Gratitude is the word that comes to mind when I think about the 2021-22 school year. I am thankful for our teachers and staff and their commitment to our students. In a time of complex challenges affecting public education in a post-pandemic environment, our staff prioritized students and meeting both their educational, social, and emotional needs. As a Board, we are also immensely grateful for the legacy of our Founder Chris Gibbons, the network of schools he built over 16 years, and the opportunity we have to build upon that success with our new leader in the years to come.

Kayla Tibbals
2022-23 Board of Trustees Chair

2021-2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Made up of parents and community and business leaders, the board helps maintain accountability to students, families and the community by holding public meetings every month to review school progress. STRIVE Prep is grateful for their dedication and commitment to serve.

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ACHIEVEMENT

$5.5 MILLION
in scholarship funds awarded to STRIVE Prep 2022 graduates

JUSTICE

STRIVE Prep students and teachers led by example when it came to seeking justice, with students organizing a walkout in protest of gun violence, Intersession focused on unhoused people, and a trailblazing educator teaching LGBTQ History.

PERSEVERANCE

100% of STRIVE Prep schools have Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs and an accompanying SEL specialist, with 60% of schools participating in Valor Compass.

10 SCHOOLS

97% OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

3,339 STUDENTS

83% OF STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOR

478 STAFF

83% OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

42% OF STUDENTS ARE MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

MORE THAN 85% ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
TWO STRIVE PREP - RISE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS DANIELS FUND SCHOLARSHIP. Elisa Cardona Lamas, a first-generation college student, plans to study Education at CU Boulder and Daniel Hernandez Lopez plans to study Civil Engineering, also at CU Boulder.

STRIVE Prep - Montbello is now STRIVE Prep - Noel! A new campus means new opportunities like 4 science labs, free transportation, and athletic space that includes a soccer field, a baseball field, and 4 basketball courts. opportunities

The STRIVE Prep - SMART 18-21 Program started their “Happy Houseplant” business, featuring hand-painted pots and a variety of plants.

Network-wide, special education programming underwent a comprehensive, participant-centered evaluation and made transformative changes in areas of teaching, coaching, and targeted mental health support for students with disabilities. STRIVE was even recognized in a Chalkbeat article for its exemplary support of students with disabilities.

STRIVE Prep - Montbello is now STRIVE Prep - Noel! A new campus means new opportunities like 4 science labs, free transportation, and athletic space that includes a soccer field, a baseball field, and 4 basketball courts. opportunities

STRIVE Prep - Ruby Hill’s founding class of elementary elephants is headed off to high school! This marked an eight year legacy of STRIVE Prep’s prodigious pachyderms.
STRIVE Prep underwent a comprehensive and community-centered process to increase compensation equity for its teachers, mental health professionals, and office staff, resulting in increased base pay and three new salary calculator tools.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION**

**DEI WORK**

**DEI:** We held monthly “VOICES” sessions to enact anti-racist work, launched four staff affinity groups - Black, Latinx, AAPI, and LGBTQ+, the IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accountability and Support) Council planned thoughtful programming with representation from each campus, and students explored DEI topics and themes through Community Days.

**SPED:** Network-wide, special education programming underwent a comprehensive, participant-centered evaluation and made transformative changes in areas of teaching, coaching, and targeted mental health support for students with disabilities. STRIVE was even recognized in a Chalkbeat article for its exemplary support of students with disabilities.

**TRANSITIONING TO STRIVE PREP’S NEXT LEADER**

Sixteen years after founding the STRIVE Prep network, Chris Gibbons bid the network a bittersweet farewell. In his farewell address, he recalled, “The story of STRIVE Prep is one of reinvention, adaptability, and rising up to meet the moment,” and invited STRIVE Prep to continue this legacy and “do it with dignity, with the care and love deserved for one another, and with our scholars at the center.”
EXTRACURRICULAR

SPEECH AND DEBATE

STRIVE Prep - SMART sent 4 students to Speech and Debate Nationals, with two students placing in the top 2% and two in the top 15% at the event.

Nine total STRIVE Prep students competed at Speech and Debate Nationals, 4 from STRIVE Prep - SMART, 5 from STRIVE Prep - RISE.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPANSION

Speech and debate programs were not only established at all middle schools, but flourished, with students participating in both during-school electives, and after school programs.

BOCCE

STRIVE Prep - SMART student Jose Serna was not only the first U.S. Latino to compete in the 2021 Challenge International Denis Ravera Bocce tournament, but the FIRST TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION WHEN HE PLACED FOURTH IN THE “PRECISION THROW” EVENT.

RUBY HILL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Thanks to a generous grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, the Ruby Hill Afterschool Program celebrated its inaugural year with great successes.

139 TOTAL ATTENDEES

We started hearing complaints from parents… that they were having a hard time convincing kids to go home!

- Tessa Fredricks, Program Lead
FINANCIALS

STRIVE Prep received $43 million* in local, state and federal funding to support the operations of our 10 schools.

YOUR SUPPORT ENSURED

$2.1 MILLION*

WAS RAISED FOR PROGRAMS NOT SUPPORTED BY STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS.

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED

$2.1 MIL

22% Special education
19% After-school activities
15% General Operating
14% College Access
12% Mental Health/SEL
8% Advocacy/family engagement
5% Speech & Debate
5% School projects
Many thanks to our supporters and their generous gifts! Your donations ensure the success of programs not supported by state and federal funding. Programs such as: Athletics & Activities, College & Career Access, ACCESSAbility (18-21 year-old program), and so much more!

DONOR LIST + SPECIAL THANKS

$100,000 - $499,999
Sturm Family Foundation
Caring for Denver Foundation
RootED
I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation
Colorado Health Foundation
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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Daniel Carroll
Healthy Food for Denver Kids
CDE Concurrent Enrollment Program
The Anschutz Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
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Vela Education Fund
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Brandy Valdez Murphy
Gretchen Bartek
Peter C. Groff
Victoria Scott-Haynes
Ulysses Estrada
American Furniture Warehouse
Antonia Salais-Alvarado
David McGlade
National Speech & Debate Association
Joshua Rael
April Valdez Villa

< 250.00
Christy Gardner
Brewster Boyd
Cameron Hill
Samuel Battan
Alexandra Springer
Allyson Gunn
Carol Zak-Dance
Julia Vinrnest
Andie Kuczko
Anna Jo Haynes
Deserea' Thames
Gary Hay
Donald Valdez
Tim Murphy
Kayla Garcia
Crestina Martinez
Mary Seawell
Montserrat Alatorre
Mae Saas
Carly Winner
Peggy Valdez
Nicolas Iverson
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Christina Castro
Tom Kaesemeyer
Susan Morris Ovuworie
Shane Smith and Maireny Medina

In-Kind Gifts & Special Thanks
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Denver Museum of Nature and Science

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Queen City Collective Coffee
Somm Says
Capitol Hill Mansion Bed and Breakfast
Candlelight Dinner Playhouse
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Denver Art Museum
The Kitchen American Bistro
Frasca Food and Wine
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*For questions or inquiries, or if we recognized your name incorrectly, please contact development@striveprep.org.