



HIGH SCHOOL  
**[HS]<sup>2</sup>**  
HIGH SCHOLAR

A PROGRAM OF COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As many are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacts low-income communities of color. Thus, as the pandemic widened the academic opportunity gap, the call to offer our 75 scholars quality academic and emotional support became increasingly urgent. The decision to run a remote version of the [HS]<sup>2</sup> program during the pandemic was not one I wrestled with; to show up for our scholars with meaningful, student-centered programming was imperative.

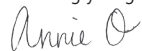
For four weeks throughout July 2020, students in Denver, Fort Worth, New Orleans, and New York City gathered on Zoom each day as writers, mathematicians, college applicants, and more. Those without access to laptops or Wi-Fi were provided Chromebooks and hotspots by [HS]<sup>2</sup>, enabling each scholar to participate, learn, and connect each day. While students missed the magic of the mountains, living communally in the dorms, and learning alongside their [HS]<sup>2</sup> family, many expressed a deep appreciation for the structure and instructional rigor that [HS]<sup>2</sup> provided.

As our team worked to design our remote program, the United States shifted its focus from the global pandemic to a national problem: the pervasive and systemic existence of racial injustice. [HS]<sup>2</sup> has long worked to address systemic inequality by supporting students in accessing higher education, a key lever in gaining social mobility for oppressed communities. This moment served both to affirm the value of the work we do and to push us to improve in myriad other ways.

Many of the improvements we sought to make are outlined in the pages ahead. In this report, you'll find our revised Mission, Vision, and Values, crafted by an alumni task force, as well as a 5-Year strategic plan. In addition, we have recently established an exciting partnership with Inspire National, an independent, consulting group embedded within Bain & Company. Inspire is currently engaged in an effort to analyze the [HS]<sup>2</sup> program holistically and offer tailored recommendations regarding our data reporting, fundraising strategy, alumni networking, and more.

No one could have predicted the chaos that has been 2020. However, [HS]<sup>2</sup> is forging ahead with more momentum than ever before and I am invigorated by the work that lies ahead. We are eager to bring scholars back to campus for summer 2021 and are grateful for the reopening example CRMS has set forth. We at [HS]<sup>2</sup> so deeply appreciate our generous donors' support and look forward to sharing additional updates as the year unfolds.

Sending you good health and immense gratitude,



Annie Oppenheim, Director of the [HS]<sup>2</sup> Program



"I loved the classes  
because they really  
gave me a head start  
in my senior year  
Calculus class, and College  
Counseling helped me  
start my college process."

Emmanuel Contreras, [HS]<sup>2</sup> 2020  
Denver, CO

"I loved how even though  
we were all far apart,  
there was never a  
moment I felt away from  
you guys."

Hadja Dalio, [HS]<sup>2</sup> 2021  
Bronx, NY

## MISSION

[HS]<sup>2</sup> prepares a group of first-generation and/or low-income students of color to succeed in college by empowering them with STEM-based skills, a family of driven peers, and a space to see the light and power in their own voices.

## VISION

We envision a world in which all students have unburdened access to higher education and professional opportunities regardless of race, income, and family history.

## VALUES



### CARE

[HS]<sup>2</sup> students show tremendous empathy towards each other and are rewarded with a community of vulnerability and trust.



### CURIOSITY

[HS]<sup>2</sup> students explore and expand the outer bounds of their thinking and their comfort zones.



### PERSISTENCE

[HS]<sup>2</sup> students rebound from challenges and stand firm in their desire to create incredible opportunities for themselves and for their communities.

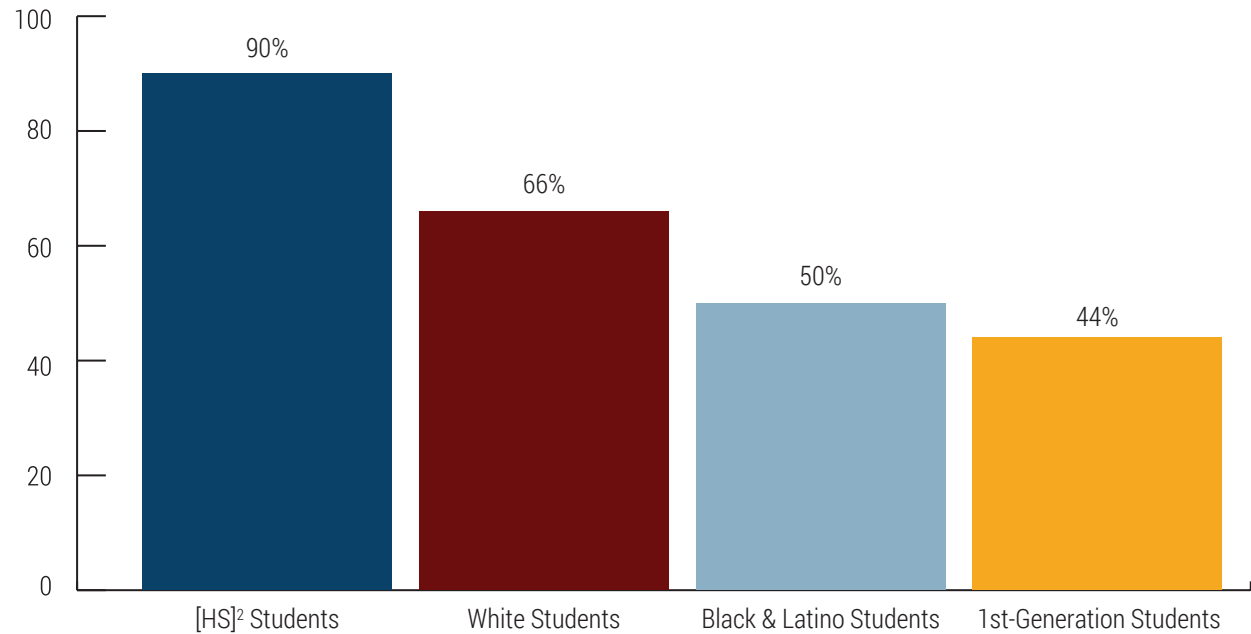


### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

[HS]<sup>2</sup> students hold themselves to a high intellectual standard and shine in the classroom.

# [HS]² COLLEGE GRADUATION RATE OUTPERFORMS NATIONAL AVERAGE

At what rate do college students graduate from college within 6 years?



Sources: [HS]² Internal student database; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); Center for First Generation Student Success  
Note: \*NCES data tracks student cohort entering college in 2012 and likely excludes students who have transferred.



## [HS]<sup>2</sup> Class of 2019 College Matriculation List

Babson College  
Case Western  
Dartmouth College  
Denver University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Harvard University  
Louisiana State University (2)  
Louisiana Tech  
Pomona College  
Tarrant County Community College  
Texas A&M  
Texas A&M Texarkana  
Texas Christian University  
Tulane University  
University of Chicago  
University of Denver  
University of Iowa  
University of North Texas  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
Yale University

"College counseling and the classes were extremely helpful, but it was the out of classroom experiences that helped me learn new skills and made me feel a lot more comfortable about the college application process. At [HS]? I learned about handling money, setting a schedule for school work and hobby time, eating food at the Bar Fork rather than eating out every day, getting around Aspen without an adult, being responsible for my own things like laundry and doing dorm chores, and getting accustomed to transportation by bus and by plane. It was like going to a mini college. I appreciate all the staff and new friends I gained during my three summers."

- Jenny Fierro, [HS]? Class of 2019



# 5-YEAR PLAN

[HS]<sup>2</sup> embarked on a strategic planning process in the Summer of 2020 to set the direction for its next five years. Annie Oppenheim, newly appointed Program Director, listened deeply to program stakeholders and chartered a strong course for our future.

## WE HAVE SET OUT THE FOLLOWING FOUR STRATEGIC GOALS:



### ENSURE FINANCIAL STABILITY

Ensure long-term financial sustainability by building a \$10M endowment



### DIVERSIFY HIRING

Recruit and retain faculty members who reflect the identities of our students



### SUPPORT ALUMNI

Expand our alumni program to support our graduates “to, through and beyond” college



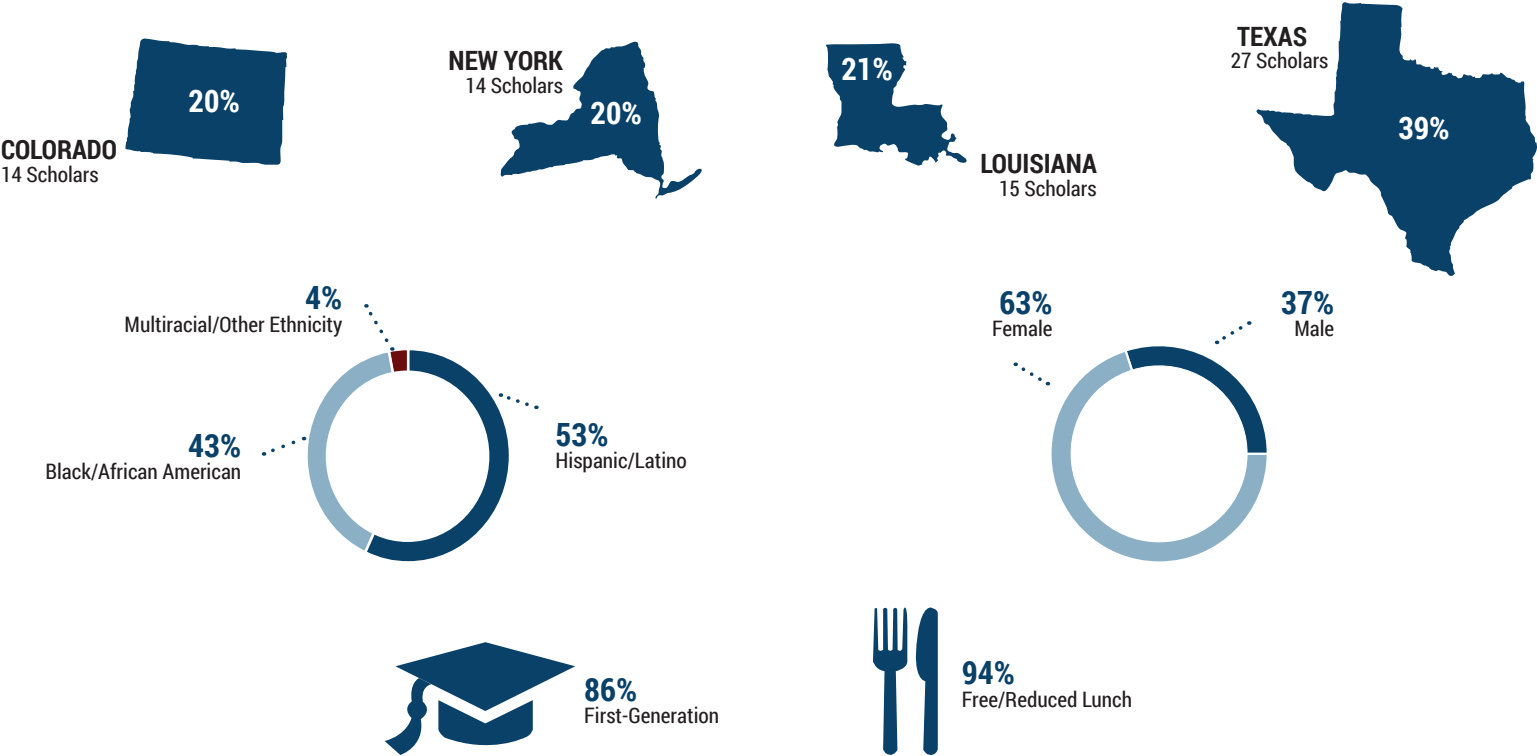
### TIGHTEN AND SCALE

Share best practices with other independent schools



# DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2020, the [HS]<sup>2</sup> program served **70 scholars** from **4 states** and **27 high schools remotely**. Of these students, 37 were Hispanic/Latino, 30 were African American/Black, 3 were multi-racial or other ethnicity, 44 were female, and 26 were male. 59 scholars were first-generation students and 66 qualified for free or reduced-fee meals.



## PARTNER SCHOOLS

### COLORADO

#### Denver

Arrupe Jesuit High School  
DSST College View High School  
DSST Conservatory Green High School  
DSST Green Valley Ranch High School  
DSST Stapleton High School  
STRIVE EXCEL Preparatory High School

### LOUISIANA

#### New Orleans

Edna Karr High School  
KIPP Booker T. Washington High School  
Lusher Charter School  
Morris Jeff High School  
N.O. Science and Math Charter School  
Rooted School

### NEW YORK

#### Bronx

KIPP NYC College Prep High School

#### Brooklyn

Academy Charter  
Achievement First University Prep High School

#### Manhattan

Cristo Rey New York High School

### TEXAS

#### Fort Worth

Amon Carter-Riverside High School  
R. L. Paschal High School  
Carter Riverside  
Cast Tech  
Crowley High School  
North Side High School  
R. L. Paschal High School  
South Hills High School  
Southwest High School  
Western Hills High School  
Young Men's Leadership Academy  
Young Women's Leadership Academy



# [HS]<sup>2</sup> CLASS OF 2020



**JENNIFER AGGREY**  
Denver, CO



**DEVANY AGUERO**  
Fort Worth, TX



**VERONIQUE BIJOUY**  
Fort Worth, TX



**ANGEL CANTU**  
Fort Worth, TX



**DAMARIS CARDONA**  
Fort Worth, TX



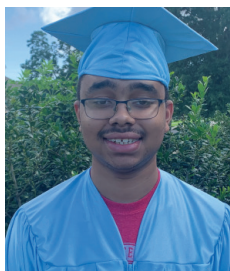
**YAMILETT CHAVIRA\***  
Forest Hill, TX



**EMANUEL CONTRERAS**  
Denver, CO



**CECILIA DELGADO**  
Fort Worth, TX



**ANTHONY FRANKLIN\***  
New Orleans, LA



**BRIANNE GRAYER\***  
New Orleans, LA



**LESLY GUERRERO**  
Fort Worth, TX

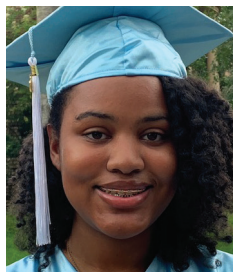


**LUIS HERRERA**  
Denver, CO

To watch the 2020 Virtual [HS]<sup>2</sup> Graduation ceremony please visit: <https://bit.ly/3mQfXb2>



SCAN ME



**TAYLA HUNTER**  
New Orleans, LA



**KAYLA KELLY**  
New Orleans, LA



**ANDREW LARRY**  
Bronx, NY



**JASMINE MACIAS VASQUEZ\***  
Denver, CO



**GIOVANNI MENDOZA-OLIVAS\***  
Denver, CO



**SANTIAGO MOPOSITA**  
Brooklyn, NY



**EWAOLUWA OLABISI**  
Fort Worth, TX



**ANELL PAULINO\***  
Bronx, NY



**ELODIA PEREZ\***  
Fort Worth, TX



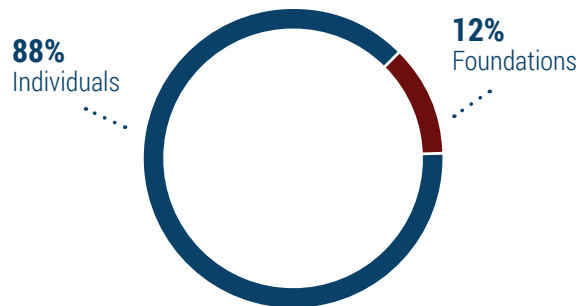
\*As of December 10, the students noted have been admitted with generous financial aid packages to the following schools: Yamilett C. - University of Chicago; Anthony F. - Tulane University; Brianne G. - Tulane University; Jasmine M.V. - Boston College; Gio M.O. - Hamilton College; Anell P. - Dartmouth College; Elodia P. - Boston College



## 2020 REMOTE PROGRAM FINANCIAL REPORT

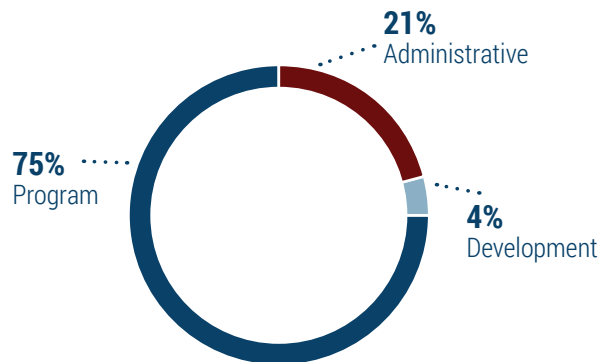
### CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals	\$ 257,332
Foundations	\$ 35,172
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 292,504</b>



### EXPENSES

Program	\$ 219,406
Administrative	\$ 61,383
Development	\$ 11,715
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$292,504</b>



## 2020 DONORS

The [HS]<sup>2</sup> program at CRMS would not be possible without the support of individuals and foundations that believe in the program's mission. All gifts to the [HS]<sup>2</sup> program are used to meet the expenses of these talented students. During the 2020 virtual program, our administrative and operational expenses were significantly reduced. Thanks to the help of our generous donors, [HS]<sup>2</sup> provided Hotspots and Chromebooks to students who otherwise would not have had internet or computer access at home. In a normal program year, which we expect to resume in Summer 2021, the average per-student cost for a summer at [HS]<sup>2</sup> is \$7,000 per year. We are grateful for your support.

### **\$50,000+**

Mollie & Garland Lasater Charitable Trust  
of the North Texas Community Foundation

### **\$10,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous (2)  
Hayden H. Cutler, Jr.  
David Newberger  
The North Star Charitable Foundation  
Rainwater Charitable Foundation  
Virginia Street Smith Charitable Fund of  
the North Texas Community Foundation  
The Tang Fund  
Sharon Ann McColloch-Wells & John W.  
Wells Endowed Fund of The North Texas  
Community Foundation

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anonymous (2)  
The 2017 Cardinal Trust  
Charles & Patt Babbs  
Chelsea & James Brundige  
Charles Butt  
Navias Family Foundation  
R4 Foundation  
Reilly Family Foundation

### **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Anonymous  
Shervin Eftekhari  
Jill & Curtis Kaufman  
Clint Parsley  
Stephanie Schuetz  
Samuel & Linda Winn  
The Community Impact Fund of the North  
Texas Community Foundation

### **\$500 - \$999**

Anonymous  
Fonda Paterson  
Tad Whitaker '94

### **\$100 - \$499**

Stephanie Allen  
Jackson Bednarczyk  
Maggie Blatz  
Chip Brown  
Caren Duane  
Jonathan Garriss  
Mary Gomprecht  
Ellen Doyle Klein  
Hope and Alex Kremer

Michael Krulfeld  
Jeff & Amanda Leahy  
Gabriel Lopez Low  
Molly Lucas  
Thayer McKenzie  
Rick & Virginia Newton  
Elinore O'Brien  
Jaymie Oppenheim  
William Oppenheim  
Margaret Ritsch  
Katharine Rohn  
Alex Sadler  
Beth Vernon  
Walton Ward  
Joe & Casey White  
Peter Wilson  
Peter Wyman

### **Up to \$100**

Anonymous  
Amanda Toledo Barrios, [HS]<sup>2</sup> '15  
Lindsay Berger  
Jeffrey Colt  
Jocelyn Dickson  
Christina Favaloro  
Jessica R. Garza, [HS]<sup>2</sup> '11, CRMS '12  
Aliza Green

Morgan Henderson  
Kimberly & Heath Hight  
Alfred Joseph, [HS]<sup>2</sup> '13  
Kendall MacRae  
Margaret Mahoney  
Jake Marston  
Annie Oppenheim  
Rosey Oppenheim  
Lindsay & Garry Pfaffmann  
Abigail Purcell  
Will Purcell  
Cherie Rudolph  
Camille Ryan  
Olivia Tabah  
Emily Uniman  
Ashley Valdez, [HS]<sup>2</sup> '12  
Tyler Valtin  
Tracy Wilson & BJ Sbarra  
Aimee & Luis Yllanes  
Halle Zander  
William Ziesing



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Jourdan Brown [HS]<sup>2</sup> Class of 2012

B.A. Biological Sciences, Rice University;

M.PH Epidemiology, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Since finishing [HS]<sup>2</sup>, I have completed a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. Now I am working full time as a research coordinator at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. For the last year I have been part of a team conducting a large, nationwide study of prostate cancer in African American men.

If you had asked me ten years ago what I was going to take away from a few summers in Colorado I would have expected a couple of good friends and some fun memories. It turns out I took away that and so much more. Now, ten years after first stepping foot on campus for [HS]<sup>2</sup>, I still consider my experience in the program as a major factor that led me down the path I am on today. Not only did the program provide the tools and opportunities to succeed academically throughout high school, but it also allowed me to explore a new region of the country, try out new extracurricular activities, and turn a group of complete strangers into a new family.

The most impactful component of the program for me was the college counseling course led by Betsy Bingham-Johns. My own high school did not have any formal college counseling program, but because of [HS]<sup>2</sup> I did not miss out on learning important information such as how to determine the best fitting school for me, writing personal statements, and navigating the financial aid process as a low-income student. I still remember being intimidated hearing Betsy going over some of the best schools in the country and but then being comforted by her reassuring us that we were highly qualified to apply to those schools and to not sell ourselves short. Betsy's course gave me the confidence to set high reaching goals for myself, not be afraid to take risks, and be comfortable bragging about my accomplishments; all of which were skills necessary for not only undergraduate and graduate school applications but also job applications when I was ready to join the workforce. I do not think I will ever forget my experience in [HS]<sup>2</sup> as it helped mold me into the person I am today and for that I am so grateful to the staff and donors who made it all possible.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Cynthia Reyes [HS]<sup>2</sup> Class of 2017

Williams College, Double Major in Economics and Sociology, Class of 2022

Three summers have passed since I graduated from [HS]<sup>2</sup> and left my “home away from home”. [HS]<sup>2</sup> taught me so much and was truly an enlightening experience. Academically, I took exciting classes like physics, where I got to build a rocket to test projectile motion. I even got to launch it outdoors, which is something I could have never done in a New York City classroom. [HS]<sup>2</sup> is a program that widens its students’ horizons. It gives us opportunities we’ve never had before. As a New Yorker, kayaking and rock climbing were never accessible activities to me, but thanks to [HS]<sup>2</sup> I got to experience those thrills. The best part of it all was I did everything alongside amazing people. The faculty and the students really do create this “home away from home”; that is why I will always cherish my time at [HS]<sup>2</sup>.

This experience of knowing what a “home away from home” felt like was key during my college search. I knew I wanted to go to a college that gave me the same joy and connection that [HS]<sup>2</sup> did. Now I am a proud junior at Williams College where I am a declared Economics and Sociology double major. [HS]<sup>2</sup> taught me to try new things and to always be open minded. This mindset has pushed me to explore different careers. I always knew I wanted to work in the business sector, but narrowing down to a department is a tough task. So this summer I participated in a Goldman Sachs Investment Management program as well as a Capital Group Investment Series. These programs have helped me gain insights into different sectors. [HS]<sup>2</sup> also gave me amazing mentors such as Nick Favaloro, who has had such an impact in my life. Mentors like Nick have helped me continue to explore other career options, such as consulting. [HS]<sup>2</sup> will always be present in my life. It instilled values in me such as open mindedness, family, and my favorite part, it gave me a community that continues to propel me forward in life today.



For more information please contact Annie Oppenheim, Program Director  
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Donate at [www.hs2.crms.org/donate](http://www.hs2.crms.org/donate)