



ACCESS
OPPORTUNITY

A YEAR OF IMPACT

2017-2018

**“The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away.”**

- William Shakespeare

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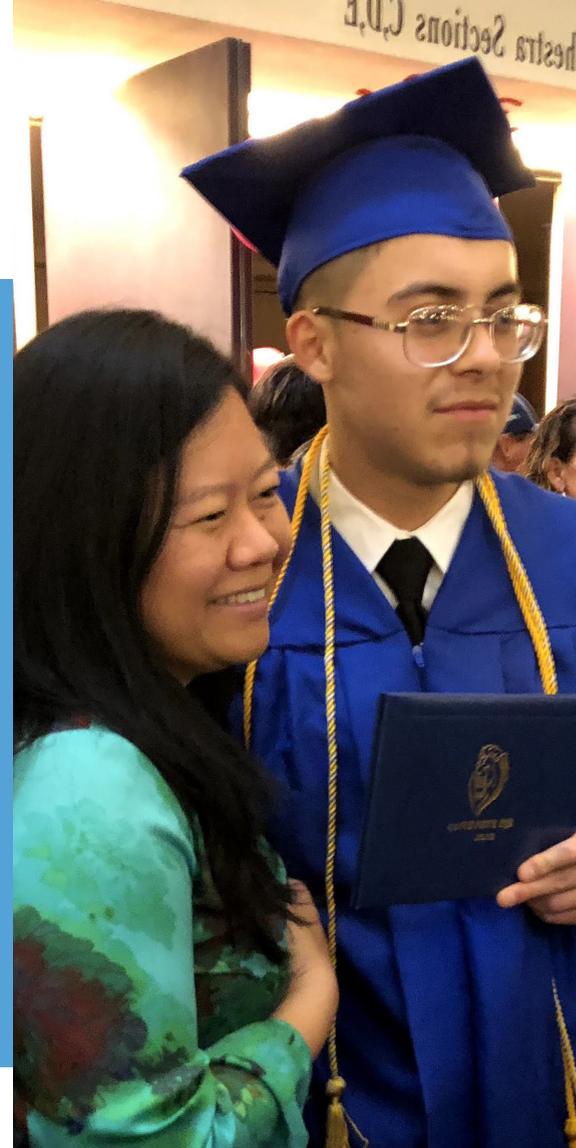
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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Recently, I went to my daughter's preschool graduation. These occasions make us proud because they help us mark growth and celebrate the gifts in our lives.

A few days later, I attended Ivan's graduation where he was one of the speakers. Again I was proud, but it struck a deeper chord when I saw his mother look at him, tap her heart and say, "Muy contento."

Ivan's mother did not go to high school. As a janitor at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, she could glimpse the opportunities that other people's children had. So she and her husband enrolled their sons in a rigorous charter school. Working jobs where they had little control over their own schedules, they somehow got their sons to every scholarship conference, every soccer practice, and every after-school job. And now their first son was crossing over into a world Ivan's parents glimpsed every day. He is headed to the Colorado School of Mines and catapulting into a vastly different life that will be full of choices and celebrations of many milestones met.

As you flip through our Annual Report, I hope we are able to recreate for you what I am so privileged to be a part of every day – the sense of a door flung open, a bridge being crossed, a bright future ahead.

With sincere thanks for your role in impacting our students' futures,

Yuri Shane
Executive Director



OUR MISSION is to create opportunities for high-potential, low-income students to define their individual paths through high school, college and career, ultimately impacting the lives of others.

OUR VISION is to connect the potential of extraordinary students to extraordinary opportunities.

CHAPTER ONE

WE ARE ACCESS OPPORTUNITY

A GLIMPSE AT ONE AO STUDENT'S JOURNEY



1999 Asiyah was born in Denver on January 9. Her name means “caring one” in Arabic.



2000-2012 Asiyah becomes a big sister to three sisters and three brothers.



2002 Asiyah eats a nickel for lunch and earns her first trip to the hospital.

Asiyah's favorite family recipe: her grandma's curry chicken and rice!

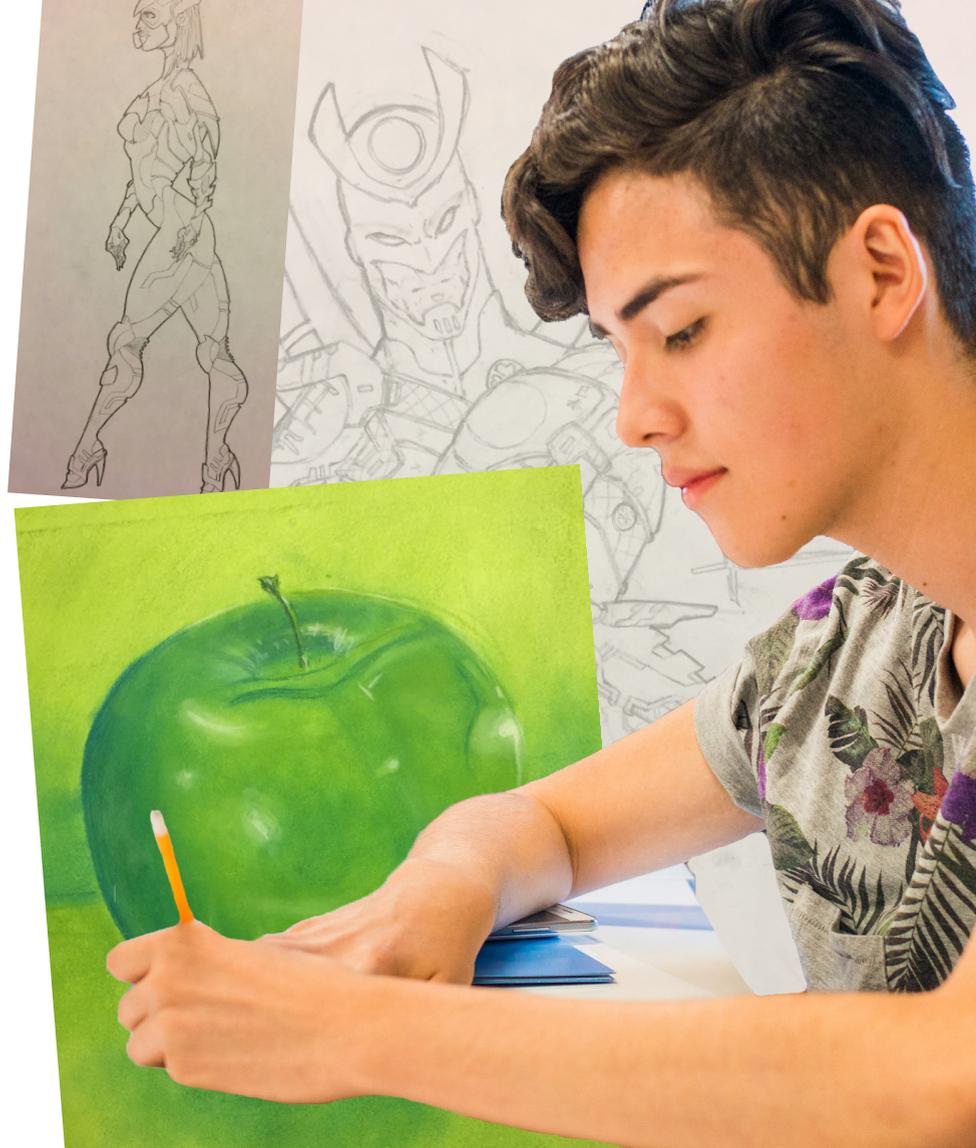
- 1-1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into 1/4-inch strips
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2-1/2 teaspoons curry powder
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves minced
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 1 green bell pepper finely chopped
- 1/4 cup plain low fat (2%) or whole Greek yogurt (do not use nonfat)
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 4 cups of basmati white rice



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

LUIS

“Coming to this country was hard, for both my parents and me. We had to learn a new language and adjust to a new culture. Thinking about my parents having to leave their families and their country behind really makes me value my education.”



WHAT

Access Opportunity is a six-year program that supports the most talented low-income students who have the power to make great impact.



ACCESS COLLEGE

- During high school
- One-on-one counseling
- Tutoring and test prep
- College Connect



ACCESS CAREER

- During college
- College and financial coaching
- Job exploration
- Internship support

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT



OUR APPROACH

We're helping pave the way for first-generation students to pursue their college and career dreams and impact their families and their communities.

FUEL MISSION

By raising funds in support of AO students, their scholarships and initiatives



STEP
01



STEP
02

UNLEASH POTENTIAL

By preparing students to become the best possible applicant, student and professional

FIND PURPOSE

By helping students define their values and goals and refine their skills



STEP
03



STEP
04

IMPACT LIVES

By inspiring involvement and advocacy within our students and our community

GROWTH



NEW AO PROGRAMS

- 1 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**
- Offered financial aid workshops in English, Spanish and Vietnamese to 139 participants
 - Partnered with volunteers to offer bilingual communication



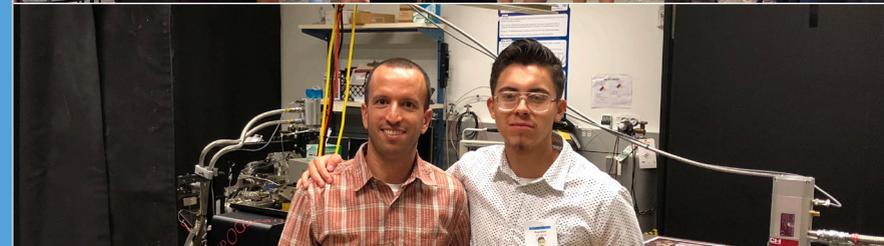
- 2 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING**
- Applied for and received an \$18K grant for curriculum and training
 - 2018 curriculum included identity development, suicide prevention, and leadership coaching



- 3 JOB EXPLORATION**
- Over 30 students, across all four classes, participated in the job exploration program
 - Engaged 15 different host companies in 15 different industries



- 4 COLLEGE CONNECT**
- Developed and ran Colorado's first college fair for low-income or first-generation students
 - 11 colleges and over 100 students and family members attended



WHY



“My family came to the US seeking a better future. They didn’t have the opportunity to attend college. Going to college will start a better life for my family and me.”

- Camilla



“I want to give back to my city - Denver. I want to help the people that I’ve grown up with by starting my own organization that will support with food, housing, and more.”

- X'Zayvonne



“I understand the sacrifices my parents made for me. Going to college is immensely important to me because my parents didn’t have the support they needed to attend college.”

- Natalie



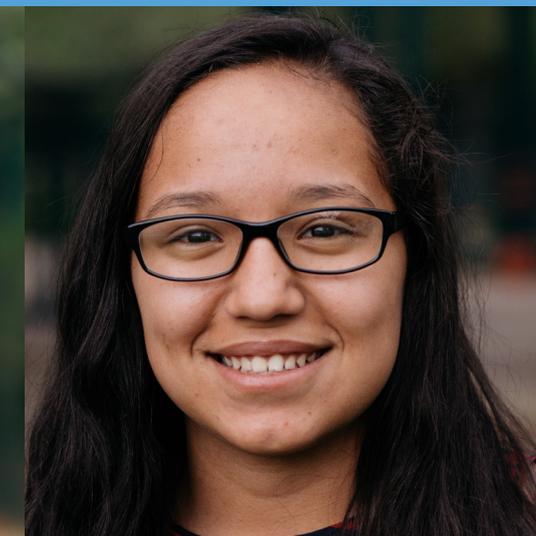
“I want to start a clinic for a low resource community or a program for low-income schools that have a high drop-out rate, so they know they are capable of much more.”

- Itzel



“I never knew how our family would be able to afford college. Growing up in a low-income family, I was always a step behind other students, so I prioritize hard work.”

- Nik



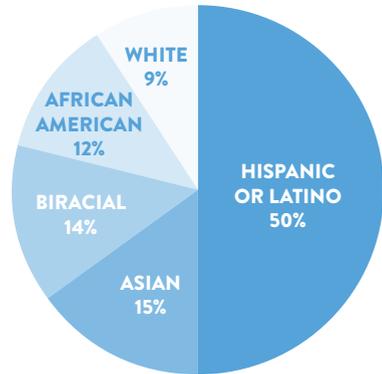
“My family is my strength and the drive that pushes me to continue my education. I am forever grateful for the sacrifices they’ve made to give me so many opportunities.”

- Emily

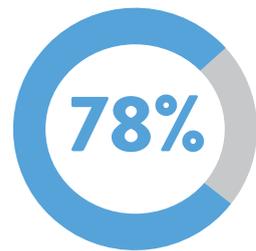
OUR STUDENTS

OUR 52 STUDENTS PROUDLY HAIL FROM 9 COUNTRIES ACROSS 5 CONTINENTS

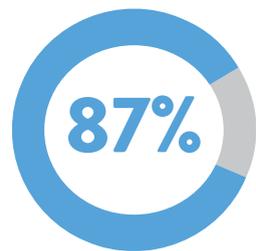
ETHNICITY



MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME AND AVERAGE SIZE



78% RANKED IN TOP 10% OF THEIR CLASS



87% FIRST GENERATION TO ATTEND COLLEGE

81% HOLD A LEADERSHIP ROLE

71% ARE BILINGUAL

9 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

+4 AVERAGE ACT SCORE INCREASE

CHAPTER TWO

THANK YOU. GRACIAS. CÁM O'N.



2008 Asiyah's entire family attempts a camping trip to celebrate Eid, which marks the end of Ramadan, and half the group ends up going home before nightfall!



2013 Asiyah starts at Denver South High School and joins the Bridge Project and Save Our Youth, which help her stay focused in school and give back to her community.



2015 Asiyah joins Access Opportunity! (And gets to meet the Bachelor, Ben Higgins, at her first Raise a Class)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ANANDA

“About two years ago, my family made the brave decision to come to the US from Uganda in hope of better opportunities. I did not know what to expect when coming to America, but I knew that I wanted to empower myself through education in order to give back to my community. I am hopeful that one day education will allow me to make a significant contribution to the world.”



THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTERS

DOCTORATE (\$10,000+)

Adolph Coors Foundation
Ball Corporation Employee Matching Gifts
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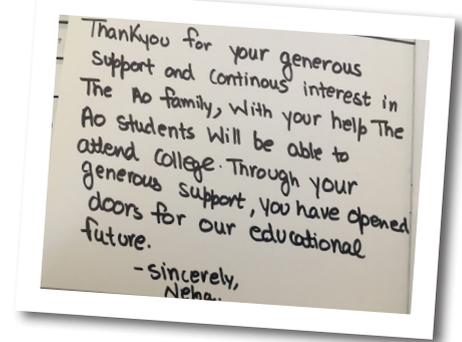
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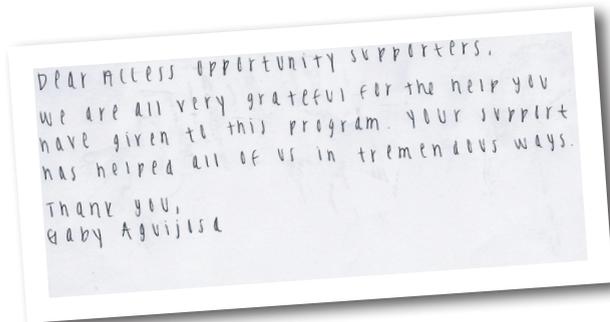
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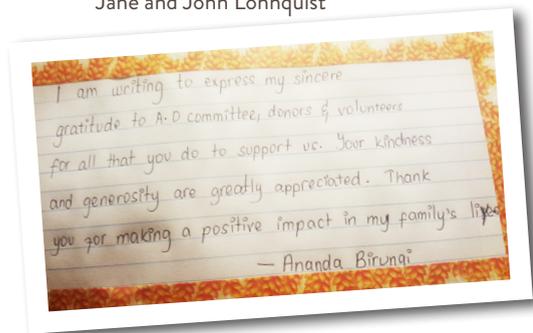
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 Brooke Wylie



“Education is a great gift to help empower individuals and communities at large. Access Opportunity provides guidance and access to quality higher education for students. Our family is grateful to be a part of this exceptional organization.”
 – Chally Wiener, AO Board Member

CHAPTER THREE

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



2017 Asiyah gets elected President of South High School's National Honor Society.



2017 Asiyah graduates from South and gets accepted into DU, where she starts in the fall of 2017.



2018 Asiyah travels to Japan with DU and gets to visit Hiroshima.



2018 Asiyah attends March for Our Lives in Washington, DC.

CALVIN

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

“My parents were refugees coming from Vietnam. My mother worked multiple jobs and my father worked hard labor in order to provide for my family. Everything was a hurdle, whether it was learning a new language or trying to understand American traditions. With this in mind, I want to return the sacrifices my parents made for me.”



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

VOLUNTEERS

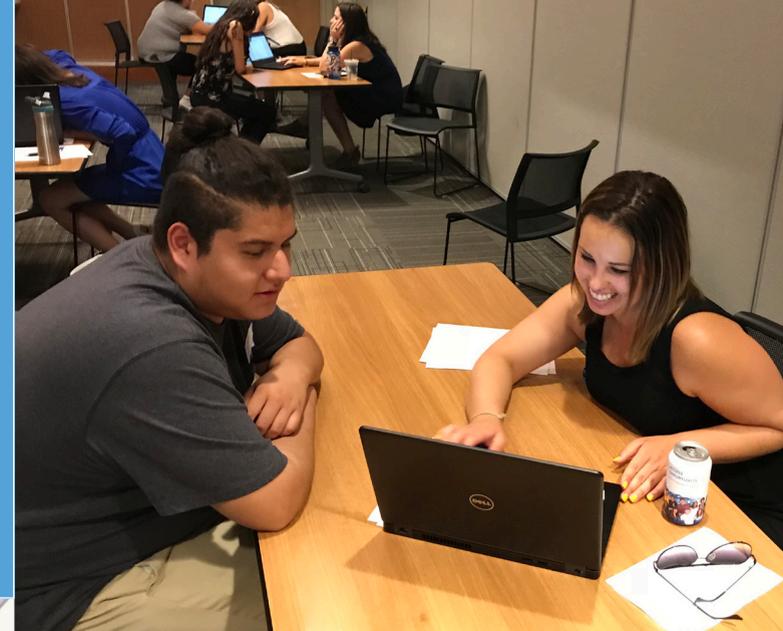
“I am involved with Access Opportunity because I love helping these intelligent, hard-working students get meaningful support that can make such a huge difference in their lives.”

– Francesca Painter, AO Board Member



“Recently I had the privilege of interacting with four AO students who want to pursue an education in law, the profession in which I have spent nearly 20 years. The AO students I interacted with came prepared with insightful questions and unique perspectives on how the law has inspired them to pursue fields from immigration to patent law. Having come from a background similar to that of the AO students, I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to these talented students.”

– Georgia Montoya, AO Board Member



“I was truly reinvigorated by these students. Their complex backgrounds, personal stories and professional ambition not only floored me, but left me truly excited for this next generation of leaders.”

– Noah Clark, AO Volunteer



COLLEGE CONNECT • JOB SHADOWING • RAISE A CLASS • TUTORING • NETWORKING • APPLICATION REVIEW • STUDENT WORKSHOPS

CHAPTER FOUR

KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING



2018 AND BEYOND Asiyah is extremely passionate about female empowerment: their rights, education, culture, religion, and mental health. We are honored to be a part of her journey and can't wait to see what the future holds. We know one thing for sure — she's going to change the world! - *The AO Team*

GABY

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

“I will be the first in my family to attend college, the first to step foot on a college campus and in a dorm room. I will also be the first to walk across a stage receiving my high school diploma in a cap and gown with my family cheering me on from the crowd.”

MOM,
YOU ARE MY LIGHT
AND KEEP ME STRONG
THE BEST THINGS IN MY
LIFE HAVE HAPPENED
BECAUSE OF YOU
WHERE WOULD
I BE WITHOUT
YOU?

I LOVE YOU!
-GABY ♡





RAISE A CLASS WITH ACCESS OPPORTUNITY

Our incredible community came together again to celebrate our students at our third annual **Raise a Class** event. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and grateful to share that we raised over \$435,000 for our program.

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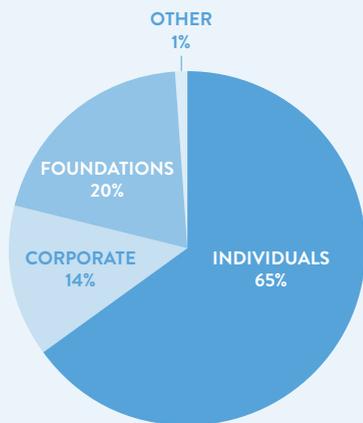
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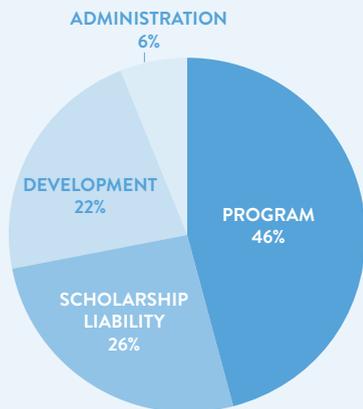
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2017-18 FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

REVENUE



EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

REVENUE: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Individuals	\$497,598
Corporate	\$119,183
Foundations	\$110,250
Other	\$11,579
TOTAL	\$739,609

EXPENSES: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Program	\$210,502
Scholarship Liability	\$120,000
Development	\$103,689
Administration	\$28,070
TOTAL	\$462,261

SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE FUND	\$277,248¹
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¹ Our excitement continues as we, again, raised more than we spent during our third year of programming. As scholarship payments have started to be made, the positive cash flow is extremely important to the success of our program and students.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(as of 6/30/2018)

Total Current Assets	\$1,117,119
Total Fixed Assets	\$10,357
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,127,476
Total Liabilities	\$295,173 ²
Total Equity	\$832,303
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,127,476

²\$290K of scholarship liability has been booked for our two classes of college students.

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Special thanks to Oakley Ogden for consulting on our social-emotional programming, Francesca Painter for her coaching and leadership development, and to Lindsey Bergstrom, Poppies & Paisley Photography, and John Snelson for the photos in our Annual Report.



For more info or to make a donation,
please visit: www.accessopportunity.org



ACCESS OPPORTUNITY
1871 Folsom Street, Suite 110
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