

HIGH SCHOOL
[HS]²
HIGH SCHOLAR

A PROGRAM OF COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Third Year students prepare
to launch their weather
balloon into the stratosphere.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Nerves were palpable as [HS]² scholars stepped off the bus and onto the CRMS campus in June. For two-thirds of them, this was their first time in Carbondale due to the 2020 remote program. For nearly all of them, this was their first time learning in person since March of 2020. The energy was buzzing, but as always with [HS]², what began as a group of strangers quickly became a family.

The myriad ingredients that coalesce to make [HS]² a powerful experience were abundant this summer. Six program alumni joined the [HS]² faculty and became mentors to all scholars. Students immersed themselves in new STEM courses, wrote college essays and applied for scholarships, and debated and understood different perspectives in their leadership and writing courses. They summited mountains higher than their imaginations allowed, learned to live independently, and developed friendships that persist beyond the confines of the CRMS campus.

On the final Friday of classes, third-year scholars gathered on the quad to launch a weather balloon 100,000 feet into the stratosphere. Students collaborated in teams over the prior five weeks in their “Near Space Ballooning” capstone STEM 3 course, using principles of engineering, atmospheric science and design thinking to construct every component of this balloon to withstand conditions at altitude.

All 71 [HS]² scholars gathered to countdown the balloon for its launch, cheering fanatically as the balloon and payload lifted off the ground and soared far above Carbondale. This is the power of in-person learning. Together, students created, prototyped, failed, and celebrated throughout this process. My recurring sentiment of summer 2021 was most prominent in this moment: I am so grateful these scholars are back.

Our scholars leverage these opportunities and this community in their respective quests to access and succeed in college. The composite 15 weeks of experiences provided by [HS]² enable scholars to thrive while in college, not just survive. This is a critical component of our work: supporting scholars both to and through college.

We enjoyed an inspiring and successful summer back together, and yet so much work remains to be done in the wake of the pandemic and in the face of an inequitable public education system. At [HS]², our work ahead is to continue to support our scholars and alumni and to refine our programming so that we can share this model, which authentically promotes equity and access, with other institutions.

Thank you for supporting [HS]². We couldn't do this work without you and we are forever impacted by your generosity.

With warmth and gratitude,



Annie Oppenheim



Annie with [HS]² alumni at Dartmouth College

MISSION

[HS]² 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



PERSISTENCE



CURIOSITY



ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

5-YEAR PLAN

During summer 2020, [HS]² embarked on a strategic planning process to set the direction for its next five years. The Program Director worked alongside stakeholders to chart a strong course for our future. In the past year, we have made significant progress on all pillars, which we will continue to build on in the months ahead.

WE HAVE SET OUT THE FOLLOWING FOUR STRATEGIC GOALS:



ENSURE
FINANCIAL
STABILITY



SUPPORT
ALUMNI



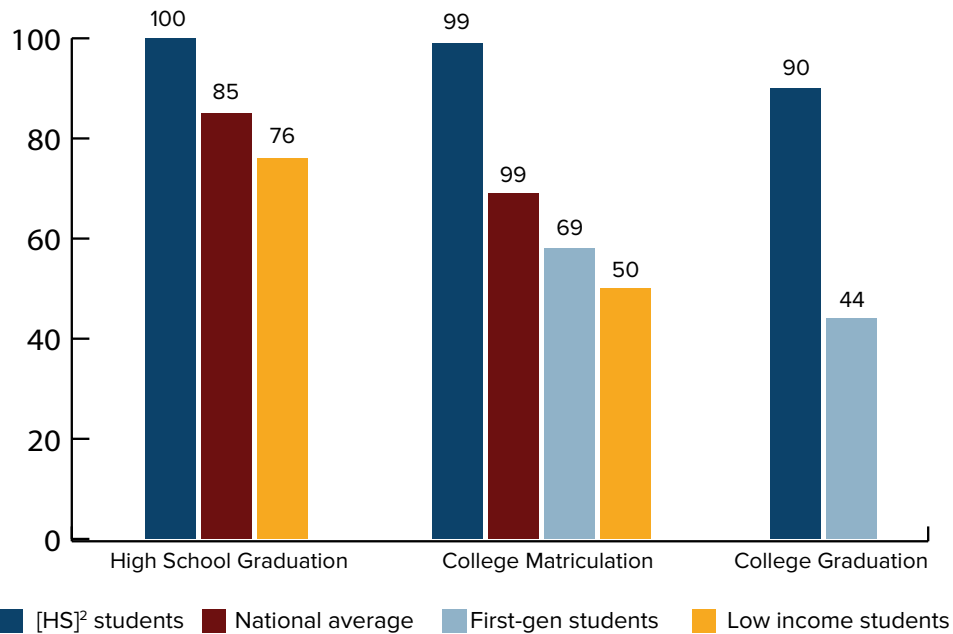
DIVERSIFY
HIRING



TIGHTEN
AND SCALE

AT A NATIONAL LEVEL, [HS]² SCHOLARS OUTPERFORM THEIR PEERS*

What is the likelihood that a student will hit each milestone?



Sources: [HS]² Internal data; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); Center for First Generation Student Success ; Brookings

*This data is from 2020.

[HS]² CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST

Boston College (2)
 College of the Holy Cross
 Colorado College
 Colorado State University
 Dartmouth College
 Hamilton College
 Louisiana State University
 Rhodes College
 Tarrant County College

Texas Christian University
 Texas Tech University
 Tulane University (2)
 University of Chicago
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Southern California
 University of Texas - Arlington
 University of Texas - Austin

“After a year full of stress and fear caused by a pandemic, contemporary politics, and family challenges, I regained my sanity by having this small Eden hidden amongst the Rocky Mountains.”

- Alyssa T., 3rd Year
 New Orleans



ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

[HS]² piloted two new STEM courses and hosted a 3-day career pathways workshop in which scholars immersed themselves in engaging learning endeavors. Students chose either the Medical or Engineering pathway and heard from panels of speakers, explored hands-on projects, and learned about the steps required to pursue careers in these fields. Past faculty and alumni executed these workshops, acting as mirrors for students to envision themselves in these positions in the future.



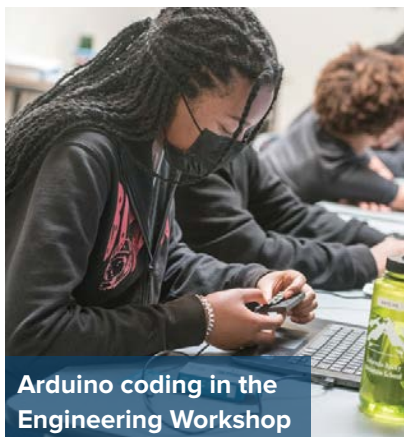
Sheep heart dissection in the Medical Pathways Workshop



Parachute design for Weather Balloon course



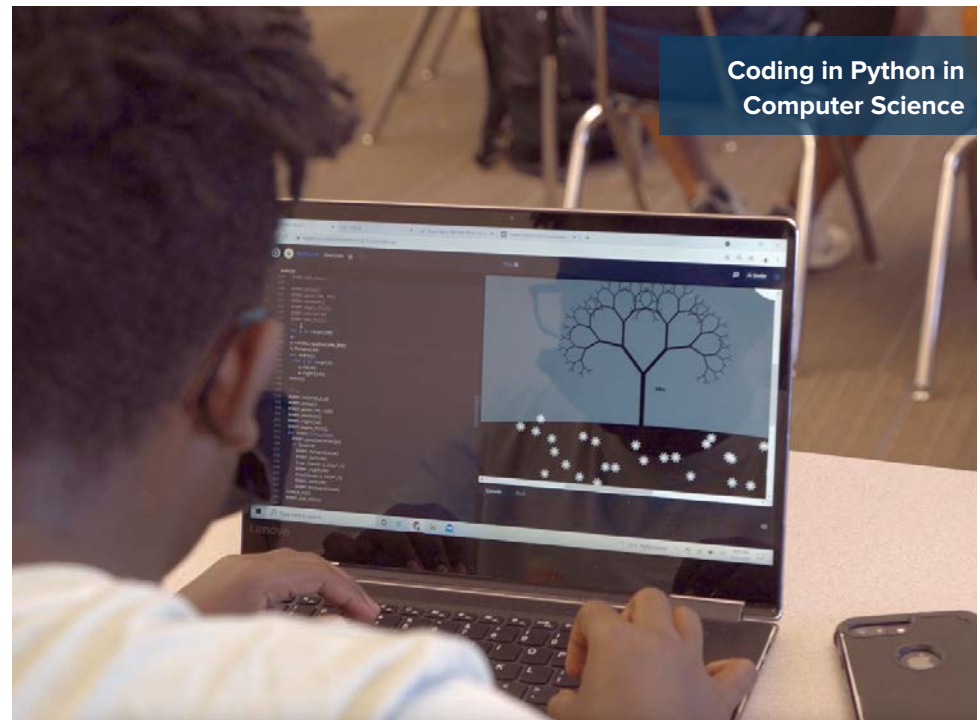
Parachute prototyping for Weather Balloon course



Arduino coding in the Engineering Workshop



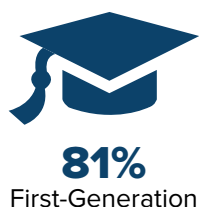
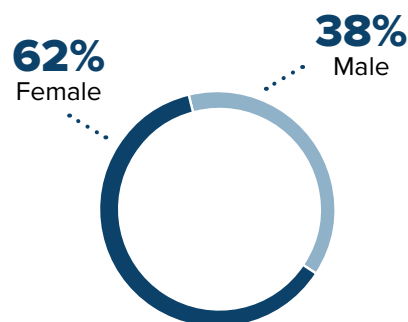
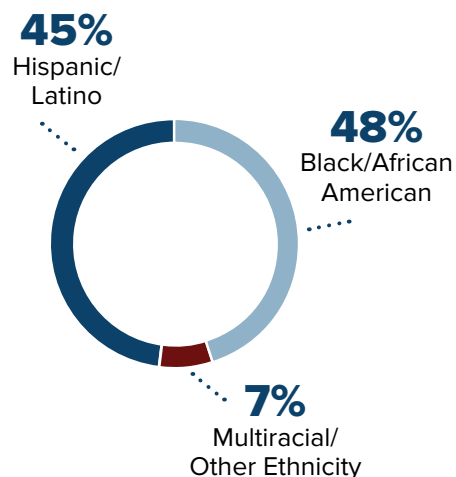
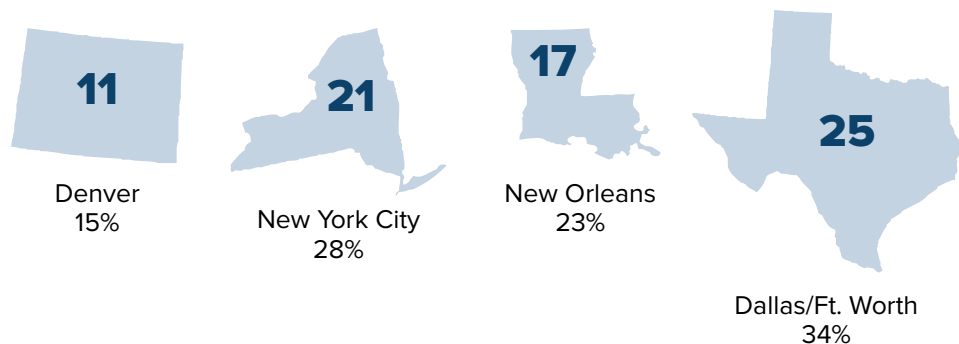
Team planning in Weather Balloon course



Coding in Python in Computer Science

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2021, the [HS]² program served **71 scholars** from **4 states** and **28 high schools** in person. We had 3 additional students participate in the program remotely due to COVID concerns. Of these 74 students, 33 identify as Hispanic/Latino, 36 as African American/Black, and 5 as multi-racial or another identity; 46 as female, and 28 as male. 60 scholars are first-generation students and 63 qualify for free or reduced-fee meals.



PARTNER SCHOOLS

NEW YORK

Bronx

KIPP NYC College Prep High School

Brooklyn

Achievement First Brooklyn High School

Achievement First East Brooklyn HS

Achievement First University Prep HS

Long Island

The Academy Charter HS Hempstead

The Academy Charter HS Uniondale

Manhattan

Cristo Rey New York High School

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Edna Karr High School

KIPP Frederick A. Douglass High School

KIPP Booker T. Washington High School

Lusher Charter School

N.O. Science and Math Charter HS

Rooted School

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

TEXAS

Dallas

Science and Engineering Magnet at

Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center

Fort Worth

Amon Carter Riverside High School

North Side High School

R. L. Paschal High School

Southwest High School

Trimble Technical High School

Western Hills High School

Young Men's Leadership Academy

Young Women's Leadership Academy

San Antonio

Cast Tech High School

"Having been able to attend this summer STEM program was immensely beneficial to me. I am a woman of color that wants to pursue a career in STEM, and being in this environment with other students who look like me and have gone through similar experiences only inspires me even more. I've learned that no matter where I am or what I am doing, I am never alone."

- Shirley Q., 2nd Year, NYC



ALUMNI RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

[HS]² had the privilege of welcoming six program alumni to our faculty during summer 2021. These young adults brought a diverse array of experiences from college and beyond, which they leveraged to connect with and effectively support the [HS]² scholars. We hope to continue to welcome program alumni to our faculty each summer. We recognize that this can be a valuable stepping stone for alumni on their path to a career in STEM, education, or business, and their contributions to the program are beyond measure.



“As I stepped back onto campus this summer and spoke to Robert, another alumni faculty member, we realized that our experiences from [HS]² as students are here with us, but are being passed to the current scholars. As they get older, their wisdom and experiences will get passed down and it will become a cycle of everyone helping each other. I will continue to sing the praises of [HS]² because I know how greatly it impacted my life, and how it will affect so many other students like myself.”

- Osa Ibude, [HS]² 2017, Summer 2021 faculty member

JONATHAN PRICE [HS]² 2011

Rice University, Class of 2016
Current 8th Grade Science Teacher at KIPP Houston

ROBERT GATABAZI [HS]² 2016

Texas Christian University, Class of 2021
Boston University School of Medicine, Masters Candidate in
Mental Health Counseling & Behavioral Medicine

ARTASIA JACKSON [HS]² 2016

University of Texas at Arlington Class of 2021
Small business owner, preparing to apply to medical school

CLEMENTE DEHOYOS [HS]² 2017

Emory University, Class of 2022

OSAZUWA IBUDE [HS]² 2017

Franklin & Marshall College, Class of 2022

JASMINE RUIZ [HS]² 2017

Ursinus College, Class of 2022

“The RAs have become people that I look up to and admire for their hard work and dedication to their academics. I feel as if expressing their college journeys to us has helped me create a better visual of college and life after high school in general.”

- Adh Dhuha A., 2nd Year, Ft. Worth

[HS]² CLASS OF 2021



XAVIER BROWN
Fort Worth, TX



JOSE CABRERA
Denver, CO



ALICIA CAGE
Brooklyn, NY



DE'SHELL CARR
New Orleans, LA



AMANUEL ABEL
Denver, CO



DANIA AHMED
Fort Worth, TX



DERICK ANDRADE
Ocoee, FL



SUZETTE ARROYO
Fort Worth, TX



**DANIELA
MARINELARENA**
Denver, CO



DAISY MARQUEZ
Denver, CO



ISABEL MUNIZ
Fort Worth, TX



ABIGAIL OJO
Brooklyn, NY



HADJA DIALLO
Harlem, NY



MARIYA GRACE
New Orleans, LA



IMARI HOLMES
New Orleans, LA



LESLIE JIMENEZ
Fort Worth, TX



**JOEL SANCHEZ-
HERNANDEZ**
Fort Worth, TX



JACEY SMITH
New Orleans, LA



TRISTEN SMITH
Fort Worth, TX



ALYSSA THOMAS
New Orleans, LA



ISIAH ORONA
Fort Worth, TX



ANGEL ORTIZ
Fort Worth, TX



ERENDIRA PINEDA
Fort Worth, TX



HERMELINDA REYNA
Fort Worth, TX



EMEMOBONG UMO
Denver, CO

"While learning is a huge part of [HS]², I believe the family aspect of the program has the greatest impact. Being surrounded by highly motivated people pushes me to be the best version of myself."

- Joel, 3rd Year, Fort Worth, TX

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

CONTRIBUTIONS

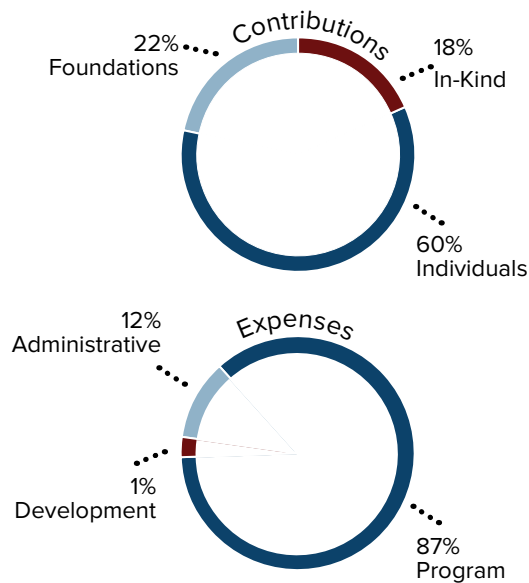
Individuals	\$ 383,900
Foundations	\$ 138,100
In Kind: CRMS contribution of support services	\$ 117,898

Total Revenue \$ 639,898

EXPENSES

Program	\$ 554,500
Administrative	\$ 78,155
Development	\$ 7,244

Total Expenses \$ 639,898



DONORS

The [HS]² program at CRMS would not be possible without the generous support of individuals and foundations that believe in the program's mission. All gifts are used to meet the expenses of the students, including their travel, room & board, and the wide range of academic and social development services that are a hallmark of the [HS]² experience. The average per-student cost to operate the [HS]² program is \$8,000 per summer.

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Havener
Mollie & Garland Lasater Charitable
Trust of the North Texas Community
Foundation
The North Star Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Garett '06 & Christine Bjorkman
Haydn Cutler Jr.
John & Eileen Donahoe
Mary Potishman Lard Trust
Mary Ann & James Harris
Hemera Foundation
John & Laurie McBride
Suzi McKinley '96
Pritchard Foundation

R4 Foundation
Rainwater Charitable Foundation
Peter & Sara Sterling
The Tang Fund
Sharon Ann McCulloch-Wells &
John W. Wells Endowed Fund of The
North Texas Community Foundation
Anonymous (3)

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Eric & Deborah Alden
Chelsea Congdon & James Brundige,
The Denver Foundation
Hunt Lane Capital
Jill & Curtis Kaufman
Perry J. Lewis
Navias Family Foundation
Nathaniel & Sara Zilkha

\$1,000 to \$4,999

IMH Charities
Wally and Helen Obermeyer
The Oppenheimer Family
Clint Parsley & Alex Albright
Jim & Lisanne Rogers
Kit & Rob Rohn
Tad Whitaker '94
Jane & Brian Williams
Samuel & Linda Winn

\$500 - \$999

Beth Brunswick
Nicholas Favaloro
Nan Nelson
Peggy & David Tanner,
Jewish Communal Fund

\$100 - \$499

Amanda Toledo Barrios [HS]² '15
Maggie Blatz
Julian Danziger
Carey Favaloro
Anne Favaloro
Mary Tabor Furr
Kate & Tom Gomprecht
Heath & Kimberly Hignight
Hope & Alex Kremer
Jeff & Amanda Leahy
Kilof Legge [HS]² '09
Katie McCormack
Mags Miller '90
Rick & Virginia Newton
Annie Oppenheim
Rosey Oppenheim
Patagonia, Inc.
Margaret Ritsch
Zoe Shea
Ravi Venkateswaran '69
Joe & Casey White
Yoseph Wolde [HS]² '18
Okoye Yates [HS]² '09

Up to \$100

Marcia Banegas [HS]² '14
George Bernard '14
Jourdan Brown [HS]² '12
Lorenzo Carlisle
Jeffrey Colt

Stefano Cruz [HS]² '19
Keeyan Davis [HS]² '12
Katie Drinkwater
Nat Drucker
Meghan Duff
Jessica Francis [HS]² '11, CRMS '12
Aliza Green
Leslie Hernandez [HS]² '19
Holton Huntington '15
Sage Jansen
Hannah Lyons
Jake Marston
Lynne Parsley
Will Purcell
Samuel Reiff
Joshua Stiger [HS]² '17
Olivia Tabah
Tyler Valtin
Elias Williams [HS]² '18
Aimee & Luis Yllanes

In Kind

Aspen Institute
Aspen Skiing Company
GoPro
Oriental Trading
Patagonia
Renee Ramge Photography

**Students sporting their new Patagonia outdoorwear
provided by Patagonia Denver.**



ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

ALFRED JOSPEH, [HS]² 2013

University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2018
B.A. in History and Philosophy

It would be almost impossible to overstate how impactful [HS]² was on my life. This beautiful program honed my social skills and kept me academically engaged.

The idea of committing three years to the program frightened me as a freshman, but I am so grateful that I made the commitment. I arrived in Colorado defining myself as my background, a Black only child from a widower household. For the first week of my first year, I was quiet and shy. But by week's end, I had already fallen in love with my chosen family. Through our adventures living in the dorms, kayaking the Roaring Fork, and hiking Mt. Sopris, my classmates and the staff taught me to have a greater sense of trust and openness. They increased my emotional intelligence. Each of them still has a special place in my heart, and I glow every time we visit each other! These relationships have helped me make friends much more easily, to relax. I now have a calm, genuine approach to networking that has gifted me success at a young age. I am extremely grateful for all the donors and staff that make this program possible.

While our math, science, and writing classes were helpful, the most impactful class for me was college counseling with Betsy (she was also a great ceramics teacher!). Betsy helped me approach college applications in a confident and knowledgeable manner. I still remember her lessons about demonstrated interest.



In 2018, I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in History and Philosophy. I then spent two years as an investigator at the Public Defender Services of D.C. I followed up by working on now-President Joseph R. Biden's campaign as a vetting analyst, a due diligence position for potential events, locations, finances, and endorsements to maintain campaign integrity. I currently have a paralegal role at an organization called Whistleblower Aid. Whistleblower Aid is a legal nonprofit that assists public and private sector employees lawfully report their concerns. One recent case that I worked on involved Facebook and our client Frances Haugen; the case was detailed in outlets including 60 Minutes, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. I find it difficult to imagine the same professional path without my foundation at [HS]².



JOHN OKHIULU, [HS]² 2016

Stanford University, Class of 2021
Honors B.A. African & African American Studies
B.A. Human Biology

It's been (unbelievably) five years since I graduated [HS]². Five years ago I was a youngin' looking to finish off high school strong, graduate, head off to one of ten or so colleges that Betsy's superb college counseling helped me to narrow in on, major in computer science, and make some amazing friendships and memories along the way. Five years have brought many twists and turns that I couldn't have predicted, but that I more often than not felt prepared for as a result of the solid foundation and guidance afforded me by [HS]².

At [HS]² I learned the immensely valuable life lesson of following my deepest passions, wherever they lead me. For example my love and commitment to mother earth and healing started on the banks of the Crystal river and the hikes up Red Hill and Sopris, where I was first exposed to understanding ecological health, watersheds, and so much more during [HS]². Since graduating the program in 2016, I have finished up two undergraduate bachelor's degrees from Stanford University in African & African American Studies and Human Biology. Academically, I concentrated on health and development within marginalized communities as well as ancestry, intersectionality, and the arts. As a graduating senior this past year I was awarded the Tom Ford Fellowship in Philanthropy, where I'm currently leveraging my perspective and passions to support Black and Indigenous community organizations through campaigns around reparations in America, climate change action, and food justice. I'm hoping that my journey will continue to build my capacity to support community revitalization and reimagination. I see a landscape in this country where Black and Brown communities have access to holistic health: clean air, abundant greenery, locally sourced organic foods, safe streets, thriving learning centers, and traditional modalities of healing.

[HS]² first gave me the space to breathe and dream vastly beyond my life experience. I was able to deliver poetry and music at Coffee House, and I have since cultivated my art practices as pathways to my healing and outlets to share inspiration with my communities. As an artist I create music, poetry, performance, and visual arts inspired by Afrofuturist traditions. Through these means, I hope to continue to relate to my people among the infinite realms of possibility for our futures on this planet and among the stars. I have immense gratitudes to share with all the program staff at [HS]², who instilled a sense of limitlessness in me over the course of those three summers.

“This experience not only pushed me to continue being a leader, but being surrounded by leaders and future leaders of this world gave me hope for America... As a minority who doesn’t get many opportunities like this, I am grateful for this amazing opportunity to gain knowledge and form lifelong friendships in this program...One day when I become the woman I want to be, my mind will go back to [HS]² and how it is the reason I am who I am.”

- Arleen M., 2nd Year, NYC



Dan Porterfield (above), President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, shared a spirited and informative visit with the [HS]² scholars.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[HS]² is governed by a hybrid Standing Committee of the CRMS Board of Trustees. This Committee is comprised of CRMS Board Members, supporters of [HS]², and content experts in this field. We are grateful for the Standing Committees’ ongoing support and their investment in the development and progression of this program.

Helen Obermeyer
Committee Co-Chair

Ravi Venkateswarn
Committee Co-Chair

Annie Oppenheim
Program Director

Garland Lasater
Founder

Mollie Lasater
Founder

Chris Babbs
Garett Bjorkman
Dr. Whitnee Boyd
Chelsea Congdon
Jay Hughes
Lisanne Rogers
Lisa Schultz

Ex-Officio
Heath Hignight
Jeff Leahy
Stan Wattles

[HS]² FUND LAUNCHED TO CREATE “FOREVER” PROGRAM SUPPORT

This past year, CRMS created the [HS]² Endowed Fund to provide a permanent source of support for the program. The [HS]² Endowed Fund was launched with an initial generous gift from “Friends of [HS]², Given in Recognition of Mollie & Garland Lasater.” The goal of this fund is to provide a perpetual source of financial support for the [HS]² program. [HS]² requires more than half a million dollars to operate each year. To reach this goal, the [HS]² Endowed Fund must grow to over \$10M in value. This first gift from Friends of [HS]² is an important milestone in ensuring that future generations of [HS]² scholars will experience this impactful program.





SCAN ME

to view the latest program video



HIGH SCHOOL
[HS]²
HIGH SCHOLAR

For more information please contact
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www.hs2.crms.org
Donate at www.hs2.crms.org/donate/