



**MINDS MATTER**  
OF LOS ANGELES

2018-2019

**IMPACT REPORT**



# THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER INSPIRATIONAL YEAR

In June, we graduated the Class of 2019. It was an honor to stand in front of these 21 students, who earned their success through intense study, sacrifice and lots and lots of Saturdays – week after week for three years. As you'll see in the upcoming pages, we made a measurable impact and continue to change the lives of the students we meet. Incredibly, Minds Matter LA is entering its 10<sup>th</sup> year, with many plans to celebrate this landmark year.

With progress comes inevitable sadness, which also must be acknowledged. Maryori Conde of the Class of 2014, tragically lost her life in January. She epitomized everything we look for in a Minds Matter student, making a difference to every community she was a part of.

As we embark on this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, your support, commitment and love of our mission matter more than ever. Thank you from the entire Minds Matter LA community.



Tina Admans  
President  
Minds Matter of Los Angeles



# OUR MISSION

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Minds Matter works to transform the lives of accomplished high school students from low-income families by broadening their dreams and preparing them for success in college and life.

## THE PROBLEMS WE SOLVE

### OPPORTUNITY GAP

The dearth of academic resources directed to low-income communities creates an **opportunity gap** that limits the ability of high potential students to advance as quickly as their peers in more affluent areas.

### UNDERMATCHING

High-achieving students from low-income families regularly apply to colleges below their academic ability. Reasons for this **undermatching** include lack of individualized preparation for SAT testing, no access to academically enriching summer programs, and an absence of mentors who have excelled in college and gone on to successful careers.



# OUR IMPACT

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**100%**

Of our graduates have been accepted to 4-year universities

**8**

Gates Millennium Scholars

**94%**

Of our alumni graduate from college within 4 years

**24%**

Higher scores on SAT than national average for low-income students

**100%**

Of our students are first-generation

**500+**

Hours of instruction in math, writing, and critical thinking, and standardized test prep

**76%**

Of our students attend Barron's top 3 tier colleges and universities

**\$1M**

In financial aid awarded to Class of 2019



## WHERE WE SAVE

# \$441,104

estimated value of all volunteer hours donated to Minds Matter in 2018-19

# \$13,336

in-kind cost of donated books & airfare, generously donated by iHeart Media

\*Independent Sector estimates the value of each volunteer hour in California as \$29.95 for 2018.

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In 2014, Minds Matter commissioned Dr. Clive R. Belfield, Co-Director of the Center for Cost-Benefit Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University. He found that investing in a Minds Matter student during their three years in the program yielded lifetime benefits for each student of more than \$115K.

The economic impact of every dollar invested by our donors is:

# 17:1

# OUR BUDGET

Minds Matter operates on a lean budget that leverages volunteers and other in-kind services. With few paid staff but nearly three volunteers for each MMLA student, Minds Matter has been able to focus on its strategy while keeping costs low.

### PREPARE

Mentoring, academic support, summer programs, special opportunities

### SUPPORT

Alumni programming, college stipends

### UNITE

Volunteer recruitment and training, mentor background checks

### SUSTAIN

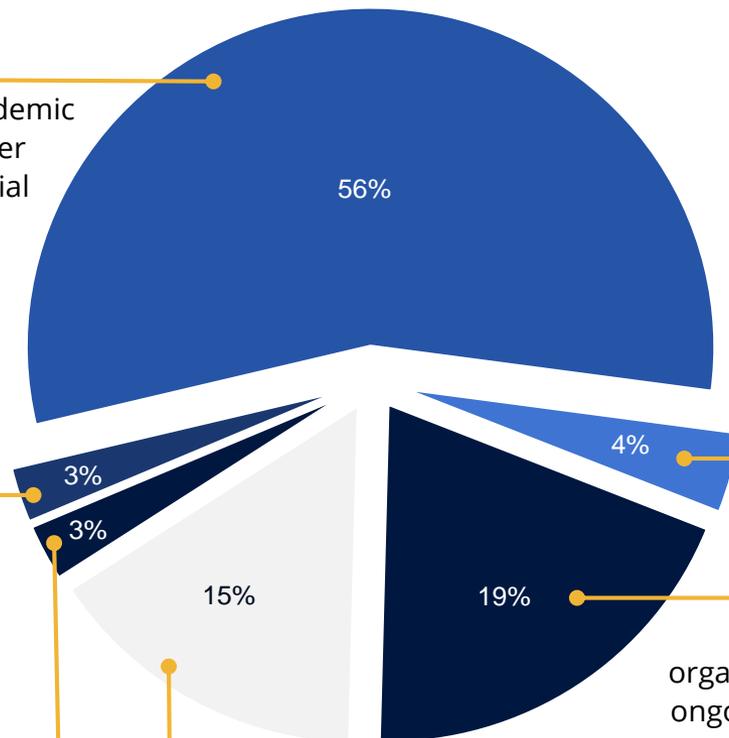
Advance the organization through ongoing support and partnerships (fundraising costs)

### IDENTIFY

Student recruitment, high school partnerships

### DIRECT

Ensure a productive organization (personnel and admin)



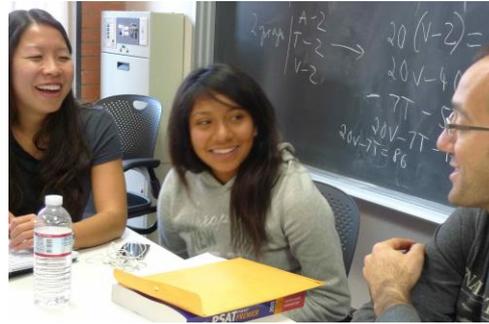
# OUR WORK

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## SOPHOMORES

Students cultivate math, writing and critical thinking skills. They are empowered through leadership development and learn valuable life skills.



## JUNIORS

Students work with their mentors on SAT test preparation while continuing their academic development.



## SENIORS

Mentors guide their students through the college selection process, helping them determine what college and area of study to pursue.



## MENTORING

Mentors guide, challenge, and champion their student.



## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students receive writing instruction, tutoring in math, and intensive, personalized SAT preparation.



## PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Corporate and university partners offer students the opportunity to explore their career interests.

# SUMMER PROGRAMS

After their sophomore and junior years, our students participate in leading academic programs at top universities and colleges to broaden their global perspective and understanding of college life.

The generosity of our donors enables our students to attend these life-changing summer programs at no expense to their families. Our students are able to experience college life attending college level courses, interacting with roommates, managing their own budgets, and learning to manage their time.

“During my summer program at Washington University, the most challenging obstacle I had to face was getting used to the speed of my course. I took the Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology course at Washington University and the work was astonishing at first.

The introduction to Anatomy and Physiology course reignited the love I had for medicine.

In addition to realizing I was academically competent, I found out how responsible and independent I could be on my own.”

*Jai-Laan – Class of 2021*

## KEY STATISTICS

**3.6 weeks**

Average length of summer experience

**69%**

Percentage of students attending STEM related programs

**\$312,500**

Total cost of MMLA summer program

**17**

Colleges and universities attended





EVENTS

# INAUGURAL SENIOR RETREAT

In March, we embarked on our first-ever senior retreat to Big Bear Lake, a recreation area in the San Bernardino Mountains. The goal of the retreat was to build camaraderie among the senior class and explore their fears about college. Through a variety of team building activities including a high ropes course, the senior class pushed beyond their comfort zones, learned tools for dealing with stress, and deepened connections with their classmates.



"I learned how courageous I was, enough to jump off a tree. I also learned what it meant to be a family, and how supportive MMLA is."

*Jackeline – Class of 2019*



"I learned how much I value being a part of a community. There have been few times in my life when I have felt as accepted as I did that weekend."

*Jose – Class of 2019*

"I found the wide variety of speakers impactful, from music entertainment to engineering and law-related fields. The event also made me feel more empowered as I seek my first job out of college."

*Saleen – Class of 2019*

"The fact that some presenters didn't know what they were going to do but found their way to where they are now was the most impactful. I'm confident about what my future will be like now after hearing their advice and tips."

*Daniel – Class of 2019*

# EVENTS

## CAREER INCUBATOR

A Latina engineer, state politician, judge, music producer, digital radio editor, and video game specialist were just a few of the 41 panelists for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MMLA Career Incubator to inspire and network low-income, high-achieving college-aged students.

A big thank you to our sponsors: Activision, Luther Burbank Savings, TechnipFMC, and The Capital Group.



## COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, we participated in the Michelle Obama College Signing Day event at UCLA. Our students were thrilled to participate in an inspirational event hosted by the former First Lady.

In May 2020, we will once again partner with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation to host our own College Signing Day celebration at Dodgers Stadium.



# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to our partnerships with regional companies, Minds Matter offers our students a wide range of professional preparation and exploration. Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of career options through corporate visits, summer internships, and even working on actual business cases through a multi-day media fellows program.



"As part of the front-end web development team, I was able to explore the intersection of computer programming and design by helping impact the development of websites for various Activision products and studios."

*Christian – Class of 2016*



NBC Universal held a three-day immersive career exposure program focused on case studies that introduced our students to the inner workings of NBC Universal

## SONY

Sony hosted a one-day leadership round table to provide a forum for our current and former students to network with leaders from a variety of departments across Sony.

## ACTIVISION®

Activision provides internship opportunities in the gaming industry to MMLA alums, and also sponsors STEM focused summer programs for current MMLA students.

## iHeartMEDIA

iHeart Media hosted a one day career exploration day for current MMLA students and alums. Students toured studios and stages, worked on a case study and met Big Boy and Doc Wynter.



# STUDENT PROFILES

# REMEMBERING MARYORI CONDE

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On January 17, 2019, Maryori Conde from the Class of 2014 was tragically killed in a car accident. Maryori was a force of nature, so passionate and committed to making her community and world better for people of color.

Maryori loved her time in Minds Matter. She made deep connections with all of her fellow classmates, and formed an unbreakable bond with her mentor, Jill Defina Weinberg, who Maryori described as her mentor, friend, and second mother.

Maryori attended Brown University for her first summer program and fell in love with the campus. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in ethnic studies from Brown, graduating in the Class of 2018. She then began graduate studies in education, with aspirations to become a teacher to serve low-income, first-generation students of color.

Maryori was deeply connected to Brown's community of first-generation college students and those from low-income families. As an undergraduate, she co-founded Latinx House, the Latinx Conference and the Central American United Student Association. Her impact extended beyond the campus through her work as a teacher and tutor with Breakthrough Providence.

Maryori was everything we hope a Minds Matter student would be. She was a leader and an advocate, passionate about giving back and making a difference. Maryori sent emails to senior students from her high school, Animo Inglewood, encouraging them to think big and aim high. Maryori said she had the best mentor in the world and wanted to pass that on to others in her community.

She was deeply loved by all of us and we will remember her spirit, her laughter, and her feistiness every day.

# OUR ALUMNI EARNING GRADUATE DEGREES

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DR. ANDY LUU

When Andy Luu began his Minds Matter LA journey as a 15-year-old sophomore back in 2010, he probably didn't foresee his future as the holder of a Doctorate in Physical Therapy a decade later.

But Dr. Luu, an alumnus of MMLA's inaugural class, received the prestigious degree from Daemen College in Amherst, NY this past spring, making him the first MMLA graduate to earn a doctorate.

His advice to that 15-year-old he was back in 2010, "Listen to understand and learn, not 'for the sake of.' Don't take a second for granted. Take advantage of anything and everything that excites you."

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Kortnee graduated from Minds Matter LA's first class in 2013, and she enrolled at Washington D.C.'s Howard University knowing exactly what her major would be: Administration of Justice, with a minor in African American Studies.

"I chose to follow this major because I got the opportunity to learn more about the juvenile justice system and its impact on communities of color," Kortnee says. She snagged an internship with the D.C. Department of Corrections Juvenile Unit as well as the D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. As a teacher for AmeriCorps, she was placed in the challenging Las Vegas Valley educational environment. While teaching for two years, she earned her Masters in Elementary Education, Curriculum and Instruction.

Kortnee, now 24, is giving back to MMLA as a team leader for our Junior class.



KORTNEE OGBUEFI

# TAKING AN INNOVATIVE PATH

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Mark, Class of 2019, with his parents at graduation

Mark got a huge head start on his college career by beginning it as a high school freshman. It wasn't easy.

In addition to attending high school all day, and working every night, Mark completed an astonishing 12 community college courses at West Los Angeles College, including Political Science, Philosophy, Administration of Justice, Sociology and Economics. With almost two years of college already under his belt, he has only one more semester to finish before transferring to a four-year college as a junior prospective political science major. "I'm interested in UC Berkeley or UCLA but I'd love to transfer somewhere out of state, whether it be at a small liberal arts school like Amherst or a large university such as University of Michigan and University of North Carolina," Mark said.

His path has been challenging, to say the least. To get as far as he has, Mark juggled work and studying constantly, including on the bus to and from his job at an upscale Japanese restaurant. He wrote about that experience in an essay that was selected as one of the New York Times 2019 College Essays about Money. Appearing in the "Your Money" column on May 9, the piece was one of only five selected by Times editors from scores submitted by students across the nation.

Mark comes into class every Saturday to provide support and offer advice to the Class of 2020. We are lucky to have an alumni base to pay it forward to future generations.



# WE MATTER

“In the words of Maya Angelou, ‘I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.’

I won’t remember the exact lesson plans, I won’t remember the exact dynamic of the millions of conversations we’ve shared, but what I will remember is how much I honor my mentors, how much I respect the instructors, and how much I love the friends I made here. I will cherish feeling supported and grounded.

Each time I am with you, I am reminded of my purpose.

My mind matters. Yet, I have also learned during my time here that my experience matters and that my heart matters too.”

Roxana  
Class of 2019

# 2019 GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

**Bryan**  
College of the Holy Cross

**Daniel**  
University of Chicago

**Danya**  
Bradley University

**David**  
University of California,  
Santa Barbara

**Delmy**  
Pomona College

**Jackeline**  
Barnard College  
of Columbia University

**Jaymin**  
Barnard College of  
Columbia University

**Jesus**  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Jose**  
University of California,  
Santa Cruz

**Jose**  
Georgetown University

**Juny**  
Colgate University

**Londy**  
Princeton University

**Mark**  
West Los Angeles College

**Melissa**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

**Melissa**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

**Prescilla**  
Pasadena City College

**Roxana**  
California State University,  
Los Angeles

**Saleen**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

**Shimoni**  
Babson College

**Shirley**  
University of California,  
Riverside

**Valarie**  
University of California,  
San Diego

# FY2019 SUPPORTERS



## **\$25,000 and Above**

All Ways Up Foundation  
Chuck Lorre Family Foundation  
Parsons Foundation

## **\$10,000 to \$24,999**

Activision  
Anonymous  
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## **\$1,000 to \$2,499**

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Minaldevi Patel  
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Narendra Reddy  
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Sari Ross  
Jill Weinberg  
Matt Wong  
Sheri Yadav

## **\$500 to \$999**

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A Harry Bakalian & Seta Bakalian  
Johnita Baumgardner  
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Covington Asset Management  
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## **\$250 to \$499**

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Nicholas Anderson  
Adam Bain  
Karli Baumgardner  
Jon Bernstein  
Kelly Borman  
Jonathan Boustani  
Jose Campos  
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David Crosson  
Deborah Clark  
Pete Dack  
Michael and Dana Dack

Richard & Susanne Essex  
Marcie Gilbert  
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David Green  
Russell Greenman  
Amiyr Jackson  
Kimberly Jacobs  
Haley Kiarash  
Karyn Klein  
Ruth Kremen  
Andrew Krueger  
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Susan Levin  
Carole Levine  
Sung Lim  
Elizabeth Ma  
Jeannie Marsh  
Deborah McGinn  
Patrick McGrorey  
Thomas and Jane McTaggart  
Carla Moore  
Francisco Paret  
Diane Parker  
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Lewis Rimer  
Amy Roach  
Gilman and Judy Robinson  
Daniel Ross  
Sylvia Rotfleisch  
Joseph Sciuto  
John Stalfort  
Katya Stonkevitch  
Shem Streeter  
Philip Taylor  
Raymond Taylor  
Lourdes Teh  
Billy Ward  
Walker Williams  
Courtney & Peter Wyman

Minds Matter is also extremely grateful to the more than 425 donors not included in this report. We also enjoy 100% participation from our Board of Directors. Every donation big or small helps us make students' dreams a reality – THANK YOU!

# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



Become part of the Minds Matter Community of Opportunity.



Mentor a student



Become a writing & critical thinking adviser



Become a test prep instructor



Be an advocate for our students and our work



Join leadership group or attend an event



Invest in our future with a donation

Visit [mindsmatterla.org/volunteers](https://mindsmatterla.org/volunteers) to get involved.

Email [info@mindsmatterla.org](mailto:info@mindsmatterla.org) to learn more.



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