

HIGH SIGHT

A BETTER EDUCATION.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020

CONTINUING THROUGH COVID

While the pandemic has disrupted activity around the globe, HighSight has continued to serve our students without interruption, giving added support to students who had to suddenly shift to online-only learning.

After schools closed on a Friday in March, HighSight began offering online tutoring sessions by the following Tuesday. Each week to the end of the school year, dozens of students received targeted academic support from HighSight tutors. HighSight staff members reached out to individual students on at least a weekly basis to help them navigate their online studies and make sure they had needed support.

Throughout the pandemic, classes also met online in group sessions, including HighSight seniors and Project College participants as they finalized their college choices and financial-aid packages for the fall.

Several students who took part in the online tutoring made significant turnarounds in some of their classes. One student shared her gratitude with a tutor that worked with her several times each week:

Thank you so much for helping me out with math this semester. I ended up getting a 97/100 on the test I took. You really helped me bring my grade up from a C+ to an A- and I am really grateful for that. I hope you have a good summer and again thank you.

The online programming is continuing during the summer. All four classes of HighSight scholars will take part in academic-support and leadership-development programs throughout July and into August, including online internships for the junior and senior classes.

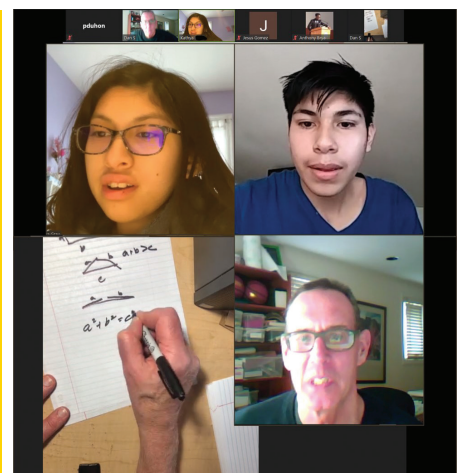
THE SECOND-SEMESTER PROGRAMMING PAID OFF WITH SOME IMPRESSIVE RESULTS:

- **63%** of HighSight scholars improved their GPA during the pandemic.
- The average GPA for all HighSight scholars has risen to **3.59**, a half-point higher than their peers.
- **32** of our 103 four-year scholars now have a **4.0 GPA** or higher.



HighSight freshmen pick up materials they'll use for their online summer program.

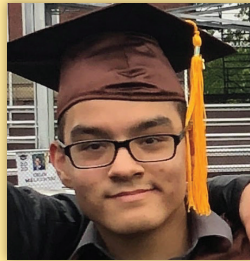
Dan Stolze was one of several volunteers offering tutoring sessions each week.



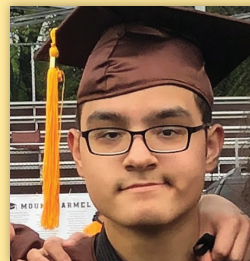
The **87 HighSight and Project College** graduates from the **Class of 2020** all received full-tuition scholarships, totaling more than **\$14 million** from the colleges they will be attending this fall.



ANDREA ARRELLANO
De Paul College Prep
St. Olaf College



FRANCISCO AVILA
Mount Carmel High School
DePauw University



LUIS AVILA
Mount Carmel High School
DePauw University



AYONIE EVANS
Providence St. Mel School
University of Illinois



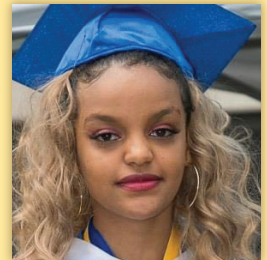
DESTINY GARCIA
De Paul College Prep
Kalamazoo College



ATZIHRI GUIDO
Holy Trinity High School
DePauw University



JALANTE HONEYCUTT
Holy Trinity High School
Hope College



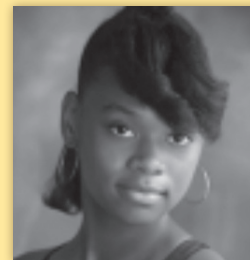
GELILA JARSO
Holy Trinity High School
Augustana College



LILIANA MATIAS
Trinity High School
St. Olaf College



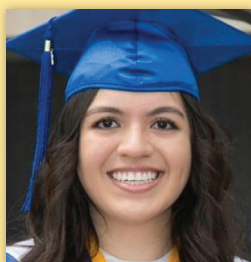
JACQUELINE MUNOZ
Mother McAuley Liberal Arts
High School
DePauw University



JADA PATTERSON
Trinity High School
Albion College



EVELYN PUMA
De Paul College Prep
Denison University



JENNIFER RIOS
Holy Trinity High School
St. Olaf College



AVONTE THOMAS
Providence St. Mel School
Illinois State University

87%
of HighSight
graduates
attend the
top one-fifth
of colleges
in America.



WILLIAM ZANAS
Holy Trinity High School
HighSight assisted William during his exchange student experience sponsored by a friend of HighSight. He is headed to the College of DuPage this Fall.

Class of 2020

PROJECT COLLEGE DELIVERS

In the spring of 2015, after noticing that a HighSight scholar ranked 11th in her class at a partner high school was headed to the most selective college of any of the top seniors at her school, Executive Director Mark Duhon decided it was time to launch HighSight's Project College initiative.

HighSight for years had been helping every single program graduate attend a prestigious college on a full-tuition scholarship, something he knew he could do for other high-achieving students who otherwise weren't getting to schools that matched their level of performance or drive.

Project College works with senior-year students who have achieved a 3.3 GPA or higher, leading them and their families through a 10-month process of exploring colleges, submitting entrance applications, completing financial aid forms, navigating college acceptances, and negotiating for the best financial awards possible. HighSight also recruits volunteers to help students as they craft their essays for college applications.

100%

HighSight and Project College graduates earning full-tuition college scholarships over the past 10 years.

\$17

The amount in college scholarships yielded from every \$1 donated to HighSight this past year.

\$35 Million

Full-tuition college scholarships accepted by 200+ graduates in the past 10 years.

HighSight's success continues as 100% of Project College graduates have been awarded full-tuition scholarships over the past five years, with more than 80% of them attending the top one-fifth of colleges nationally. These figures are on par with those of HighSight's four-year scholars.

HighSight was deliberate in slowly building Project College, working with just over a dozen students from partner high schools each year as part of a four-year pilot program. There has been nearly a five-fold increase in the program over the past year, with HighSight helping more than 70 of the Class of 2020 graduates receive full-tuition college scholarships.

The increase is largely the result of two Chicago scholarship organizations asking HighSight to provide Project College services, helping their high school seniors do better in getting into top universities. Haerther Scholars encourages all of their students to apply to the program; LINK Unlimited Scholars requested a targeted two-year Project College program initiative exclusively for their scholars. HighSight looks to expand Project College, helping even more Chicago students attain full-tuition scholarships to top colleges and universities.



HighSight Executive Director **Mark Duhon** (center) with HighSight Scholar **Jennifer Rios** (in white, St. Olaf College '24) with her Class of 2020 classmates and Project College students **Ashley Willis** (Illinois State University '24), **Aaron Trinidad** (DePauw Univ. '24), and **Gabriel Sheikh** (University of Notre Dame '24) at the Holy Trinity High School gala in February.

HighSight provides scholarships, tutoring, mentoring, leadership development, and college readiness programs that create new possibilities for Chicago high school students from low-income families. The HighSight experience empowers our scholars to excel in high school and graduate from four-year colleges across the country.

highsight.org



Return Service Requested



New Location For HIGH SIGHT

▶ **1711 North Cleveland Avenue, Chicago**

For the past 18 years, HighSight was located on the Near North Side, just a few blocks from our original home at St. Joseph Church across from the old Cabrini Green highrises. This past month HighSight moved to offices and meeting rooms in the Parish Center at St. Michael Church in Old Town.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.