

# 2022 Annual Report & Our Graduates





## 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%

2,300

100%

of partner contributions goes toward student scholarship support

number of scholarships since inception in 1993

of S/PA scholarship recipients who gained admission to college, post secondary schooling, or armed services in the past 10 years



# Statistics

## 5 SCHOOLS

Hudson Catholic High School  
Immaculate Conception High School  
St. Benedict's Prep  
St. Benedict's Prep Girls' Division  
St. Dominic Academy  
Saint Vincent 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.**

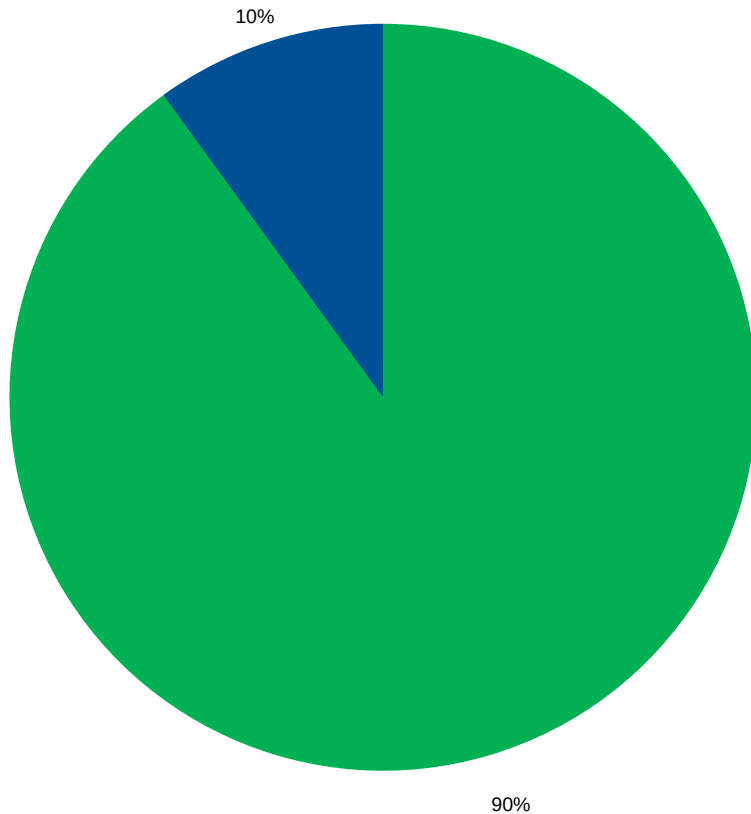


# Why Mentor?

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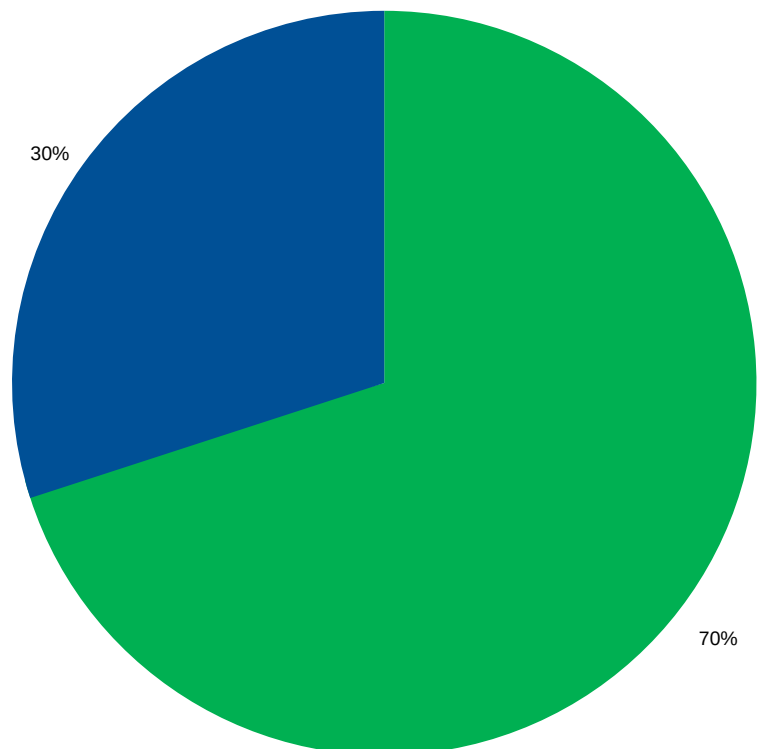
Did you know? Young people who are at-risk for not completing high school but who have a mentor are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who don't have a mentor, 81% more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, 78% more likely to volunteer regularly and more than twice as likely to have held a leadership position in a club or sports team.

([www.mentoringeffect.org](http://www.mentoringeffect.org))



90% of S/PA students come from homes with family incomes of less than \$45,000 annually

70% of S/PA students come from single parent households





# Our Funders

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The Achelis & Bodman Foundation  
American Express  
Anonymous  
Boffa & Company  
Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
The Della Rosa Family Foundation  
Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation  
DiPaolo Family Foundation  
Mary A. & Thomas F. Grasselli Endowment  
Foundation  
E.J. Grassmann Trust  
Healy Foundation  
Hyde & Watson Foundation  
Investors Bank and Foundation  
Legacy Care Wealth, LLC  
Liberal Finance Services  
Link Family Foundation  
Edmond & Virginia Moriarty Foundation  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.

Piper Sandler & Co.  
PSEG Foundation  
Rotary Club of Summit/New Providence  
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  
Walsh Family Fund  
Withum Smith & Brown, PC



# Our President

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## A note from our President, Emmett Daly, Managing Director, Piper Sandler, & Co.

S/PA had another unique but highly productive year. Despite the lingering influence of COVID, our students got back on track, with full in-person learning. We finished the year with approximately 185 students in the Program and we have 40 seniors prepared to graduate and advance to college.

We're excited to be moving into our 30th year of providing a high-quality high school education and mentoring to lower income students in New Jersey's urban areas. We started S/PA out of a shoebox in a basement in Short Hills. Today, we are a vibrant organization, with a highly professional staff and board using modern marketing, fundraising, governance, and management skills to ensure our future.

As I've done for my 12 years as President, I first thank our mentors. Your role is what personalizes and differentiates the Program. Your guidance, compassion, and willingness to adjust to each school's in-person reentry plan was incredible. We were pleased to welcome quite a few new mentors to our program, including many alumni from the schools that we support.

To our funders, you once again answered the call of this deserving cause. You gave these lower income high school kids the financial support to weather another difficult year. We were able to continue to supplement financial aid to many students this year because of your deep generosity.

To our schools, you navigated a tricky situation and delivered high quality educations as always. Thank you for working with us to allow for in-person mentor/mentee meetings and for encouraging the students to attend our virtual mentor events.

To my loyal team of employees and board members at S/PA, you surprised me again with further creativity in fostering mentorship and building our sound financial position. The steady stream of enrichment sessions were particularly popular. And, most importantly, you did all this while still caring for your own families as they navigated through COVID.

As the fall of 2022 approaches, we will welcome 50 new freshmen. On behalf of all involved, I commit to continuing to make a meaningful impact on the next generation of students.

Emmett J. Daly  
President of the Board

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# Our Graduates

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## Hudson Catholic High School



Junasia Achille  
NJ City University

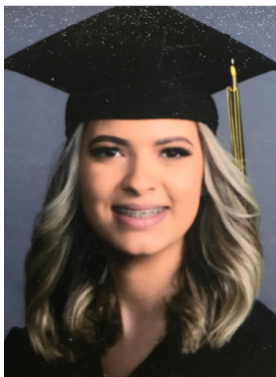


Briana Karioki  
Saint Peter's  
University

Jordan Alix  
Montclair State  
University



Jason Quinones  
Montclair School  
of Real Estate



Sabrina Diaz  
Montclair State  
University



Jeremy David  
Taveras  
Saint Peter's University

Brielle Hodge  
Norfolk State  
University



Taj White  
Rutgers University





# Our Graduates

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## Immaculate Conception High School

Jamal Benjamin  
Montclair State University



Graeme Davis  
Seton Hall University



Judson Jean-Jacques  
Kean University

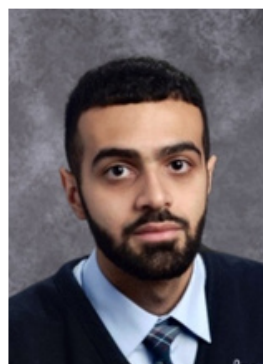
Calin Gordon  
New Jersey City University



Josaih Lawrence  
Kean University



Autumn Jacobs-Wright  
Massachusetts College of  
Pharmacy and Health  
Sciences



Damien Martinez  
United States Marine  
Corp



# Our Graduates

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## Immaculate Conception High School

Jarysela Romero  
Seton Hall University



## Roselle Catholic High School

Janai Campbell  
Kean University



Kyla Smith  
Clark Atlanta University



Judith Dodoo  
New Jersey Institute of  
Technology for Digital Design

Niyah Whitten  
University of Bridgeport



## St. Benedict's Prep

Malachi Armour  
Raritan Valley Community  
College



## Paramus Catholic High School

Abiba Guira  
Seton Hall University



Yamil Harris  
Villanova University



# Our Graduates

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## St Benedict's Prep

Nestor Martinez  
Skidmore College



## St Benedict's Prep - Girls Division

Bryanna Morrero  
Felician University



Micah Upshaw  
NJIT



Troi Ashley Slade  
Yale University

Ahmaad Walker  
Saint John's University  
(MN)



Ashayah Walker  
Central State University



## St Benedict's Prep - Girls Division

Cristine Alvarez  
New York University



## St. Peter's Prep

Eliezer Jamil Natera  
St Peter's University



# Our Graduates

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## Saint Vincent Academy

Valentina China  
Calva  
Seton Hall



Osayonamen Notemwanta  
Rutgers University



Esther Crowey  
Ramapo College



Sarah Pompilus  
Essex County College

Stephanie Etienne  
Montclair State University



Rashmi Raveendran  
Montclair State University



Vicky Maza  
Undecided



Stephani Rodriguez  
Undecided



# Our Graduates

## Saint Vincent Academy

Briana Soto  
Kean University





# Our Board of Trustees

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Thomas A. Cash - Chairman of the Board,  
Co-Founder/Chairman- Essex Lake Group

Emmett J. Daly - President of the Board,  
Managing Director, Piper Sandler, & Co.

Christopher Birosak - Treasurer of the Board,  
Partner and Investment Committee Member Star Mountain Capital

Thomas V. Mulligan - Secretary,  
Retired – Development Director Community Agencies Corporation of  
NJ Protestant Community Center

Christopher Beltran - Talent Acquisition Specialist, Mountainside Medical Center

Mark Boffa, C.P.A. - Accountant, Boffa & Co.

Jaime De Leon - Director of Admissions and Public Relations -Hudson Catholic High School

Robert Fowler - Partner, Private Wealth Advisor, Ford Fowler Wealth Management

Anoop Abraham George, Senior Client Partner, Toptal

Timothy J. Heine, ESQ - Retired, Managing Counsel, American Express, Adjunct Professor,  
Fordham Law School

Danna Jacobs - Founding Partner/Managing Member Founding Legacy Care Wealth, LLC

Debbie Nagpal - Retired - VP Municipal Finance, Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Bruce Reitz, Jr. - Retired - VP Mutual Fund Operations, Alliance Bernstein

Ann Stachenfeld - President, The Sweetie Pig Foundation

Mark Tanner - Retired - VP & Project Manager, Alliance Bernstein

Christine Waldron, C.P.A., Chief Strategy Officer, U.S. Bank

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# Virtual Operations and Events

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In 2021- 2022 Student/Partner Alliance established a hybrid mentoring program, adjusting the dial according to the rising and falling cases in the area and the comfort level of our school administrators. In the fall, we held sessions outside at two of the schools, while we held virtual meetings at two of the others.

In the spring, we were able to resume in-person events at all 4 of our schools.

We enhanced our virtual programming this year to include more enrichment programs as well as some of our usual events:

- Mentor Training by Patrick Fennell of Empowerment Solutions
- Mentee Training by Patrick Fennell of Empowerment Solutions
- College Preparation session with a college admissions counsellor
- College Panel of S/PA Grads currently attending college – April 28th, virtual
- Career Panel moderated by Christopher Beltran, S/PA Board Member (St. Benedict's Prep '07)
- Resume Essentials with Jacquelyn Gilbert, Founder and CEO of JW Warren LLC
- Hello Connections with Taylor Buonocore-Guthrie, Co-Founder of Convers-ate to spark engaging and meaningful conversations that will help to build your relationship with your mentor or mentee.
- Financial Planning in your 20's Alumni event with Board Member Danna Jacobs, January 20th



# Graduate Highlights

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Troi will continue her education at Yale University on a full scholarship where she will be majoring in Mechanical Engineering and concentrating in Aerospace engineering. She was instrumental in the start of the St. Benedict's Girl's Prep Division and had held many leadership roles on campus. Troi was captain of the Golf Team, NHS President, a member of the Baking Club, and a leader in Race to Action, the school's social justice club.



Sabrina graduated from Hudson Catholic High School and will be attending Montclair State University in the fall and studying graphic design. Pictured here with Board Member and Dean of Enrollment Management, Jaime de Leon, Sabrina was the 2022 De La Salle Service Award Recipient.

Investors Foundation not only provides essential funding, but Investors employees also mentor. Juan Rengifo, AVP and Branch Manager at Investors Bank, Cranford has mentored Nestor throughout high school. Nestor will be attending Skidmore in the fall.



# Alumni Updates

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In 2022, we were so pleased to launch the first of our enrichment series composed entirely of S/PA Graduates. On Thursday, April 28th, a panel of S/PA Graduates from Hudson Catholic, St. Benedict's Prep, Saint Vincent Academy, and Immaculate Conception High School shared what it is really like being in college today.

During the zoom session, the S/PA graduates Kimani Williams, Anthony Augustin, Brianna Mateo, Hervluida Metellus, and Quincy Slay shared tips on making the most out of your college experience, whether that meant networking with professors, getting the most appropriate summer job, or finding the best ways to navigating stress. Smaller break out rooms helped to facilitate a more open dialogue between students, mentors, and the panelists.

Kimani Williams (Immaculate Conception High School 2021 grad), a Biology and Public Health Pre-Med major and Peer Health Educator at Tuskegee University graduated from ICHS in 2020 and joined the panel because "she wanted students to understand the importance of having a balance, and understanding the importance of time-management in college."

Quincy Slay (Hudson Catholic 2019 grad) noted, "The advice that I would like to give to students is to be open minded when going into college. Attending college and trying to pick a major can be very complex but the one thing that you need to remember is that you have the opportunity to explore before you make a final decision. Furthermore, make sure that you want to study the major that you pick because you want to graduate and be happy with the degree you walk across the stage with."

The college students offered suggestions for work/life balance and fielded questions from both mentors in students.

Executive Director Margaret Momber reflected "It was truly amazing to watch these young alumni thrive as panelists on the zoom. I remember seeing these young students as bright-eyed freshmen, and it was incredible to see them thriving as young adults and leaders in their colleges and universities as they gave back to the S/PA community. We are striving to increase alumni connections and these types of enrichment programs are perfect for this type of continued relationship."

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