



DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



# INVEST. CONNECT. INSPIRE.

We don't use stock photos. These are the faces of our future. They are depending on all of us.



*Students First. Integrity. Equity.*

**OUR STUDENTS  
DEPEND ON DENVER  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.  
DENVER PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS DEPENDS  
ON ALL OF US.**



*Collaboration. Accountability. Fun.*



**At the Denver Public Schools Foundation,** we believe our city is strengthened by every student who graduates ready to lead a successful life. This past year with donor support **we have invested** in accelerating progress for Denver Public Schools (DPS) students, **we have connected** the community to our classrooms and **we have inspired** confidence in the promise of public education.

We believe in putting our students first and holding each other accountable. Our DPS Foundation Core Values guide us in all that we do so that all students may reach their highest potential. Our core values are: Students First, Integrity, Equity, Collaboration, Accountability, and Fun!

**This showcase of success is in large part thanks to the partnership and financial contributions of our loyal supporters.**

**WE BELIEVE OUR CITY IS STRENGTHENED**



**BY EVERY STUDENT**

# JOHN H. AMESSE ELEMENTARY: A DEEPER LOOK AT OUR IMPACT

>> At John H. Amesse Elementary, we support students a variety of ways.

## Afterschool Programs

At Amesse, students take part in Lights on Afterschool (LOAS), a partnership between the DPS Foundation, Mile High United Way and the City and County of Denver that is supported by Wells Fargo and other partners each year. The program provides funding to ensure quality, school-based afterschool programs to keep students engaged in enriching learning experiences once the school day is over. Research shows that afterschool programs can reduce barriers to youth success for students who are facing challenges such as low academic achievement, poverty and truancy. Students in afterschool programs have fewer behavioral problems, greater self-confidence and can handle conflict better than students not enrolled. LOAS makes it possible for community organizations to provide a wide range of opportunities at DPS elementary and middle schools including art, dance, computer, photography classes, and more.



## FACE Centers served

over 1,500 participants  
from more than 100 schools  
within the district between  
May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019.



## Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Centers

FACE Centers create educated, engaged and empowered school communities where Every Child Succeeds. One of the district's FACE Centers lives at Amesse and provides services that promote economic self-sufficiency and student academic achievement to all community members. These centers provide multi-generational wrap-around services that are a one-stop hub connecting students, families and our community to free services, thereby helping empower parents to be role models for

their children as lifelong learners. In the next year, DPS Foundation will continue to support the FACE Centers as DPS works to expand these centers into five satellite locations in high schools across the district.



Amesse Elementary is a school where **96% of students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch**, which is a key indicator of poverty and how DPS tracks highly-impacted schools.

## Trauma-Informed Practices

DPS Foundation received a **\$1 million grant** in 2017-18 from the Campbell Foundation, a donor-advised fund of The Denver Foundation, to support trauma-informed practices in DPS. The grant funds training and coaching of educators, and a portion of the grant will also be used to develop and implement a therapeutic day school. At Amesse Elementary, trauma-informed practices are used every day. Students may choose their own plan to repair an issue and decide how they should re-enter the classroom. Other students may fill out a calming sheet, sharing how their morning went, explaining why they are in the trauma office, and stating what help they need to be successful for the day.

Generous donor support directly enables these successes at schools like Amesse Elementary.

WHO GRADUATES READY TO LEAD A SUCCESSFUL LIFE





# INVEST

**\$1.5 million**



**to create up to 40 new  
afterschool programs**

We received a **\$1.5 million pledge** of support from the Colorado Health Foundation that will be used over the next two years to create up to 40 new

afterschool programs that will expand access to physical activities after school. This will allow DPS to increase out-of-school opportunities for high-needs schools that have more than 60% of the student population who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch.

## Teacher and School Leader Growth & Support

We partnered with Thrive Fellowship to secure a **\$2 million grant** from Bloomberg Philanthropies. This innovative new pilot provides 20 DPS teachers with resources and training to coach other teachers, thereby supporting our workforce and leadership development initiative.



**A TO Z FUND CLASSROOM GRANTS FOR TEACHERS**



**HAS REACHED**



## EDCONNECT

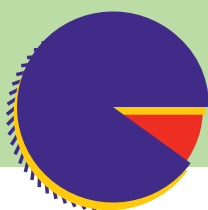
This career pathway program provides DPS high school students with coursework and real-world learning to become teachers, helping the district train and hire talent from within DPS. The first of its kind in the nation, EdConnect is made possible in part by support from The Janus Henderson Foundation.

In 2018, we saw tremendous growth in the program with EdConnect **ENROLLMENT**

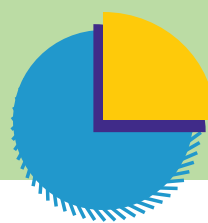
– UP –  
**23%**

and more than **400 students** participating.

Through intentional mentoring and recruitment



over 90% of participants are students of color



25% of the students are bilingual

## A TO Z FUND

**A to Z Fund Classroom Grants for Teachers has reached nearly \$2 million invested into classrooms since its inception in 2006.** The A to Z Fund provides grants to individual schools for programs and activities that go beyond the limits of schools' budgets. In 2018-19, DPS Foundation awarded 107 grants totaling \$158,251 to support the purchase of books, field trips, musical instruments, registration fees for various educational competitions, and more. The average 2019 award was \$1,479.

*"Thanks to the A to Z Fund money, we were able to create a club that meets weekly to learn about geography and apply that learning to the National Geographic Spelling Bee. We hosted our Bee today, the first in our school's history, and had a great time with families, students and staff. Thank you for providing the funding to make this experience a reality for our students and families."*– Jamie Nicholas, Assistant Principal, Kaiser Elementary



Thanks to ongoing donor support, the DPS Foundation is continuing to further empower teachers to provide their students the opportunities, resources and experiences they need to reach their highest potential.

**NEARLY \$2 MILLION INVESTED  
SO TEACHERS DON'T HAVE TO TAKE MONEY OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKETS**



**107 GRANTS TOTALING \$158,251 AWARDED IN 2018-19**



# MARCY & BRUCE BENSON

Lifelong champions of students

Marcy and Bruce Benson have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the students of Denver, making unique and lasting contributions to DPS and the DPS Foundation for more than 20 years. Their ongoing support has had tremendous impact on the work being done to ensure every child in Denver has the opportunity to succeed.

**“IF WE DON’T TAKE CARE OF OUR KIDS NOW, WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM IN THE FUTURE.” –BRUCE BENSON**

The Bensons have provided longtime support to DPS and the DPS Foundation, including transformational financial and in-kind contributions, while also serving as champions and thought-partners. Of primary note, when the DPS Foundation was revitalized in 2002, the Bensons were the driving force to make it an organization of prominence. Serving as Board Chair for six years and leading the revitalization, Bruce’s commitment to the DPS Foundation helped grow private support for DPS from \$315,000 to more than \$10 million when he concluded his service in 2008. Under Bruce’s leadership, the DPS Foundation raised millions to support academic and enrichment programs, contributing to the incredible growth and impact the DPS Foundation has had in recent years on the quality of educational opportunities for students across the city.

In addition to his time and contribution of unique expertise around college readiness and higher education, the annual DPS Foundation Achieve Gala was the creative genius of Bruce’s term as Board Chair. Committed to growing the gala event, the Bensons have annually supported the Achieve Gala as premier sponsors. Marcy and Bruce attended the first annual Achieve Gala where the North High School drumline performed a song. At the



time, the students didn’t have uniforms. Marcy and Bruce realized this and rallied around the students to ensure that every band member would receive a uniform they could wear with pride. This act of kindness is a great example of what the Bensons are all about.

The Bensons’ hard work and dedication on behalf of students is inspiring. Without the unique contributions of partners like Marcy and Bruce Benson, the DPS Foundation’s work wouldn’t be possible, and the progress of our school system might not be so extraordinary. We are grateful for the leadership, vision and inspiration of Marcy and Bruce Benson.

***“When I first joined the DPS Foundation almost four years ago, the Bensons did not hesitate to immediately make time to meet me. It was important to them to understand my vision for the DPS Foundation and within that, to see how they could help ensure that it continues to be successful in supporting DPS students and schools. Their dedication to lend a helping hand as I stepped into my role shows their true commitment to bettering the Denver community by mentoring leaders.”*** - Verónica Figoli, DPS Foundation President & CEO



# CONNECT

School Partners contributed



**\$341,152**

in school-directed and  
in-kind donations to  
30 different schools  
and 4 district programs this year

## School Business Partner BPX Energy

bpx energy

➤ DPS Foundation School  
Partner of the Year  
Award Winner

➤ Partnered with Colfax  
Elementary in 2018-19,  
providing the school:

**150** New  
Chromebooks

**342** New coats to  
all students

**25** Volunteers to host a  
service and education day

**9** Attendance parties hosted  
for students. The students  
loved these parties and educators  
said they believed the parties  
encouraged attendance and made  
their students feel special.



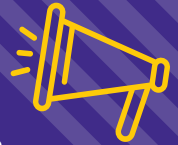


# DPS FOUNDATION ALUMNI COMMITTEE



**Have you heard?  
We now have  
an official DPS  
Alumni Network!**

The DPS Foundation is **excited to announce** that we have **launched a DPS Alumni platform** for informal mentorship, networking, and professional support, and it is designed exclusively for our alumni. DPS alumni can join the network to stay engaged with other alumni community members who share the common connection of attending Denver Public Schools. To receive information about programs, events and the latest DPS Foundation news, visit [dpsfoundation.org/alumni](https://dpsfoundation.org/alumni).



## Alumni Feature

Sia is a passionate and driven DPS alumna who supports the DPS Foundation as a donor and dedicated volunteer. She serves on our DPS Foundation Alumni Committee where she co-hosted the DPS alumni 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Manual High School. The large number of participants included a special appearance by Mayor Michael B. Hancock. Sia is always willing to volunteer at events, including the annual Achieve Gala, and she is a consistent attendee at DPS Foundation alumni meetings. She constantly shares a big smile and positive attitude, and we continue to be grateful for Sia's support so that all students may graduate ready to lead a successful life.



**“I GIVE  
FOR  
TEAM DPS  
BECAUSE...**



**I see the need to be active. I am a current DPS employee and I actively participate when opportunities arise. I am connected because students of color may benefit from seeing someone like them, making a decision to give back and participate in their learning journey.”** - Sia Chandler, Director of GED, Emily Griffith High School

**THE ALUMNI COMMITTEE HOSTED ITS FIRST 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT.  
THE WINNING TEAM, LINCOLN “11” WAS CHEERED ON BY MANY  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, INCLUDING MAYOR MICHAEL B. HANCOCK**





# PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

## United Airlines Travel Grant



United Airlines has been a strong partner for DPS and DPS Foundation by donating **more than \$275,000** in airline tickets. This support has allowed numerous students and staff to attend enriching educational opportunities they couldn't otherwise.

This year, a group of students mentored by the FACE department embarked on a tour of Historically Black Colleges (HBCs). Because of the generosity of United Airlines, 40 students were able to financially afford and experience a tour of a lifetime.

**Out of the 40 students** 



**11**

were seniors who had not yet declared what college they wanted to attend or didn't even think about college as a possibility



**9**

of the 11 seniors are now going to college and six of them received on-the-spot offers at the colleges visited

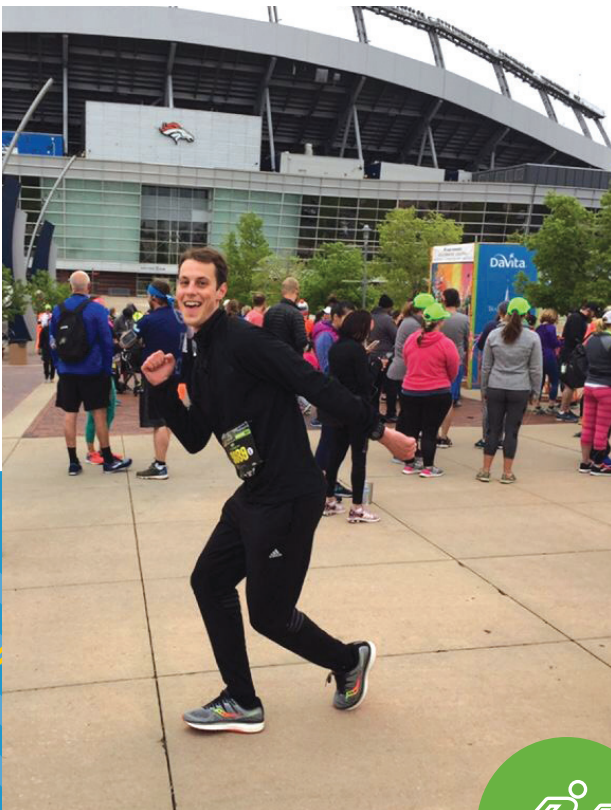


**"Getting a chance to go on the HBC tour was amazing. Getting to see people that have the same color as you, and succeeded AND that want to do great things is amazing. It definitely opened my eyes to check out those schools."** - Deashawn, 12th grader



**"When I stepped into the school, I heard the music and saw the whole vibe. I came back here, applied and got accepted so that's where I'm going to be attending next year."** - Clint, 12th grader

**"It was a reality check for me. I'm the first generation to go to college and it's kind of different because nobody else has experienced what I got to experience on that trip."** - Joy, 9th grader



## Colfax & COGA

With 144 runners, DPS Foundation placed first among Colfax Marathon Charity Partners for runner participation. *I Run for Team DPS* raised \$13,850, in large part thanks to our top fundraisers Jessica and Trevon Brandhorst, and the Colorado Oil and Gas Association (COGA), who once again partnered with DPS Foundation.

**Thank you to our runners, fundraisers, cheerleaders, and supporters for making Colfax Marathon 2019 a huge success!**

**"We are so grateful for the partnership with the DPS Foundation. Our members embraced the Colfax Marathon challenge enthusiastically, making it a friendly competition for the best completion times, and also for bragging rights on the most funds raised. We can't wait to do it again next year!"**

- Sara Reynolds, Vice President of Operations, Colorado Oil & Gas Association



# INSPIRE



## ACHIEVE GALA 2019

was an extra special event this year. Hosted by Gala co-chairs **Jolon Clark** (President of Denver City Council), **Brittany Morris Saunders** (President of Local Affairs, Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs), **Jon Roitman** (SVP of Airport and Network Operations, United Airlines), and **Darryl Traweek** (West Divisional Director, RBC Wealth Management - U.S.), it was a night that almost didn't happen due to weather. But our vendors, attendees and sponsors rallied together to make a newly scheduled date possible.

**While we are proud to have surpassed our event fundraising goals, the real successes were the profound experiences had by the nearly 200 students who took part in the event:**



Our emcee Tanner experienced increased confidence as the event built in excitement.



**Keynote speaker Jimena experienced so much inspiration that she is now working as a DPS Foundation summer intern.**



**The all-abilities Unified Theatre group participants** from John F. Kennedy High School experienced appreciation during the standing ovation they received after ending their skit.

If we had not been able to reschedule, we would not have been able to give our students these moments. The event was a testament of the immense power we have as a community.



Thank you to premier sponsors: Presenting Sponsor Western Union Foundation, United Airlines, Polsinelli, Cille & Ron Williams, Walton Family Foundation, RBC Wealth Management, The Anschutz Foundation, DaVita, Elaine Gantz Berman & Stephen Berman / Kristin & Blair Richardson, and Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, and all others for helping ensure this night was a success!



**NEARLY 200 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN ACHIEVE GALA 2019**





**THANK YOU** to all who  
attended our first ever  
documentary screening  
in October 2018!

The successful **sold-out** night showed the film *Paper Tigers* and was followed by a highly engaging panel discussion.

*Paper Tigers* is a look into the lives of students at Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, Washington. The school specializes in educating children who have experienced trauma. The film intimately examines trauma-informed best practices that are critical to recognize and deal with in a supportive and timely manner. The film ties closely to the DPS goal to become a trauma-informed district.



**Films  
for the  
Future**

ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL HAS  
BEEN EXPOSED TO TRAUMA, SUCH AS DIVORCE, FOOD INSECURITY,  
HOMELESSNESS, OR DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER





## DPS FACTS: IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

**For the ninth consecutive year,**



students in Denver Public Schools **outpaced their peers across Colorado** in year-to-year academic growth in **both literacy and math** on the statewide exams for third- through eighth-graders.


On the 2019 Colorado Measure of Academic Success, DPS students have a combined growth score of



**55 in  
literacy**




**53 in  
math**

A growth score of 50 is set as the average score for students across the state, and this marks the ninth straight year (which includes the transition from the former CSAP assessment to CMAS) that DPS students have posted growth scores above 50 in both literacy and math. 



**For DPS English-Learners, more than half (57%) are on-track to acquire English proficiency, an increase of one percentage point over last year.** 

English-Learners continued to exceed the district's growth benchmark on the Colorado Spanish Language Arts test. DPS sets an expectation that 60% of English-Learners will meet the growth expectation that will put them on track for English proficiency. In 2019, 62% of these students met or exceeded that growth exception. 

**CareerConnect is helping our students achieve success. Students who participate in a CareerConnect internship are**

**270%** more likely to graduate on-time.



**DPS STUDENTS OUTPACED**



**THEIR PEERS ACROSS COLORADO**





## DPS WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT, SUSANA CORDOVA

We were excited to welcome **Susana Cordova** as the new superintendent for Denver Public Schools this past year. As a past DPS teacher, Susana is a nationally recognized education leader who has devoted her professional life to serving children and families. She is a first-generation college graduate who deeply understands the power of education to change lives. Susana, previously the district's deputy superintendent, is a DPS graduate who has spent her career in DPS classrooms as a bilingual secondary teacher, principal of a high-needs elementary school and administrator. The DPS Foundation is excited to work together with Susana, where we will partner with DPS to close the opportunity gap for our students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.



our core identity.”

– Susana Cordova



“We still have a lot of work ahead to drive bigger gains in proficiency and in closing our achievement gaps and we need to learn from schools like Dora Moore and the others across DPS for the outstanding work they’re doing. **These are schools where targeted, focused strategies around instructional excellence and equity are driving significant progress.** Our work ahead is to bring that to scale, to collaborate across all of our schools to make broader and deeper gains that lift up the students who need extra support.” – Susana Cordova, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

“The success of Denver Public Schools is the beacon to outsiders – as it translates to attracting and retaining talent and businesses. I am excited to join Verónica, Susana and the DPS Foundation as we focus on equity for our students. This is a topic that means so much to me personally, as I have seen firsthand the disparities amongst our schools and students. **We have amazing and supportive educators in DPS** and we still have a long way to go to support our students and teachers.” – Priya Burkett, Board Chair, DPS Foundation



IN YEAR-TO-YEAR ACADEMIC

GROWTH IN LITERACY & MATH



# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

### Revenue, gains, and other support:

#### Contributions:

Family and grant-making foundations & organizations .....	\$9,440,000
Corporate & corporate foundations .....	1,563,000
Individuals .....	299,000
Local government & agencies .....	108,000
In-kind .....	64,000
Special events, net .....	935,000
Interest income .....	181,000

**Total revenue, gains, and other support** **\$12,590,000**

#### Expenses:

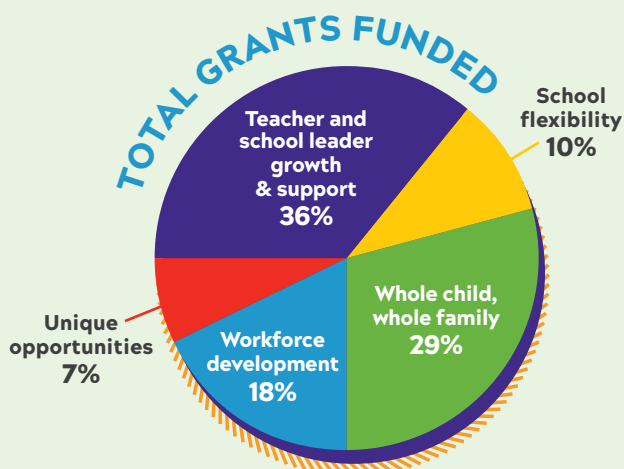
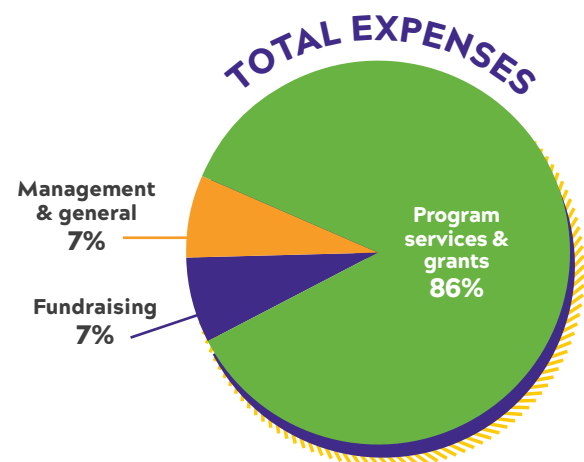
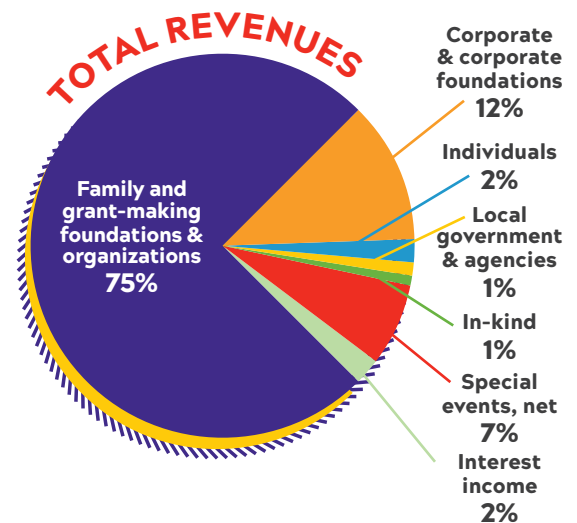
Program services & grants .....	\$7,542,000
Management & general .....	586,000
Fundraising .....	641,000

**Total expenses** **\$8,769,000**

Change in net assets .....	\$3,821,000
Net assets, beginning of year .....	8,846,000

**Net assets, end of year** **\$12,667,000**

DPS Foundation received an unmodified opinion by independent auditors Plante & Moran, PLLC for the year ended June 30, 2019. The complete Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report are available upon request.



### Grants funded:

Teacher and school leader growth & support .....	\$2,670,000
School flexibility .....	774,000
Whole child, whole family .....	2,125,000
Workforce development .....	1,306,000
Unique opportunities .....	509,000

**Total grants funded** **\$7,384,000**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Community Leader

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Market President-Metropolitan  
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Communications, University of  
Colorado Denver

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Attorney, Butler Snow LLP

**Rebecca Grant Zarret**  
*Chair of Allocations Committee*  
Adjunct Faculty, University of  
Colorado Denver

*DPS Foundation Board of Directors  
and team lists are current as of  
September 15, 2019.*

# DPS FOUNDATION TEAM

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**Traci Brooks**  
Executive & Board  
Relations Manager

**Kaytie Buell**  
Accountant

**Libby Hodgins**  
Events & Development Associate

**Lauren Lindgren**  
Grants Management Officer

**Kimberly Martinez, CPA**  
Vice President of Finance  
& Operations

**Ashley Muramoto**  
Marketing &  
Communications Director

**Rebecca Reutlinger**  
Vice President of Development

**Kimberly Reynders**  
Database Specialist

**Katie Wienecke**  
School Partners Program Manager

**Elyse Williams**  
Development Associate

**Zahra Abdulameer**  
Communications Intern

**Jimena Cristerna**  
Summer Development Intern





# COMING SOON!



**ACHIEVE GALA 2020**

Save the Date for Achieve Gala 2020  
on Thursday, April 23, 2020.  
Hyatt Regency Denver at  
Colorado Convention Center



## THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our investors, community members and volunteers who help us create opportunities for DPS students so that all students may graduate ready to lead a successful life. Without you, this work would not be possible. Our city only thrives when our students thrive. We are grateful to all be in this together. View the donor roll online at [dpsfoundation.org/our-impact](https://dpsfoundation.org/our-impact).

