Project SUCCESS motivates and inspires young people to dream about the future, helps them take steps to get there and gives them the tools they need to achieve their goals.
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BOARD

Serving the Whole Child Over Time

Young people are strong, passionate, and motivated. They want to be included, valued, and have their opinions heard and considered. They are eager to be part of the solution to challenges our community faces. Most importantly, young people want and need to define and create their own success.

At Project SUCCESS, our work has always been about believing in the power of youth within themselves to create the future they desire. We do this by listening to and empowering them with the tools, guidance and support to enable them to envision and create those futures. We call this “serving the whole child over time.”

To us, serving the whole child means working to ensure that each child experiences academic success, yes, but also makes good choices, feels connected to his peers and to caring adults, and is physically, socially and emotionally healthy. Research clearly demonstrates that skills such as grit, perseverance, self-reflection, academic mindsets, goal-setting and planning are as important as academic skills, if not more so, to readiness for the future and success in school and the workplace.

When we give young people the tools, the encouragement, the time and the space to explore their passions without judgment, they grab hold of their lives and their futures with both hands. Over the past 20 years of working with thousands of young people in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools, we have seen this to be very true.

Over the past year, we have worked with researchers, statisticians, and other experts in the field of youth development to compare our data with other proven models so that we may continue to reinforce the importance of the real impact we have seen every day of our program in the schools, in the theaters, on college campuses, and in the wilderness. And those experts are seeing what we have seen for decades — that what we do with youth is working. For example, we have learned that 67% of all students who attend Project SUCCESS college tours are more likely to graduate on time and that high school students who participate in at least one college tour show an increase of 2% in graduation rates across all populations.

Ultimately, it is up to each young person to define and find her own success. Our activities are designed to show them that we think they matter and believe they can succeed. By doing these things, we widen the lens with which they view the world and help them to see themselves in it. We nurture and empower the whole child.

We are grateful for all of our supporters, donors, volunteers, students, alumni, parents, teachers, and friends who have been on this journey with us and share our values. We could not do this important work nurturing and empowering our community’s youth without you. Thank you!

– Adrienne Diercks, Founder and Executive Director, and JoAnn Neau, Board Chair
Our Program

We are here first and foremost because we believe in all young people and the power they have to build a positive future for themselves. Our program activities are designed to help young people build the non-cognitive skills and support critical for academic and life success. Our program complements the work of teachers and counselors by enhancing the core curriculum and building long-term relationships with students over seven years.

Each year, Project SUCCESS serves nearly 12,000 students continuously, from 6th through 12th grade, in 16 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools annually, including all seven Minneapolis core high schools. We achieve our goals through the following activities:

**Goal-Setting Workshops** held monthly in each English classroom, for each student in every school we serve, led by highly trained Project SUCCESS facilitators – with the endorsement of teachers and administrators – using our proven, grade-specific, cumulative curriculum that is integrated with the English academic curriculum and is specifically designed to help students set and achieve goals. By spring of their senior year, we want all students to have a personal, post-high school plan that best suits their needs, personalities, and goals.

**Professional Theater Experiences** are offered to inspire and challenge students, demonstrate they are members of a larger community, and as a springboard for discussion in the classroom workshops and at home. We invite students, and their families, to at least 8 performances annually at no cost to them, thanks to our professional Twin Cities theater partners, who generously donate tickets. We coordinate the entire experience, and eliminate all barriers to family attendance at performances, including providing free transportation and child-care. The performances enrich students’ shared family and community experiences, which can lead to more positive and supportive relationships and improved academic achievement.

**Enrichment Experiences** outside the classroom offer students more opportunities to refine their goals, build relationships, and develop confidence in creative thinking, decision making and resourcefulness while developing the skills to plan their futures. Activities include college tours, artist residencies, student performances, BWCA trips, one-on-one after school post-secondary planning support, and transition/orientation events for incoming freshmen.
A Year with Project SUCCESS

Over the course of a year, each student in every school we serve has the following opportunities and experiences through Project SUCCESS:

Middle School:
8 in-class goal-setting workshops with a Project SUCCESS facilitator
8-12 free professional theater performances – including free transportation to and from the performances and free child care
Regular communication about opportunities through phone and mail at least 8 times per year
2-3 other experiences, such as participating in an all-school play production or a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

High School:
8 in-class goal-setting workshops with a Project SUCCESS facilitator
8-12 free professional theater performances, including free transportation to and from the performances and free child care
8 after-school counseling and support sessions for post-secondary planning
30 or more college or community school tours
Regular communication about opportunities through phone and mail at least 8 times per year

Accomplishments 2012-13

Enabled nearly 12,000 middle and high school students to attend 3,015 monthly goal-setting workshops led by our 10 professional facilitators in 115 classrooms in 16 Twin Cities schools.

Provided the opportunity for 16,962 students and family members to attend 182 evening and weekend performances with complementary play tickets donated by 33 at professional Twin Cities theaters.

Facilitated 695 students’ college selection process by bringing them on 36 tours of colleges and universities in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Took 165 middle school students from 9 schools on week-long adventures in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in June 2013 (up 12% from 147 in 2012).

Produced full-scale musical performances in 3 different middle schools starring over 200 students in the cast and crew.

Officially partnered with Roosevelt High School and began serving all students in grade 9 in September 2012. We now serve all 7 core Minneapolis public high schools.

Helped over 800 8th graders successfully transition into high school through “2016,” our 5th-annual four-day summer freshmen orientation event for Minneapolis Public Schools in August 2012.

Published our Classroom Workshop Curriculum in December 2012.

Proven Results

90% of teachers report that Project SUCCESS helps students to be better problem solvers, be more self-aware of their strengths, be more motivated to succeed in school, and set goals for the future.

Our program has been independently measured in three comprehensive evaluations, conducted by the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI).

Evaluation Highlights:
80% of alumni report that Project SUCCESS helped them to be more motivated to succeed in school, be more self-directed, evaluate progress toward goals, and create a plan for after graduation.

89% of high school students rate Project SUCCESS ahead of friends, counselors and teachers and second only to parents/guardians, when asked who assisted them in future planning.

Nine out of ten high school students report that Project SUCCESS helps them think about their future, set goals and create a plan for after graduation.

Project SUCCESS’ program model garners statistically significantly higher results for students of color and for students from schools located in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Our most recent CAREI* report concluded that through both direct instruction and the classroom environment, Project SUCCESS fosters development of critical skills such as self-reflection and awareness, goal setting and planning, monitoring one’s own progress, and adapting as needed, which are essential to students’ development of critical thinking and motivation, and are in turn the foundation for academic success. Project SUCCESS is valued by teachers and students as a resource for motivating and engaging students to set goals and plan for their future.

80% of all alumni report that Project SUCCESS helped them to be more motivated to succeed in school, be more self-directed, evaluate progress toward goals, and create a plan for after graduation.

*Evaluation reports available upon request.
**Financial Report**

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<th>Financial Position</th>
<th>6/30/13</th>
<th>6/30/12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
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<td>Liabilities</td>
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**REVENUES**

- Corporate: $300,729 vs. $681,168
- Foundation: $421,650 vs. $240,460
- Individuals: $489,638 vs. $514,994
- Schools: $356,200 vs. $47,975
- Special Events: $28,029 vs. $35,613
- Program Service Fees: $118,637 vs. $134,992
- Government Revenue: $1,076,758 vs. $948,755

**Total Revenue:** $2,791,641 vs. $2,603,957

**EXPENSES**

- General Operations: $308,443 vs. $323,133
- Program Services: $2,136,720 vs. $2,069,379
- Fundraising: $271,254 vs. $260,529

**Total Expenses:** $2,718,417 vs. $2,653,041

**Fund Balance: Beginning of Period**

<table>
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<th>6/30/12</th>
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**Revenue and other support**

- 15% Foundation
- 11% Corporate
- 18% Individuals
- 13% Schools
- 1% Special Events
- 39% In-Kind Contributions
- 4% Program Service Fees
- 79% Program Services
- 11% General Operations
- 10% Fundraising

**Founding Partners**

- North Community High School, Lifetouch Inc., Guthrie Theater

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**FY2013 School Partners**

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

**Saint Paul:** Battle Creek Middle School, Humboldt Junior High.

**FY2013 Theater Partners**

Ballet of the Dolls, Bloomington Civic Theatre, Cedar Cultural Center, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Children’s Theatre Company, Cowles Center, Minnesota Public Radio’s Fitzgerald Theater, Guthrie Theater (Founding Partner), Hennepin Theatre Trust (State, Orpheum, and Pantages Theatres), History Theatre, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Illusion Theatre, The Jungle Theater, Minnesota Dance Theater, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Northrop Auditorium University of Minnesota, Open Eye Figure Theater, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, The O’Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University, Penumbra Theatre Company, Pillsbury House Theatre, Sabes JCC, Saint Paul City Ballet, Stages Theatre Company, SteppingStone Theatre, Ten Thousand Things, Theater Latté Da, Theatre Unbound, University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, Vocalessence, Walker Art Center, Xelias Aerial Arts, and Youth Performance Company.

**Founding Partners**

- North Community High School, Lifetouch Inc., Guthrie Theater
Fawn Bernhardt-Norvell
Hazel Birth
Clarice Blesi
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Jonathan Riehle
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Hammerly
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Cathleen Barczyns Simons
Jenny Batten
Marion Bauer
Rachel Becker-Warner
Maya Beecham
Deanne Bennett
Ben Okl and Kris Berggren
Allison Berres
Connie Blom
Steve Bohn
Stuart and
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Catherine Bonstrom
Rory Borchardt
Eve Boreinstein and
Candace Falk
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Laurie Brickle
Lance Brockman
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Cheryl Creecy
Chimook Book, c/o Celilo Group Media
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