Letter from the Director

Dear Richmond Promise Friends,

This past year has been a year of exciting growth and opportunity for the Richmond Promise. With our fourth and largest Scholar cohort being welcomed into our family this spring, we will have over 1200 Scholars attending over 90 colleges and universities nationwide this fall!

I’m so excited to present this report, which will detail the impact we’ve created along with our partners and students over the past year. In response to our students’ voices and reflecting on our data, we have grown our programs to better support our local students as they prepare for college and our College Scholars as they continue through their higher education journeys. Next year, we will have our first graduating class of Richmond Promise Scholars, and we cannot wait to see what they accomplish!

This work would not be possible without the strength of our community of partners. Our teachers, principals, counselors, partner organizations, institutions of higher education, donors, and champions make the vision of the Promise a reality every single day. Our students are the future of this city - and we see a day when every young person in Richmond has the opportunity to define and own their future and become a leader of positive change in their community and the world.

Together,

Jessie Stewart
Executive Director

“We see a day when every young person in Richmond has the opportunity to define and own their future.”
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## Our Mission

We see a day when all children in Richmond have access to high-quality education, excel from high school to higher education, attain a postsecondary degree or certification, thrive in the field of their choice, and become a leader of positive change in their community and the world.
Our Strategy

We work at key momentum points in the student lifecycle where we know we can have the biggest impact.

Middle School
- Building College Awareness
  - Middle School U

High School
- Ensuring College Access and Affordability
  - Richmond Promise Scholarship
  - Financial Aid Completion
  - College Success Workshops

College
- Achieving College Success
  - College Partnerships
  - Coaching
  - Career Mentorship
  - Campus Networks
The Scholarship

The Richmond Promise invests directly in our students’ futures through the Richmond Promise Scholarship. Scholars receive $1,500 each year at any not-for-profit 2-year or 4-year college or Career Technical Education Program. We strive to support all students in Richmond to reach their higher education goals, which is why any Richmond student graduating from an eligible high school can access the Scholarship. Recognizing that tuition is just part of the equation, our scholarship dollars can be used towards the full cost of college attendance - including books, transportation, and housing.

Beyond the dollars, being a Scholar means receiving annual financial aid advising, access to coaching, and a homebase of college and career support. As of Fall 2019, there will be over 1200 Richmond Promise Scholars attending over 90 colleges and universities nationwide!

“Besides covering costs I can’t afford to pay out of pocket, knowing that the Richmond Promise Team is there for me and will help me continually navigate through the strange world that is the college campus really makes all the difference.” — Richmond Promise Scholar

Our Scholars

Number of Scholars Per Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Scholars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ETHNICITY

- 60% Latinx
- 15% African American/Black
- 12% Asian
- 9% Other
- 4% White

GENDER

- 62% Female
- 38% Male

70% FIRST GENERATION

65% LOW INCOME

Data as of March 2019
Program Spotlight:
Financial Aid Completion

During this past school year, we piloted an in-school financial aid completion program through which we worked with 445 seniors at De Anza and Kennedy High Schools. We hired 11 of our current College Scholars to work in class during the school day to support students on FAFSA, Dream Act, and the Richmond Promise Scholarship.

“I once knew what it felt like to be overwhelmed by the stress that a senior would encounter, especially with financial aid. So having the opportunity to give back by helping students with their financial aid and lift up a little bit of weight off their shoulders was an amazing experience.”

— Richmond Promise Scholar & Near-Peer Ambassador
OUR IMPACT

774 scholars in college full time

$5.4 M pledged in scholarships

Middle School U

85% of middle school students said that working with the Near-Peer Ambassadors helped them to learn how to set goals and take steps towards them

“What I liked most was... That they [taught me that I can have] a bright future”
— DeJean Middle School Student

Financial Aid & Scholarship Application Completion

711 scholarship applications received from Class of 2019

325 students served at De Anza HS

120 students served at Kennedy HS

91% FAFSA/Dream Act Completion of students served at Kennedy HS

21% increase in Richmond Promise Scholarship Application Completion

College Success

70% of all Richmond Promise Scholars are persisting in college

82% of Class of 2018 Enrolled on-time and full time into college

134 Class of 2018 students Enrolled into the Contra Costa College Promise Scholars Program

Executive Director Jessie Stewart awarded the 2019 West Contra Costa Unified School District Partnership Award

13 Richmond Promise Scholars hired as Summer Associates

253 1-1 Near-Peer Appointments between current and rising Richmond Promise Scholars

Data as of March 2019
Looking Forward: Ensuring College Success

On average nationally, only 9% of low-income people receive a bachelor’s degree by the age of 24, compared to 77% of high-income people. The Richmond Promise exists to change this status quo for Richmond students. To ensure young people in Richmond have the opportunity to benefit from, participate in, and shape the future of Richmond, we must invest in their success now.

Currently, 70% of Richmond Promise Scholars continue to move towards their degree. While this is above the national average for first generation, low-income students, we will not be satisfied until the gap is closed and every Richmond Promise Scholar has the tools and resources to be successful through their degree. In 2019, we aim to increase the college success of our students through:

- Deepening partnerships with Contra Costa College, Berkeley City College, and other priority colleges
- Texting campaigns around key deadlines
- Coaching through Beyond 12
- Expanding our career mentorship initiative for 2nd year+ college students

Program Spotlight: Mentorship Initiative

In order to begin preparing our students for career success, we piloted a Mentorship Initiative in which 20 mentors from the Richmond community were matched to Richmond Promise Scholars. Mentors support students as they progress in college through career exploration, resume building, networking skills, and more.

“I have been enjoying getting to know Merari and I look forward to our monthly face-to-face meetings. She is very passionate about working with youth, and her excitement for and engagement in that work are inspiring.”
— Mentor: Rachel Sommovilla, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Richmond

“One of the best things I have learned from my mentor thus far is to find new life experiences and step out of my comfort zone a little more. She introduced me to an amazing organization that goes hand in hand with not only my interests but also my major.”
— Mentee: Merari Castillo, Richmond Promise Scholar, CSU East Bay, ’20
Support the Promise

GIVE TO THE RICHMOND PROMISE
Help us keep the Promise forever and give the gift of college today. $1,500 provides an annual scholarship to a student from Richmond.

VOLUNTEER
Contribute your time and expertise to support the growth and development of the Richmond Promise.

BECOME A CHAMPION
Officially endorse the Richmond Promise. Contribute programmatic resources and help spread the word to ensure eligible students access the scholarship.

Donors and Champions

The Richmond Promise is a 501c3 nonprofit, and all contributions support our mission of creating a college-going and graduating culture throughout Richmond.

SEED FUNDING
The Richmond Promise was created through a community benefits agreement between the City of Richmond and Chevron Richmond Refinery, which granted a seed investment of $35M distributed over 10 years.

OUR SUPPORTERS
Alexander Teran
Allen Uzzell
Anna Sturkey
Autumn Gray
Bill Lindsay
Bob and Sharon Peter
Brandon Carlson
Brian Gillis
The California Endowment
Chamberlin Family Foundation
David and Nancy Sparrow
Douglas Howard
East Brother Beer Co.
Flora Family Foundation
Ivette and Lamarr House
Jack Woodruff
Jacqueline Sloves
Jimmy O’Dea
Joanna Pace
The Joseph and Mercedes McMicking Foundation
Judy Castro
Leticia Graham
Mechanics Bank
Michael and Susan Carson
Michelle Rodriguez
Mojdeh Meh dizadeh
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
Overaa Construction
Rebecca Murillo
Richmond Wholesale Meat Co.
Robert Mendoza
Sam Robinson
Sara Hundt
Sarah Carson
Sims Metal Management
Susanna Nordrum
Travis Credit Union
Yvette Soto

For more information on ways to get involved, visit:
www.richmondpromise.org/give

*Data as of April 8, 2019
Financials

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget

- **74%** Scholarship
- **11%** Student Support Programming
- **9%** Operations
- **6%** Fundraising

Support and Revenue

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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
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Expenses

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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
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Gregory Singleton
Richmond Promise Scholar
El Cerrito High School, ’18
Berkeley City College
Major: Animation
OUR SCHOLARS ARE LEADERS WHO WILL SHAPE RICHMOND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

www.richmondpromise.org