



achievements

# ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

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**achievempls**

# achievements



Dear friends –

Thanks to your generous support, AchieveMpls is accomplishing great things for young people in Minneapolis Public Schools and across our city!

This annual report celebrates the donors, volunteers, employers and other partners who are investing in our city's future. We feel a great responsibility to use these resources strategically and responsibly, and to provide the best opportunities and programs possible for Minneapolis youth.

**At AchieveMpls, we're focused on results.** We provide personalized support for students in preparing for careers and college. We're also using data to help us understand which students most need our support, what programs are working and how we can improve. Being a data-

driven organization has changed our culture and our work. We're now much more effective and have a better understanding of how we're impacting individual students, specific communities and entire high school classes.

**We also believe in the power of partnerships, alignment across systems and collaboration for student success.** Our two biggest partners are the Minneapolis Public Schools and the City of Minneapolis. But we don't stop there. As you'll see in our report, our strong relationships with other nonprofits, business leaders, networks and other caring adults allow us to build our collective impact and make even greater strides toward our shared goal of every student career and college ready.

**Your generosity also supports the most talented staff I've ever had the privilege of leading.** They work hard, work smart and are passionate about improving outcomes for each and every young person they encounter. They make the work of AchieveMpls happen and deserve much of the credit for our success. (Our amazing partners and students deserve the rest!)

Thank you for caring deeply about our young people and for helping us create a powerful legacy of opportunity for our city.

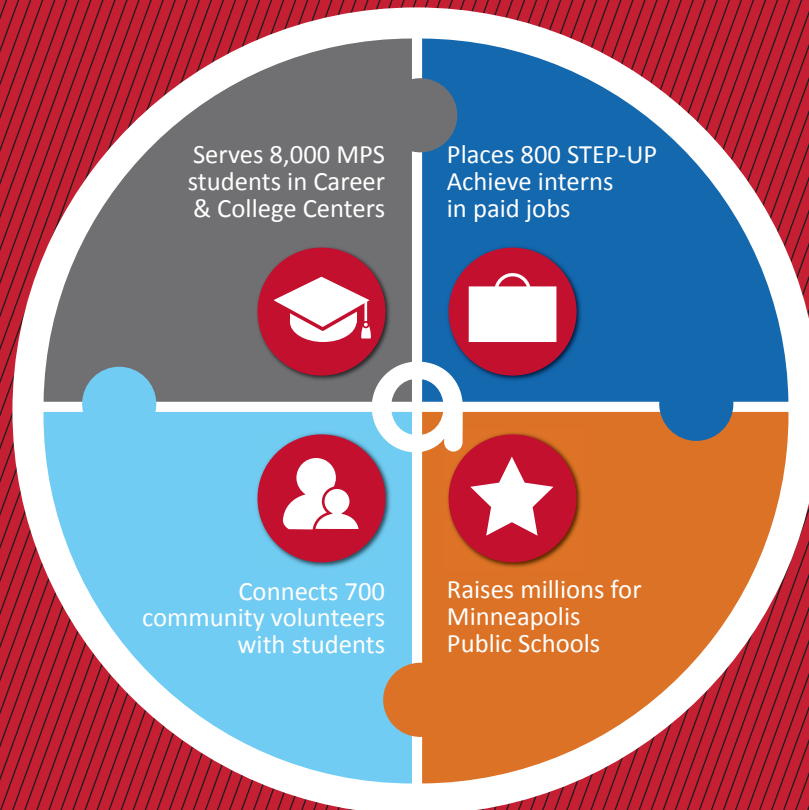
My best wishes,

*Pam Costain*

President and CEO, AchieveMpls

# Who We Are & What We Do

Each year, AchieveMpls:



The Twin Cities has one of the largest racial employment and education achievement gaps in the country. And by 2018, 70% of all jobs in Minnesota will require some form of postsecondary education. The stakes couldn't be higher for our young people and our city.

**AchieveMpls** mobilizes our community's generous resources to ensure that young people in Minneapolis graduate from high school with the tools and support they need to be career and college ready in our new knowledge-based economy.

As the strategic nonprofit partner of the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), we direct career and college readiness programs, engage our community to advocate for student success, and raise money to support MPS strategic priorities.

We provide a bridge between students and the wider community, creating opportunities for individuals and groups to make a difference for youth as mentors, community partners, employers, funders and advocates.

Investing in our youth reaps rich rewards for our entire community. As more young people achieve their dream of college, meaningful work and a bright future, we all benefit from a new generation of active and engaged citizens, a strong and vibrant culture and economy, and a more just and compassionate city. **Join us!**



## Career & College Centers



*“I don’t know what I’d do without my CCC Coordinator. He helps me practice for my college interviews, polish my essays, and keeps me from getting overwhelmed. I also found my STEP-UP internships through the CCC. I’m so grateful we have this resource right here at Washburn High School.”*

**AchieveMpls Career & College Centers (CCCs)** in MPS high schools help thousands of young people make their life dreams and career and college aspirations become reality. Our **CCCs** offer the personal attention and strategic guidance that all high school students need to make a plan for success after graduation – whether that means college, technical training, work, or other opportunities.

**CCCs** are staffed by professional AchieveMpls coordinators who are trained in the key elements of college and career readiness. Many are licensed school counselors. Our coordinators provide information and resources for all students and families, as well as targeted support for those who need additional help exploring careers or navigating the college process. They also track individual student progress to ensure that all graduating seniors have a plan for life after high school.

All **CCCs** offer:

- My Life Plan activities and assessments
- Career Fairs with local professionals
- College fairs, tours and recruiter visits
- ACT test preparation
- College application assistance
- FAFSA, financial aid and scholarship assistance
- Resume writing, job interview, financial literacy and other professional skills workshops



## STEP-UP Achieve



*“STEP-UP made a real difference in my personal, academic, and career life. It was amazing to have two internships at the City of Minneapolis at such a young age. STEP-UP taught me how to function in the workplace and make great connections, and it reinforced what I want to do for my career. Without STEP-UP I wouldn’t have known where to go or how to take the next step.”*

**STEP-UP Achieve** provides vital job training and internships for Minneapolis youth who face some of the greatest barriers to employment. Each year the program connects 800 youth with over 160 top Twin Cities employers—from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses, public agencies and nonprofits—bringing youthful creativity, fresh perspectives and multi-cultural competency to the workplace.

**STEP-UP Achieve** is building a stronger Twin Cities workforce for our knowledge-based global economy. We connect talented and eager young people with employers who are looking to broaden and diversify their workforce and prepare for the upcoming wave of worker retirements.

The program provides tremendous long-term benefits to both young people and their employers through:

- **Work-readiness training** certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
- **Paid professional summer internships** that provide on-the-job skills and over \$1.4 million in wages each year
- **School-year, work-based learning internships** that offer academic credit
- **In-depth career exposure, trainings and industry-recognized certification** in high-wage, high-demand industries

**STEP-UP Achieve** is part of the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program, a nationally-recognized model that has created valuable workplace experiences for over 20,000 youth since 2004.



## Outreach & Partnerships



*“Through the Graduation Coaches program not only did I make a great connection with a Minneapolis youth, but I now understand just how much the school district truly cares about its students. I’ve been impressed since day one with the coaching training, program curriculum and ongoing support I’ve received from AchieveMpls.”*

**Community engagement** is at the heart of everything we do. Our Outreach & Partnerships programs mobilize community members to volunteer with students, learn about critical public education issues, build networks of support, and advocate for young people.

The single most important factor in a young person’s success is a consistent relationship with a supportive adult. We create opportunities for hundreds of community members to directly support students as:

- **Graduation Coaches**, who provide one-on-one advice and mentoring for high school juniors and seniors
- **Career Fair presenters** from a wide variety of fields who share their career journeys with students
- **STEP-UP Achieve Mock Interview volunteers**, who help prospective interns practice their job interview skills
- **Minneapolis Alumni Connection (MAC)** members, who give back to students and the greater MPS community

We also encourage community dialogue about critical issues directly impacting our young people through:

- **EDTalks**, which feature innovative ideas in education and create networking opportunities with educators, artists, journalists, youth advocates and other leaders
- **Our City, Our Schools** forums that engage stakeholders in conversations about the achievement gap, career and college readiness and workforce development



## Collaboration for Student Success



*“As the Superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools, I’m grateful to AchieveMpls for its extraordinary work and vision, its partnership in improving public education, and its commitment to ensuring that every child in MPS schools graduates career and college ready.”*

**AchieveMpls** partners with **Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)** to accomplish our shared goal of every student career and college ready. Together we are working hard to dramatically improve outcomes for all students in our city.

- We raise millions of dollars for **MPS** from corporations and foundations for career and college readiness, early literacy, STEM education, and other strategic district priorities.
- We support **MPS** by managing individual school funds, administering over 60 college scholarships and awarding mini-grants for classroom projects and staff development.
- We partner with **MPS** on career and college readiness initiatives, using new technologies to help us reach students who have the greatest need for additional support.

We also collaborate with other organizations and networks that are helping young people secure the skills, resources, and connections they need to succeed. Together we align strategies, create common goals and metrics, and build effective programs for student success. These partners include:

- **City of Minneapolis**
- **Generation Next**
- **STEP-UP Achieve Career Pipelines industry partners**
- **Northside Achievement Zone**
- **Career Readiness Collaborative**
- **Local College Access Network**



# Thank You to Our Donors

Thanks to our generous donors for helping all Minneapolis students access the resources, support and opportunities they need to make their career and college dreams come true!

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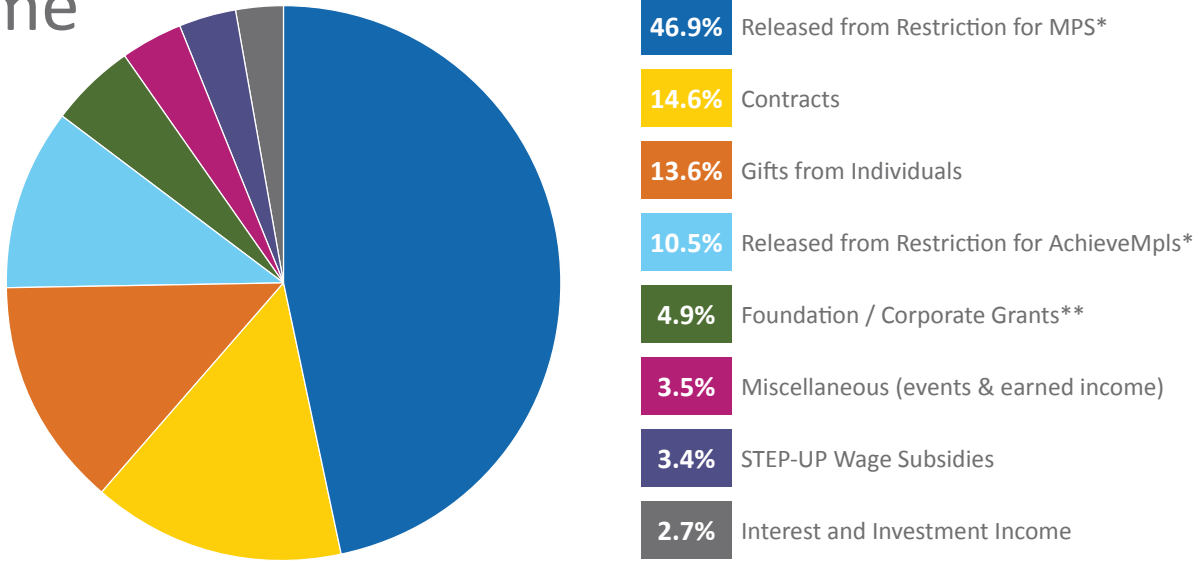
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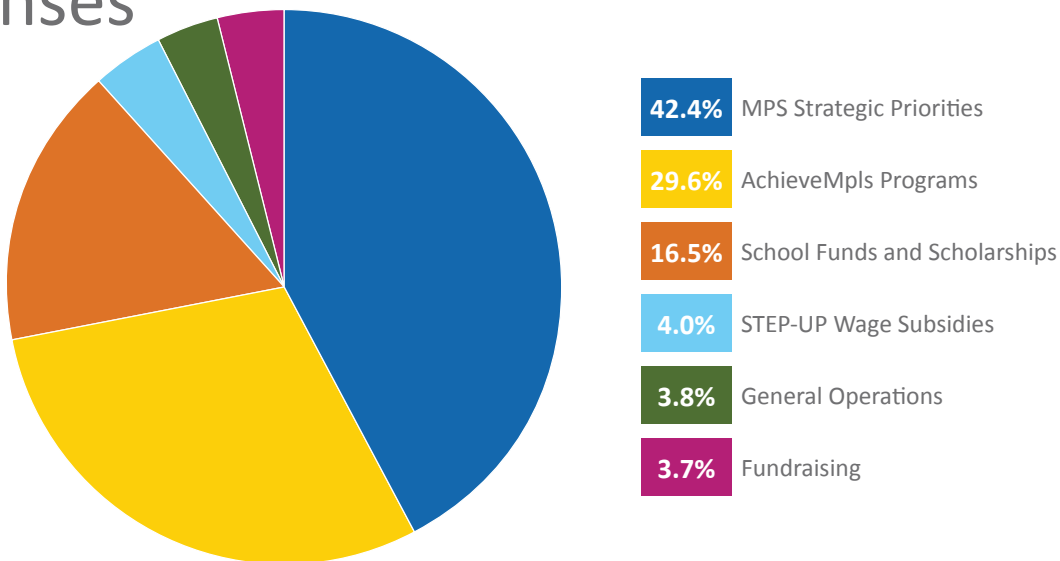
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

## Income



**Total Income = \$6,790,770**

## Expenses



**Total Expenses = \$5,348,147**

\* Reflects contributions received in prior years designated for this year.

\*\* Does not include \$4.5 million designated for future years.



See our audited financial statements at  
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