



September, 2020

Dear Friend of The UCAP School,

We publish this annual report at an unprecedented moment in our school, community and history. While this report focuses on the 2018–2019 school year, we are publishing it later than usual because 2020 has already been filled with challenges that remind us just how important it is to keep one another safe as we move toward our goals.

On January 31, 2020, we were saddened by the death of Rob DeBlois, Founder and former Director of The UCAP School. We will be forever grateful for what he created, and remain committed to building on his legacy for our students and the community.

In July of 2019, I was pleased to join The UCAP School as Executive Director. I am honored to bring more than 15 years of experience in education and, most importantly, a passion for supporting the vision that started The UCAP School 30 years ago.

In March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The UCAP School moved to a Distance Learning model, quickly creating a plan to continue delivering the basics of English, math, science and social studies, as well as the social and emotional support our students have come to rely on. We also adapted our Beyond U Programs that engage students after the academic day so that they can participate online, including their families at home.

As we begin the new school year, our dedication to providing rigorous academic instruction and social and emotional support remains steadfast. We are working hard to have a safe and positive reopening of our school building at the appropriate time. We miss our students and want them back in school when it is safe and has been cleared by the health professionals and government officials. On September 14th we began classes using a hybrid model with one grade level in the building at a time. A decision will be made in the near future that speaks to whether a 100% in-person reopening will be possible, or if we will continue with the hybrid model. No matter how the school year evolves, we are committed to every student at The UCAP School. In person, virtually or hybrid, we will support their needs and continue to provide the excellent education they deserve.

The events of the first half of 2020 have made us more grateful than ever to have a family of people like you who recognize that, with everything happening in the world today, the mission of The UCAP School must continue. We look forward to working together to ensure that the young people who are accepted into our school receive the best education and social and emotional support available in order to reach their goals and succeed in their future endeavors

Thank you for being with us on this journey.

Sincerely,

Michael Finley, Ed.D
Executive Director

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING





STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

MANUELA MEDINA

completed 3 years in 2 at The UCAP School (2017–2019). She will be attending The Met in the Fall.



"I came in to make up a grade because my sister went to UCAP. In 6th grade I felt like I wasn't my own person. Here you get closer friendships and I am closer to my teachers."

A letter from **OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** and **FUND FOR UCAP BOARD CHAIR**

The 2018-2019 school year brought many changes as The UCAP School's Founder and Director Rob DeBlois retired. Rob founded the school 30 years ago with the belief that we needed to stop looking at children who are at risk as "other people's children" and embrace them as our own. With Rob's retirement we welcomed our new Executive Director, Dr. Michael Finley, who will lead The UCAP School and The Fund for UCAP into the future.

In this report, we highlight a UCAP alumnus and several current students who are going on to achieve their goals because of supporters like you. Year after year, bright and promising young people walk through the doors of our beautiful school building at 75 Carpenter Street and find a group of dedicated teachers and staff who know that they need a different school environment than they have experienced before. Inside these walls, students receive education and support that ensures that they can go on to high school prepared with the knowledge of the core subjects and the tools they need to carry them into a future that was uncertain the day they entered.

With your help, in addition to the school-day academic program, UCAP students spent more than 5,000 hours in our Beyond U Programs this year. These included enrichment, artistic and academic subjects such as chess club, cooking programs, basketball, wrestling and sailing lessons. We also continued our collaborative SPIRIT program, which focused students on post-secondary education and career exploration. In order to allow students to venture beyond their neighborhoods and experience new things, we had monthly field trips and other activities including whale watching on Cape Cod, a weeklong Save The Bay camp, family bowling night, a URI basketball game, and visits to the Boston Museum of Science, Southwick Zoo and Mystic Aquarium, as well as a school trip New York City to see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the 9/11 Memorial. The list includes more than 20 other programs and activities we offer each year to keep students busy and engaged in and out of the classrooms!

Without your support, none of this would be possible. Whether you are a volunteer, a community partner, an advocate or a donor, you were a part of every student's life at The UCAP School this year. We are grateful for your partnership in our mission, and look forward to sharing the successes of our combined efforts in future years.

Thank you for all you do for the students of The UCAP School.



Michael Finley

Michael Finley, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Gib Conover

Gib Conover
Fund for UCAP Board Chair

JESUS NUNEZ



"I want to be an inspirational young man in my city," says UCAP School alumnus Jesus Nunez. "I see a career in politics."

Attended The UCAP School 2011–2013.

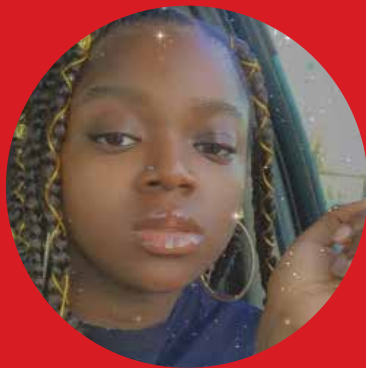
Jesus grew up in a single-parent household in South Providence, where, he says, "I was always causing trouble." So his mom pushed him to enroll at The UCAP School. "UCAP was a place where I could stay out of trouble," Jesus says. He took advantage of everything Beyond U offered: "kickball, bowling, kickboxing, rock climbing, basketball, cooking..."

When Jesus pushed the limits, "Rob called me out," he says of the late Rob DeBlois, who founded and directed the school. "He told me nobody's going to give me anything; I have to earn it. He is why I'm the person I am today."

In high school Jesus stood out at the Village Green Virtual charter school, where he was honored with the creation of the Jesus Nunez School Spirit Award. He went on to earn his degree in business administration at Johnson and Wales.

Jesus spent this past year getting a taste of politics. Through the professional development organization Year Up, he studied business administration and landed an internship in Governor Gina Raimondo's office, greeting constituents. Two months in, COVID-19 struck, and callers were frantically seeking advice on the pandemic. "He would start answering calls when he walked in the door and wouldn't get his coat off until lunch," says Jerry Fleurima, Jesus's supervisor at Year Up. "He's the hardest working student I know."

For his next move, Jesus is continuing to study business online while he investigates local advocacy groups. He has his eye on Providence's City Council—for starters.



TATIANNA SIMS

came to The UCAP School a year behind and completed 3 years in 2 (2017–2019). She will be attending Mount Pleasant High School in the Fall.

“I would have been one of those kids who was in trouble. At UCAP I wanted to excel. At other schools the teachers think they can just write on the blackboard and expect you to learn, but at UCAP they come to you. They teach.”

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

OLIVIER NIYONKURU

UCAP student from 2018–2019 and will be attending Providence Career and Technical Academy in the Fall.



“My family moved here from Mozambique and I stayed back in 3rd grade. My advisor went to UCAP and recommended it for me. I like learning independently and touching back in with the teachers.”

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The UCAP School

Revenues \$ 2,824,780

Expenses \$ 2,814,688

Net \$ 10,092

Fund for UCAP

Revenues \$ 670,934

Expenses \$ 433,166

Net \$ 237,768

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