Student/Partner ALLIANCE

2019 Annual Report & Our Graduates

www.studentpartneralliance.org / 1 908-522-0405/ akent@studentpartneralliance.org

Student/Partner Alliance

Student/Partner Alliance (S/PA) is a New Jersey non-profit organization, which provides economically disadvantaged, but motivated youth from NJ's urban cities with private high school tuition assistance and mentoring support to help them to earn their high school diplomas and pursue college opportunities.

100% of Partner contributions goes toward student scholarship support

2050 number of scholarships since inception in 1993

100% of S/PA scholarship recipients who gained admission to college in the past 6 years

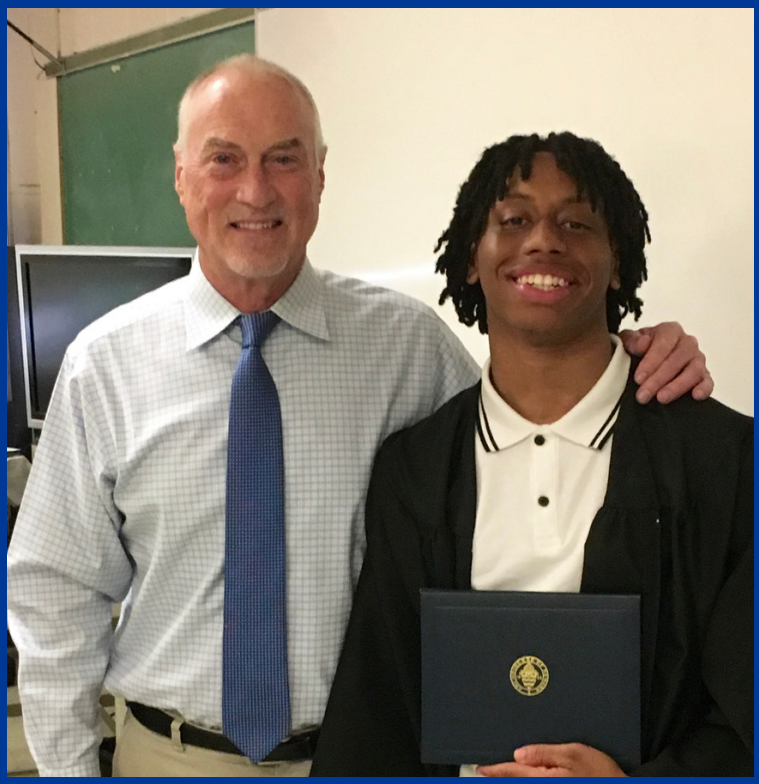
Statistics
7 SCHOOLS

Benedictine Academy
Cristo Rey - Newark
Hudson Catholic
Immaculate Conception
Marist
St. Benedict's Prep
Saint Vincent's Academy

Our Model

We are affiliated with urban high schools that provide a college preparatory education with high expectations in a safe, structured environment, thereby increasing graduation rates and chances for success in college and future careers.

S/PA is unique among Northern NJ scholarship organizations because we provide both tuition assistance and mentoring support for urban youth.



Seniors
Seniors

Our Funders

The Achelis & Bodman Foundation
American Express Foundation
Anonymous
Boffa & Company
Marilyn S. Broad Foundation
Celgene
Community Congregational Church (Short Hills)
Christ Church (Summit)
The Della Rosa Family Foundation
Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation
Mary A. & Thomas F. Grasselli Endowment Foundation
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Hyde & Watson Foundation
Investors Bank and Foundation
Legacy Care Wealth, LLC
Liberal Finance Service
Link Family Foundation
Edmond & Virginia Moriarty Foundation
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.
PSEG Foundation
Louis J. & Fannie Roncoli Foundation
Fred C. Rummel Foundation
William E. Simon Foundation
Sobel & Co., LLC
Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation
Sweetie Pig Foundation
Turrell Fund
US Bank
George A. Ohl, Jr Trust of Wells Fargo
Withum Smith & Brown, PC

Our President

Emmett Daly

Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P.
Principal

I've had a lot of successes over the years, but none as personally rewarding as my mentoring experiences with Student/Partner Alliance(S/PA) a Summit-based non-profit that provides scholarships and mentors to urban high school students.

Our non-profit works with our nearby low-income high school kids in New Jersey's urban areas. We provide financial aid for them to attend better high schools and, just as important, each student is also assigned an adult mentor, a big brother or big sister so to speak, for those 4 critical years. S/PA provides formal mentoring training and arranges for several events throughout the year, and each mentor can make his or her experience a personal one.

The students I've mentored have been all over the map - athletes, scholars, artists, aspiring musicians. They all want the opportunity to learn, they just have never been given the resources or personal attention to do so. The common deterrent is poverty and often a troubled family situation. S/PA can't fix all their problems, but we certainly give them a desperately needed boost!

What an amazing experience it has been to guide as many as 10 kids over the years, from vulnerable, disadvantaged teenagers to confident, college bound young adults!!! As President of S/PA for the past 10 years, I have spread the power of mentoring to many of our local NJ friends. It is a fun and rewarding way to make a big difference in someone's life.

For twenty-five years, S/PA has supported motivated urban high school students at private Catholic high schools in New Jersey's Essex, Union, and Hudson counties. S/PA is unique among Northern New Jersey scholarship organizations because we provide both tuition assistance and mentoring support for urban youth. This pairing of financial and personal support has resulted in a 100% high school graduation and college enrollment rate for S/PA students over the past five academic years.

Our Graduates

Benedictine Academy

Thailina Marrero
Felician University

Sara Jaquez
Rutgers University

Cristo Rey - Newark

Derrik Jones
Union County College

Airlene Pierre
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Sharon Williams
Rutgers University

Our Graduates

Hudson Catholic

Anneury Familia
Rutgers University

Moses Garcia
AMDA

Javier Herquinigo
NJIT

Pamela Rodriguez
Rutgers University

De'Wayne Sims
Bloomfield College

Quincy Slay
Seton Hall University

Our Graduates

Immaculate Conception High School

Celine Barnett
New Jersey City University

Nathaniel Brown
Montclair State University

Jah-simer Hill
Dominican College

Kayla Monroy
Montclair State University

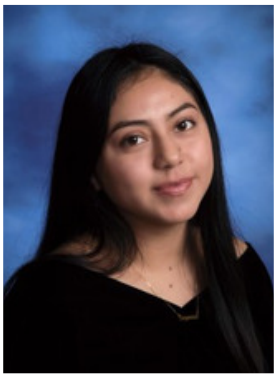
Javanni Phipps
University of Hartford

Juan Carlos Rodriguez
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Our Graduates

Immaculate Conception High School

Nayelly Siguencia
Rutgers University



Dayanna Vera
College of Saint Elizabeth

Patricia Ward
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Patrice Ward
Rutgers University

Our Graduates

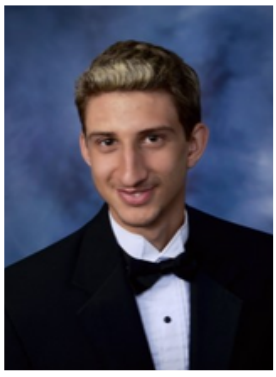
Marist High School

Cain Brandon
New Jersey City University

Tatiana McDougald
Parisian Beauty Academy
Paul Mitchell Partner School

Kayla McIntyre
Rutgers University

Jade R. Nicholson
William Paterson University



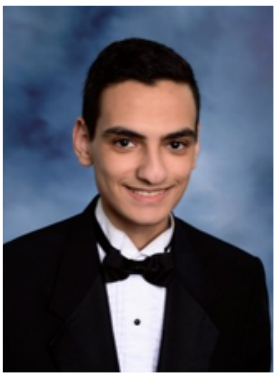
Jared Radil
Montclair State
University

Sha'Nia Rivers
William Paterson
University

Our Graduates

Marist High School

Bemin Shaker
Stevens Institute of Technology



Tyaisha Smith
Stockton State University

Romesha Wade
Delaware State University

Our Graduates

St Benedict's Preparatory School

Johnathan Groomes
Essex County College

Samuel Appiah Kusi
Monmouth University

Larocher Paul
Caldwell University

Jerry Tranquilus
Rutgers University

Our Graduates

Saint Vincent's Academy

Jene Abraham
Hudson County Community College

Enyonam Amenasor
Rutgers University

Amani Barnard
Montclair State University

Yasmine Benjamin
Bloomfield College

Laila Jones
Rutgers University

Milly Maza
Rutgers University

Our Graduates

Saint Vincent's Academy

Hervluida Metelus
Rutgers University

Shania Mosquera
Saint Peter's University

Brianna Oskar
Montclair State University

Mentoring Works

"Growing up I didn’t have many people to help and guide me because everyone in my life was working to be able to provide for me. Then, I was admitted into the Student/Partner Alliance program. Having a mentor was life-changing for me because I had someone to rely on, push me to do better, and be a positive influence for the different stages I went through. My mentor was a support system that at first I resisted because I didn’t know how to have one, but he worked diligently to help me. Knowing someone was in my corner helped me excel and become the man I am today.

I chose to be a mentor at St. Benedict’s Prep because growing up in Newark I know how easy it is to become a product of my environment. Knowing that I have the ability and experience to make a change in someone’s life the way mine was impacted was an easy choice for me.

Once I became a mentor I knew that I wanted to do more, I decided to join the Board and become an advocate for the communities that Student/ Partner Alliance serves. I wanted to make more of an impact than just 1 person, that is why I decided to continue to push for my fellow alumni to come back and mentor with me. We were all in there at one point in our life so being that change agent will help build a better tomorrow for the youth."

-Chris Beltran, St. Benedict's Prep ('07), mentor, and Board Member

Mentoring Works

Aracely Tagliaventi, Marylawn of the Oranges ('06) recently reconnected with us again. After serving as the staff attorney for the Honorable Stephen L. McIntosh in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in Columbus, Ohio for the past 4 1/2 years, she started working as an Associate Counsel at the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) in February and reports that she "is loving it!"

Aracely attended The College of St. Elizabeth('10) and Capital University Law School('13). Her experience as a S/PA student continues to influence both her personal and professional life.

Aracely notes, “I am so glad that I was a S/PA student because it made me feel like someone was invested in me. I wasn't very confident when I entered my freshman year, but being part of the S/PA kids made me feel like I had something to be proud of. I knew that it was a privilege to be included in the group and the fact that I was selected out of all of the students who applied made me realize that people believe in me, and I can believe in myself.”

Mentoring Works

Thailina has always known that she wanted to work as a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit because she herself was in the NICU as a baby.

Her mentor helped support her as she went through the college application process. She notes, "My mentor gave me tips about the college process as well as informed me about information I needed through my four years"

When the acceptances started rolling in, Thailina had over 12 schools to choose from. She ultimately decided on Felician University because they have a great nursing school and she can’t wait to start in the fall.

This summer she will be working at Kiddie Keep Well Camp, a non-profit camp in Edison, NJ provides a residential camping experience to underserved children in Middlesex County. We can't wait to hear back from Thailina as she comes even closer to her dreams.

Our Board of Trustees

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Principal – Sandler O'Neill & Partners

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Partner and Investment Committee Member Star Mountain Capital

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Retired – Development Director Member Community Agencies Corporation of NJ Protestant Community Center

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