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IMPORTANT DATES

Soaring to Excellence Award Nominations

Nominate a great teacher, nonprofit partner, collaborative project, and/or business partner who have supported education in West Contra Costa County. Winners will be honored at the Ed Fund's 29th Annual Soaring to Excellence Celebration May 2017. Nomination forms due by Friday, December 16, 2016. www.edfundwest.org/nominate.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

College bound students can complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act applications to be eligible for financial aid as early as Oct. 1, 2016 through March 2, 2017. Visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov> to start today!

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPACT

Make a donation to the Ed Fund online today at <http://www.edfundwest.org> or send your check to 217C West Richmond Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804.

- \$100 will provide a student with college application assistance
- \$250 will finance a college financial aid workshop for high school seniors
- \$500 will provide summer camp to a low income child
- \$1,000 will provide art and music summer enrichment activities to stem summer learning loss for 60 children

Thank you for your generous support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Collaborative Meetings

Nov 9, 2016 | Feb 15 and May 10, 2017
9:30-11:30am
Location to be determined

Partners RSVP to veli@eastfundwest.org or 510-223-1464 ext. 105.

Ed Talks

Oct. 12 and Dec 14, 2016 | Jan 11,
Feb 8, March 8, April 12, May 10,
and June 14, 2017
7:00-8:00pm
217C West Richmond Avenue, Richmond

Learn more about the Ed Fund and engage in a lively conversation around different education topics every month. Register at <http://edfundwest.org/events> to attend or 510-233-1464 ext. 106.

Cash for College Workshops

Oct. 13 through Nov. 16

Free workshops for high school seniors and their families for help in completing financial aid applications. For a full list of workshops and what to bring, visit <http://www.cash4college.org>.

Getting Ready for College Conference

Oct. 29, 2016
9:00am-2:00pm
Richmond Memorial Auditorium and Convention Center, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

Free conference open to all 10th, 11th and 12th graders and their parents. Register at www.edfundwest.org/grfcc.

Making the Change that Matters Annual Breakfast

Nov. 1, 2016
7:30-8:30am
1 Markovich Lane, Richmond

Be our guest at our free annual breakfast. Register at <http://www.edfundbreakfast.eventbrite.com> by Oct. 17 or call 510-233-14564 ext. 106

MOD Madness

Nov. 22-27, 2016
MOD Pizza
2830 Pinole Valley Road, Pinole

MOD Pizza will donate \$1 to the Ed Fund for every pizza purchased.

Warriors Benefit

Feb. 15, 2017
7:30pm
Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way

Tickets \$85. Purchase tickets online by December 1 at warriors.com/wccusd and enter the password WARRIORS.



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

With the start of the school year, the Ed Fund is committed to nothing less than every West County child graduating from high school prepared for college, career and life.

Schools within the West Contra Costa Unified School District show dramatic performance disparities based on class, privilege, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, English language proficiency and history of oppression. We believe these historical inequities will only be eradicated when a critical mass of community stakeholders works together to strategically support the academic and life success of underserved and underrepresented children and youth.

The Ed Fund is working to create educational environments where our students thrive and succeed in their chosen endeavors. This past year, in a strategic planning process with our community partners we asked the question, "What can we do to help our students graduate from high school ready to succeed in college and their chosen career?"

From this question, the Ed Fund's new collaborative effort was born. Our Collaborative is a partnership between over 40 agencies that support the success of children and youth who attend public schools within the enrollment area of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. We initially grew out of the College Access Initiative and Out-of-School Time Initiatives at the Ed Fund. The Collaborative is a collective impact initiative committed to aligning our strategies and resources to eliminate the systemic inequities faced by underserved and underrepresented children, youth and families. By 2025, we will double the number of West County children and youth who earn a degree or certificate.

We could not do this without your support and look forward to another year of growth and learning, inside and outside of the classroom.

Sincerely,



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www.edfundwest.org
Tax ID: 68-0005307

KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE BOUND NETWORK



Core Goal Area 1: Out of School Time (OST)

Underserved and underrepresented West County children and youth will have greater access to high quality Out-of-School Time (OST) programming that builds knowledge, shapes attitudes, and strengthens relevant skills through active and engaged learning.



Core Goal Area 2: Prepared for Post-Secondary Success

West County youth will graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary success.



Core Goal Area 3: Family Engagement

OST and College Access Programs will align their efforts to create the space, opportunity and structure for West County families to engage with and support their children's success in school, college and career.



Core Goal Area 4: Achieve Post-Secondary Success

West County children achieve post-secondary success.

When you walk into a freshman English class at Kennedy High School and ask the students how many of them want to go to college, nearly all hands go up. However, the reality is that only 28% of graduating seniors from the class of 2015 completed their A-G requirements – the coursework necessary to attend a 4-year public university in California. Kennedy high school graduation rates have shown an impressive increase over the past few years. Sixty-one percent of students walked the stage in 2012 compared to 87% in 2015. This dramatic increase in the number of students graduating creates an even bigger need to ensure that our students are leaving high school prepared for post-secondary success.

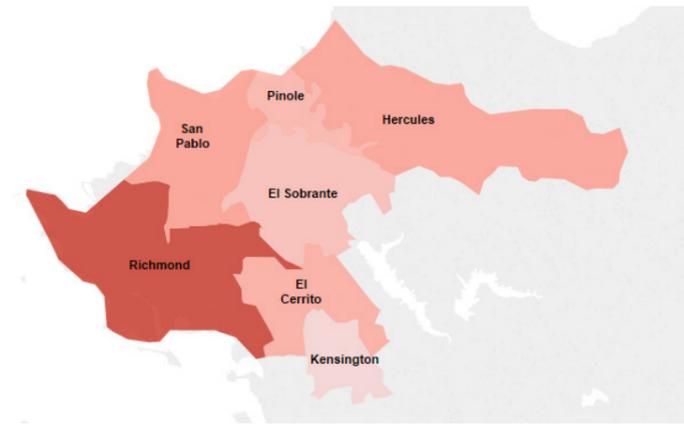
Over the past year, the Ed Fund along with our partners identified 6 indicators from research and national best practices that are proven to impact the number of students attaining a post-secondary degree or credential. Knowing that innovation and experimentation are necessary to move the needle around college attainment we set out to create a pilot a program that could catalyze our partners and demonstrate the power of these indicators.

This year, thanks to funding from the inaugural Environmental Community Investment Agreement Grant from the City of Richmond, we have the opportunity to coordinate that pilot program. The City received ninety grant applications and the Ed Fund was one of only 14 organizations selected. Our Kennedy College Bound Network program received the largest grant awarded and will focus on Kennedy High School. The Kennedy College Bound Network, a collaboration between Kennedy High School, the Ed Fund, Richmond Promise, WriterCoach Connection and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce will provide coordinated college strategies in grades 9-12 to significantly improve college readiness and access to ensure Kennedy students are prepared for post-secondary success.

Through this program, students will receive targeted services to build the skills and complete the benchmarks leading to college success. Our goals are to:

- Increase the percentage of students who complete their financial aid applications by 20%
- Increase the percentage of students who test into college level coursework by 10%
- Increase the percentage of freshmen that are on track to complete A-G requirements by 10%
- Provide worked based learning opportunities to 30 Kennedy students
- Increase the number of students with GPAs above 3.0
- Increase the number of students who earn college credit during high school

We are excited to share the impact of this pilot as the school year progresses.



CLOSING THE SUMMER LEARNING GAP

By 2025, our goal is to double the number of West County children and youth who earn a degree or certificate. To achieve our goal, our children and youth need Access to high quality Out-of- School Time (OST) programming that builds knowledge, shapes attitudes, and strengthens relevant skills through active and engaged learning.

The map above is from the Ed Fund's recently conducted community scan of elementary and middle school OST after school and summer programs in West Contra Costa County. The dark red indicates a high unmet need in available elementary summer programming. For too many kids, lack of free and low cost summer options means a summer without enrichment and entering the school year behind their peers, with the average student losing 2-3 months of learning each summer. Research shows that this learning loss contributes to 2/3 of the achievement gap by the time our students reach high school.

The Ed Fund is committed to increasing opportunities for our children to participate in quality after-school and summer programs. For the third summer, the Ed Fund, with support from the West Contra Costa Unified School District, has partnered with the City of Richmond to offer free high quality summer camp programs at Shields Reid, Nevin, Parchester, and Booker T. Anderson Community Centers.

Through this successful program model and partnerships, over 350 kids participated last summer. Many campers returned for a second or third year, increasing summer camp enrollment by 101% over three years. As a result, the average camper saw their reading assessment score increase by over 4 months.

To ensure this meaningful skill development happens, the Ed Fund contracts high quality enrichment providers and WCCUSD certified teachers as a key strategy to support the summer camp experience for youth. For the third summer, we administered Summer Program Grants to collaborative partners Berkeley Chess School, Mindful Life Project, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, and the Richmond Art Center to deliver high quality programming.

Our kids and this program represent the hope and promise of our collaborative effort. Through continued involvement in high quality after school and summer programs, our kids will continue to build the skills and academic acumen to begin closing the achievement gap in West Contra Costa.

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