

STUDENTS RISING ABOVE: **IMPACT REPORT** FY24





Together, We're Breaking Barriers.

Your support empowers first-generation students to redefine what's possible through education, career, and life.



A NOTE FROM OUR INTERIM CEO, **ANGELA BUGAYONG**

Dear SRA Community,

This past year has been a transformative one for Students Rising Above, and it's all thanks to your unwavering support. Your generosity has allowed us to strengthen our programs, deepen the impact we're having on our students, and ensure that first-generation students from low-income backgrounds have the resources they need to thrive in their education, careers, and beyond.

As we look forward to an exciting leadership transition, I want to take a moment to personally thank you for believing in the potential of our students and for continuing to invest in their futures. Together, we're creating a world where every young person has the opportunity to rise, regardless of their background.

**Thank you for standing with us
on this journey.**



With gratitude,
Angela Bugayong
Interim CEO, Students Rising Above

FEATURE STORY

DAYANE & MELISSA



ABOUT DAYANE: Dayane has recently achieved her Child Development Associate Teacher Permit as of October 2024. In addition to her academic success, she has actively engaged in various student organizations, balancing her responsibilities. Currently, Dayane is involved in several initiatives, including volunteering with Raices, interning with

Bridges and Frontera— an advocacy group focused on US/Mexico border issues—and serving on the Philanthropy Committee of the Professional Pre-Law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta (P.A.D.). As an active member of the Latine Pre-Law Society, she is exploring her passion for law while seeking support and opportunities on her pre-law journey.

Before Dayane joined Students Rising Above as a senior in high school, she was excited about college. However, the path was intimidating, especially as a first-generation student. The college application process alone felt like a daunting mountain to climb. But then she met her Rising Stars advisor, Melissa.

Understanding Dayane's struggles from her own lived experience as a first-generation Latina from Oakland, Melissa knew how to help Dayane navigate the decisions in front of her. She not only guided Dayane through the complexities of college applications but also listened and reassured her when self-doubt crept in. Dayane began to recognize her strength, learning to articulate her story in her essays.

Melissa's encouragement allowed Dayane to embrace her identity and experiences, cultivating her own voice and confidence. This relationship transformed Dayane into a resilient advocate for herself. Even as she advanced as a freshman at

UC Berkeley, Melissa remained a constant presence in her life. Whenever Dayane faced tough moments, like during finals, knowing she could reach out to Melissa made all the difference.

All of SRA's advisors offer individualized support to all students in our SOAR and Rising Stars program. While this often includes academic support, it can include other things like helping their students navigate healthcare, coaching them on soft skills like time management, and giving reassurance throughout their college and career journey. Advisors demonstrate the power of relationship building at the heart of our work — and how it elevates our students' careers.

Our Impact by the Numbers & Key Performance Indicators

In FY24, **your support** enabled Students Rising Above to achieve **remarkable outcomes for first-generation students**. We set ambitious goals and made significant strides in key areas. Here's a snapshot of the impact your generosity made possible:



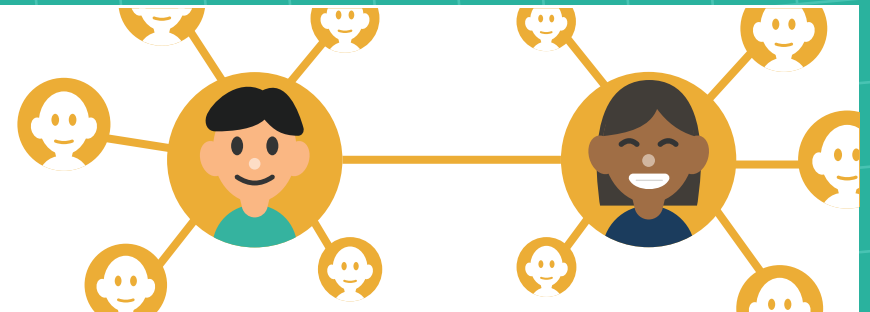
We collaborated with **21 corporate partners** to provide students with **paid internships and career exposure**, such as Kaiser Permanente.

Under our career and networking development programs, **86% of SRA graduates entered their industry of choice** within 18 months of completing their degree.

71% of Rising Stars students graduated with a bachelor's degree **within six years**, compared to the national average of 11% for first-generation students.



91% of SRA graduates completed their education with **≤ \$25,000 in student debt**, far below the high national average.



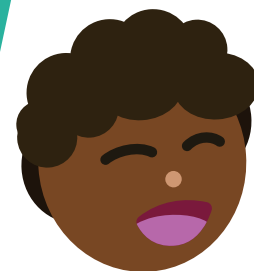
100% of Rising Stars students experienced environments with **inclusive workplaces**, preparing them for a diverse and evolving workforce.



Our **Black student enrollment** in the **Rising Stars program** grew to **21%**, up from 16% last year.

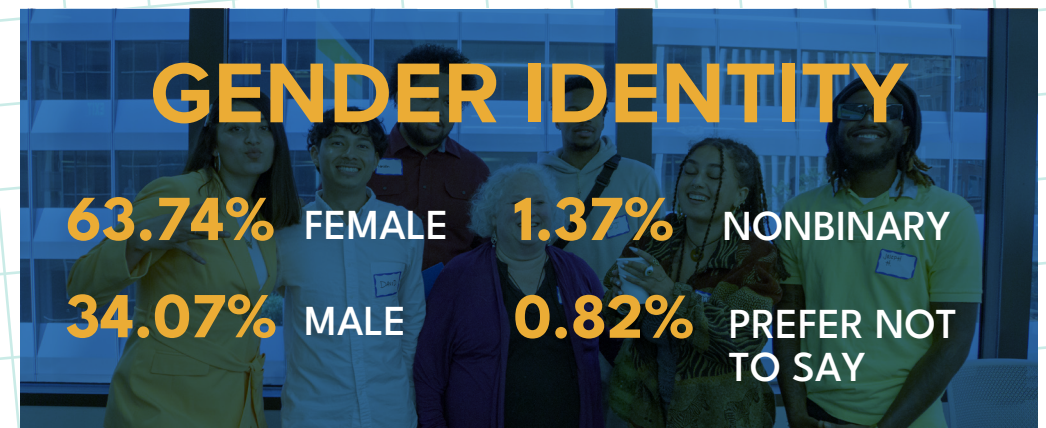
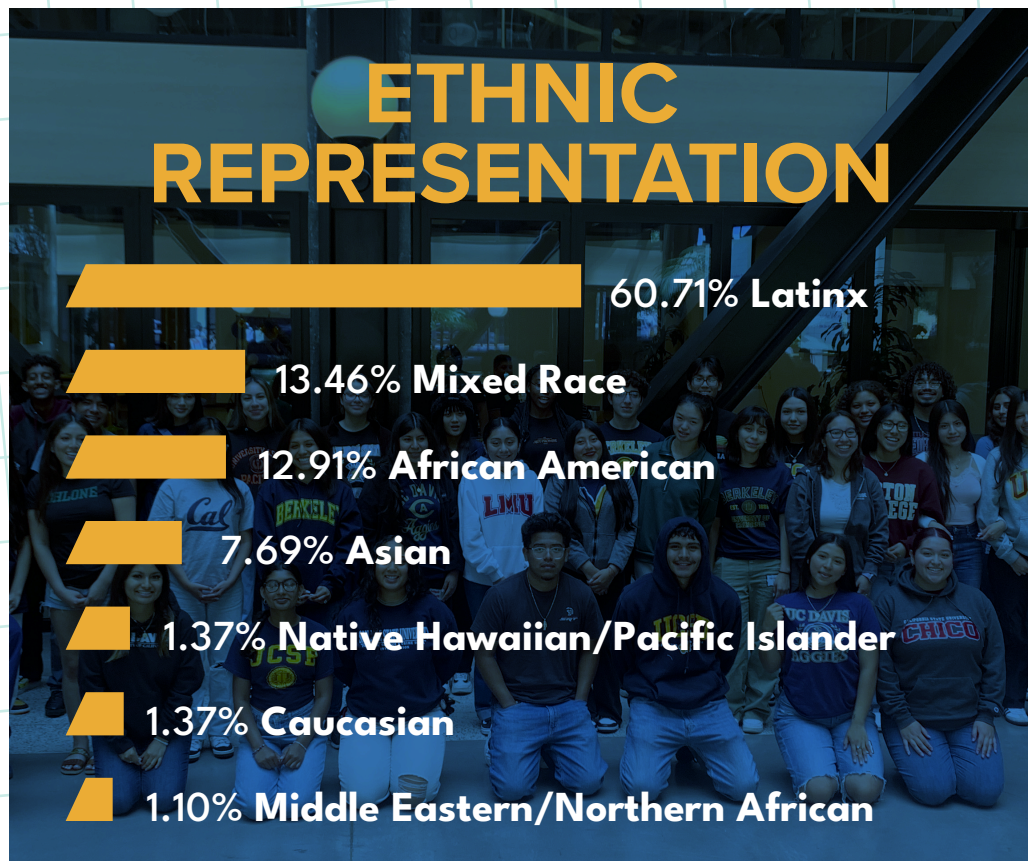


Nearly **300 students** accessed **free mental health services**, and we expanded our services towards longer live therapy sessions and ongoing text support.



We delivered over **3,000 hours** of **personalized advising** to students in FY24, from financial aid navigation to emergency support.

Our Student Demographics



DONATION INFORMATION

Join us in creating opportunities for first-generation students to thrive in college and beyond. Every gift makes a difference.

QR CODE



Link directly to our
donation page for
seamless giving.

ONLINE

Visit [SRA's Donation Page](https://studentsrisingabove.donorsupport.co/page/FUNVTESYEAV) or see
the URL below:

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CHECKS

Foundation for
Students Rising Above

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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Thank You to Our Champions!

We are incredibly thankful to the generous donors, foundations, and corporate partners who made last fiscal year a success. Your partnership allows us to continue empowering first-generation students to achieve their dreams.

Thank you for believing in our students and investing in their potential!