



COLLEGE BOUND AZ
ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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Message from Gerald E. Paulus

Dear Friends,

College Bound AZ was established in 2010 as a nonprofit community resource to share the journey to college with aspiring underrepresented students through mentorship, guidance, and support resources for their advancement to a better future through education. Many hidden barriers affect low income students from successfully transitioning to and finishing college, which results in undeveloped talent in bright, young people. College Bound AZ resources have changed that for dozens of high school seniors now in college and for those who have already completed college and are now in the workforce.



Gerald E. Paulus, Board President

College Bound AZ

2019 was our ninth year providing college access programs to our underrepresented community and College Bound AZ continues to grow and improve. This year we initiated the RISE Scholars program through partnerships with Arizona State University (ASU) and the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) to increase the number of high school seniors impacted from 15 to 60 per year. RISE Scholars reaches further into the community by providing services on the EVIT campuses where students from 10 school districts arrive there each day. Our partnerships and our database development project will make it possible to stay better connected to each cohort to ensure college completion and a transition into the workforce. Each college graduate earns \$15,000 more their first year in the workforce than those who enter the workforce with a high school diploma. That gap increases over time making college completion a high imperative for our community. When more high school seniors receive our services, the greater the economic impact for all.

Community college students have barriers to finishing college that include facing food scarcity. One study reported food scarcity affects 30% of community college students. College Bound AZ expanded the partnership with our local food bank to provide resources to the Mesa Market food pantry at Mesa Community College. More than 500 students receive food each month as a result, alleviating a barrier to college completion.

The Junior High Academy that was the launch point for College Bound AZ continues with up to 25 students at each school receiving weekly workshops on college and career readiness. Using the language of college during formative years creates a future that includes college completion.

Your support helps College Bound AZ Turn Dreams into Degrees!

Thank you!

Gerald E Paulus

Mission

Our mission at College Bound AZ is to share the journey to college with aspiring underrepresented students through mentorship, guidance, and support resources for their advancement to a better future through education.

Programs



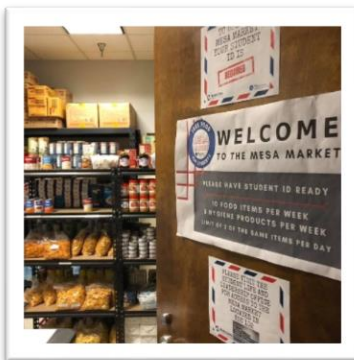
Junior High Academy

In 8th Grade we partner with middle schools in a year-long program that includes lessons on college and career readiness. Low income students are 20% less likely to pursue college than their more affluent peers. Through College Bound AZ, each topic will be a part of the necessary college prep work throughout high school and increase the number of low income students who pursue higher education. College Bound AZ helps develop students' academic performance and personal potential through experiential learning and career association.



RISE Scholars

Low income high school seniors get the college coaching support they need in College Bound AZ's RISE (Reaching Impact through Student Excellence) Scholars initiative. We partner with selected high schools to provide coaching sessions and college tours and serve as a bridge for students pursuing STEM careers to receive four years paid tuition to Arizona State University. It's estimated that only 14% of low income students will complete college.



Fueling Minds with Heart

Our food pantry program provides relief to college students by providing canned meat, vegetables, and fruit, power drinks, cereal, protein bars and other items through a partnership with a local food bank and donations from the community. College Bound AZ helps stock the college's food pantry to offer relief for the estimated 13% of homeless community college students struggling to complete college.

RISE Scholars Impact

College Bound AZ underwent a major program change in 2019 for our high school program to provide more students with access to college. A very focused approach was developed to leverage ASU's 100% tuition and fees funding for all four years of college for eligible low-income students. What was a weekend program open to any student in 9th-12th grades transitioned to an in-school program to work more closely with seniors at Sequoia Secondary and the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) who were willing to commit to Arizona State University (ASU). Neither school offers college advising to seniors. College Bound AZ can be the catalyst to better outcomes for our low-income students as illustrated below.

Figure 1. Average Number of Seniors Served

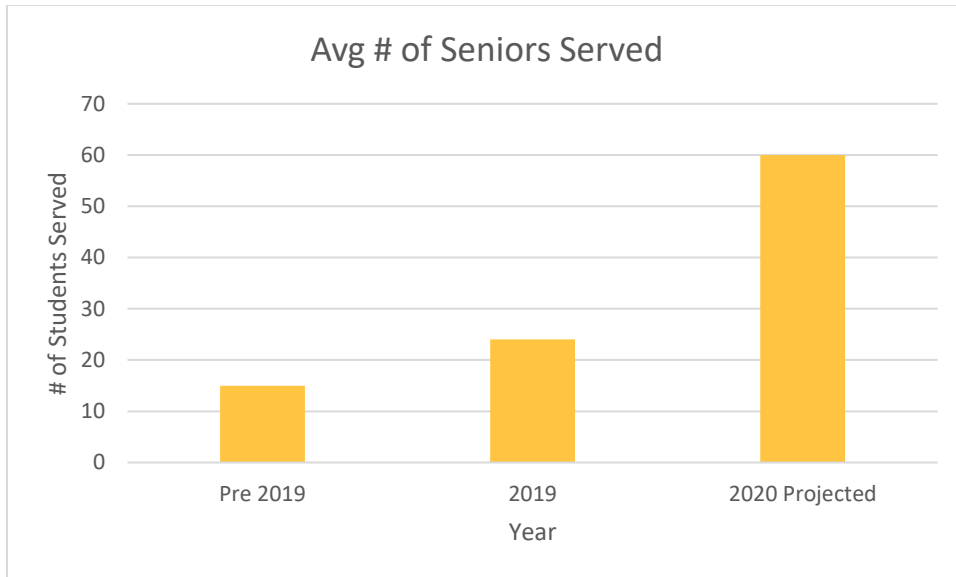


Figure 1 shows the change in the number of seniors served by transitioning to an in-school format. Included is a projection for 2020, the first year after the approach piloted in 2019.



Figure 2. Average Financial Award to Seniors

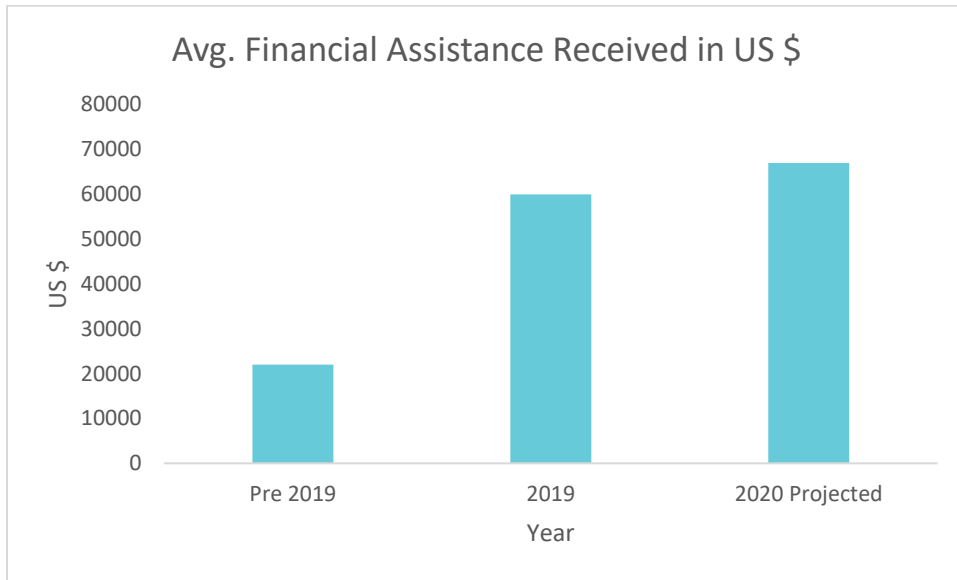


Figure 2 shows the change in financial awards to seniors by focusing on the grants provided to eligible low-income students to attend ASU. Included is a projection for 2020, the first year after the 2019 pilot year.



The illustration (above) shows the process for a participant moving through RISE Scholars.

Jr High Academy Impact



Brooke, Raven and Aniessa serve at the College Bound AZ annual Feed My Starving Children event.

Leadership Development through Volunteering

Hours contributed per classroom:

240

Fueling Minds with Heart Impact



Volunteer Glen Quizaman helps deliver meals to Mesa Community College

Food Pantry Support

of students receiving food each month:

500

A Day that Changed a Life



Paige Arriaga
Combs High School
2019 RISE Scholar

Paige Arriaga

It was a Saturday in April 2019 and Paige’s mom was getting Paige help in completing her federal aid application and applying to Arizona State University (ASU).

“Have you done your FAFSA yet?” the college adviser asked. FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. With information provided by a student, FAFSA calculates how much benefit a low-income student qualifies for. These are funds that go directly to the school chosen by the student to offset the cost of college.

“No”, Paige replied flatly. By April most college-going high school seniors have applied for federal aid. That Paige had not yet started stood out among other high school students. “Why, Paige? You’re a senior in high school!” commented the College Bound AZ rep. FAFSA’s online application becomes available in

October of the senior year, and here it was April. Her answer was memorable. “I’ve been poor my whole life”, she said. “I know I’m not going anywhere. What’s the rush?”

Paige got busy first completing FAFSA, then applying to ASU. The [College Attainment Grant](#) provided by ASU to low-income students would pay tuition and fees for all four years of college. The College Bound AZ RISE Scholars program helps high school seniors qualify for this social benefit because a typical high school senior is unaware of the grant’s availability. It’s only available to incoming low-income college freshmen with a 3.0 grade point average or higher.

Paige would be a First Generation college student, meaning neither parent had completed a four-year degree. The two hours of effort paid off and Paige left that day as an ASU student Class of 2023. Paige’s response to the news was a tear filled, “I can’t believe it!” and was as memorable as her earlier remarks.

With grants and donations received, College Bound AZ provides workshops on the high school campuses of Sequoia Secondary School and the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT). Working directly with students to complete college admission steps truly is *Turning Dreams into Degrees*. Paige attends ASU where she is studying Microbiology.

A Dream Comes True

Maximiliano Aguilar

Like most high school seniors, Max was aware that his best option for a good-paying career was to complete college. Six months earlier Max had applied to Arizona State University (ASU) but had not heard any news back.

Max attended the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) and visited the RISE Scholars office located inside the Counseling Department there for help. In 2019 RISE Scholars was being piloted to help students at EVIT, a Career and Technical Training high school, to transition to college.

The admissions process to college requires several steps to complete, such as creating the student's account, adding residency information and more. Upon being accepted to ASU, the process then continues with several more steps.

It was in these additional steps that Max found himself, and he was unaware of the complete admissions process. Max met with College Bound AZ who sponsors RISE Scholars for help. After a brief meeting it was determined a full ride for all four years of college was just two clicks away!

Within one week Max received the happy news he had received the College Attainment Grant and could go on to study Finance at ASU. Max visited the RISE Scholars office many times throughout the remaining school year to ensure he finished all his admission requirements. He was also happy to be featured in a YouTube video to encourage other students to be a part of the RISE Scholars program.



Max Aguilar
Highland High School
2019 RISE Scholar

Thought Leadership

Why all the focus on college? Here is what Regent Fred Duval, Arizona Board of Regents, said in regards to being college educated: “We do this (attend college) because we know that a college degree opens the doors of opportunity, significantly increases lifetime earnings and job mobility, improves quality of life and helped our nation create and compete for the knowledge-based jobs of the 21st Century.”

Access to Upward Mobility

Joining the workforce with a college degree, then, ensures increased lifetime earnings and a pathway to an improved quality of life. Education lifts people out of poverty. What College Bound AZ does is remove the barriers for deserving students so that their opportunity for a better life is not impeded by the inability to access the education they are capable of.

We begin College Bound AZ programs in the 8th grade based on the ages during which youth develop their personal identify. The developmental theory of adolescents by Erik Erickson reflects youth between the ages of 12-18 are cementing their self-identify. Seeing college in their future can be influenced by planting the seed in 8th grade during which students are 13-14 years old. College Bound AZ plays a role for students that might not otherwise see themselves as going to college.

Our RISE Scholars program is high school seniors who are predominantly First Generation where neither parent has completed their four-year degree. Most parents in our program have no college, so their ability to help their student apply to college and apply for federal financial aid is limited. The students themselves are very daunted by filling out online forms because of the vocabulary used that’s not like anything else. Students are also confused when one or both parents lacks a social security number. The federal aid application, for example, which is used to qualify a student for the College Attainment Grant allows for the response to be using all zeros, but this is not common knowledge. The National Center Education Statistics graphs reflect low-income students are 20% less likely to go to college. Our 2019 RISE Scholars pilot was a success and we will continue it next year.

Helping stock the food pantry and provide hygiene items to community college students embraces a typically older demographic who undertake college to either improve skills or switch careers. A 2017 study by the Wisconsin Hope Lab interviewed 70,000 students across America including Mesa Community College. It was sobering to learn while struggling to get ahead through education, 13% of those students are homeless and a much higher percentage face food insecurity. In 2019 the three-year graduation rate for Mesa Community College was 16%. Supporting student success though food and hygiene product drives can help with retention.

Your donations show you care, and that you believe every person deserves a decent-paying job. How else can our economy and communities thrive? Happier, healthier families, financial stability, and a more engaged citizenry are the positive consequences of taking action for education.

Resources & Financial Management

Figure 3. Income by Fiscal Year and Source

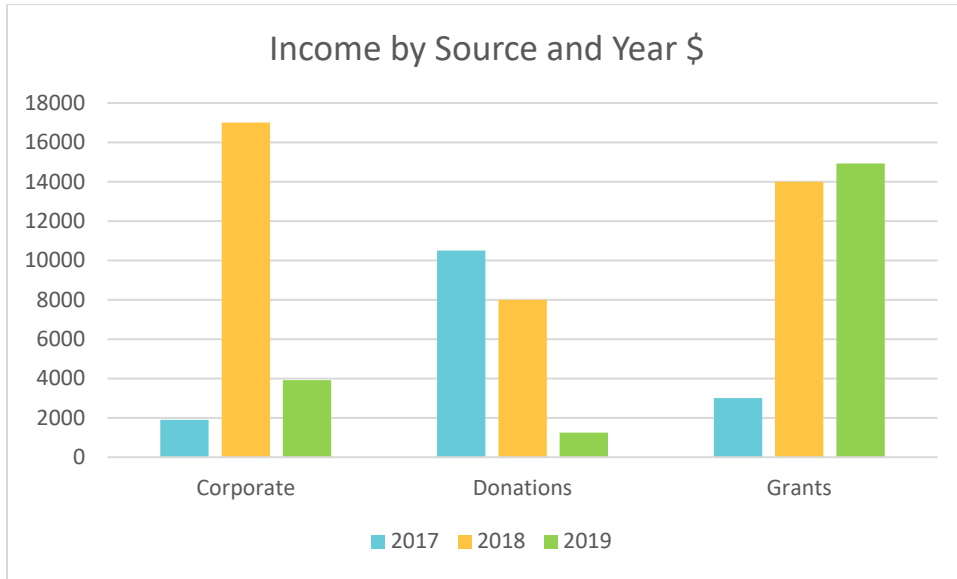


Figure 3 shows the amount of funding for College Bound AZ by source for FY 2017-2019

Note: The graph (above) shows the income by type and year for College Bound AZ. In-kind donations that consist mostly of volunteer hours are an important resource until funding sources are identified.

In-kind donations: 2017: \$141,000. 2018: \$133,000 2019: \$268,750

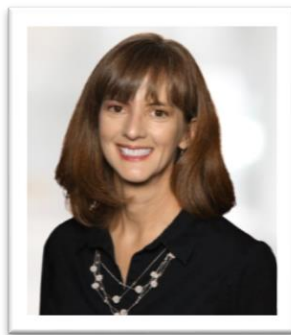
Looking Forward

2019 was when we challenged the system and implemented a new design for our high school program to reach more deserving students. It was a success and well received by students and the schools we support. Our 2019 goal was to transition 20 students and we reached 24 total students going to ASU with \$1.5 million in financial awards.. Our 2020 goal is 60 students!

Executive Leadership



Gerald Paulus
Board President



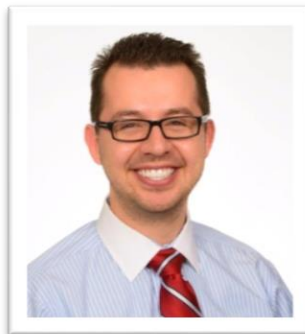
Carol Lain
Board V President



Candace Sharkey
Treasurer



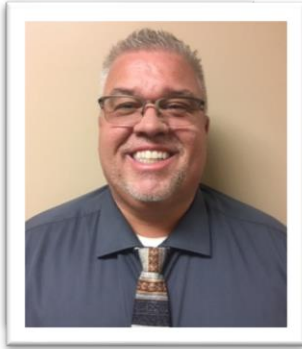
Juanita Dominguez
Secretary



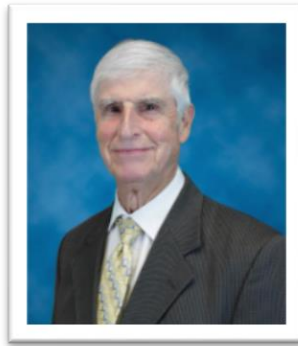
Caden Gillespie
Board Member



Ross Ojeda
Board Member



Tim Meyer
Board Member



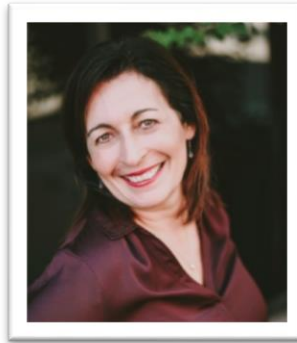
Val Wilson
Board Member



Robin Benning
Board Member



Mike Langley
Board Member



Felecia Rozansky
Board Member



Elizabeth Paulus
Executive Director

We Need Your Help

Your donations make all the difference to low-income youth who want the chance to make a difference in the world by becoming the professional they have always dreamed of. Your gift is generational, because education in one generation gives rise to their children becoming educated!

Every Penny Matters

You can give online here: [donation page](#)

You can also mail in your donation to: College Bound AZ,
4222 E. Brown Road #33, Mesa AZ 85205



Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Not everyone can make a financial contribution. At our workshops and events, you can assist students with activities or chaperone on our college tour. Mentors can help students proof essays or help find answers on college topics. Businesses can set up collection points for community members to drop off food items or hygiene products to help those students already attending college.

- Volunteer with the Veterans Day Parade, food pantry drives, or fundraising.
- Volunteer around the office with phone calls and other tasks
- Volunteer in a different way: _____

Please visit our website <http://www.collegeboundaz.org> to learn more, or call us at 602.550.3161. Send this form by mail to our office at 4222 E. Brown Rd. #33, Mesa AZ

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

2019

Annual Report



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