

ANNUAL REPORT





PEAK EDUCATION
REACH HIGHER

WHO WE ARE

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. We work to create change at every level, including working directly with our student's families, schools and the greater Colorado Springs community.

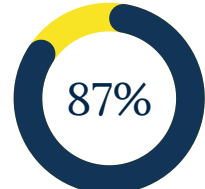
ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



91%
Will be the first in their family to complete a college degree



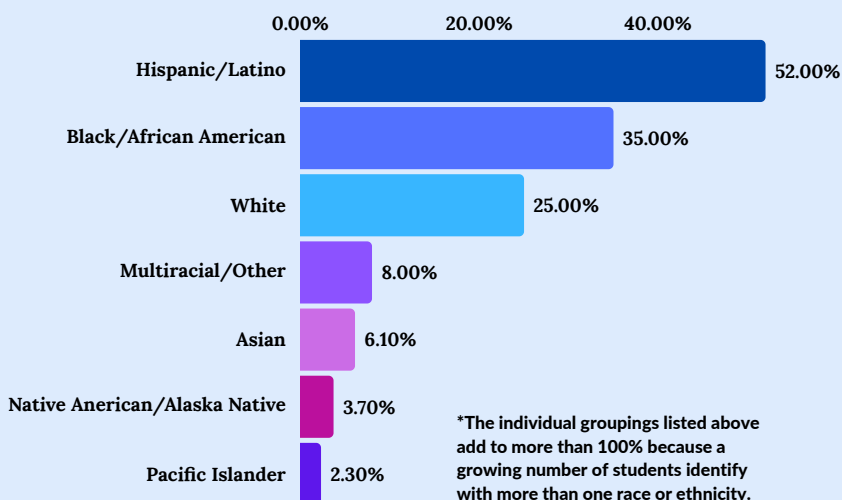
89%
Qualify for free or reduced lunch



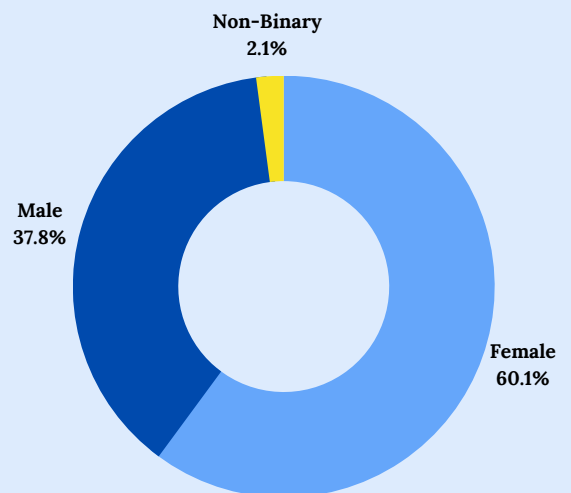
87%
Identify as a person of color

Student Demographics

Racial/Ethnic Identities



Disclosed Gender Identities





A WORD FROM THE CEO

I continue to be proud of Peak Education's trajectory and impact. Our efforts to increase educational opportunity, provide more students with high caliber college and career readiness counseling, matched with innovative systems of support all while maintaining a commitment to relationships with our students and families remain a strong recipe for success. With a year of planning behind us, we are on the verge of launching a bold strategic plan that will seek to build on the strengths of our signature program to have more widespread and systemic impact for educational access in our community.

Peak Education's expansion and increased impact comes at a time when our services have never been more necessary. High school graduation rates across Colorado Springs are in decline, and postsecondary entrance and completion rates remain low. In the Colorado Springs community, 70% of living wage positions require some type of postsecondary credential,

yet, as little as 1 out of 10 Colorado Springs high school graduates are completing one.

The work before Peak Education is clear and necessary. We believe that all students in our community have the right of self-determination and deserve an opportunity to access a fulfilling life - when this occurs our collective future is strengthened. Thank you for investing in our students, community, and economy. Your contribution is helping to create a more vibrant and inclusive Colorado Springs.

Sincerely,

L. Carlos Jiménez
Chief Executive Officer

MEET OUR TEAM



Carlos Jiménez
Chief Executive Officer



Vennita Browning
Director of Programs



Pedro Ramírez
Sr. Director for Strategic Initiatives



Jasmine Rainey
Director of College Counseling



Claudia De Santiago
Director of Development



Nataya Sanchez
Operations Manager



Grace Miller
Marketing and Communications Coordinator



Nancy Whitley
Basecamp College Counselor



Francis Roberson
Associate Director for High School Programs & College Success



Jessica Desantis-Berg
Basecamp College Counselor & Consultant



Tam Doane
College & Financial Aid Advisor

PROGRAM DATA



We currently serve just under 400 students at our partner schools in Districts 2, 3, 11, and 14 in the Pikes Peak Region as well as an additional 27 students who are enrolled outside of our partner schools.

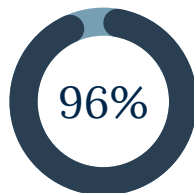
Partner Schools

Middle Schools:

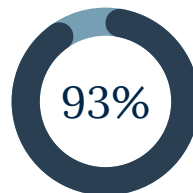
- Carmel Community School
- Fox Meadow Middle School
- Janitell Junior High School
- Manitou Springs Middle School
- Mann Middle School
- Mountain Vista Community School
- North Middle School
- Panorama Middle School
- Sand Creek International School
- Sproul Junior High School

High Schools:

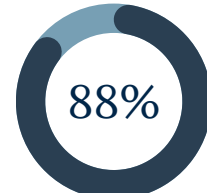
- Harrison High School
- Manitou Springs High School
- Mitchell High School
- Palmer High School
- Sierra High School



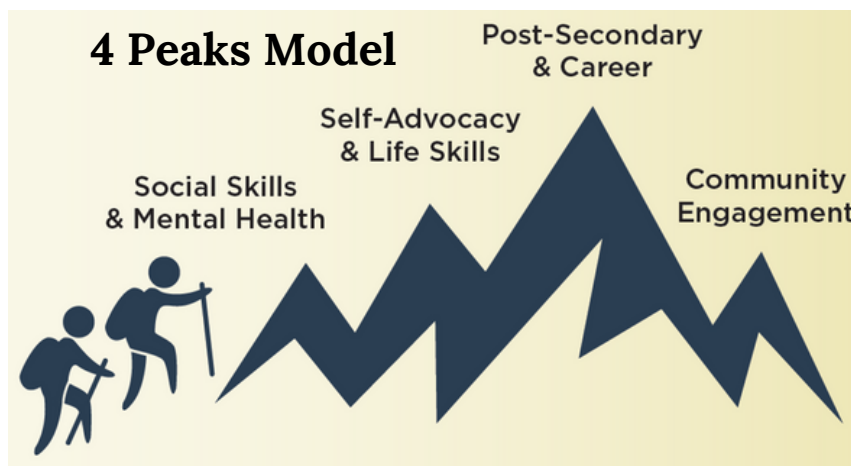
Graduate High School



Pursue Higher Education



Postsecondary Completion



60 Peak Ed Scholars

Currently enrolled in a postsecondary program

Colleges Currently Attended by Peak Ed Scholars

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Adams State | Midwestern State University (TX) |
| Arizona State University | Northeastern University (MA) |
| Benedictine College (KS) | Northern Arizona University |
| Berea College (KY) | Pikes Peak State College |
| Case Western University (OH) | Pueblo Community College |
| Colorado College | University of Arizona |
| Colorado Mesa University | University of Colorado, Boulder |
| Colorado School of Mines | University of Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| Colorado State University, Ft. Collins | University of Denver |
| Colorado State University, Pueblo | University of Northern Colorado |
| Fort Lewis College | West Texas A&M |
| Lake Forest College (IL) | Valley City State University (ND) |
| Metropolitan State University, Denver | |

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW



College Counseling

Provides ongoing college application workshops, bring college representatives to Colorado Springs, gives access to resources, and provides wrap around services to scholars to reach their college dream.



Full STEAM Ahead

Peak Education's flagship program for middle schoolers. This intensive two-week program delivers a robust Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) curriculum to rising 7th through 9th graders.



Monthly Meetings at Partner Schools

Monthly meetings at our partner schools focused on one of Peak Ed's "4 Peaks." Monthly meetings also provide time for 1-on-1 discussions with Peak Ed staff.



Impact Service Project

Students work with local businesses or organizations to help identify root causes of problems & identify solutions.



Community Mentoring

Peak Education provides students with programming and mentors from the community for students in 11th and 12th grades as important additional source of support, connection, coaching and accountability as they move through the last stages of high school and pursue their post-secondary dreams.



College Success

The College Success Program is dedicated to supporting our high school graduates as they navigate through their first year of college.



Near-Peer Mentoring

Peak Ed college students can build their leadership skills and give back to the community by mentoring younger students in 9th and 10th grade, sharing their recent perspectives on setting goals, making choices, and helping the HS students develop habits to help them navigate their early high school years and stay focused on their postsecondary dreams.



Service Learning

Provide opportunity for students and families to give back to the community through volunteering and other enrichment events (Hiking, outdoor education, etc.)

What Our Scholars Say

"Peak Education instilled in me this idea: Never forget where you came from and the impact you can have on the lives of others."

-Jesse Pérez, Ph.D

Class of 2006

University of Colorado -
Denver

"The most important thing to me is being set on the right path and help in getting ready for college. Peak Education keeps me motivated and focused. I will be the first in my family to graduate from college."

-Kavada Harrison

Class of 2008

University of Colorado -
Colorado Springs

"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."

-Deliannys Reyes

Class of 2022

Colorado College

COLLEGE COUNSELING UPDATE



Jasmine Rainey
Director of College Counseling

It was another incredible year for college counseling at Peak Education. In total we hosted 14 college counseling events, facilitated nearly 100 hours of required senior check-in's and an additional 100 hours of additional meetings to review college, scholarships and assist with Financial Aid completion efforts. The completion rate for engagement and required activities was 94%. I also began important conversations with our 9th and 10th grade students about summer opportunities, financial aid, resume workshops and provided tips and checklists through grade-level counseling newsletters. The 2023 graduating class included eighteen students, seventeen who are college-bound and one who enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Colleges where graduates are attending include Arizona State University, Midwestern State University, Colorado College, Colorado State University, Colorado State University Pueblo, Pikes Peak State College, University of Colorado (Boulder), and University of Colorado – Colorado Springs (UCCS) and Valley City State University. These eighteen students earned a combined \$706,200 in scholarships and full tuition grants with notable scholarships.

The class of 2024 is also already off to a great start with a recent Horatio Alger Scholarship winner (\$40,000 paid out over 4 years), and a student who was selected to attend the prestigious Yale Global Scholars Program.

Three other students attended a weeklong Economics for Leaders Program at various universities, including the University of Washington, Rice University and the University of Texas at Austin. The class of 2024 also includes two finalists for the QuestBridge Scholarship - a prestigious scholarship that includes a full tuition and room and board scholarship to one of the countries top 40 colleges or universities.

Class of 2024 kicked off the semester with a 3-day college app camp, an essay workshop and one-on-one meetings with me to set themselves up for a successful college process. Peak Education partnered with African American Youth Leadership Conference, Educating Children of Color and the Sachs Foundation to host Filling in the Gaps: Post-Secondary Seminar for the community on October 28th. This event was also targeted towards Peak Ed's 9th-11th graders who experienced grade-level sessions and could attend breakout sessions related to financial aid, scholarship essay writing, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, college planning for student athletes, liberal arts and Colorado College, military options and more.

As the school year progresses, we're looking forward to the continued success of our students and growth of the college counseling program!



CONGRATUALATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023



BASECAMP
COLLEGE COUNSELING
FIND YOUR PATH

The social enterprise division, Basecamp College Counseling, continues to grow and support Peak Education's mission in fruitful ways.

We advised sixteen individual student clients across the year and are still signing new clients throughout this fall. Additionally, we held our annual summer Application Boot Camp – a 3-day series of hands-on workshops that help students quickly and confidently complete applications and essays.

In the spring, we partnered with Greccio Housing to provide select seniors with curriculum and college admissions guidance.

We also worked with two local school districts who were recipients of Counseling Corp Grants funded by the state. At Sierra High School, counselor Nancy Whitley provided weekly career and college guidance in their career center. We also consulted with District 11 counseling staff on their assessment survey, providing analysis and recommendations for next steps in strategic planning. Through COSI grants, we have also worked to support long-standing staffing needs with these districts.

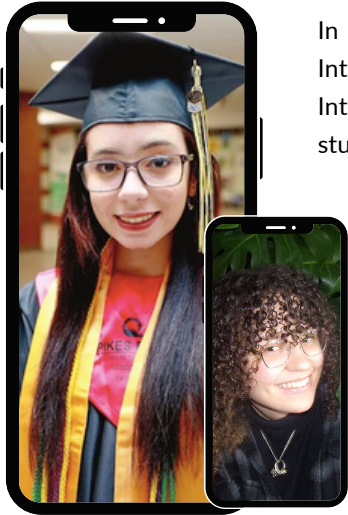
We are especially grateful for your support as she was choosing between Richmond and Michigan in the fall. That was hard, but once the decision was made, she didn't really look back, so I think she feels like she made the right choice... Go Blue!
– Parent of Basecamp Client

INSTITUTIONS OUR 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE ATTENDING

- Montana State University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Alabama
- University of Denver
- University of Michigan
- Utrecht University (Netherlands)

...a complete game changer for our son. Our counselor walked beside our son the entire time and her help went far beyond the basic college search and application. We absolutely plan to use Basecamp for our daughter once she starts high school.
– Parent of Basecamp Client

INTRODUCING InterWoven



In a remarkable year of growth, our web platform, InterWoven, has achieved significant milestones. InterWoven seeks to connect Peak Ed Scholars and students like them across the country with their

peers at colleges near and far. In May, the completion of a rigorous accelerator startup program, Exponential Impact (XI), marked a pivotal moment, propelling us toward rapid growth. Collaborating closely with a college advisory group from renowned universities and secondary schools, we harnessed invaluable insights to refine our platform's features and user experience.

This fall, we are solidifying our brand identity by introducing a distinctive voice guide, logo and website for Interwoven, reinforcing our commitment to innovation and accessibility in higher education. As the year concludes, we stand on the brink of launching our minimum viable product (MVP), a testament to our team's dedication and the culmination of strategic partnerships. This year's accomplishments underscore our commitment to excellence and set the stage for an exciting future as we continue to shape the landscape in college access.

InterWoven Advisory Board



Colorado State University



ACCESS OPPORTUNITY



COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY



Yale University

RECOGNIZING KEY DONORS

Special thanks to the estate of Nelson A. Rieger and Susan Reiger for their generous bequest of \$160,000 to the Pikes Peak Educational Foundation (Peak Education's foundation) for scholarships.

Founders' List \$50,000+	President's List \$25,000+	Dean's List \$10,000+
Katalytic Foundation	Anschutz / Gazette Charities	Denver Children's Foundation
John and Margot Lane Foundation	Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation	GE Johnson Foundation
Sachs Foundation	Moniker Foundation	El Pomar Foundation
Wes & Charlotte Howard	Pikes Peak United Way	Nathan B and Florence R Burt Foundation
	The Carl George Bjorkman Foundation	Strub-Herr Foundation
		Western Digital Fund

Honor Roll \$5,000+	
Bloom Foundation	Jason & Jennifer Franceschelli
CALM Foundation	Jeff Dunn
Cassie and Toby Gannett	Jim Raughton
Chuck & Mary Lou Murphy	Joan Mullens
Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Grant	Kissing Camels Dentistry
Denver Broncos Community Development Grant	Mari Sinton-Martinez & Paul Martinez
Heather & Leon Kelly	Rick and Lisa Mueller
Independent Financial	Virginia Hill Foundation



PEAK ED 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

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Board President
District 2, School Principal

Todd Matia
Board Vice President
Harvey Investment Management, Inc.

Rick Mueller
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Peak Investment Advisors

Rick Gillit
Board Treasurer
Farmers Insurance

Porschae Brown
Alumni Board Member
District 11, Educator

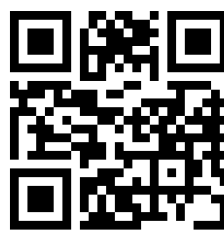
Carrie McKee
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Rocky Mountain PBS

Sylvia Mendez, Ph.D.
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Evelyn Spencer
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Peak Education