



OUR SCHOOL.
OUR COMMUNITY.

OUR FUTURE.

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A Letter from Our Director

About 29 years ago, when I began thinking about whether a school could be created to serve students who needed a new kind of learning environment, many people thought such a project would be very difficult. They were right. However, what very few people pointed out was that there were many who would enthusiastically invest in a school like **The UCAP School**.



At that time, I did not know that several urban school districts would embrace a school that required a new way of doing business. I was unaware that many teachers, counselors, and administrators would go out of their way to support an independent public school. I questioned whether students and their parents would give us a chance to prove that children who had histories of school failure could accelerate to their grade level through a unique environment of **unity, community, achievement and possibility**. Now I know that all of these things are possible.

Since **The UCAP School** began, one thing has been a consistent strength: *The network of friends who support it*. Because of help from friends like you, our school

can offer students numerous opportunities to succeed. These include all kinds of programs that take place during non-school hours, as well as renovations of a new building and Annex, to give students a more enriching and dynamic education.

Soon the school will enter its 30th year, and I can see a future that is defined more by its possibilities than by its limitations. At the same time, I understand that we could have done nothing to realize our vision, without the support of friends from all walks of life, who have helped. I thank you for your support and I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Robert DeBlois
Director, The UCAP School

A Letter from Our Board Chair



As President of the **The UCAP School Board of Superintendents**, I want to extend the gratitude of the Superintendents of Central Falls, Cranston, and Providence to you for your support and your commitment to the students who attend The UCAP School.

Along with Superintendents **Victor Capellan** and **Chris Maher**, I want you to know that we consider UCAP to be a valuable resource to our school districts. UCAP provides at-risk students with multiple opportunities to succeed in school, to graduate, and to pursue

plans for post-secondary education. Because of UCAP, many students will be able to consider a range of options for leading happy and productive lives as members of our community. Their lives will be defined by possibilities rather than by limitations.

UCAP has become a valuable resource to our school districts because the learning community at UCAP has maintained

a clear and consistent focus on its mission. The school has made it a priority to serve a unique group of students who are seeking to reach their potential in education.

In accomplishing its mission, UCAP has been very fortunate to have the support of The Fund for UCAP, and hundreds of friends like you who support the school in one way or another. Because of The FFU, **Beyond U** programs have become a central part of the success of the students. The Fund has also provided UCAP with a first class facility that tells the students they are valued and that they deserve our best efforts. We are pleased to be a part of this school and we look forward to our continued partnership with all those connected to **The Fund for UCAP**.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Nota-Masse
Superintendent of Cranston Schools
President of The UCAP School Board of Superintendents

A Commitment to Prosperity for Rhode Island

A Letter from Our Fund Board Chair

Like most of us, I am committed to the future success of our state and prosperity of its people and businesses. There is so much opportunity here, yet too many of our great students leave RI and never return, while many with great potential face complex challenges which impact their ability to succeed. **The UCAP School** is helping to change that.



Over the past eight years on the **Fund for UCAP Board**, and as chair for the past six years, I have had the honor of witnessing UCAP's teachers and staff provide unfettered advocacy for our state's most vulnerable young people. And now for the first time, a former student, Abraham Henderson, has come back to take on the role of Dean of Students, an inspirational testament to both the school and the commitment by the students to give back to their community.

The Fund for UCAP provides meaningful opportunities to support UCAP's work through **Beyond U** programs – relevant, creative opportunities that integrate and enhance students' academic, social, and emotional goals. Each year, thanks primarily to the generosity of donors and partners, these programs are customized based on the needs and interests of the students. I am pleased to report that, in meeting our 2016-17 fundraising goal, we were able

to fully fund the Beyond U programs for the 10th year. Opportunities for students include the revival of the successful Save The Bay summer camp, which provides students with the chance to explore our bay and environment through STEM-related activities, and a new partnership with Salve Regina University allowing UCAP students to take classes with SRU students to research classic fairytales, discuss women's roles and modern-day women's issues.

As of the 2017-18 school year, Gib Conover will take on the role of Chair of the Fund for UCAP Board. I am excited to continue on the Fund Board and look forward to exploring new partnerships to benefit our personalized, equitable education for our most vulnerable kids – those who, without The UCAP School, would likely fall through the cracks. Many thanks to every one of you who has helped UCAP. I encourage you to introduce others to the school and its students so they may also help students overcome adversity, succeed in education, and get on a pathway to success.

David Haffenreffer

Chair, Fund for UCAP Board of Directors, 2011 - 2017

"UCAP's Beyond U programs were awarded their third consecutive five-year 21st Century Grant to commence in the 2017-18 school year: A testament to the success of Beyond U and the leadership of Beyond U Director Elisa Almonte!"

Read more about the grant at UCAP.org/beyond-u

Coming Back for More: UCAP School Grad Returns as Dean of Students

The UCAP School has evolved a lot in almost thirty years. **Abraham Henderson, UCAP Class of '94**, can speak to how much. Abraham has officially joined The UCAP School as **Dean of Students**.



Q. What was The UCAP School (then called The Urban Collaborative) like when you attended?

A. We were in the basement of a shared building in the south side of Providence, with 100 or so kids, from middle and high school. It was a very tough area. But even then we knew that the likelihood of kids dropping out would be very high without UCAP. UCAP gave us a chance – a helping hand.

Q. Do you remember many of the teachers?

A. I could tell you the name of every teacher I had here, versus the one or two I remember from high school. For example, Jim Snead ("Big Jim Snead"); he was my science teacher and wrestling coach. Al Lemos, my social worker. Storytelling/arts educators Rafini and Valarie Tutson helped a lot of kids get into acting and playwriting. They also taught me what it was, historically, to be a man of color. John Howard, my history teacher, started a phenomenal Explorer's group. And of course, Rob DeBlois. He was and is a beacon for the students. Every teacher here helped accelerate my learning and also taught me much more about myself. They taught me about what I call, "love tough."

Q. How would you describe "love tough?"

A. There were three adults who really influenced me - Big Jim, Rob, and Brian Scott, who was my basketball coach. They were very direct with me, very straightforward. They taught me that it's OK to make mistakes. You could fall on your face a million times, but not once would they lose faith in you. Whether you like it or not, they are not gonna quit on you. It's what I call "love tough." It's not just "tough love;" it's more. I made plenty of mistakes and UCAP provided me an opportunity to make something of myself in spite of that. It's a really caring approach – kids make mistakes; throw them back into the water.

Q. What have you been up to since you graduated from UCAP in 1994?

A. I graduated from Mt Pleasant High School and then earned my bachelor's degree in Philosophy of Urban Education from UMASS Amherst. After college I worked for several

organizations serving communities and at-risk kids, including The Children's Crusade and The Peace Corps. Eventually, I served as a juvenile correctional officer and a teacher at the ACI and the RI Training School. There I saw first-hand the effects of poverty and lack of education on crime and recidivism. At the ACI, 70% of first-time offenders have no high school diploma. We saw generational recidivism of poverty-stricken families.

Kids who stay back once are twice as likely to drop out. One of the reasons I came back to **The UCAP School** is because we are helping those at-risk kids by giving them the chance to get back to grade level - and stop the cycle.

Q. How is UCAP different now and how is it the same?

A. Through the years, I have visited and witnessed the positive changes in the atmosphere of the school. A big part of that is a much brighter, nicer facility that the students, teachers and staff have pride in. I'm happy to see that the students have their own gym. Everything feels much more positive and hopeful in this building.

The student population is more concentrated toward middle school now, more diverse, and the class sizes are small. That creates greater opportunity for focus and relationship-building. A lot of staff have been here for a long time. That says a lot about the teachers really caring about the kids and being committed to what UCAP is trying to accomplish. There are authentic restorative practices happening here. It's a caring community in which members know the names of every student. Issues will happen at home, on the street, in the community – we have teachers who support kids throughout those challenges. UCAP has their backs.

Q. Would you be the person you are today without UCAP?

A. UCAP changed me tremendously. I came from a difficult environment. At larger schools, it's easy to fall through the cracks. And that's what was happening to me. Teachers at middle schools weren't invested in the kids. Here, I received care, support and opportunity to catch up. I felt a lot of love at UCAP – there's a lot of ugly in the real world.

Besides being excited about this new role, I feel very fortunate to be blessed as a parent. Having a child makes this work even more profound.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish in your new position?

A. I want to support the students in every way possible, drawing from what I learned as a student and from my experience as an adult who has seen the results when a school like UCAP is not involved. I'm excited not only to be a part of **The UCAP School** as Dean of Students, but also to be part of bringing UCAP to the next level and giving kids the opportunities they deserve to attain a better quality of life through hard work, dedication and love for themselves and the greater community around them. I feel thankful and blessed. Thankful every day.

Your Donations at Work for Kids **BEYOND U**

A core component of our personalized learning environment, **Beyond U** programs are totally reliant on the generosity of UCAP's donors and a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant. **Beyond U** provides students with enriched experiences that go well beyond text books and classrooms, and are essential for students to be successful today.

Thanks to our friends and donors, **Beyond U**, had another dynamic year, providing interesting and diverse program options for our students. Once again, we had 100% participation from our 140 students, each program exposing them to higher thinking, personalized learning, healthy social skills, and a connection to higher education and career paths. We offer about 24 different recurring programs each week, including STEM, enrichment, academics, fitness, the arts, and field trips to work places, colleges and cultural sites.



We believe in our students and want them to feel inspired about their future. STEM learning continues to be a major focus within our Beyond U Programs. Our partnerships with **Save the Bay** and the **Community Boating Center** provide a unique learning experience for our students with the opportunity to incorporate STEM learning and real life learning.



The UCAP School has partnered with **Fight 2 Fitness** a boxing fitness gym, owned by Rich and Alyssa Gingras, and located in Pawtucket, RI. Over the past five years, more than 200 of our students have learned valuable fitness techniques and were trained by boxing professionals. They also learn to create healthy eating habits and focus on team building skills. Our kids have loved this unique experience as they learn a new way to be healthy and exercise.

We could not provide students with the highest quality of athletic, enrichment and STEM programs, without strong relationships with our community partners. Thank you partners!

- 1 on 1 basketball
- Audubon Society
- Beat the Streets
- Bowlarama
- Brandaris Maritime
- Community Boating Center
- DownCity Design
- Fight 2 Fitness
- Genesis Center
- Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Rock Spot Climbing
- Save the Bay
- Sky Zone
- Salve Regina University
- Spirit Program

Our Sixth Annual Awards Reception, **UCAP Spring Do**, was held in April – a wonderful evening in support of The UCAP School! Thanks to our very generous sponsors, donors, and friends the event raised close to \$50,000 for Beyond U Programs and our students at UCAP.





Did you receive a phone call from a UCAP student in November? As part of our Thank-A-Thon tradition, a group of students call over 200 UCAP friends and supporters to thank them for their dedication to our school.

If you did not receive a phone call, please call UCAP at 401-272-0881 or email Vivienne O'Dwyer, UCAP Development Director, Vivienne.odwyer@ucap.org and we will update our records.

Individual Donors

\$5,000 Plus

Lucia and Peter Case
Norman Mandelbaum
Joseph and Margaret McCoy
Mary McCoy

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Timothy and Mary Barnard
Gary and Karen Friedmann
William and Audria Jennings
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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Irene and Robert Barrow
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Robert and Bonilyn DeBlois
Andrea and David Joseph
John and Gloria Kilmartin
Christy and Michael Piti
Marcellus Sharpe
Constance Worthington and Terry Tullis

\$500 - \$999

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Kate Farrington
Karen and David Gardner
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Jim and Dana Hahn
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Donna and William Tente
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In Honor of

In honor of Sylvia Blackman

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In honor of Ken Clauser

Anonymous II

Lisa Brackett

Ann Bruno

Clarkson Collins and Marcie Cummings

Monica and Raymond Francisco

Neeltje Henneman

Ellen Maly

Doug Neuman

Elizabeth and Richard Nickerson

Kevin Purdy

Elaine Reed

Roxie Sgouros

Summer Sheeley

Kristin Sprague

Barbara Staples

In honor of Rob and Bonnie DeBlois

Jean Chute

Paul Miles-Matthias, MD

In honor of Lee and Marcel Dursin

Margaretta Edwards

In honor of Andrea Joseph

Kathleen Boyd and Daniel Even

In honor of Al and Mary Ann Killilea

Carol Gibbons

In honor of Dylan Lynch

Laura Lynch

In Memory of

In memory of Jack McCoy

Paula Beaulieu

Linda McCoy

Lynda McCoy

Christy and Michael Piti

In memory of Ruth McCoy

Anonymous

Susan and Joseph Baglini

Paula Beaulieu

Robert and Ann Borah

Catherine Chatowsky

Beth and Watson Collins

Edward and Paula Coogan

Dan Corley and Betsy Beach

Robert and Bonilyn DeBlois

Jonathan Donaldson

Joan Fien

Christina Filippini and Ralph Mar

Andrea and David Joseph

Patricia Lee

Dorothy and William Mallon

Charles McCoy

Linda McCoy

Lynda McCoy

Robert and Joan Pillsbury

Nicholas and Jean Piti

Maryanne Rittenhouse

Brian Scholtisek and

Lisa Reich-Scholtisek

Thomas and Barbara Sladen

Michael Teichman

David Tkatch

Marianne Tracy

Richard and Esther Tracy

Constance Worthington and

Terry Tullis

In memory of William McCoy

Linda McCoy

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hunt

Richard and Johanna Rakauskas

Foundations and Corporations

\$25,000 - Plus

Carter Fund

Haffenreffer Family Fund

Newman's Own Foundation

TriMix Foundation

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous II

Rallis Conover Family Fund

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Rhode Island Yacht Club Education Foundation

RI Juvenile Officers Association

Saccoccio & Associates

Statewide Plumbing and Heating

Weisberg Family Foundation

2017		The Fund for UCAP	
UCAP FINANCIALS		Revenues	\$ 354,127
The UCAP School		Expenses	\$ 224,626
Revenues	\$ 2,663,871	Net	\$ 129,501
Expenses	\$ 2,529,263	<hr/>	
Net	\$ 134,608	Fund for UCAP Realty	
		Revenue	\$ 559,706
		Expenses	\$ 494,167
		Net	\$ 65,539
		FY 17 unaudited year end finances	



Our Youth Advisory Committee held bake sales and school dances to fundraise for their chosen organizations. They raised over \$1,500 for a variety of nonprofits including the Providence Animal Shelter, Tomorrow Fund, Autism Speaks, American Heart Association and Heifer International.



We reinvigorate students and open their minds to a world of possibilities. Beyond high school success, our students develop the skills, camaraderie and confidence to continue on as active, engaged members of our communities.

Mentor/Tutor Internship Program at University of Rhode Island

Positive role models play a huge role in the transformation of our students. UCAP has been working with the University of Rhode Island for almost 20 years to provide our students with a mentoring program. The Mentor/Tutor Internship Program at URI was founded by Al Killilea, a dedicated supporter of UCAP, and father of Joe Killilea (UCAP English teacher). The students from URI work in collaboration with Joe to mentor UCAP students throughout the school day.

“Having the opportunity to make a student recognize her own strengths and talents has been a life changing opportunity for me, and I have found my relationship with this student having as positive an effect on me as it has had on her.” Gabrielle, URI mentor

“Each student that I have met so far at UCAP has shared with me the amazing dreams they have for their future, as well as the passionate, determined personalities they each have. Students speak to me about their dream colleges, their dream career paths. They are eager to ask me about my experiences at URI, about why I chose my major and what it is like having an internship.” Abbie, URI mentor

The UCAP School would like to note the passing of John Carter Jr. John was a good friend of everyone in The UCAP School community. He supported the school because he believed in the mission of serving all kids. His legacy is greater opportunity. The good he has done will continue.

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