RESILIENCE, EMPOWERMENT, PERSISTENCE

Annual Report 2017

CV COLLEGE VISIONS
My arrival at College Visions for me means coming full circle. I arrived in Providence many years ago as a teenager with my mom as she sought new opportunities for our family. Growing up in New York was fun, which made it easier to deal with the fact that we were a family living in poverty. The move to Providence was designed to help us shift into a better economic condition. Unfortunately, it did not work out that way.

Adjusting to Providence was hard, and attending high school here was a lot more difficult than I anticipated. Nevertheless, like many of our College Visions students, I felt that continuing my education was a way to guide my family out of poverty. There were many challenges that I encountered as a first-generation college student and I think back to what an organization like College Visions could have done for me.

The lessons I learned were tough but, I am grateful to have experienced them. I would have never guessed that my first professional position would be working in higher education as a college admissions officer. It is often said that your purpose in life is dictated by your adversities and passion. I agree with this concept. I now have the honor to work for first-generation and low-income students as they pursue their dream of a higher education.

College Visions students face their own challenges as they follow their educational aspirations. With guidance from our staff, they have been able not only to attend the colleges and universities of their choice, but they have also persisted to successfully earn degrees. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child; in our case, it takes a dedicated team to help guide and motivate students.

I am very proud of our students, they work hard, they participate in our programming even during the summer months and they are willing to challenge themselves in terms of what their own futures will look like. They are just beginning a challenging journey. With your support, our students will continue to strive for academic excellence.

Now more than ever it is important that everyone in our democracy has an opportunity to not only improve themselves, but also their communities. That work starts with generosity like yours. I leave you with an old African proverb, “I am because you are, my humanity is tied to yours.” College Visions is a family and we are humbled that you are willing to join our circle.

Respectfully,
Nick Figueroa
Executive Director
High school students come to College Visions with big goals, boundless energy, and limited knowledge about how to apply to and succeed in college. We provide 1-on-1 mentorship that helps young people and their families choose colleges with high graduation rates, strong supports for first-generation students, and excellent financial aid.

Thanks to our holistic approach, 100% of College Access Program students receive an offer of college admission and 97% enroll in college immediately after high school—in comparison to only 59% of Rhode Island students in the class of 2015 (RI Kids Count).

OUR FOCUS

1-on-1 Admissions Advising: Each student meets with their staff advisor every other week throughout 12th grade to develop polished application materials.

College Knowledge Workshops: During the summer before 12th grade, each newly admitted CAP student completes intensive college preparation workshops.

Campus Visits: College Visions sponsors campus visits and supports students’ applications to college-sponsored visits. Students visit schools as close as Rhode Island College, and as far away as Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and Salem College in North Carolina.

Family Engagement: Families engage with College Visions through individual meetings, a fall open house, and workshops throughout the year.

The College Access Program helps young people take a big step toward making the dream of a college degree into reality.

“IT'S A FAMILY! I HAVE GOTTEN SO MUCH SUPPORT AND OWE MY SUCCESS TO COLLEGE VISIONS!”

Jennifer Recinos
Brandeis University, Class of 2014
Admissions Technology and Operations Coordinator,
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Enrolling in college is a big, brave step for low-income, first-generation youth, but it’s only the first hurdle on the path to a degree. In 2015, only 29% of graduates from public high schools in Rhode Island’s core cities who enrolled in college returned for a second year of college (RI Kids Count).

The College Success Program ensures that low-income, first-generation students receive the guidance, support, and resources they need to navigate financial, academic, emotional, and personal challenges. As a result, 94% of students persist to their second year of college. And 65% of College Visions students earn a degree within 6 years of enrollment, compared with only 21% of low-income, first-generation students nationally (Pell Institute).

OUR FOCUS

**1-on-1 Success Coaching:** Advisors provide college students with individualized coaching sessions at our office, on campus, by phone, and online. Coaching empowers students to solve problems, take advantage of campus-based resources and stay on track to graduate.

**Affordability:** College Visions helps College Success students maintain strong financial supports through FAFSA completion, budgeting, and by providing small grants to help students cover emergency expenses.

**Transfer Coaching:** For most College Visions students enrolling in community college is the first step to earning their bachelor’s degree. Advisors assist students in selecting transferrable courses and navigating the admissions process.

“To be a first-generation college graduate means success. It is the determination to attain an education despite the obstacles that an individual faces every day. It means being a role model, providing opportunities to those who come after me, and giving thanks to those who came before and supported me. Thank you to College Visions for providing opportunities for all first-generation students to be successful.”

Rosa Thao
*Salem College, Class of 2015*
The Future of College Visions

With your support, College Visions provides the holistic and caring advising that helps young people achieve outstanding outcomes. Unfortunately, there is also a large unmet need for the services we provide.

Low rates of college enrollment and persistence among low-income, first-generation students show that our young people need more support on the path to and through college. In particular, Black and Latino Rhode Islanders hold bachelors’ degrees at rates significantly lower than the average rate for the New England states and slightly lower than the national average: 18% for Black and 12% for Latino Rhode Island residents.

These numbers are troubling, however, College Visions provides a solution. Our programs show that when young people get the support they need, they do persist to earn degrees. And a college degree represents not only the achievement of a personal dream, it also allows young people to give back to their families and communities, and grow the ranks of highly skilled workers who are so essential to our region’s future.

Your investment in College Visions supports today’s youth and generations to come.

Strategic Goals

Provide empowering mentorship and support services to 400 students in 2019.

Celebrate our 400th College Visions graduate by 2020.

Build capacity to share our expert knowledge with educators and youth workers in order to reach thousands more students by 2020.

“It’s hard to imagine a better investment than education, and the powerful commitment of College Visions to their students make supporting them a particular joy.”

Maria DeCarvalho
Co-Director, Minds at Work, LLC
College Visions Donor

“Supporting the work and mission of College Visions is really a selfish act. When a young person gains access to and then succeeds in college, not only does that individual’s prospects for the future brighten, but my entire community benefits. There are dozens of examples of College Visions alumni who have come back and worked right here in Providence and helped to make our city a better place to live.”

Timothy Monroe
Executive Director of Development
Rhode Island School of Design
College Visions Board of Directors Chair

“My wife and I feel College Visions and the work they do within Rhode Island is extremely important, more so than ever in this current climate. The most amazing part is hearing first hand from high school seniors, current college students, and alumni. Each one of their stories embodies the mission of College Visions and how my support could directly help these young people.”

Joshua Wynn
Senior Application Analyst, Lifespan
College Visions Donor
“I am really looking forward to completing the application process for my study abroad trip next semester to Florence, Italy! I am excited to travel across the ocean for an amazing experience. I want to thank CV and all its supporters for this opportunity. Without you, I don’t think I would be in college or be able to do the great things I’m doing now. Thank you!”

Julio B.
*Rhode Island College, Class of 2019*
## REVENUE

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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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## EXPENSES

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<td>Programs</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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## Donors

### FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

- The Angell Foundation
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- BankRI
- Barrett Family Foundation
- Bhikaji Maneckji Fund
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island
- Blue State Coffee
- The Carter Fund
- The Champlin Foundations
- Charles and Nancy Dunn Family Fund
- City of Providence, Community Development Block Grant
- Cox Charities
- CVS Health
- Dexter Donation Fund
- Episcopal Charities of Rhode Island
- Frederick C. Tanner Memorial Fund
- H. T. Ewald Foundation
- Harry, Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- June Rockwell Levy Foundation
- Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Lyman B Brainard Family Foundation
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- MetLife
- Otto H. York Foundation
- The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation
- Providence College
- Providence Shelter for Colored Children
- Rallis Conover Family Fund
- Rhode Island Foundation
- Robinson Mountain Trust
- Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee
- Simple Pleasures
- Janice and James Prochaska
- Jack and Fran Steele
- Abbot Stranahan
- Jennifer Wood and Bob Lee
- Rafael A. Zapata

### Grants

- 73.43%

### Earned Income

- 7.44%

### Events and Sponsorships

- 2.93%

### Individual Donations

- 15.87%

### Other Income

- 0.33%

**2016-2017 Financials**

**Special Events**

- 2.38%

**Capital Purchases**

- 0.63%

**Essential Infrastructure**

- 1.99%

**Programs**

- 6.17%

**Occupancy**

- 79.65%

**Personnel**

- 79.65%

- 3.12%

**Total Revenue**

- **$772,318**

**Total Expenses**

- **$648,394**

- **$50,924**

- **$11,878**

- **$64,216**

- **$1,253**

- **$516,457**

- **$20,203**

- **$40,029**

- **$15,411**

- **$122,554**

- **$2,543**
Donors (continued)

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Katrina Ole-MoYoi
Simon Phipps
Ellen Polansky
Catalina Regino
Patricia Riggs
Joshua Rodriguez
Henry Rodriguez
Hanna Rodriguez-Farrar
Michael Rogers
Bill Rosen and Sandi Rosen
Liuba Shapiro
Marcia Russell
Hillary Salmons
Michalene and Tim Schechter
Daniel Schleifer
David Seidman
Peggy and Henry Sharpe
Karen Sheahan
Julie Steffes
Tracy Steffes
Deborah Steinberg and Bob Solomon
Mary and Jay Steinberg
Judith Swift and Charles Cofone
Dominique Taylor
Rosa Thao
Carlos Then
Jill and James Tobak
Catherine Tyler
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Carol Umanzor
Emmanuel Ventura-Urena
Gretchen Verner
LaTasha Walker
Jenni Weiner
Karin and Edward Wetherill
Erin Wright-Gandhi
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Jing Yuan and Matt McDonald
David Ziff
Seth and Tonya Zilmring

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“...I would like to say thank you to our advisors and to all of those people behind the scenes that help College Visions exist. Without donors none of this would be possible, and I am truly thankful. Stay awesome!”

Naomi B.
E-Cubed Academy, Class of 2018

k denotes a gift in memory of Kolajo Paul Afotobi
a denotes a gift by College Visions students or alumni
“College Visions has always motivated me and helped me reach for the stars. Helpful, reliable, and kind-hearted staff are three terms I can describe that make College Visions meaningful to me. Thank you College Visions supporters!”

Janice R.
Rhode Island College, Class of 2021