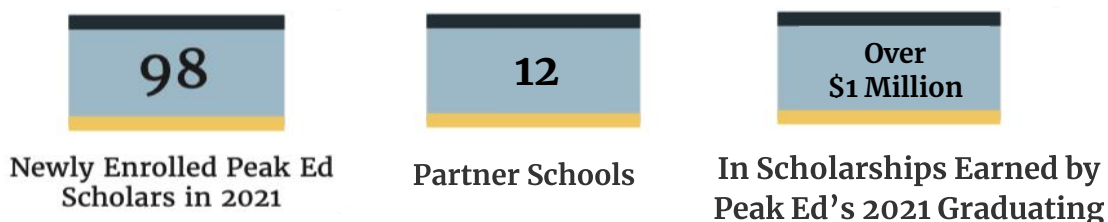


Dear Friend,

If 2020 was a year of quickly adapting to a new normal, 2021 has been one of slowly recovering. As we know, some things have a long way to go to get back to how they used to be, and some things will never be the same. Yet at Peak Education, getting back to normal is not entirely the goal—the status quo of unequal educational opportunity is what we seek to disrupt. And our students this past year have shown not only their resilience in the face of challenges, but also their drive to go beyond the old normal and achieve something better. From seeing last year's seniors execute their ambitious post-secondary plans to watching our first group of Impact Service Project participants present their outstanding projects at major counselling conferences, we have witnessed first-hand how much there is to celebrate.

Peak Education is excited to share our growth and highlight the accomplishments of our amazing students over this past year. Our 20/21 Annual Report sent with this letter gives details of these accomplishments, but some of our proudest highlights include:



In years past, you have been an important part of making educational access possible in the community and bringing equitable opportunities to low-income students from across the city. Peak Education held an in-person fundraising event in August where we raised over \$40,000. In addition to connecting with community leaders and partners, the event provided an opportunity to spend lunch with one of our founders - Dr. Dalton Connor. We are asking for your support again. We are currently involved in the Indy Give! campaign with a goal of raising \$60,000. With a \$25,000 match fund secured, every dollar you contribute between now and December 31st, 2021, will be doubled. See the attached form or visit [www.indygive.com/nonprofit/peak-education](http://www.indygive.com/nonprofit/peak-education). Here are some of the ways that you can consider the concrete impact of making a gift today:

A one-time gift of \$1791 or a monthly pledge of \$149 pays for a year of programming for a Peak Education Scholar.

\$600 sponsors a student to attend the Full STEAM Ahead Summer Program at The Colorado Springs School.

\$800 supports a year of Near-Peer mentoring for a 9th or 10th grader.

\$2,500 funds a major event like our family visit to the Olympic & Paralympic Museum.

Thank you for considering our request. And thank you for your solidarity in our efforts to increase educational opportunity in our community.

Sincerely,

Carlos and Cassie

# PEAK EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT



2020/2021

PEAK EDUCATION  
REACH HIGHER

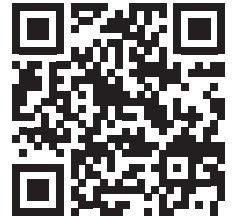
# Contents:

3	CEO Letter	11-12	August Fundraiser
	New Logo Intro	12	Basecamp
4	Our Why, How, & What	13	Recognition of Key Donors/Foundations
5-7	Program Highlights	14	Financials
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*Support Peak Education and other  
Pikes Peak Region Nonprofits*



The 2021 Indy Give! Campaign is in full swing! Head to [www.indygive.com/nonprofit/peak-education](http://www.indygive.com/nonprofit/peak-education) or scan the QR code to learn how you can support Peak Education now through December 31st.



## Peak Ed Contact Info

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Stay connected with us!

[@peakeducationcos](https://www.instagram.com/peakeducationcos)

Peak Education

# Meet Our Team



**Carlos Jiménez**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Nataya Stepleton**  
Program Specialist



**Lauren Taylor**  
Director of Programs  
and Systems



**Anne Taylor**  
Mentoring and College  
Success Coordinator



**Vennita Browning**  
Director of Programs



**Jasmine Rainey**  
Director of College  
Counseling



**Benedict Wright**  
Grant Writer



**Grace Miller**  
Marketing and  
Communications Intern

# CEO Letter

*Dear Peak Education Community,*

As an education based organization, we strive to be constantly learning and reflecting to improve our program and services. As an organization we are constantly faced with dealing with change and there was a lot of it over the past year. From establishing new partnerships with schools, larger numbers of students being served and adjusting our programming to meet the needs demonstrated by our students and their families, there has been a lot to adapt to.

Sometimes change can also bring about clarity. The past year provided us with a clearer vision of the need for our work, the need to focus on

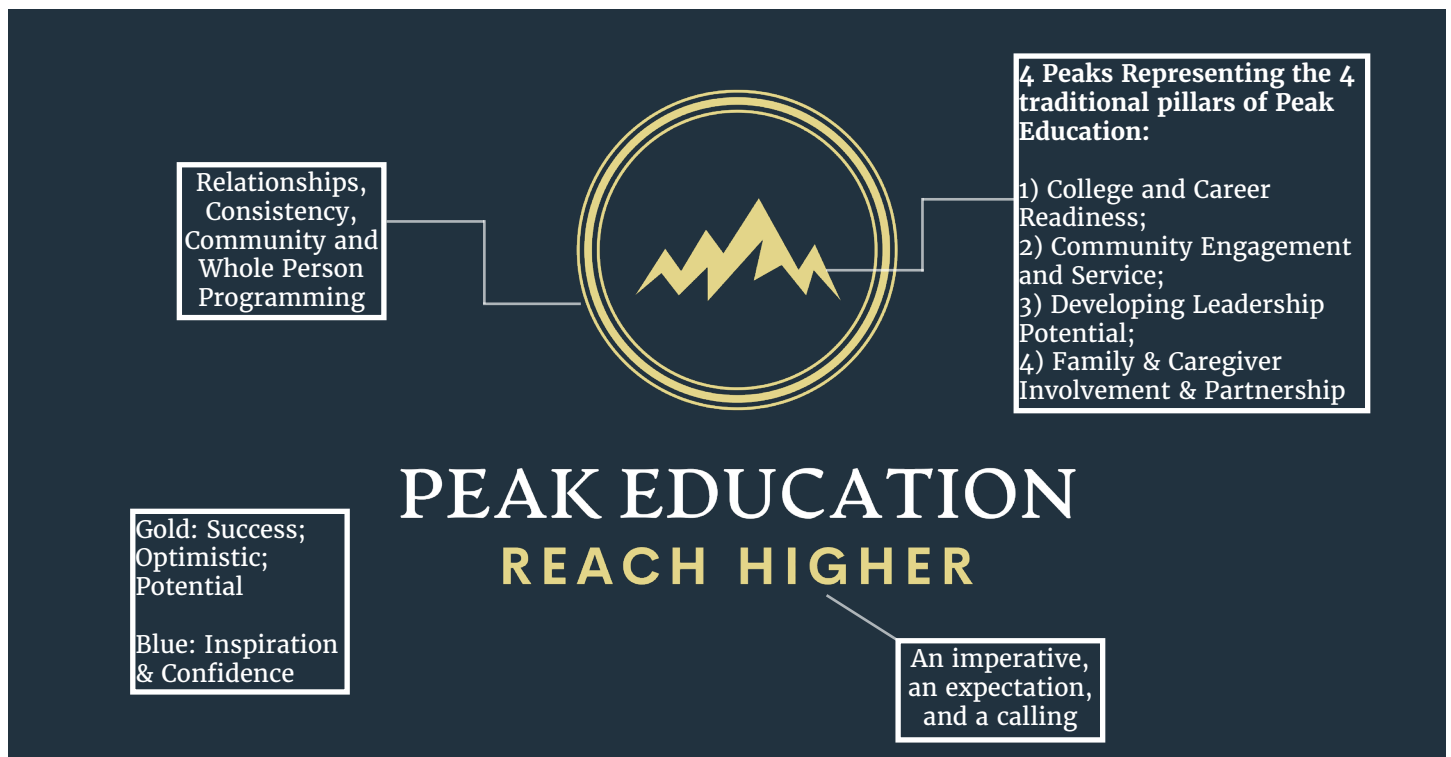
closing educational opportunity gaps in the community. It brought into clearer focus that Peak Education's secret to success is the combination of our programming and the relationships that it allows us to form over time with students and their families.

Peak Education's new tagline is "Reach Higher" which is both an imperative and an invitation for students, their families, our community and the organization as a whole. We are pleased to share this report with you on the accomplishments of the Peak Education community over the past year and recognize that none of this would be possible without the generous support we have received from the community. You are empowering us and the students we serve to Reach Higher and it would not be possible without your partnership.

Sincerely,

Carlos Jiménez  
CEO  
Peak Education

## Introducing Peak Education's new logo:

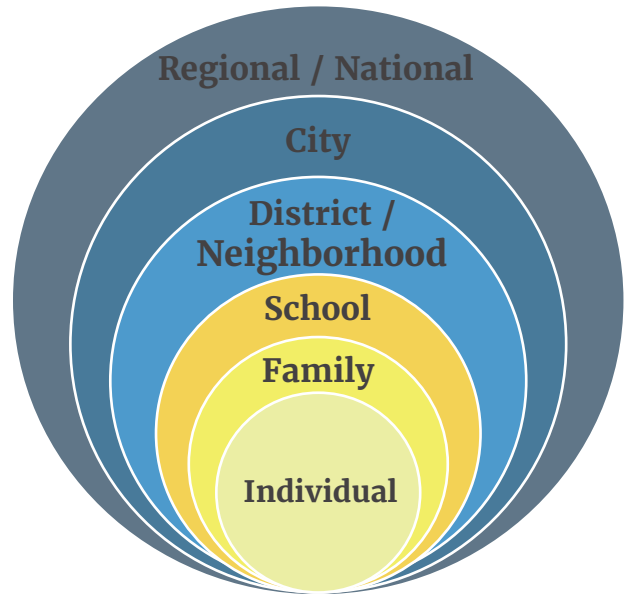


## Our Why:

Peak Education disrupts the status quo by closing opportunity gaps in our community. We believe that every student deserves to reach for their full potential and that all willing learners are capable of doing so.

## Our How:

Create positive change at all levels that impacts a student's trajectory.



## Our What:

Signature Program	Monthly Meetings, Full STEAM Ahead; Family Meetings, Service Learning, Virtual Keynotes, Multidirectional Mentoring; Impact Service Project
College & Scholarship Counseling	Intensive 1:1 College & Scholarship Counseling; College Partnerships; Improving School Practices
College Success & Career Readiness	College Support; Affordability; Pilot Internship & Entrepreneurial Program
Social Enterprise/ Basecamp Educational Consulting	Consulting with Districts, Schools & Companies; Serving Individuals Students with Means

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities

As with so many organizations like us, Peak Education's primary pivot last year was adapting to the new needs of students and families because of COVID-19 and the social distancing required by the pandemic.

Fortunately, we were one of the few outside organizations to be allowed into our partner schools to conduct in person programming as much as possible. We hosted multiple in-person, socially distanced events—including a visit to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum for students, families, and staff. We adapted many of our services like mentoring and college counselling presentations to virtual platforms. We also created new programs in response to the pandemic like near-peer mentoring, the Impact Service Project, and a college-success program specifically meant to support college students transitioning to college during an unprecedented time.

Between heightened communication and virtual programming, Peak Education's program, that allowed our students to connect with dynamic speakers and educators from around the country, remained strong.

## Mentoring

In 2020, more high school students than ever participated in our mentoring programs—programs made especially urgent by the toll of the pandemic on relationships and human interactions. Last year was the first year of our near-peer mentoring program which pairs students in college with younger students in high school. These older students fill a unique support role—old enough to provide wisdom and advice but also young enough to be relatable. This year we had 16 mentees paired with eight mentors. Alongside near-peer mentoring, our longstanding community mentoring program pairs professionals with 11th and 12th graders to provide advice and guidance during the college and scholarship application process as well as provide a role model who has completed college. Many returning mentors also maintained past relationships with current college students. This year saw the largest cohort of community mentors ever with 17 volunteer mentors paired with 18 students. For the students we serve—often first-generation college students—these mentoring programs serve an important role of facilitating critical, inspiring relationships.

## College Counseling



In 2020, Peak Education hired a new director of college counseling, Jasmine Rainey. Jasmine is leading our efforts to provide excellent college and scholarship counseling, empowering our students to reach higher.

Jasmine runs application workshops, hosts college representatives, connects students with resources, and provides one-on-one support to juniors and seniors in Peak Education as well as the Sach's Foundation's Elevated program. During the 20/21 school year, Jasmine helped the Peak Education senior class generate \$1,042,160 in scholarships and financial aid—which is a new Peak Education record. Several students earned prestigious scholarships including the Daniels Fund, Greenhouse Scholars, and Gates Scholars (full tuition for undergraduate and graduate school, the second Peak Education student to be awarded the Gates). Jasmine is set to continue her efforts this fall with an even larger cohort of juniors and seniors.

## Full STEAM Ahead

Peak Education was able to return to the Colorado Springs School campus this summer for the Full STEAM Ahead summer enrichment program. After a year of online and distance learning, it was especially meaningful for 47 of our students to engage in hands-on learning activities ranging from dissecting sheep brains to participating in design thinking pitch sessions with local entrepreneurs. For incoming middle school students, Full STEAM Ahead is a powerful orientation to Peak Education.



## Monthly Classroom Sessions



With the recent addition of a trained school counselor on the team, we have increased our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) offerings for students. This new role has proved to be invaluable especially in creating a cohesive monthly curriculum focused on resilience—this focus emerged as a response to the hardships many of our students were facing due to the pandemic. Our sessions have been interactive, activity based and include opportunities for individual and group reflection with their peers, staff, and mentors. Focus on SEL compliments our college and career readiness programming once students arrive in high school.

## All-Community Events

We complimented our monthly classroom sessions with relevant monthly keynote presentations to students and families. Last fall, we hosted talks by entrepreneur Kunle Oladehin, two-time Emmy-nominated filmmaker Mike Shum, and trauma and resiliency specialist Johnny Reed. In the spring of 2021 presentations featured Danielle Summerville, the Diversity and Community Outreach Programs Manager for the city of Colorado Springs and Dr. Rosenna Bakari who spoke about safety and personal power.

We also held major in-person events like a visit to the U.S Olympic and Paralympic Museum as well as a neighborhood ride/walk in collaboration with Kids on Bikes and Bike Colorado Springs.



## Impact Service Project



Service-learning has long been a staple of Peak Education's work with young people. In 2021, considering the impacts of the pandemic, we took that focus to a new level. In response to problems identified in local businesses, nonprofits, and educational institutions, students worked in small teams, with the support of a coach, to identify root causes of local area problems and implement solutions. The five teams had \$2,000 each to implement their solutions and they did so with some incredible results. For example, students working with Carmel Middle School students convinced their peers who had little to no engagement with their teachers to commit to 10 check-in's during the spring semester. As a result, not only did student engagement at the school increase by 255 student-teacher connections, but overall GPA's also improved. Students who completed 10+ check-in's saw their GPA's rise from an average of 1.59 in quarter two of last year to 3.07 in quarter four.

Peak Education students and staff presented the projects at the National Association of College Admission Counseling conference in Seattle and the Colorado School Counselors Association conference in Keystone, Colorado. Student representatives presented their experiences and provided guidance on how to enact a program in other communities.



# PROGRAM DATA

## About our Peak Ed Students:

90%

Would be the first in their family to complete a college degree

90%

Qualify for free and reduced lunch

87%

Identify as students of color

## Our Outcomes

95%

High School Graduates

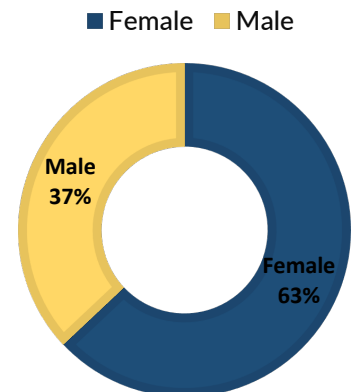
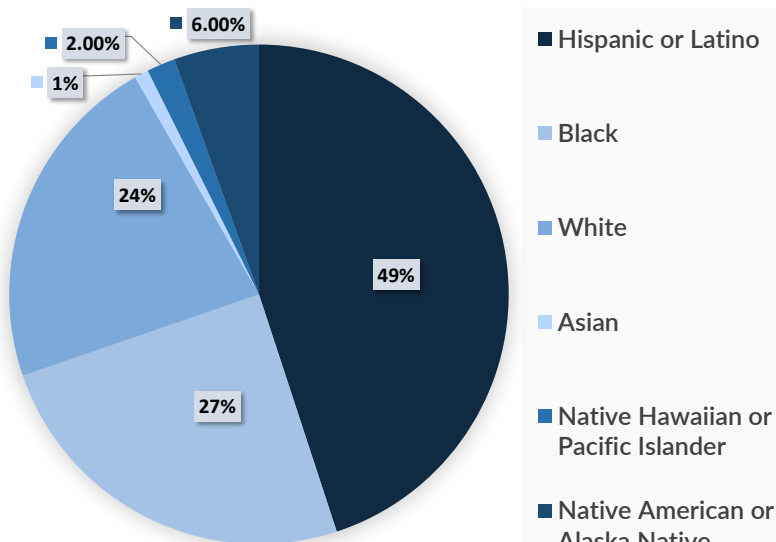
93%

Pursue Higher Education

88%

Postsecondary Completion

## Student Demographics



The individual groupings listed above add to more than the total percentage, because a growing number of students identify with more than one race or ethnicity.

245

Current Peak Ed  
Scholars (Grades 7-12)

232

Peak Ed Scholars at  
Partner Schools

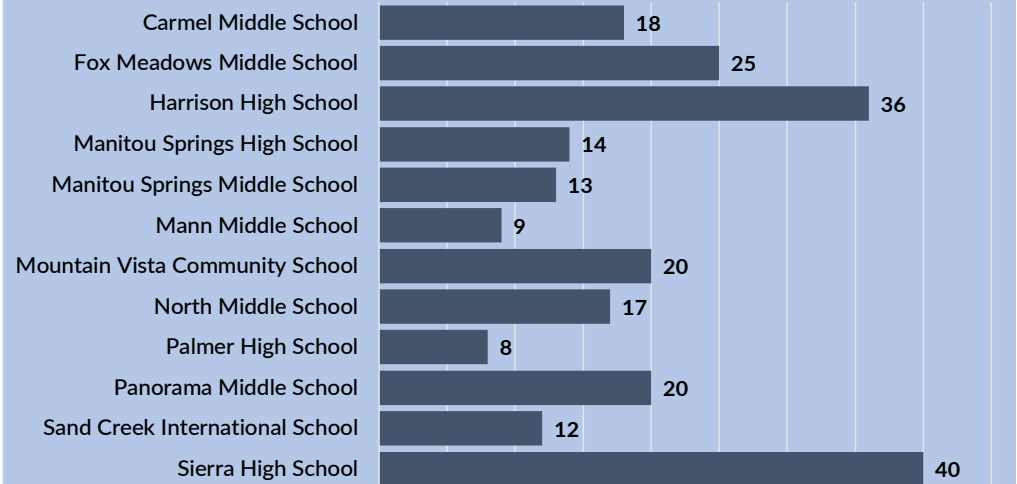
98

Newly Enrolled Peak Ed  
Scholars in 2021

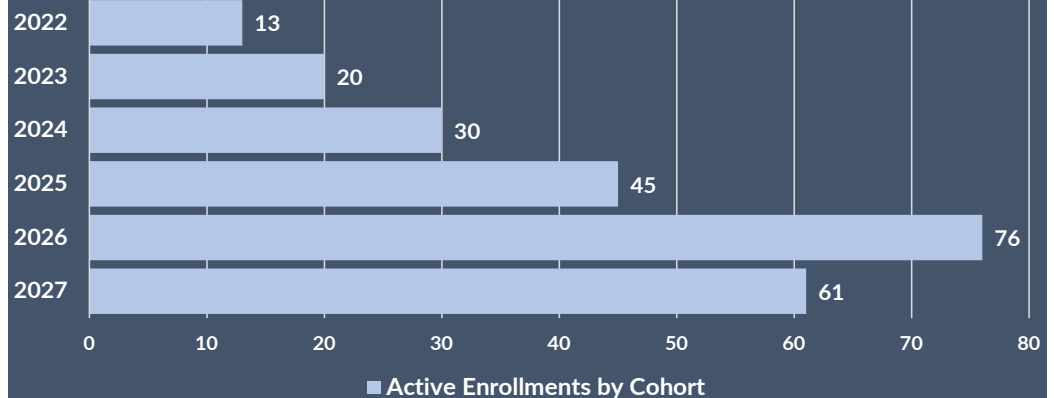
65

Peak Ed Scholars  
Currently Enrolled in a  
BA/BS and Associates/  
Certificate Programs

### Active Enrollments at Partner Schools



### Active Enrollments by Cohort



## Colleges Attended by Peak Education Scholars

Adams State  
Arizona State University  
Benedictine College  
(Kansas)  
Berea College  
Case Western University  
Colorado College  
Colorado Mesa University  
Colorado State University,  
Ft. Collins  
Colorado State  
University, Pueblo

Johnson and Wales  
University  
Metropolitan State  
University, Denver  
Northeastern University  
Northern Arizona  
University  
Notre Dame  
Pikes Peak Community  
College  
Pueblo Community  
College  
Texas A&M

University of Arizona  
The Ohio State University  
University of Colorado,  
Boulder  
University of Colorado,  
Colorado Springs  
University of Denver  
University of Northern  
Colorado  
Valley City State  
University  
Western Colorado  
University

# FEATURED STUDENTS

By Anne Taylor, Mentoring and College Success Coordinator

## Joselyne Cimpaye

First Year Student at Berea College  
Major: Nursing

**B**acked by a prestigious Daniels Scholarship and an excellent academic record, Peak Education Scholar Joselyne Cimpaye could have gone to just about any college, all expenses paid. Instead, she chose one that doesn't even charge tuition. But Joselyne declares that even if she had known at the start of her college search that she would have the Daniels, she wouldn't change her decision. Joselyne will graduate in four years, debt-free, with a highly respected Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Berea College.

Kentucky is a long way from home, but Joselyne is finding a comfortable place for herself at Berea. She was welcomed to campus by fellow Peak Ed Scholar Bernadette Kwizera, now a college senior. Joselyne was thrilled to find that her randomly assigned roommate shared some remarkable similarities: both young women came to the US from Tanzania as young girls, and both have fathers from Burundi and speak Kirundi as their first language.

Heeding the advice of Peak Education and others, Joselyne has reached out to find community and belonging in a diverse collection of campus clubs and organizations such as Nurses Christian Fellowship, Sankofa (an African-American cultural group), and C25K (a group committed to getting off the couch and training for a five kilometer run).

It hasn't all been easy. After her firstpaper was returned, Joselyne realized she needed to up her game. But instead of doubting her ability to succeed in college, she headed into her professor's office hours, where she



found him welcoming and motivational. She also attends optional math tutoring labs once a week and TA's office hours to help her succeed.

Joselyne credits Peak Education with guiding her well through college and scholarship applications. When her high school counselors were not communicating, Ms. Rainey was "right in the center" sending out information on scholarships. "She was definitely godsent," Joselyne reflects. She also credits her Peak Ed community mentor, Deborah Helton, for helping her not only with the financial aspects of college planning, but also with setting goals, clarifying priorities and creating to-do lists that Joselyne now makes for herself in college.

Like so many of our scholars, Joselyne Cimpaye is reaching higher, and we couldn't be more proud of her. Her future patients will be fortunate to have such a talented, compassionate nurse in charge of their care.

## Delianyns (Deli) Reyes

Senior  
Harrison High School

**A**s a high school senior this fall, Deli Reyes is right where she should be: deep in the process of writing college essays, applying for scholarships and considering the "best fit" for next year.



She has a growing list of college acceptances but says she is looking carefully for places that will “resonate with me, that I’ll feel comfortable and challenged.” Fortunately for Deli, she has the assistance of Peak Education’s Director of College Counseling, Jasmine Rainey, to help guide her as she works on essays and submits applications for prestigious scholarships such as the Daniels, Boettcher and Greenhouse Scholar.

In addition to Ms. Rainey, Deli also has the support of one of Peak Education’s Community Mentors, Ann Carson, a recently retired high school administrator and former teacher. Her mentor comes to meet her at PPCC whenever she can, helping her brainstorm her college essays. Although it’s only been a few months, “We’ve bonded,” says Deli.

Deli has added a few impressive activities to her college resume lately. As a member of the Impact Service Project team that worked with the Silver Key Thrift Store to attract more customers and increase their visibility in the community, Deli learned valuable skills in marketing, creating a social media presence, and working effectively with different, sometimes conflicting ideas and personalities. As a result of her team’s good work, they were invited to present their project at the Colorado School Counselor Association

***“I always doubted myself. Peak Education has helped me grow out of this, to be confident.”***

Conference in Keystone, Colorado in October. She was nervous about being away from her family and about speaking in public as part of the student panel, but in the end, it was a life-changing experience. “I’ve never been to the mountains before or had a chance to travel outside Colorado Springs, so it was a new experience for me. But after I did it, I was very confident about myself. I had a room full of people laughing at my jokes!” She notes that this newfound self-confidence has carried into her school life, where she has felt confident presenting group projects in her classes.

Reflecting how her six years in Peak Education have impacted her, Deli states, “When I started out I didn’t think I’d be able to get this far, to have this many opportunities. I always doubted myself. Peak Education has helped me grow out of this, to be confident. They never see me as a statistic, but as a person.” Deli’s growing confidence and self-awareness is evident when she contemplates her ideal college: “It has to back me up financially and provide a safe environment where I can challenge myself, and provide lots of opportunities for personal growth and career pathways. As a person of color, diversity is very important to me, too.” But while college and career are important, she doesn’t want to think too much about the future; she wants to focus more on the present. “I don’t know what’s going to happen in five years, but I can control what I do now.” In fact, it is precisely what she is doing now that will pave the way for so many options in her future. We can’t wait to see how far she goes!

## **Isaiah Billig**

**Freshman**

**Sierra High School**

**A**fter graduating from Panorama Middle School last spring, Isaiah Billig was a bit nervous to start at Sierra High School this fall, but so far, the



transition has gone smoothly. In addition to attending the monthly Peak Education meetings at Sierra, Isaiah is taking full advantage of the extra programs that Peak Education has to offer, participating in Full STEAM Ahead last summer and signing up for the Near-Peer mentoring program in the fall. All of this keeps him busy, motivated and on track for his future, where he hopes to turn his interest in building computers into a career.

At Full STEAM Ahead (a partnership between Peak Education and The Colorado Springs School to provide challenging, hands-on learning to Peak Ed middle school peer to design a prototype for a “PC cooler” that would keep a laptop from overheating. While he loved the “Brain Matters” workshop he did two years ago as a rising 7th grader, this year he appreciated the smaller, more mature group of students who were given the freedom to dream up and design a product, as well as the opportunity to get feedback and make modifications to their original concept. He also enjoyed the blacksmithing elective and the field trip to the Pikes Peak Hillclimb Museum at the Broadmoor Hotel to see the evolution of automotive technology.

Isaiah also applied to be a mentee in Peak Education’s Near-Peer Mentoring program, now in its second year, where he was paired with Claude Bigrimana, another Peak Education Scholar now a sophomore at West Texas A&M. Claude and Isaiah meet virtually every few weeks to talk about school, goals, career interests and whatever else comes up. Most recently, he and Claude discussed the pros and cons of

guided notes, commonly used in 9th grade classes, which they agreed don’t necessarily help you remember as much as if you were forced to write it all down yourself. They discussed Isaiah’s goal to get all A’s this semester, as well as steps to take to get there, including retaking tests when possible. Isaiah recently put this plan to work in Earth Science, his hardest class, and pulled his grade up into the A range. With a 3.9 GPA at the moment, he is well on his way to reaching his semester goal. His favorite class at Sierra is Health, where they talk about relevant issues like mental health, nutrition, and safety, and his teacher makes the material fun with personal stories, short articles, and a sense of humor.

Isaiah thinks that Peak Education keeps him on track. “If you’re in Peak Ed, you can’t slack off.” If he does, he says that “Ms. Vennita would call me” to check up. While he tries not to put a lot of pressure on himself as a ninth grader to think too much about college, Isaiah is doing all the right things to pave the way for himself to have great options as a senior.

## August Fundraiser



Peak Education held an in-person fundraising event in August. In addition to connecting with community leaders and partners, the event provided an opportunity to spend lunch with one of our founders – Dr. Dalton Connor. We were grateful for the community’s partnership and support to make this a successful program.



BASECAMP COLLEGE COUNSELING  
FIND YOUR PATH

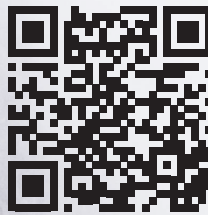
## Introducing Peak Education's New Social Enterprise – Basecamp College Counseling:

Peak Education began a soft launch of a social enterprise venture – Basecamp College Counseling, to provide college counseling services to more members of the community and to create an additional revenue stream to support our work with Peak Education Scholars.

We understand that the transition between high school and college is a pivotal moment for a student and their family, and we are here to help. We know families don't always have the time or resources to encourage every individual student to reach their potential. We have assembled an experienced team that provides help in

the admission process to enable students to reach their potential. We work with individual families with essay prep, test prep, financial planning, completing college applications and educational planning. We also work for transformative change at the school and district level through supporting the counselor corps process, by providing consulting services, including needs assessments, and professional development for counselors.

Our goal is to take the stress out of the admission process and make postsecondary readiness systems better.



Learn about our work and how we can help at [basecampcollegecounseling.org](https://basecampcollegecounseling.org), or contact us at [basecamp@peakedu.org](mailto:basecamp@peakedu.org).

# RECOGNIZING KEY DONORS & FOUNDATIONS 2020–2021

## Founder's List \$50,000+

Katalytic Foundation  
The Bloom Foundation

Sachs Foundation  
The John E. and Marget L. Lane

## President's List \$25,000+

Moniker Foundation  
Joseph Henry Edmondson  
Foundation

Anschutz Foundation / Gazette  
Charities  
L3 Harris Foundation

## Dean's List \$10,000+

Colorado Enterprise Fund  
Adolph Coors Foundation

Susan & Tom Pattee Household

## Honor Roll \$5,000+

Carl George Bjorkman  
Foundation  
Will Stoller–Lee Household  
Ent Federal Credit Union  
Calm Foundation

Colorado College PIFP  
Jerome V Bruni Foundation  
Joan Mullens Household  
Paul & Mari Sinton–Martinez  
Household

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## REVENUE: JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

Individuals Contributions	\$84,361
Foundations & Grants	\$412,500
Event Income	\$2,937
Basecamp/Social Enterprise Revenue	\$4,000
PPP & ERC Grant	\$122,434
Other	\$391
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$626,623</b>

## EXPENSES: JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

Program	\$473,035
Scholarships	\$49,500
Development	\$40,124
Administration	\$40,856
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$603,515</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (As of 6/30/2021)

Total Current Assets	\$374,932
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,400
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$376,332</b>
Total Liabilities	\$20,292
Total Capital	\$356,040
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$376,332</b>



PEAK EDUCATION  
REACH HIGHER