April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. — William Shakespeare

Happy Spring from Project SUCCESS! Like many of you, we are welcoming springtime with open arms. This time of growing sprouts and soon-to-be blooms reminds us of the amazing young people whom we have the privilege of working with every day. In our eyes, they are all sprouting young adults—full of vitality, possibility, and vibrant hope. After 18 years, it remains our steadfast mission to support these remarkable young people on their journeys toward bright, blooming futures. And just as the soil supports the stem that supports the bloom of the flower, we could not achieve this mission without your support. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the generous donors and partners of Project SUCCESS. Without you, our work would not be possible. Together, we are nurturing thousands of colorful, blooming lives.

Looking back at our last fiscal year, we are pleased to report many exciting developments, most importantly our move to a new home in May 2010. After officially outgrowing our old space (we were there for 17 years and outgrew it well before we moved!), we are delighted to have created a larger, more functional space that meets the growing needs of our organization and allows us to better serve our students and families. This move is part of our 3-year strategic plan which was refreshed in 2010. The plan includes building the infrastructure to allow us to fulfill our dream of serving all middle and high school students in Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools. We are well on our way to making this dream a reality. This past year we served over 10,600 students and their families and expanded our programming, including more special programs like artist residencies, middle school musicals, BWCA trips and college tours. All this growth is undertaken with a deep and abiding commitment to having the greatest impact on the success and well-being of our students.

As much as we are excited about and committed to this growth, we are also committed to being our absolute best. This means we are diligent about being constant learners. While our mission remains the same—we know that our world, our communities, and the needs of our young people are always changing. This year we initiated a series of trainings that enhanced our skills, abilities, and productivity to better serve our students.

There is a quote by Susan Bissonette that says: An optimist is the human personification of spring. We at Project SUCCESS are optimists. We truly believe in the ability of young people to navigate their way to positive, productive futures. We continue to be inspired and amazed by the students we serve, and ever grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in their lives.

— Adrienne Diercks and Elise Linehan

Greetings from the Director and Board

www.projectsuccess.org
Our Program

Many children lack the necessary adult support, inspiration, confidence and skills to set and achieve meaningful goals. Each year, Project SUCCESS motivates and inspires over 10,600 middle and high school students in 15 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools to define their needs, work hard to live up to their potential and achieve their dreams, thereby improving academic performance, keeping them engaged in school, and reducing at-risk behaviors. We do this through three inter-linked program services that are delivered continuously for as many as seven years of their life:

In-Class Goal-Setting Workshops: Our staff of professional facilitators lead workshops based on specifically designed curricula developed for each grade level. Working together with teachers and school administrators, our curriculum has become an integral part of English/Language Arts classes, ensuring that our program reaches each child in every school. Students participate in a workshop once a month for a total of eight workshop experiences per student, per year.

The curriculum guides young people through a variety of unique exercises, experiences and discussions to help them look at their interests, their strengths and desires for the future. We then work with them to set specific goals and take particular steps towards those goals. We call this process “dreaming with your eyes open,” and 90% of participating students report taking a positive step toward achieving their goals.

Theater Experiences: Project SUCCESS uses professional theater to inspire students, help them look at the real-life issues they face, demonstrate they are members of a larger community, and as a springboard for discussion in the classroom workshops and at home. We invite students, their families, and a total of eight workshop experiences per student, per year.

In a recent evaluation of Project SUCCESS parents, nearly all (96%) of high school students said the program “helped me to better understand myself.” 79% of students indicated that Project SUCCESS “helped me to better understand classmates who have different perspectives and experiences.” 46% of teachers and 38% of middle school students perceived that the program had a positive influence on students’ overall grades.

Impact on School Life

ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY RESOURCES AND RELATIONSHIPS

When asked who assisted them in planning for their future, 87% of high school students rated Project SUCCESS ahead of friends, counselors and teachers and second only to parents/guardians.

89% of students indicated that Project SUCCESS “helped me think about my future.” 81% of high school students reported the program “helped me create a plan for after graduation.”

Understanding Self and Others

BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL, IDENTIFYING PASSION, FINDING THEIR VOICE,
ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY RESOURCES AND RELATIONSHIPS

77% of students indicated that Project SUCCESS “helped me to better understand classmates who have different perspectives and experiences.” 79% of students said the program “helped me to better understand myself.”

Theater Experience

ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY RESOURCES, IDENTIFYING PASSION

Project SUCCESS students are introduced to live theater, often for the first time. Of those who attended a play, 87% of middle school students, 91% of high school students and 96% of teachers believed this had been a valuable experience.

In a recent evaluation of Project SUCCESS parents, nearly all (95%) of the parents who attended plays with their child(ren) reported that their family had discussed the plays after attending.

Evaluation by Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement of the University of Minnesota (CAREI).
Financial Report

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<tr>
<th>Financial Position</th>
<th>6/30/10</th>
<th>6/30/09</th>
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Current School Partners

Minneapolis: Anne Sullivan Communication Center, Anwatin Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, Marcy Open School, North Community High School (Founding School Partner), Northeast Middle School, Olson Middle School, Patrick Henry High School, Sanford Middle School, South High School, Southwest High School, Washburn High School.

Saint Paul: Battle Creek Middle School, Humboldt Junior High, Washington Technology Magnet

Current Theater Partners

Ballet of the Dolls, Cedar Cultural Center, Children’s Theatre Company, MPR’s Fitzgerald Theater, Guthrie Theater (Founding Theater Partner), Hennepin Theatre Trust (State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres), History Theatre, Illusion Theater, Interact Center Performing Arts Program, The Jungle Theater, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Northrop Auditorium, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Park Square Theatre, Penumbra Theatre Company, Pillsbury House Theatre, Sables JCC, Southern Theater, Stages Theatre Company, SteppingStone Theatre, Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, Theater Latté Da, University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts & Dance, VocalEssence, Walker Art Center, Xelias Aerial Arts

Founding Partners

North Community High School, Lifetouch Inc., Guthrie Theater

The Thank You section lists various donors and contributors, including individual donors, corporate and foundation donors, and a special section titled “To Our Donors.”

The financial report section includes a pie chart illustrating the breakdown of expenses and revenue, with categories such as “Foundation,” “Corporate,” “Individuals,” and “Schools.”

The report concludes with an expression of gratitude and a list of contributors, including high-profile names like Camille A. Burke, Eric Dayton, and Elise Linehan.
Tom and Sarah Roddis
Sara Rollin
Lee Roper-Batker
Thomas and Gwynn Rosen
Amos Rosenbloom and
Marsha McDonald
Stephanie Ross
Pierangelo Rossi
Janice Rupert
Thomas Rush and
Nora Whiteman
Metta and Douglas Rusk
Bette Sack
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and Gerry Richman
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Sally Scoggin in honor
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Andrea Seebach
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Cindy Hart
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and Family
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Minnesota Jewish
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Minnesota Opera
Minnesota Public
Radio’s Fitzgerald
Theater
Minnesota Twins
Mixed Blood Theatre
Mu Performing Arts
North Community High
School (Founding
School Partner)
Northeast Middle School
Northrop Auditorium
University of
Minnesota
Now and Zen
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Xelias Aerial Arts

*Includes Matching Gifts