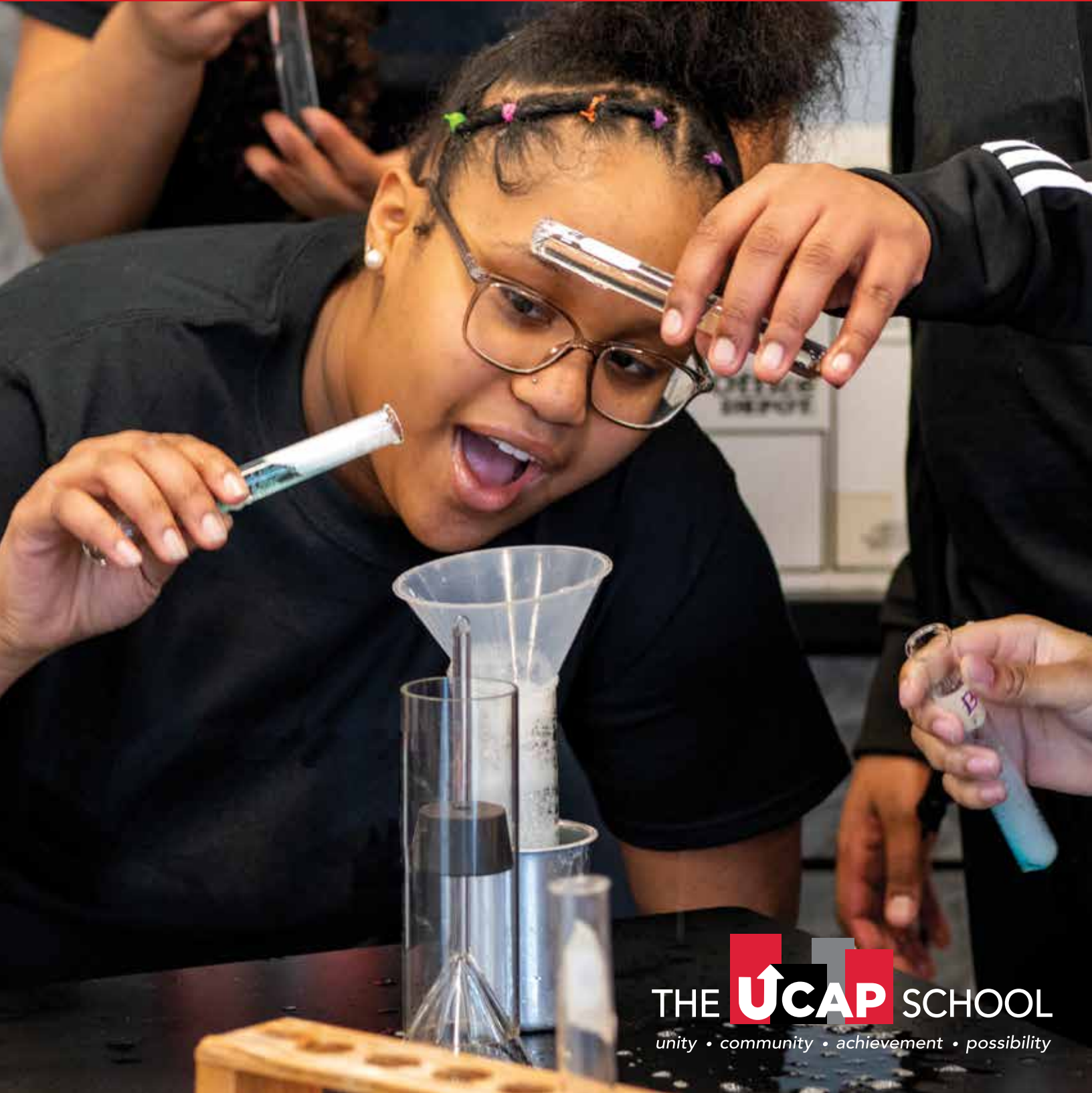


GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING





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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