

Impact Report
2023-2024

Minds Matter Portland



The year in review

Greetings from Minds Matter Portland!

2023-2024 was a year of progress and achievement. This was our 18th year in Portland, where we again connected talented and ambitious students with volunteers and resources to support them on their college journeys.

Most excitingly, we laid the groundwork to open a second location this fall! We've established a partnership with Portland Community College in Hillsboro that will enable us to double the number of students we serve over the next four years. We also hired a Program Associate to support our growth and new location. At our existing location in NE Portland, we celebrated our seventh year of partnership with the St. Andrew Nativity School, who provides space for our sessions. Thank you!

At our May graduation, we praised our Seniors for the ambition and growth mindset that they brought to their college journeys and to the obstacles they faced. These Seniors joined Minds Matter in the midst of the pandemic and then had to navigate their way through the mismanaged 2024 roll-out of the new FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) process. With the help of their mentors and college counselors, they persisted, and every one of our Seniors is headed to college this fall.

Minds Matter Portland exists because we believe that everyone has tremendous potential and that college unleashes that potential. Our work is only possible because of our generous donors, caring volunteers, and amazing students who share this belief.

Thank you to everyone who supports us in this work. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or talk about how you can get involved. We are always looking for volunteers!

Reed Harrison
Executive Director



Mission Statement

Minds Matter connects driven and determined students from low-income families with the people, preparation, and possibilities to succeed in college, create their future, and change the world.



2023-2024 At A Glance

\$44,980

Average student family income with 5 members in the home

70%

First Generation College Students

92%

Youth of color

3.78

Average GPA

48

Students from high schools across the Portland Metro Area

74

Volunteers across a variety of professional and academic tracks

100%

of students attend are accepted to a 4-year institution

135

Hours of Minds Matter Sessions

6,400

Volunteer hours

90%

Alumni that graduate from a 4-year institution



Our Program

Mentoring

Students are paired with two college-graduate mentors who work with them for three years on college preparation, career exploration, and professional skill development

Tutoring

Tutors assist with academic subjects, as well as preparation for college application essays

Summer programs

Students apply and travel to pre-college summer programs across the country to explore academic interests and gain experience of living on a college campus

College Counseling

College counselors work with students to find best-fit colleges and apply for financial aid and scholarships

College Field Trips

College tours at:

- University of Portland
- Reed College
- Pacific Lutheran University

Student Timeline

Sophomore year

Students enter the program and team-up with another sophomore student and two college-graduate mentors. During the morning sessions, students receive tutoring in writing and mathematics. In the afternoons, they participate in group team building, critical thinking activities, civics lessons, finance workshops, and skill-building discussions. Students work with their mentors to research summer programs and prepare applications. The summer after sophomore year, students travel to their first summer program.



Junior Year

Students focus on college and career exploration. In addition to continued tutoring in writing and mathematics, students receive SAT prep. During afternoon sessions the student-mentor teams work together to refine critical thinking skills, career interests, listen to career panels from a range of different fields, work on building resumes, and practice interview skills. Students continue to work with their mentors on summer program applications and attend their second summer program after their junior year.

Senior year

Students begin working with their Minds Matter college counselor during morning sessions on college applications, financial aid applications (FAFSA and CSS Profile), and scholarships. In the afternoon sessions, students continue to work with their mentors to research colleges, meet with visiting college admissions representatives, and complete college and financial aid applications. In the spring, students work with their mentors on college readiness curriculum, focusing on the academic and social skills needed to succeed in college.

Minds Matter Portland Class of 2024

15

Senior Students

93

Total college acceptances

94%

Average need met through financial aid

\$66,064

Average financial aid awarded

Class of 2024 College destinations

Aleen

Lewis & Clark College

Tracy

Washington University in St. Louis

Nakya

Louisiana State University

Alyson

Reed College

Daniela

University of Portland

Elhannen

Santa Clara University

Rose

Pacific University

Diana

University of Rochester

Faith

Whitman College

Carlos

Trinity College

Natu

Seattle University

Genesis

University of Portland

Omar

University of Oregon

Ebani

University of Oregon

Monica

Brandeis University



2024 Summer Program Destinations

CIEE Study Abroad

- Summer in Berlin

Duke University

- Social Psychology and Law
- Medical Research Panels
- Neural Integration and Sensory Pathways
- Bioethics in Global Surgery
- Woman Ruler

University of the Pacific

- Future Dentists
- Plant Biodiversity
- Creating Media

Syracuse University

- Aerospace Engineering
- Essential Leadership Skills

Emory University

- Computer Programming
- Introduction to Branding and Marketing: Strategies & Tactics to Succeed in Business
- Social Cognition
- Video Game Narrative 101

Notre Dame University

- Vision for High School Students

School of the New York Times

- Investigative Journalism

Johns Hopkins

- Intro to Laboratory Research
- Social Inequality and the Public's Health

Harvard Pre-College

- Speaking with Power, Passion, and Purpose
- Crypto-Aesthetics: Economics, Politics and Art on the Blockchain

Brown University

- Laboratory Medicine: Using Model Organisms in Biomedical Research
- Researching College Drug Use The Psychology of Willpower and Motivation

Summer Discovery @ Georgetown University

- American Economics and Business

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

- Robotics

National Student Leadership Conference @ UC Berkeley

- Medicine and Healthcare

Washington University in St Louis

- Summer Launch: Prepare for College Success

Summer Program Spotlight - Amore'

University of the Pacific: Plant Biodiversity

What was your course about and what did you learn?

- I learned about evolution and ecology of plants, examined different plant species, their habitats, and their roles in ecosystems. We went out and interacted with plants, cooked them, and learned how to make homemade beer and wine from scratch. The best thing about my program academically was how hands-on everything was. My class went out and interacted with plants, we cooked them, and looked at a lot of microorganisms on a microscope.



What was the best thing socially about your summer program?

- The amount of things to do after classes. From when the classes ended to around 9:30 pm, they had multiple things to do like bingo, yoga, zumba, sound baths, sports, karaoke, trivia, rock climbing, outside movie night, and more! They never forced you to do anything, It was very free roam since the campus was humongous and you could do whatever you wanted. There were about 900 students or more in the program so I saw new faces every single day and it was an awesome experience.





How did your summer program change your perspective when it comes to college or career?

- My program helped me feel more confident in what career I want because I was able to speak with professors and staff to get a better understanding of my future career. One professor was a doctor who helped explain to me the difference between psychology and psychiatry.



What was the biggest challenge for you regarding the summer program process? How did you overcome that challenge?

- The biggest challenge for me to overcome during the summer program was getting used to all of the different personalities around me. When I am at home I know what to expect from the people around me because I am always around them, but in my program I met new people everyday. I learned that not everyone wants to be your friend, which is okay. I dealt with this was by taking everything that people did or said with a grain of salt instead of staying hooked on it. By letting it go, I protected my peace.

What was your biggest takeaway or learning experience?

- Growing up and gaining independence is really hard! I had a fun time and it taught me to be responsible and how to take care of myself, though sometimes I wished my mom was cooking for me! It also taught me that college can be a lot of fun. Be responsible and be organized because you need to take the initiative to get done what needs to get done.

Alumni Spotlight - Stephanie Enriquez Isais

Stephanie gave the following speech at our annual Jazz Soiree Fundraiser in May 2024.



My name is Stephanie Enriquez Isais, and I was part of Minds Matter's class of 2019. I graduated last year from Occidental College with a degree in Computer Science and a minor in Media, Arts, and Culture.

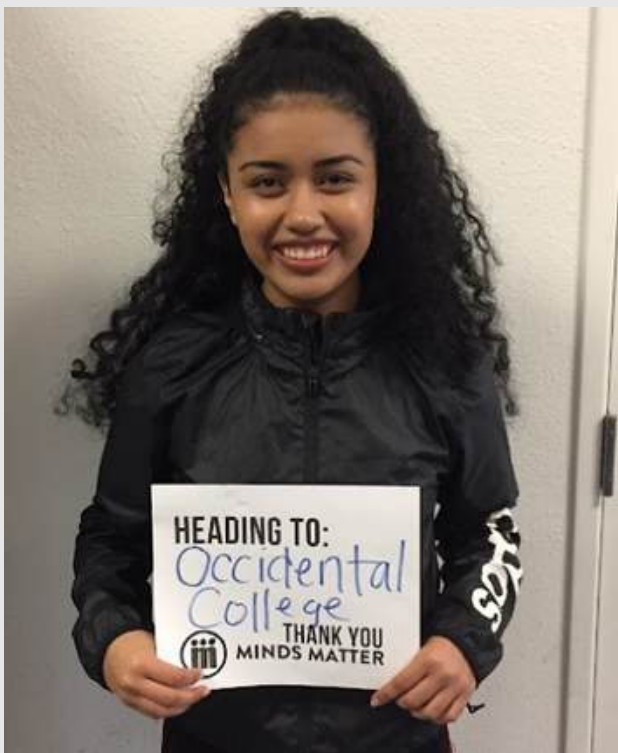
Minds Matter was introduced to me in high school at the perfect time. I knew I wanted to go to college but wasn't sure how I would get there or what it would be like. Initially, I joined because I was interested in getting a glimpse of college life during the summer and adding it to my resume, but in reality, I gained so much more from it.

As I'm sure you all know, one of the goals of participating in Minds Matter is to attend summer college programs offered by various schools around the country. While at the time it might have seemed like I chose these programs based on their location or school, looking back, they had a profound influence on who I am today. My first summer college program was at Syracuse University in New York, where I chose a course in Computer Science. My first choice was

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actually an architecture course, as I thought I would become an architect, but for one reason or another, I couldn't attend it. So, I went with my second choice in a field I wanted to learn more about. It was a challenging two weeks, not just academically but also mentally, as it was my first time traveling across the country by myself. However, it solidified my interest in computer science and boosted my confidence. This confidence stuck with me for years, and today, I stand before you with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

“A common thread among the mentees is how Minds Matter taught us to see and live up to our potential.”



For the second summer, I got my first choice. I attended Stanford University's summer Architecture program, and I was thrilled. I took the three-week course and found it fascinating. When I returned to high school, I applied for an internship at an architecture firm. Thanks to my experience from the architecture summer program, I got the job. Interestingly enough, during my time at GBD Architects, I learned that architecture wasn't for me. However, I discovered my real interest: design, something I wouldn't have been exposed to if I hadn't attended Minds Matter, taken a summer course in architecture, and interned at an architecture firm. Being a participant in Minds Matter started a chain reaction

that led me to find my interests because it exposed me to opportunities I would not have found on my own, especially as a first-generation college student. However, there was another effect of participating in this program: it gave me the confidence to step outside my comfort zone. As mentees, we were never told a summer program location was too far away

or unobtainable. So, when it came to choosing what school I would attend, I confidently looked at schools outside of Oregon because I knew from experience I could do it (and that I liked the California weather). Later in college, when presented with the opportunity to study abroad, I again knew it was within my capabilities because of my experience traveling alone across the country before. This might seem common for most college students, but for me, it was intimidating as I was the first in my family to ever leave this continent.

Another aspect, and perhaps the most essential part of Minds Matter, are the mentorships. I was extremely fortunate in that the two mentors I was matched with in my sophomore year, Katy and Kathleen, stayed with me throughout my three years at Minds Matter. They truly are a part of what made this program special to me. Their consistency and genuine desire to help guide me in high school proved invaluable. They helped me prepare for college exams, apply to college and scholarships. It is thanks to them and the help of other Minds Matter members like Kathy Garrett that I was able to attend the college of my choice and graduate debt-free. However, my mentors grew from academic mentors to life mentors. In college, I continued to lean on them for guidance on how to navigate college life. When I started looking for internships, my mentor Katy helped me review my resume and practice my interviewing skills, which helped me secure two internships with Meta as a Product Design intern.

Reflecting on my experience to write this speech made me realize that few other organizations have influenced me as much as Minds Matter did. A common thread among the mentees is how Minds Matter taught us to see and live up to our potential. Again and again, when presented with opportunities that seemed intimidating, like traveling to the UK for a case study competition at the London School of Economics, I took it because I knew I could do it, because I had learned from my time at Minds Matter that I could.

Finances

YEARLY EXPENSES PER STUDENT

ALL STUDENTS

Saturday session materials \$175

\$3,800

Total cost to send one
Minds Matter student to a
summer program

SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

Summer program tuition \$2,500

Summer program travel \$1,000

Summer program stipend \$300

\$8,625

Total cost to directly
support a student through 3
years of Minds Matter

SENIORS

Graduation stipend \$500

2023-2024 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Summer Programs	\$109,618
Program Delivery	\$20,816
Direct Student Support	\$10,247
Marketing and Fundraising	\$6,591
Administration	\$17,117
Staffing	\$170,748
Total	\$335,136

2023-2024 Funding Summary

\$224,000

Foundations

\$44,614

Corporations

\$63,649

Individuals

\$99,723

Event fundraising

Board of Directors



Graham Covington

- Board Chair and Minds Matter Portland founder
- Principle, Grease Consulting LLC



Carolyn Becic

- Former President, St. Andrew Nativity School
- Mount Angel Abbey, Major Gifts



Sean Wallace

- Associate at Perkins & Company



Timothy Wright

- Associate at Tonkon Torp



Anjene Bryant

- Interim Director of Middle School Redesign Portland Public Schools



Jessica Yu

- LD Consulting
- Minds Matter Portland Alumni Class of 2027



Mike DeVaughn

- Dean, Pamplin School of Business at the University of Portland