



The Boston Higher Education Resource Center

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

“I would be lost without Passport. We’ve learned a lot that my school has not taught us about applying to college. My goals include having a Master’s degree in political science and linguistics, owning a house and investing money into nonprofit organizations that can help the community like Boston HERC.”

—ERICK JUAREZ

Passport to College Student, Class of 2019



“My mom was born in Mexico and came here with very little. She moved to the United States to offer us better opportunities, so for me going to college is like a big thank you to her. I want to study business in college and be an entrepreneur, and Passport is my place to get motivated to get there.”

—KEESHAWN DIXON

Passport to College Student, Class of 2019



DEAR FRIENDS,

Seventeen years ago, one of the Boston HERC's "best and brightest" students came into my office in tears. Odelyn had just failed out of her first semester of college. The unfamiliarity of the college environment hit her hard, and as a first-generation student, she had no one to help her navigate this strange new world. In my office that day, Odelyn resolved to enroll in community college, prove herself with perfect grades, and transfer to a four-year school. That is exactly what she did—today she has fulfilled her dream of becoming a physician.

But the day she came to my office shook me. Odelyn was one of our most promising students. And if she should struggle so profoundly in her first year of college (as have so many other first-generation students of color), I knew the Boston HERC needed to do much more to prepare the hundreds of youth we serve to enroll and thrive in college.

Fast forward seventeen years and over 2,000 Passport to College program graduates, and that's what YOU continue to make possible. Passport Scholars are just as smart and resilient as second generation college students. But the challenges they face are much greater. Through Passport, scholars develop and practice the skills they will need to thrive in college. In this past year, your support has allowed over 500 students from 6 Boston Public High Schools and our community-based program to gain the skills to enroll in college, live out the Greatness within them, and transform their communities. This coming year, your support will continue to propel those students, as well as allow youth from our newest partners—two additional "turn-around" Boston Public High Schools—to access the resources provided by Passport.

For helping us discover and serve many more Odelyns, thank you,



SAM ACEVEDO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROGRAM IMPACT

2017-2018

125 PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS POWERED

SEVEN PASSPORT COACHES

All first-generation college graduates.



TO SERVE

579



PASSPORT TO COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

At six high schools and one community-based program.



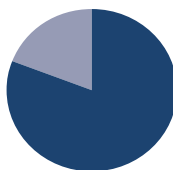
229

SENIORS COMPLETED
PASSPORT TO
COLLEGE



192

OF THOSE SENIORS
(84%) ENROLLED
IN COLLEGE



81%

OF THE PASSPORT CLASSES
OF 2016 AND 2017 CONTINUE
PERSISTING IN COLLEGE

2,000+ PASSPORT TO COLLEGE
ALUMNI TO DATE

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL PARTNERS

Brighton High School
Charlestown High School
Dearborn STEM Academy
East Boston High School

The English High School
Jeremiah E. Burke High School
Josiah Quincy Upper School
Margarita Muñoz Academy



JAVIER SUAREZ

Junior at Regis College
Passport Alumn, Class of 2016

Within a few minutes of meeting Javier, you get the impression of a young college student leader filled with passion and drive. But when Javier first met his Passport Coach at Margarita Muñiz Academy, college was not even a thought in his head. He would be the first in his family to graduate high school and knew his mother would be proud of that. He also couldn't imagine finding a way to pay for college. Every time there was a Passport workshop, he mentally checked out and didn't participate. But Javier's Coach knew he was selling himself short and encouraged him to try.

Javier applied to 12 colleges, and was accepted into every single one. He chose Northeastern's intensive Foundation Year program to set himself up for success. When he struggled in his first semester, he reached out to his Passport Coach who he had stayed in touch with. His Coach connected him to a peer mentor on his campus, and Javier seized the opportunity to work one on one with someone who was more familiar with studying at the college level and the academic resources on campus.

Javier began to excel and earned a full ride scholarship to Regis College where he is now a junior majoring in Global Business Administration and Minor in Accounting and Economics with a 3.4 GPA. He is a campus leader—President of the Latin American Student Organization and the VP of his dorm hall. In anticipation of graduation, he has begun

to explore how he will start up businesses in Boston by connecting with business owners from the city.

Javier explains, "If it weren't for Passport, I would've gone right into the workforce after high school and that high school degree wouldn't have been enough. My mom brought me here from Puerto Rico to better our lives—I don't want to just stay in the same economic situation I grew up in. I also want to be in a position to help Latina single moms and their kids know about all the educational opportunities available to them, all the opportunities I missed out on because we didn't know about them."

SKYE WARREN

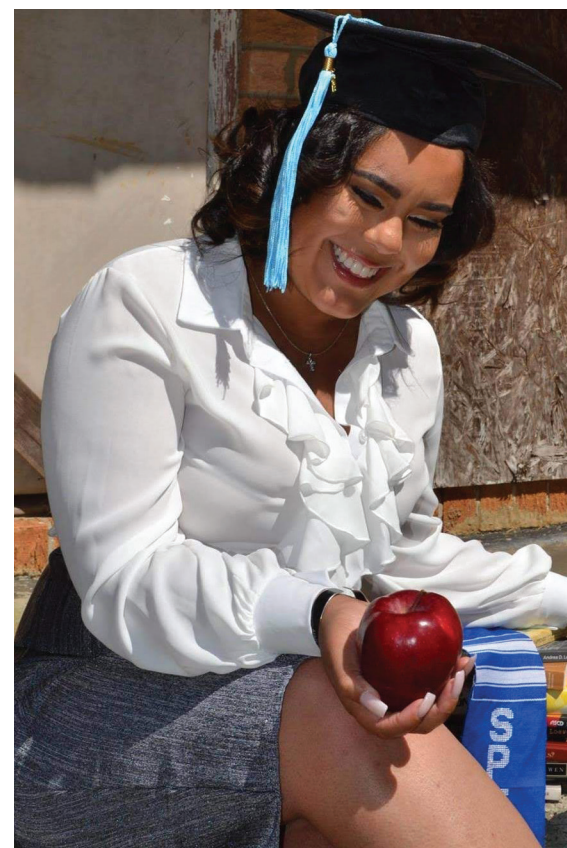
Middle School Teacher
Passport Alumna, Class of 2013

Skye's first year of high school was rough. "As a Black and White student from the inner city at a predominantly white suburban school, I had never in my life felt like such an outlier. I couldn't compete academically," she says. She decided to spend the summer teaching younger kids of color and to then transfer to Fenway High School. That summer turned out to be a defining moment in her life. "I made the connection that I was part of the academic opportunity gap. And it wasn't just about math and science. I was so surprised that many kids really didn't know how to read. I knew I wanted to be part of changing that."

At Fenway, Skye found Passport to College and developed her plan to become a teacher. She is quick to disclose that she gave her

Coach a run for her money, "My Passport Coach was a light in my life and I just didn't want her to be at the time. But I am so grateful for everything she did for us and how much she cared. She literally saved my life." While others were pushing her to apply to community colleges despite her high GPA, her Coach supported her aspiration to apply to Historically Black Colleges. Skye was accepted to Spelman College and graduated with honors, earning her BA in Early Childhood Education. She is now in her second year teaching seventh grade history and is her grade level chair at her school in Houston, Texas.

As a Passport Alumna, Skye has taken on leadership roles including as an inspirational Passport classroom speaker. And her career journey has just begun. She plans to pursue a PhD in educational leadership and begin a school back home in Boston to help close the academic opportunity gap that first hit home for her in high school. Passport looks forward to partnering with her!





“I give to HERC because I know from my own experience as a first-generation student that with every Passport student we impact, we are making a difference in the whole family of that student.”

—DAZLEE ALVARADO

Boston HERC Donor

It takes a village of philanthropic partners to power the Boston HERC.

Every Passport Scholar who enrolls in college, transforming their life and their community, is a testament to the power of your support. Last year, we doubled the number of individuals investing in the Boston HERC and the Passport to College Scholars. Our goal, over the next five years, is to significantly grow our donor base and contributions, even as we continue to grow support from generous

philanthropic institutions. Whether an institutional donor with years of commitment or an individual who recently joined as a \$10 monthly donor, we are grateful for each of our partners. Every gift matters. As this village grows, our desire is to see the opportunity gaps confronting Boston's students of color recede into a distant memory.

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS:

Liberty Mutual Foundation
Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation
State Street Foundation
Boston Public Schools
City of Boston Office of Workforce Development
Amelia Peabody Foundation
Imago Dei Fund
Hestia Fund
Highland Street Foundation
Yawkey Foundation
The Boston Foundation
City of Boston Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement
Oasis Systems
Ida S. Barter Trust
Eastern Bank Foundation
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation
The Philanthropy Connection

INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Anonymous Donors
Acevedo Family
Alvarado Family
Rachel Alvarenga
Priscilla Angenor
Mariette and Euri Ayala
Trudy Beato Mirambeaux
Jacquelin Bedoya
Ethel Best
Pat Bonner-Duval
Peg and Bill Bonnice
Robert and Nancy Bradley
Delmy Chacón
Tom and Nancy Colatosti
Ari Comart
Kim Comart
Michaelyne Cooper
Tobin and Jen Cormier
Robin Coyne

David Diaz and Elizabeth Palma-Diaz
Diaz Family
Nika and Marcos Elugardo
Catherine and David Faddis
Paul and Betty Francisco
Janet Franklin
Stan and Judy Gaede
Frank Guerra
Beata Herenia de Hernández
Carolee Howell
Kurt and Mary Jamiel
Jennifer and Dano Jukanovich
Damian Lima
Juan Lopera
Azarie McField
Bayron McField
Bernice McField-Avila
Roy McField Johnson
Brian Marques
Tammy and Pat McLeod
Omar Medina

Karen Mejia
Mildred Mejia
Danielle Mendola
Roberto Miranda and Mercedes Lopez-Miranda
Maretta Mitchell
Will Morales
Ximena Narvaez
Trinh Nguyen
Eridania Pereira
Jean Peteet
Hector and Nivia Piña
Silvia and Brian Powers
Bob and Liz Pozen
Mike and Madeleine Prendergast
Clariza Prieto
Meliza Prieto
Miguel Prieto
Suyeng Quant
Roxana Ramirez
Arnolt Ramos
Derek and Karen Reed

Isaías Rivera
Regina Robinson
Mayra Rodriguez
Carolina Samudio-Ortega and Emmanuel Ortega
Ramon Sanchez
Nelva Santiago
Wilson Santos
Steve Sieker
Klare Shaw
Lauren Shepard
Mick Da Silva
Robert Simpson
Patricia Sobalvarro
Josette Teneus
Jonatan and Tricia Toledo
Zayda Tovar
Alberto Vasallo
Ja-Hon Wang
Orlando Watkins
Dave Zagunis and Annie Rodriguez



The Boston Higher Education Resource Center
62 Northampton Street, 4th floor
Boston MA 02118
bostonherc.org
(617) 442-5608

For nearly 20 years, the Boston Higher Education Resource Center (HERC), and its signature Passport to College Program, has equipped first-generation youth of color to gain access to a higher education, break the cycle of poverty, and become agents of change in their community. The program is Latino-led and culturally-sensitive, and dedicated to first-generation, low-income youth who are attending under-resourced, non-exam Boston Public High Schools.

© 2018 The Boston Higher Education Resource Center