



## Building a More Equitable Future

When Students Rising Above was founded in 1998, our goal was simple: empower under-served students to complete high school and enroll in college. Our common-sense mission defied the conventional belief that it was too late for those students to dream of successful careers or academic excellence. And for the last 25 years, every one of those students seized their opportunity, proving time and time again that they are all poised to be rising stars.

Even in the face of hardship and a global pandemic that affected millions of lives, our students exhibited resilience like no other. They demonstrated the ability to adapt, overcoming the highest hurdles, never losing sight of their goals. Simply put, their dreams did not end once challenges began. And in recent years, 100 percent of the students in our programs graduated from high school, and 98 percent enrolled in college and universities.

SRA commits to the academic, financial, and emotional support programs we offer, and we will

continue working together to accommodate other critical areas of need. From virtual learning to helping students navigate their mental health needs, we aim to broaden our scope so that every student has the opportunity to secure their academic and career ambitions.

Before we approach our 25th anniversary, we must acknowledge that there is no SRA without the incredible students we serve and the support from people in our community, like you. The last 25 years have been defined by your compassion and support of students hailing from Black, Latine, and Asian communities—and most importantly, your vision to empower the next generation of diverse leaders in your community.

A brighter future can only be achieved if we work together. Our students have defied the odds and achieved great success for over 25 years. Your donation, and continued support, will ensure we can continue serving students for another 25 years.



**Edylwise Fernandez**

When I received the phone call from SRA confirming my acceptance into the Rising Stars program, I was able to take a breath of relief. I continued to catch these small pockets of relief throughout college despite the ongoing challenges life presented because my advisor showed up and reassured me—she and SRA had my back. While I learned academically, I developed professional skills as SRA armed me with knowledge and tools to navigate life after college. When I joined SRA as a staff, I was overjoyed to provide a similar experience for current SRA students through our Career Development programs and services. I am proud that I can

connect with fellow SRA alumni, learn about their needs, and build programming and services for us. Currently, I'm working with the Innovation Team to create a platform for alumni to access services and connect with each other. I can't wait to officially launch our Alumni Program as we celebrate SRA's upcoming 25th anniversary. For 25 years, SRA has been working to offset the impact of socioeconomic inequalities in students' lives, which consequently contributes to diversifying academia and the workforce.

through my college experience to the best of my ability. Forming a part of SRA's staff has allowed me to continue challenging myself to grow and expand my skill-set while working for a mission that allows for self-reflection and consistent improvement.



**Le Tran**

SRA's greatest gift to me was providing a network of mentors who set me up for a life filled with meaning and purpose beyond my career. I joined the SRA staff in hopes of supporting our students to create and follow their most authentic paths.



**Rocío Mondragón Reyes**

Being a part of SRA as a student provided me the encouragement and holistic support system that I needed as a first-generation, low-income student to thrive

**GIVE NOW**