THE POWER OF US

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Every student deserves a champion.
iMentor builds mentoring relationships that empower first-generation students from low-income communities to graduate high school, succeed in college, and achieve their ambitions.

We believe that people of all backgrounds deserve equal access to educational opportunities. Recognizing that racism and systemic oppression drive educational disparities, we aim to address the economic and racial divides that impact the communities we serve, and we commit ourselves to consistently move toward equity and inclusion.
LETTER FROM CEO

We have built a community that is a testament to what is possible when we are at our best, something that is deeply optimistic.

As iMentor celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, we have been taking the opportunity to reflect on just how far we have come as an organization and how much we have accomplished together as a community. This report is a testament to what we have built together. We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of you for the role you have played in our success.

So what have we built together in iMentor’s first 20 years?

We’ve created and supported 33,000 mentoring relationships. We’ve focused our model on one of the most important outcomes in a young person’s life: college success. We’ve developed a way to serve every student in a high school, and we’ve generated a demand among volunteers, which has translated into a surplus of mentors in every city, every year. We’ve developed the structure and the content necessary for iMentor relationships to be consistently effective, and we’ve brought this proven model to 20 communities across the country.

Most importantly, all of this work has led to incredible results. iMentor students are enrolling in college at rates 20 points higher than peers from similar schools, and graduating from college at double the rate of their peers.

But more than any one of our accomplishments over the last 20 years, I remain most proud of what happens between two people, thousands of times a day, every single day in our program. iMentor builds intentional relationships across difference, and I am so proud of what we have demonstrated together with our actions.

Together, we demonstrate that every single student in a school deserves the support necessary to achieve their post-secondary aspirations.

That this support should be fundamental to how we understand the role of high schools in this country.

That districts and schools need more resources and new strategies to tackle these challenges. And when those resources and strategies are provided, outcomes soar.

That our cities have a wealth of people willing to step up and provide additional support to our schools. And by getting more adults involved in this way, we can grow understanding and support for public education in a city.

Together, every day in our program, we demonstrate that the path to post-secondary success is as complicated and layered as the young people we serve, and that relationships have an incredible power to embrace and respond to this complexity. We remind people of the power that exists within our own narratives and the empowerment that comes when we choose to share our story. And we renew our reverence for the learning, empathy, and dialogue that grows between two people in that exchange.

Twenty years in, we have built a community that is not afraid of how connected we are, that broadens who gets included when we think about us, and binds a city together through the people in every neighborhood. It is a community that puts our responsibility to support and uplift each other into action and takes it from an abstraction to a practice.

We have built a community that recognizes that the responsibility we have for each other is not a burden. It is a blessing. It’s the best of us.

We have built a community that is a testament to what is possible when we are at our best, something that is deeply optimistic. We are 20 years in, and because of your support, we are just getting started.

Mike O’Brien
CEO, iMentor
TWO DECADES OF IMPACT AT iMENTOR

What started in 1999 in one high school in the South Bronx has become a national movement to build a more equitable future for students. After 20 years, we are proud that our model has made a significant and sustained impact in the lives of iMentor students.

SINCE 1999

33,000
STUDENTS SERVED

51
Schools served in Baltimore, the Bay Area, Chicago, NYC, and through partner programs around the country

409,410
Hours spent together by all mentors and mentees

$1.3 MILLION
In projected increased lifetime earnings for each student who attains a college degree

20,427
Pizzas consumed at mentor-mentee events

62
CORPORATE PARTNERS

TODAY

409,410

Serving 10,000+
STUDENTS

94%
Of students aspire to go to college

80%
More likely to complete college than their peers from similar high schools

60,000
STUDENTS SERVED

BY 2023

60,000
STUDENTS SERVED

iMentor students hail from 101 countries around the world

1 in 5 iMentor students are born outside the U.S.
Since 1999, we have matched more than 33,000 students with mentors. By 2023, the end of our current strategic plan, we will have supported an additional 28,000 pairs in 33 communities across the country. As we further expand in communities across the country, our programmatic team continues to innovate to better serve all our students.

OUR PROGRAMS

Getting into college is a massive accomplishment for any young person, but it is just the beginning of the post-secondary journey. Once on campus, students face new challenges that can negatively affect their college experience. iMentor’s Post-Secondary Program (PSP) supports students throughout this time. In the 2018-19 program year, we served more than 1,700 PSP students.

Through PSP, mentors and mentees continue their relationship with support from iMentor, navigating challenges that can range from financial aid deadlines to adjusting to a college campus and independent life. The program includes targeted support from iMentor program managers, a monthly mentoring curriculum, summer programming, individual advising sessions, and direct financial support.

To ensure that all students have the best chance to achieve their ambitions, iMentor also helps those who decide to pursue alternative pathways in lieu of enrolling in college. Through our Alternate Pathways Initiative, students identify high-quality certificate and vocational programs, gap or service year programs, apprenticeships, and jobs. They select the opportunities that best meet their needs and receive support from iMentor enrolling in and completing their selected pathways.

As part of our 2023 strategic plan, iMentor launched the Mentor Community to mobilize our network of dynamic mentors. By tapping our community’s networks, resources, and commitment, our goal is to create lifelong advocates for education and equal access to education, while advancing iMentor’s mission.

Through the Mentor Community, our volunteers will play a greater role in recruiting new mentors, participate in iMentor community events, and develop a deeper understanding of educational equity by taking part in the Mentor Education Program, a series of monthly learning opportunities.

iMentor continues to expand to serve more students in New York, Chicago, the Bay Area, and nationwide through our Partner Programs. In the fall of 2019, iMentor broadened its reach through a partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools, matching more than 100 students with adults who will guide them through college and career choices. Read on to learn more about iMentor’s efforts and the impact we are having across the country.
iMentor Baltimore celebrates its official launch as the organization’s newest region.

In the inaugural year, students at Baltimore Design School and the Academy for College and Career Exploration were matched with mentors who will assist them through high school graduation and beyond.

With assistance from iMentor’s board of directors, the new region tapped into a diverse network of supporters to spearhead fundraising and recruitment initiatives, which helped Baltimore generate the funds and volunteers needed to scale its program. Leading this effort is Executive Director Laura Green, who comes to iMentor Baltimore with more than 20 years of corporate, government, and nonprofit experience.

iMentor sought feedback from more than 60 stakeholders from a cross-section of Baltimore leaders in business, philanthropy, and local communities to deepen its impact and establish regional goals that include serving up to 800 students within its first five years.

Q&A with Rachel Pfeifer

iMentor launched its partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools in 2019. From the outset, Rachel Pfeifer, Baltimore City Schools’ Executive Director of College and Career Readiness, championed the partnership as a way to provide critical one-on-one support to students. We caught up with her to discuss how iMentor fits in with the City Schools’ goals and the enormous difference a mentor can make in the life of a young person.

Why did you choose to work with iMentor?

Two core beliefs in our office are that every student needs an adult to provide guidance and support, and that every student needs a post-secondary plan to help them navigate toward their goals. iMentor really was at the intersection of providing our students with an adult who could provide them with support as well as helping students navigate that planning process.

How will iMentor help the school district meet its college and career goals?

I think mentoring provides the opportunity for students to get to know someone who’s also fully invested in getting to know them. iMentor is able to bring in adults who can sit alongside students and has a clear curriculum that is directly supporting students. This was a real opportunity to help every student — and I emphasize that because iMentor is not just picking higher performing students, which was very important to us from an equity perspective.

What is the value of the mentoring relationship and the role a mentor can play?

I think mentoring provides the opportunity for students to get to know someone who’s also fully invested in getting to know them. And what I appreciate about iMentor specifically is it’s not just about having a meaningful connection, but it’s about connecting for a purpose and that purpose is to help the student navigate to college or to a job or workforce-training program.
iMentor Bay Area continues to cultivate institutional partnerships with funders that share in the belief that every student deserves a champion.

Persistence paid off, as last year Tipping Point Community welcomed iMentor Bay Area as a new grantee, investing $160,000 in its post-secondary work and plans for expansion. This investment will allow the Bay Area to explore new school partnerships in the region and increase access to educational opportunities.

Facebook, LinkedIn, and Handshake all hosted company tours and panels for Bay Area students, while Adobe, Applied Materials, and PayPal invested nearly $100,000 in support of our programs through their foundations. In addition, Cisco sponsored the Bay Area’s second annual Champions Benefit at the Benefactor level of $10,000.

More than 70% of pairs chose to extend their relationship and participate in the Post-Secondary Program (PSP). To support students out of high school, iMentor Bay Area created two new post-secondary staff positions — one dedicated to two-year college and alternative pathway students and one dedicated to four-year college students.

Jesus and Darin: Dreams Taking Flight

In their two years together as a mentor-mentee pair, Darin has learned a lot about Jesus’s hopes and dreams for the future, but one stood out from the rest — his mentee’s passion for aviation. So Darin worked hard to help Jesus integrate his interests into his college and career planning, and he even found a way to show him what it’s like to be a pilot.

“As soon as I understood how passionately he wanted to become a pilot, my brain immediately clicked to, “Well, I’ve got a good friend who’s a pilot. Let’s get the two of them together,” said Darin.

Darin arranged for Jesus, a student at Lionel Wilson Preparatory Academy in Oakland, to go behind the scenes of Southwest Airlines to tour a plane and sit in the cockpit. “It was just so exciting, being able to go into basically, your workspace, where you want to be,” recalled Jesus of the experience.

“Having that experience of seeing his face light up, you can’t put a price on that feeling. Fantastic,” added Darin.

Now Jesus is actively targeting colleges with aviation programs. But the pair have also discussed alternatives, such as pursuing a business degree. Darin has made sure to completely support Jesus with his goals. “Darin is always telling me, “If that doesn’t work, do this,” said Jesus. “He’s always giving me hope and never looks at things in a negative way.”
New investments in its Post-Secondary Program (PSP) position iMentor Chicago to achieve even stronger long-term outcomes.

Over the past year, iMentor Chicago enrolled 93% of high school graduates in its enhanced Post-Secondary Program. A total of 680 students participated in PSP, including 412 in additional summer programming (compared to 275 anticipated participants). Additionally, iMentor Chicago offered new emergency grants of up to $1,000 per student to assist with academic-related expenses.

Chicago was also accepted into the Gold Star Mentoring Program of MENTOR Illinois, which recognizes high-quality mentoring programs. Additionally, iMentor Chicago was listed as a Community to Watch with the MBK Alliance and the Obama Foundation due to its innovations in college success programming.

As part of iMentor’s broader institutional focus, iMentor Chicago worked to expand definitions of student success to include supports for alternative pathways to college, including certificate and certification programs and high-quality gap year programs.

ANDRE AND ADAM: Aiming Higher

Andre, a busy senior at Chicago Military Academy, has wanted to join the Army for as long as he can remember. Andre’s grandmother was enlisted, and his great-grandfather served in Vietnam. “It’s a family tradition, and I want to continue it,” he said.

Before he met his mentor, Adam, Andre did not plan to attend college. But hearing Adam’s experiences convinced him to consider higher education. “The Army will pay for it,” he realized, “so why not?”

Conversations with Adam helped Andre gain a better sense of what college might actually be like. “I thought that once you had a major, you couldn’t really change it,” Andre said. “But Adam helped me understand it isn’t set in stone. Adam also shared with me that he struggled in a couple classes, which was really relatable to me.”

After graduation, Andre now plans to enlist in the Army Reserve and study Aerospace Engineering at a college with small class sizes. Adam helped Andre hone his college list, and has been sharing web apps to help him study for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

“Without Adam, I wouldn’t have the motivation to even try college,” Andre shared. “It makes me feel happy to know that after I graduate, I’m not alone — that he will be there to help me see it through.”
In two decades, iMentor NYC has empowered more than 15,000 New York City students on their path to post-secondary success.

In FY19, NYC launched the Mentor Ready Learning Series — events and mentor trainings offered throughout the year on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion topics to enable mentors to have constructive conversations with their mentees.

To increase engagement between pairs, iMentor NYC created additional meeting opportunities, both before and outside of regular pair events, and also added more make-up events and a popular “power lunch” option for pairs.

The NYC Advisory Board continued to harness their extensive networks to advance iMentor’s mission. Members come from diverse backgrounds, and in FY19 new members included: Rich Bello, Chief Operating Officer at Blue Ridge Capital; Susan Reid, Morgan Stanley’s Global Head of Diversity and Inclusion; and Erik Siegel, Senior Portfolio Manager at Moore Capital Management.

PAOLA AND CHANEL: Paying It Forward

Paola, 24, has built a career offering the kind of support to first-generation college students that she received from her mentor, Chanel. Paola recently received her Master’s in Education from Columbia University’s Teachers College and remains close to Chanel, who she met eight years ago as a high school junior in the Bronx.

Chanel initially learned about iMentor through her employer, Goldman Sachs. When they met, Paola was planning to attend community college, but Chanel persuaded her to aim higher. “Paola was a great student with endless potential. The only problem was that she wasn’t actively planning for her collegiate future. I pushed her to dream bigger and look broader,” Chanel said.

Paola added more colleges to her list, including Cornell, her dream school. Working on her essay represented another turning point — Paola’s first draft was a recounting of books she had read. Chanel pushed Paola to reveal more of herself: “I realized I was trying to become a person who I thought these admissions counselors would want,” Paola said. “I didn’t inherently see value in myself, or in my community.”

Now the recipient of degrees from Cornell and Columbia, Paola sees her South Bronx-Dominican origins as an undeniable asset, a mindset she credits to Chanel, and one she seeks to develop in her own students.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,842 MENTEE-MENTOR PAIRS

75% OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE ON TIME, COMPARED WITH 56% OF PEERS

14,346 iMENTOR NYC FACILITATED AN UNPRECEDENTED 14,346 PAIR INTERACTIONS
Partner Programs continues to focus on growth and proudly welcomes new Executive Director of National Partnerships, Erika Watson, who brings vision, strategic leadership, and deep experience in educational equity to its mission.

Two new partners joined the mentor2.0 community in FY19: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fox Valley Region and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties.

In just one program year, Partner Programs grew the number of students being served in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters by 17%.

Of all the students served by the iMentor and Big Brothers Big Sisters partnership, 85% identify as people of color, and 66% will be first generation college graduates.

Both students and mentors reported a high degree of satisfaction with the support they received from the mentor2.0 program: 90% satisfaction for students, and 92% for mentors.

Deisy (left) with her mentor Nydia.

DEISY AND NYDIA:
A Match Made in Heaven

It took Nydia 15 years to get off the waiting list for mentors at Big Brothers Big Sisters - Pikes Peak, but once she did it was kismet. Nydia, a communications professional, was matched with Deisy, a student at Atlas Prep High School through the mentor2.0 program. They were both surprised to discover how much they had in common.

“T’m Latina and so is Deisy, and I’ve had a lot of similar experiences to her,” said Nydia.

“We had so many things that we both liked, and it just became a much greater relationship than what I had expected,” added Deisy.

In their two years together, Nydia has helped guide Deisy toward her academic and career goals, and also served as a role model. Deisy recently completed a summer pre-law program and is now working on her college applications.

Nydia has found the program to be not only a perfect fit for her professional life, but a source of inspiration. “It sounds trite, but we get so much more out of it than what we put into it. Deisy has inspired me to return to school for my master’s degree, and now I’m about to graduate.”

According to Deisy, the feeling is mutual, “She inspired me so much that I want to be such a happy and amazing person like she is.”

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,565 mentee-mentor pairs
- 14 Big Brother Big Sister agencies across 16 cities provided iMentor programming
- 91% of students applied to at least one college, and 81% of those who applied were accepted
College Outcomes

iMentor is tracking the long-term college outcomes of nearly 10,000 students nationally since 2009. Our students continue to outperform the best comparable peer groups in college enrollment and completion.

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<th>iMentor</th>
<th>Similar Schools (National)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Completion</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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College Aspiration

The iMentor curriculum helps students understand the benefits of college and the importance of preparation in high school for post-secondary success.

95% of iMentor students aspire to go to college

Strength of Relationships

The bond between mentors and mentees ensures that every student has a champion.

93% of students are open and honest with their mentors
90% of students say their relationship with their mentor is very important
93% of students trust their mentors

Navigating the College Process

With the support of mentors, students work toward college success and plan to pursue their career aspirations.

79% of students submitted FAFSA
94% of students applied to at least one college
98% of students who applied were accepted

Student Demographics

iMentor is fighting to rebalance the odds for our students so that they have a fair chance to realize their dreams.

68% of our students will be first-generation college students
93% of our students identify as people of color
87% of our students’ families qualify for free and reduced lunch
Thank you to our generous supporters for helping us champion students who are first in their families to attend college.

* Multi-year funder ♦ Strategic growth

$1,000,000 AND ABOVE
Ballmer Group*
Bezos Family Foundation*
Citi Foundation*
Chase and Stephanie Coleman*
David and Sloan Greenspan*
John and Amy Griffin*
Michael and Susan Dell Foundation*
Robertson Foundation*
Schultz Family Foundation
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$500,000 – $999,999
Anonymous*
Mark and Lisa Bezos*
Sergey Brin Foundation*
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Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe
Zell Family Foundation*

$100,000 – $499,999
A Better Chicago
Altman Foundation*
BlackRock
Crown Family Philanthropies*
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$100,000 – $499,999
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France Merrick Foundation
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Sonia and Paul Tudor Jones
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$50,000 – $99,999
AlphaSights
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Ernst & Young LLP
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J&K Wonderland Foundation
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Pinkerton Foundation
Erik and Gabriella Siegel
Under Armour, Inc.

$25,000 – $49,999
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Lee and Elizabeth Ainslie
AllianceBernstein
Juliet de Baubigny
Julia Briggs
Capital One
Jessica Casucci
Charley’s Kids Foundation

Our Champions
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE KRESE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation builds and strengthens pathways to opportunity for people with low incomes in America’s cities and seeks to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. An iMentor partner since 2013, The Kresge Foundation provided a pivotal multiyear grant through its Education Program in support of iMentor’s vision of educating and mobilizing its mentor community around issues of equity and education.

“At The Kresge Foundation, we support organizations that prioritize improving the educational outcomes and experiences of first-generation students, students from low-income households, and students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups. We are excited to partner with iMentor in activating its robust network of mentors as advocates for post-secondary success.”

– BETHANY MILLER, PROGRAM OFFICER, THE KRESE FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

$10,000 – $24,999

Chicago White Sox Community Fund
CLA Foundation
FactSet
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Google
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Two Creeks Capital
Women’s Bond Club

$2,500 – $9,999

Accenture
Alliant Credit Union Foundation
American Express
Anonymous (2)
Apple
Eliza H Appleton
Diana Arzoomanian
The Auer Family Foundation
Baird & Warner
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
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Plante Moran
Resonate Capital
Rush University Medical Center
Nancy Saltzman
Arthur and Rebecca Samberg
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Singing for Change
Homer and Dawn Smith
Stewart J Rahr Foundation
The Vistria Group
Thrive Chicago
Kate Vanek
Nathan and Andrea Vaughan
W.W. Grainger, Inc.
Wendel
Cynthia Wood
Our Financial Report

### PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

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### EXPENSES

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*In 2018, iMentor launched a capital campaign to secure strategic growth funding to seed expansion and up-front investments for its current five-year strategic plan (2018-23). This revenue represents a portion of these funds.*
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