







Our Mission Statement

The Students Rising Above community is dedicated to impacting the future through the cultivation of extraordinary youth. SRA invests in low-income, first generation college students who have demonstrated a deep commitment to education and strength of character while overcoming tremendous odds of poverty, homelessness, and neglect.

We help each student to realize his or her potential by guiding and supporting them through college graduation, and into the workforce. Our graduates are breaking the cycle of poverty within their own families, serving their communities, providing a new generation of employees and leaders from diverse backgrounds, and accelerating positive change.



For me, Students Rising Above means community. It has allowed me to make deep connections with students and mentors alike that would not have been possible otherwise.

David Padilla

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a year of growth and transition for SRA! This year, we are thrilled to be serving more than 13,500 students on the SRA Hub. This high-touch, high-tech, online approach is allowing SRA to implement everything we've learned about our college success over the past 16 years, and reach a much broader group of students. In addition to our direct services program, we are creating a growing online community to reach under-resourced students in underserved regions throughout California and beyond. Our expanding partnership network makes it possible to build on the great work of regional community organizations, while lending the unique college knowledge of our Hub advisors.

This year also marked the launch of our Alumni Association, bringing together the 225 students who have already graduated from college and today are leaders in the areas of research, policy, social work, and business. Our alums are now returning to the program as volunteers, mentors, staff members, and even Board members!

However, there is more work to be done. Nationwide, students from low-income backgrounds are less likely to graduate from college. As a result, only 10% of youth from low-income families hold a bachelor's degree by age 25, compared to 77% of middle to higher-income youth.¹ Family pressures, survivor guilt, and other stresses can derail even those college-bound students with 4.0 GPAs. Our program is determined to change these statistics—with our comprehensive support, mentoring, and resources of our direct services program, 90% of SRA students graduate from college within five years.

At the heart of our growth still lies our unwavering commitment to our students and their success. This year, the largest class in SRA's history—95 new graduates—will now have exponentially greater access to economic and leadership opportunities.

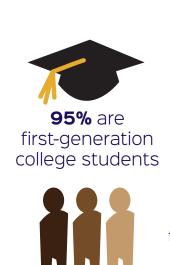
You are an integral part of SRA's success. Thank you for believing in our students—we are so excited for what's next!

Warm regards,

Carolina Martín Executive Director

Cartine Mark

Student Demographics



94% identify

as students

of color





30% are in foster care, guardianships, or on their own



21% have experienced homelessness









STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Selena Hernandez

"In high school, I never thought that college would be possible for me. However, SRA made this dream a reality. Whether it was financially, academically, or emotionally, Students Rising Above has been right by my side. SRA helped me through my college application process and I was accepted to many colleges with their support. Today, I am a first-generation college junior studying sociology and education at the University of California Santa Cruz, and in 2018, I will be the first to graduate college from my family.

This spring, I had the opportunity to study abroad in a multi-city program. My program was both in London and Paris and throughout I had the privilege to go to Spain, Italy, and Greece. I had never thought in a million years to go and study abroad but with SRA's support, we made it happen.

Thanks to SRA, I have become a strong, independent, and successful woman.





Students Rising Above

has been serving students in our direct services program for 16 years. In 2014, the SRA Hub allowed us to offer the same knowledge, resources, and advising through an online platform. Both channels of the SRA program encompass the same core philosophy—that every student deserves comprehensive and personalized support for the academic, financial, physical and emotional demands of college.



Program Model

COLLEGE READINESS AND ACCESS

From the start, each student is matched with a professional Advisor and a volunteer Social Mentor. Advisors and Mentors work together to provide logistical and emotional support 24/7. SRA helps students navigate the college and financial aid application process, select the best-fit colleges, negotiate optimal financial aid, and enroll.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND LITERACY

Students learn from the outset college is a business decision, and they practice maximizing financial aid and obtaining competitive scholarships. After leveraging all forms of financial aid, SRA provides direct financial assistance to Direct Services Program students to help close the financial aid gap, and to cover expenses not covered by financial aid, such as living expenses and textbooks.

OUGHADVISOR college, helping students adjust to social and academic challenges of college life; manage expenses; and overcome a variety of academic, financial, and personal obstacles. We ensure students have comprehensive healthcare and dental coverage, and assist with finding care if needed.

COMPREHENSIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Through our six-year career development curriculum, students are prepared to successfully transition into the workforce with a robust set of experiences and professional skills. Students attend targeted workshops, work with resume editors, and receive personalized career coaching. We place over 50% of our students in competitive internships each year.

MOMY

100% of SRA direct services students accepted to a four-year college

85% of SRA students land career-ladder jobs or enter graduate school within a year of college graduation

> 93% SRA college persistence rate

91% SRA Bachelor's Degree completion rate

34% National Bachelor's Degree completion rate for low-income youth

\$7,975 average student debt load for SRA alumni

\$37,172 average student debt load for US college graduates

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Eric Manzanares

SRA graduate Eric Manzanares exemplifies what students can accomplish with the right support. He grew up with teenage parents, and was following the footsteps of many of his peers, most of whom are now incarcerated or have passed away due to community violence. Eric hit a point in his life where he realized he needed to choose a different path. Eric's SRA Advisor, Lorna Contreras, is an SRA alum and understands the tug-of-war between family and school. She helped Eric see the longer-term benefits of college, and in 2013, he enrolled at UC Merced as an Economics major.

Despite having been a talented student throughout his life, Eric, like many first-generation college students, found the transition to college difficult. Struggling in his classes, together with feeling like he needed to be home for his family, made him feel unfit for college. The stress made it hard to study. Again Lorna discussed the bigger picture with Eric, while SRA connections helped his mother become a legal guardian for her nieces and nephews so she would be eligible for state and county benefits.

"Lorna was a second mom in this whole journey," says Eric, "I could go to her at any time I needed her, but without judgment. Lorna was that one person that I could be completely vulnerable and express myself with."

Eric regained his academic momentum. Eric diligently attended every SRA Career Readiness Workshop and Career Exploration event that he could (including a June 2017 Career Insight Event at Goldman Sachs). SRA provided Eric with professional attire and helped him secure two paid internships at the California Public Utilities Commission—one in the Administrative Law Judge Division and another the next year in the Office of CPUC President Piker—and then another internship at Wells Fargo in the Corporate Risk Department.

In June 2017, Eric graduated from UC Merced and worked with SRA's Career Development Department to find a job in the financial industry sector. Today he's a Capital Market Associate at Orinda Asset Management. Students Rising Above could not be prouder of this young man and his bright future!







Over **13,500** registered users



24-hour response time to all student questions



900+ financial aid budgets created



3,400+ resumes created



Over **100** community workshops in Fall 2017



450+ resources, articles, lesson plans, and worksheets available to students and teachers

Since its founding in 2014, the SRA Hub has become SRA's online home. It's allowed us to take our 16 years of experience supporting first-generation students and offer that same support to students in underserved districts throughout Calistudents in underserved districts throughout California and beyond. Through lesson plans, workfornia and beyond. Through lesson plans, workshops, webinars, and articles, students now have access to critical information that makes college an attainable reality. Overstretched teachers, counselational non-profit program staff can implement ready-made college and career readiness tools.

"Yesterday I used the Hub's resume lesson planit was SO useful! The links and articles embedded in the lesson were great. What a gift!! Thank you!"

Kristen Jurkovich High School Counselor During my college application season, I have received a lot of support from both of my SRA advisors. I just want to say how much I appreciate the solutions you have provided to my questions! Two days ago, I got into UC Berkeley! I wouldn't have made it without the support from both of you. I just want to update you and I want you to know how amazing you are as mentors!!

I am really grateful to be part of the Hub, and I wish the Hub can continue providing help to students who are college bound.

Student at Raoul Wallenberg High School, San Francisco

Colleges

SRA students have graduated from, attended, and are currently attending, these four-year colleges and universities across the country.

Agnes Scott College DECATUR, GA Alaska Pacific University ANCHORAGE, AK American University WASHINGTON, DC Babson College BABSON PARK, MA Barnard College NEW YORK, NY Bates College LEWISTON, ME Boston College CHESTNUT HILL, MA Boston University BOSTON, MA Bowdoin College BRUNSWICK, ME Brandeis University WALTHAM, MA Brigham Young University - Idaho REXBURG, ID Brown University PROVIDENCE, RI Bryn Mawr College BRYN MAWR, PA California Polytechnic State University, Pomona POMONA, CA California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA California State University, Channel Islands CAMARILLO, CA California State University, Chico CHICO, CA California State University, Dominguez Hills CARSON, CA California State University, East Bay HAYWARD, CA California State University, Fresno FRESNO, CA California State University, Fullerton FULLERTON, CA California State University, Humboldt ARCATA, CA California State University, Long Beach LONG BEACH, CA California State University, Los Angeles LOS ANGELES, CA California State University, Monterey Bay California State University, Northridge LOS ANGELES, CA California State University, Sacramento SACRAMENTO, CA California State University, San Diego SAN DIEGO, CA California State University, San Francisco SAN FRANCISCO, CA California State University, San Jose SAN JOSE, CA California State University, San Marcos

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Pitzer College POMONA, CA

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Students Rising Above stands out for its wide-reaching impact in disenfranchised communities by boldly serving our future generation through the college admission process and beyond. It is paving the way for a model approach to providing college access to students from the most marginalized communities by putting an emphasis on persistence through college. SRA turns college "access" into college "success." It is one of the most effective community-based organizations I have worked with in Northern California.



Our Students Are a Worthwhile Investment

The need has never been greater for a pipeline of employees like SRA students, whose diverse backgrounds will help support emerging global markets, build an inclusive culture, and leverage varied perspectives to yield innovative business solutions. For every \$1.00 spent on the SRA program, over \$4.00 is returned as direct fiscal benefits represented by increases in federal and state tax receipts (and reductions in federal and state benefits) over the lifetime of SRA students as compared to other low-income, first-generation college students entering four-year colleges.² SRA is working to make sure we capitalize on the potential of our youth and invest in our future by developing the workforce we need to thrive in the global economy.

2. Economic Returns to the Students Rising Above Program, Clive R. Belfield, Queens College, City University of New York.

My dream to go to college was made possible by the help of SRA. If I wasn't chosen to be a part of SRA, I would probably be failing out of a community college, I would probably be failing out of a community college, but instead, I am in a new environment across the country, a Bonner Scholar, and a recurring member of my school's Academic Dean's List.

Patricia Martinez Class of 2015, Guilford College

Career Development

At SRA, we believe it is never too early to start talking about career development. Career exploration begins while students are still in high school. Like most teenagers, our students have a very limited understanding of the breadth of careers that exist, so our six-year curriculum begins with informational interviewing workshops, job shadowing, and on-site career days with company partners.

From there, SRA's Career Development Team provides individualized support on resume and cover letter editing, interview preparation, and internship application guidance. Through a series of age-targeted workshops, webinars, and online tools, students build concrete skills to set them up for professional success. They also have access to SRA's career mentor network of 400+ volunteers, all offering industry-specific coaching and advice.

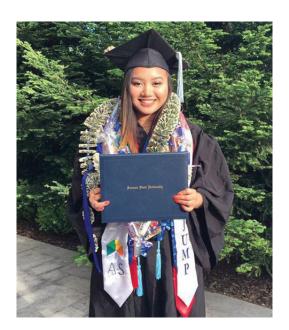
With SRA's assistance, more than 85% of our students are in career-ladder roles or graduate school with 12 months of college graduation.

In 2016-2017, SRA:

- Offered over **200** personalized job interview preparation sessions
- Organized **10** on-site Career Insight Events
- Collaborated with over 130 Employer Partners
- Placed 267 students in internships through partners or other assistance



91% SRA Bachelor's Degree Completion Rate





Internships and **Company Partners**

The SRA Internship Program has built strong ties with community partners to provide meaningful summer internships and full-time employment. Our students build vital professional networks and develop the qualities, confidence, and experience employers seek as students transition from college to career. Our students enter the workforce with the professional and life skills needed for success.

Employers have access to a diverse pipeline of future leaders!



Their Support Goes Beyond Financial

Autodesk has been a generous supporter of Students Rising Above since 2015, offering sponsorship of our 2017 Annual Student Retreat, and hosting our kick-off Alumni Association event at the Autodesk Design Gallery. Their support, however, goes beyond the check. Autodesk has hosted Career Insight Events for SRA students that afforded the opportunity to network with Autodesk employees from various departments and to learn about their individual career paths. In addition in Summer of 2017 they hosted their first SRA intern, Angelique Allen, to work in their Internal Communications Department, and this fall, they hired SRA alum Lejon Butcher as a Talent Acquisition Coordinator. We look forward to building and deepening our partnership with Autodesk.

"My internship at Autodesk has put me around so many talented and interesting individuals who challenge the way that I think and work in the best way possible."

Angelique Allen















SRA provides us with the tools we need for future success. They are there every step of the way; they are our support system, and they are the reason for our bright future.

Joseph Raffa SRA Class of 2014, CSU East Bay

NERA is a proud partner with SRA and has been working with its interns for over four years. SRA interns have been hard-working, smart, and eager to learn what we do. The students that come to us "dive in" and are willing to branch out and take on intellectual challenges. NERA has benefited greatly from working with students from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We look forward to continuing our partnership with SRA for many years to come!

Sarah Butler
Managing Director
NERA Economic Consulting
San Francisco, California

The team at Sherpa has been extremely impressed with the Students Rising Above program. We obviously love its mission; what sets it apart is its fine-tuned, efficient process and of course the talented, energetic group of student-interns. We see a bright future for SRA and the young women and men they support. We'll look forward to expanding our partnership in the future.

K.C. Watson CEO & Co-Founder Sherpa Digital Media, Inc. Redwood City, California

SRA Alumni: Then and Now

In 2016, Joe Williams was the first in his family to graduate from college, with the unique combination of a Theatre major and a Computer Science minor from Lewis & Clark College. Beyond his interesting choice of areas of study, there's an even more intriguing story; as a former foster child, the odds were against Joe ever attending college, let alone graduating. Nationwide, only 3% of students in foster care obtain their bachelor's degrees.

That's not to say that Joe didn't struggle in college. He relied heavily on his advisor, Jasmine Amar, to help get him through some of the dark days. "Jasmine helped me a lot through college. Many days I felt like I needed to come back home and deal with family. Jasmine encouraged me each time that this was where I needed to be for my future."

Naturally curious, Joe took full advantage of the internship opportunities available to him during his five years with SRA. His first internship was at the Aquarium of the Bay, where Joe served as a "Graphic Preparator," illustrating and creating many of the exhibit signage. Joe then moved on to Wells Fargo, with an internship in Corporate Risk, before landing an internship at SF-based Mission Bit, founded by SRA alum and board member, Stevon Cook. With Stevon's guidance, Joe taught a sixweek course to middle school students on coding in Java for Android phones.

Since graduating, Joe interned and landed a full-time job at AppsFlyer as a Support Engineer, a position that draws on his technical skills background as well as his natural gifts with people, and has enabled him to travel globally. It's also allowed Joe the chance to give back to SRA by offering internships and career guidance to current SRA students, as well as attend our annual kick-off retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains.



"I'd like to be at the point where I'm helping at my capacity. I definitely want to be a part of every retreat that I can—I loved getting to be on the other side of the table from the kids, and really fun to get to see the other side of the table, too!"

Joe Williams

Meet Our Alumni ASTUDENTS RISING ABOVE





Lejon Butcher TALENT ACQUISITION COORDINATOR, AUTODESK Sonoma State University, Class of 2014 SRA Class of 2011



Gabriela Trujillo INTEGRATED MARKETING SPECIALIST, SAP Mount Holyoke College, Class of 2015 SRA Class of 2010



Ali Rucker BUSINESS MANAGER, COUNTY LINE HARVEST Wellesley College, Class of 2011 SRA Class of 2007



Aaron Love FRAUD SPECIALIST, WISH St. Mary's College of California, Class of 2013 SRA Class of 2008

Our Generous Donors

With gratitude and profound appreciation, we acknowledge the following donors for the past two years for their generous support of our students and the program. We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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Make a tax-deductible donation and help us send even more students to college next year. Many employers have a matching gift program.

Leave a Legacy

Include SRA in your estate plans and support students in their pursuit of a higher education for generations to come.

Volunteer

SRA has numerous volunteer opportunities throughout the year, including helping students prepare a resume, working at an SRA event, and even providing pro bono healthcare or dental services.

Employ an SRA Student

or Hire an SRA Alum

Provide SRA students with paid internships or allow them to participate in "job shadowing" to learn about your profession first-hand.

Establish a Named Scholarship

Help our hard-working, motivated students go to college by establishing a scholarship in your name, your company's or foundation's name, or in the name of a loved one. SRA will work closely with you to craft a personal scholarship and to provide opportunities to meet the students directly supported by your scholarship.

Attend the Annual Gala

SRA's annual Gala raises critically needed funds to support our students through college. Visit our website and contact us for more info.

Become a Mentor

Give of your time by serving as a role model and source of guidance and support for an SRA student.

Follow Students Rising Above on Social Media



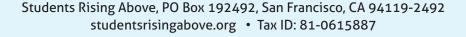












GUIDESTAR* Exchange

Statement of Financial Position



Temporarily restricted	1,287,052
Net Assets Unrestricted	5,388,468
Total current liabilities	246,124
Payroll liabilities	31,459
Current Liabilities Accounts payable and accrued expenses	214,665
	\$ 6,921,644
Total other assets	5,274,614
Investment in marketable securities	5,207,062
Grants and contributions receivable (long-term net)	67,552
Other Assets	
Equipment and Software (net)	30,122
Total current assets	1,616,908
Prepaid expenses	40,654
Other receivables	5,596
Cash and cash equivalents Grants and contributions receivable (net)	\$ 1,216,533 354,125

Year ended June 30, 2017

Statement of Activities



	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues and support Grants and contributions	¢ 1 771 71/	¢ 1 / 2 / 692	¢ 7 1 F 6 7 O 6
	\$ 1,731,714	\$ 1,424,682	\$ 3,156,396
Special events (net of direct expenses of \$91,700)	933,682		933,682
Investment return designated		Taking the	
for current operations	303,147		303,147
是一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个一个	2,968,543	1,424,682	4,393,225
Net assets released from restrictions	1 ,246,930	(1,246,930)	
Total revenues and support	4,215,473	177,752	4,393,225
Expenditures			
Program services	3,252,538		3,252,538
Management and general	486,179		486,179
Fundraising	518,824		518,824
Total expenditures	4,257,541		4,257,541
Change in net assets from operations	(42,068)	177,752	135,684
Other gains /			
Investment gain in excess of amounts designated for current operations	89,551	ALT S	89,551
Change in net assets	47,483	177,752	225,235
Net assets (beginning of year)	5,340,985	1,109,300	6,450,285
Net assets (end of year)	\$ 5,388,468	\$ 1,287,052	\$ 6,675,520

Year ended June 30, 2017



