded to our survey, and we’re excited to share some of our takeaways with the community:

- Overall, students report having strong relationships with their Education Advocates (EA), especially students who have been in the program longer. Students with strong EA relationships also score higher in school preparedness.

- The impact of COVID-19 on educational pathways weren’t all negative – a switch to entirely online learning was a positive experience for some students.

- A high number of students met diagnostic criteria for further screening of major depressive disorder (38.1%) and generalized anxiety disorder (39.1%)

- Students with disabilities consistently responded with lower scores across many survey topics including EA relationship scale, school preparedness, EA support scale, when compared with students who do not have a disability.
Northwest Education Access
2020-2021 Report

EXPENSES
$2,284,042

- Program: 81%
- Administration: 9%
- Fundraising: 10%

REVENUE
$2,789,677

- Contracts: 55%
- Foundations, Grants, Corporate: 27%
- Individuals: 9%
- Others: 9%

2020-2021 Corporate & Foundation Donors

Amazon
Anderson Foundation
Apple
Auburn School District
Ballmer Group
BECU Foundation
Ben B. Cheney Foundation
Boeing Company
City of Seattle
Community Center for Education Results
Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop
Ellison Foundation
Ernest R. and Audrey M. Turner Foundation
F5 Networks
FiveBy Solutions
Glaser Foundation
Google
Green River College
Heritage Bank
Highline College
Impact 100 Seattle
Kaiser Permanente
Kirkpatrick Family Foundation
Krueger Sheet Metal Company
Major League Hacking
Manix Carby Foundation
Medina Foundation
Microsoft
Mud Bay
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Northwest Children’s Fund
Optimal
Oracle
Pluggable Technologies
Port Jobs
Puget Sound Energy Foundation
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Red String Foundation
Renton Technical College
Rotary Club of Seattle - International District
Safeco Insurance Foundation
Salesforce.com
Satterberg Foundation
Seattle Central College
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation
Sunshine Fund
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Trufant Family Foundation
Ulmschneider Educational Foundation
Union Bank
United Way of King County
VMware
Washington State OSPI
Windermere Real Estate - Capitol Hill
Windermere Real Estate - Greenwood
Workforce Development Council of King County

Students Served: 820
2,608 served since 2011

College Prep Program
473
- Students Received Assistance
30
- High School Equivalencies Earned
121
- College Placement Exams

College Success Program
347
- College Students Served
109
- Students Started College
71
- Students Graduated with a Degree

You helped award: $268,821 in scholarships and COVID emergency funds to 277 students!

Student Body

- Low-income: 100%
- Experienced homelessness: 48%
- 1st gen high school graduate: 50%
- 1st gen college attendee: 76%

- Male: 41%
- Female: 52%
- Transgender/gender non-conforming: 7%

28% Black/African American/African
25% Latinx
22% White/Caucasian
14% Multi-Racial
6% Asian/Asian American
2% Native American
2% Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
1% Other

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