

COLLEGE BEYOND

2023



IMPACT REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear College Beyond Community,

Over the past 11 months in this role, I've reflected deeply on the importance of our work. In Louisiana, the challenge is clear. Our state ranks 42nd in education and is the 2nd poorest in the nation. Over the past decade, southeastern Louisiana has seen plummeting degree completion rates.

Nine years ago, this organization was founded by educators from Cohen College Prep High School to tackle this issue in our community. They experienced the high of having 100% of their students admitted to college, followed by the devastating low of staggering dropout rates. In Louisiana, only 12% of Pell-eligible students obtain a bachelor's degree. This has been the landscape that College Beyond has navigated over the past nine years.

Our organization has worked to address the reasons students don't finish college. Our non-academically selective program connects students with coaches who meet with them monthly to help them navigate persistent barriers to their degree attainment. We offer micro-grants to address unexpected emergencies, such as a broken laptop or loss of financial aid. Last year, we launched a social work internship program in partnership with Louisiana State University, Southern University at New Orleans, and Tulane, and welcomed our first intern, who worked directly with students with high mental health needs. We also partnered with local mental health agencies like Mercer Family Services to provide a grief and loss group. Additionally, we launched a food pantry to support the 20% of our students who lack steady access to nutritious meals.

We've served over 1,200 students in their journeys to and through college, but there is much more work to be done across the region to promote college degree attainment. In the next three years, we plan to triple the number of students we support across southeastern Louisiana. Throughout 2023, we have worked hard to codify our program and create a foundation for growth. Our results have been incredible, and we're excited to share them with you in this impact report.

Some exciting highlights: our first-to-second-year persistence rate is 79%, which is 18 percentage points higher than the Louisiana state average of 61% for all students. Additionally, our Fall 2017 cohort reached their six-year graduation year, and we've tripled graduation outcomes for that group. For our incoming Freshmen Fall 2023 cohort, we've seen significant growth in student engagement and outcomes due to our strengthened onboarding strategies. By the end of the first semester, 86% of our freshmen had at least three coaching sessions with their coach. We also saw a 0.36 increase in average freshman GPA and a 25% increase in the percentage of students who accumulated over 12 credit hours by the end of their first semester.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your continued support and investment in our work. Your dedication and contributions are vital to our mission of helping students succeed in college and beyond. Together, we are making a significant impact in our community, and I am excited about the future we are building for our students. Thank you for being an integral part of the College Beyond community.

Sincerely,

Clara Baron-Hyppolite
Executive Director
College Beyond



LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear College Beyond Community,

I am delighted to be writing my first Impact Report letter as College Beyond's Board Chair.

When I first joined the Board three years ago, I was compelled by College Beyond's distinctive mission and impact: it emphasized not only college access but also college success, for all students who demonstrated financial need and a commitment to earning a college degree. Through our model and expert coaches, we transform students' lives along with their communities.

Today, I am honored to lead our dedicated Board of Directors, comprised of champions of educational equity with diverse expertise in the fields of business, philanthropy, human capital, law, research, K-12 education, and post-secondary success.

By now, many of you have also met – in-person, virtually, or in the pages of this report – our outstanding new Executive Director, Clara Baron-Hyppolite. Clara brings deep experience in serving the young people of New Orleans, having supported hundreds of local youth to access and succeed in higher education over the past decade. The Board was thrilled when she accepted our unanimous invitation to take the helm, and it has been my pleasure to work closely with her as she transitions into the role.

And the past year has been a busy one. As these pages detail, we have renewed and expanded key partnerships, deepening our work at the University of New Orleans and inaugurating College Beyond's partnership with the New Orleans Pelicans' CJ McCollum and the creation of the McCollum Scholars Program, a \$1M commitment. Mr. McCollum has underwritten the college dreams of 11 New Orleans high schoolers with financial need. Our partnership pairs these generous scholarships with a dedicated college success program to turn these dreams into reality.

I recently joined Mr. McCollum, Clara, and our program team in announcing the first cohort of McCollum Scholars via surprise visits at their high schools – and let me tell you, these young people are ready to fly. I can't wait to see them spread their wings.

Finally, many of you are active supporters of College Beyond already, and I thank you for the many ways you make this work possible. For newcomers: we welcome you to College Beyond! Please share this report, make a donation, volunteer for service, follow us on social media, or sign up for our newsletter to stay in touch. The work of equity in college access and success takes a village, and I welcome you into ours.

Onward,

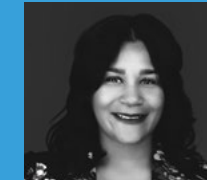
Dr. Chantelle George

Dr. Chantelle George, Ph.D
Board Chair

GUIDING THE VISION OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chantelle George, Ph.D.
Board Chair
Chantelle George Consulting



Victoria Wells, M.S.A.
Supervisor - Account Services at
Entergy



Marques Celestine, B.A., B.B.A.
Managing Director of Talent Strategy at
Leading Educators



Paris Woods, Ed.D.
Chief Program Officer at Strivetogether
College Beyond Co-Founder



Talé Lockett, Ph.D.
Educational Consultant at
Algiers Charter School Association



Mauricio Sierra, J.D.
Attorney at
The Sierra Law Firm



Sarah Payne, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Associate at Yale
School of Management
College Beyond Co-Founder



Mike Woodward, M.P.H.
Regional Program Officer at
Schott Foundation for Public Education

With deepest gratitude, we would like to thank our outgoing board members, Dr. Keisha Smith, Katie Walmsley, Leslie Dennis, and Phaon Spurlock.

NATIONWIDE PROBLEM



IN THE PAST DECADE, COLLEGE ENROLLMENT HAS DROPPED BY **1,500,000** STUDENTS NATIONALLY.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT FELL BY **900,000** STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC TO TODAY.

UNDERSTANDING OUR STUDENTS

38% OF OUR STUDENTS SURVEYED, WORKED 20-40 HOURS PER WEEK, 5.2% WORKED MORE THAN 40 HOURS, AND 13% WERE ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR WORK.

45% OF OUR STUDENTS SURVEYED WORRIED ABOUT HOW THEY WILL PAY FOR COLLEGE IN THEIR NEXT SEMESTER.

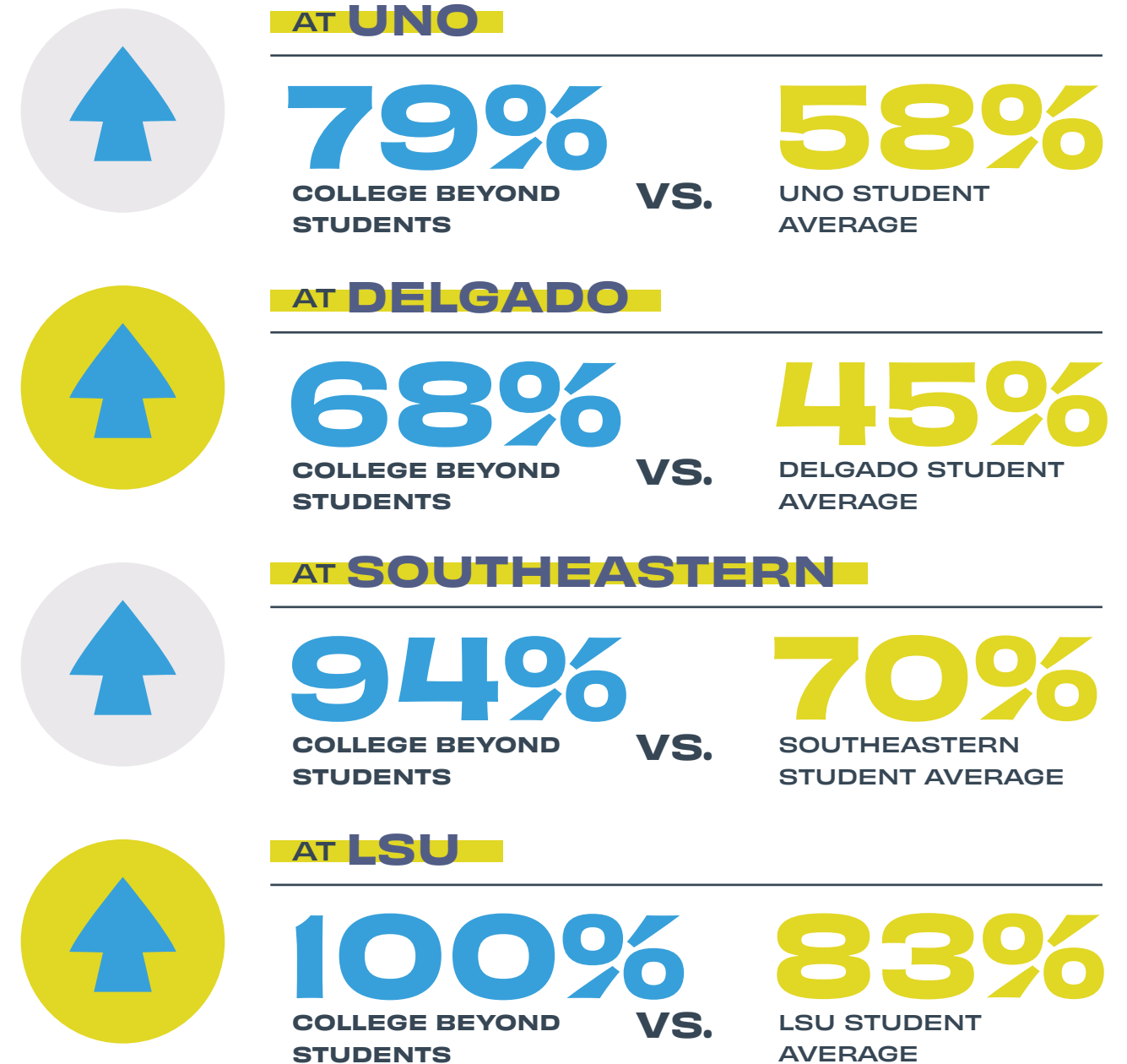
25% OF OUR STUDENTS SURVEYED HAD RELIED ON COLLEGE BEYOND'S MUTUAL AID POP-UP PANTRY.

14% OF OUR STUDENTS SURVEYED STRUGGLED BALANCING WORK AND SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES.

COLLEGE BEYOND OUTCOMES

COLLEGE PERSISTENCE

COLLEGE BEYOND'S IMPACT ON FIRST-YEAR PERSISTENCE COMPARED WITH UNIVERSITY AVERAGES



OUR MENU OF SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

— INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS COACHING:

| PERSONALIZED ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH A SUCCESS COACH

— EMERGENCY FUNDS:

| FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN TIMES OF UNEXPECTED FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

— SKILL-BASED WORKSHOPS:

| WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON STUDY SKILLS, TIME MANAGEMENT, RESUME WRITING, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SKILLS

— LEARNING COMMUNITY:

| MATH, ENGLISH, AND FRESHMAN SUCCESS CLASSES EXCLUSIVELY FOR COLLEGE BEYOND STUDENTS

— COLLEGE-TO-CAREER COACHING:

| GUIDANCE ON INTERNSHIPS, INTERVIEWING, RESUME WRITING AND OTHER CAREER-RELATED SKILLS

— PEER SUPPORT GROUPS OR MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS:

| OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH PEERS AND MENTORS THROUGH PROGRAMS LIKE THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

— COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS:

| EVENTS SUCH AS PAINT & SIP, CRAWFISH BOIL, AND PLUNGE EVENTS AIMED AT FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

— COMMUNITY CIRCLES:

| SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS FOR SHARING EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORT

— LEADERSHIP RETREAT:

| RETREATS FOCUSED ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL LITERACY, CAREER READINESS, AND NETWORKING

— BOOK & SUPPLY FUNDS:

| ASSISTANCE WITH PURCHASING REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES

— FOOD MUTUAL AID LOCKER OR PANTRY:

| ACCESS TO FOOD RESOURCES THROUGH MUTUAL AID LOCKERS OR PANTRIES

— STUDENT LOUNGE:

| A DEDICATED SPACE WITH ACCESS TO SNACKS, A PRINTER, STUDY SPACE, AND A COMMUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO GATHER AND STUDY



A COLLEGE DEGREE
HAS THE POWER TO LIFT STUDENTS
OUT OF GENERATIONAL POVERTY

GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

Jamyre Patrick | Bachelor of Arts in Political Science | 2023

Jamyre Patrick's journey from Warren Easton Charter High School to his recent Political Science and Government graduation from the University of New Orleans (UNO) is a testament to his unwavering determination and commitment to excellence. As a first-generation college graduate and PELL-eligible student, Jamyre overcame obstacles with resilience and grace, carving out a path marked by academic achievement and community engagement.

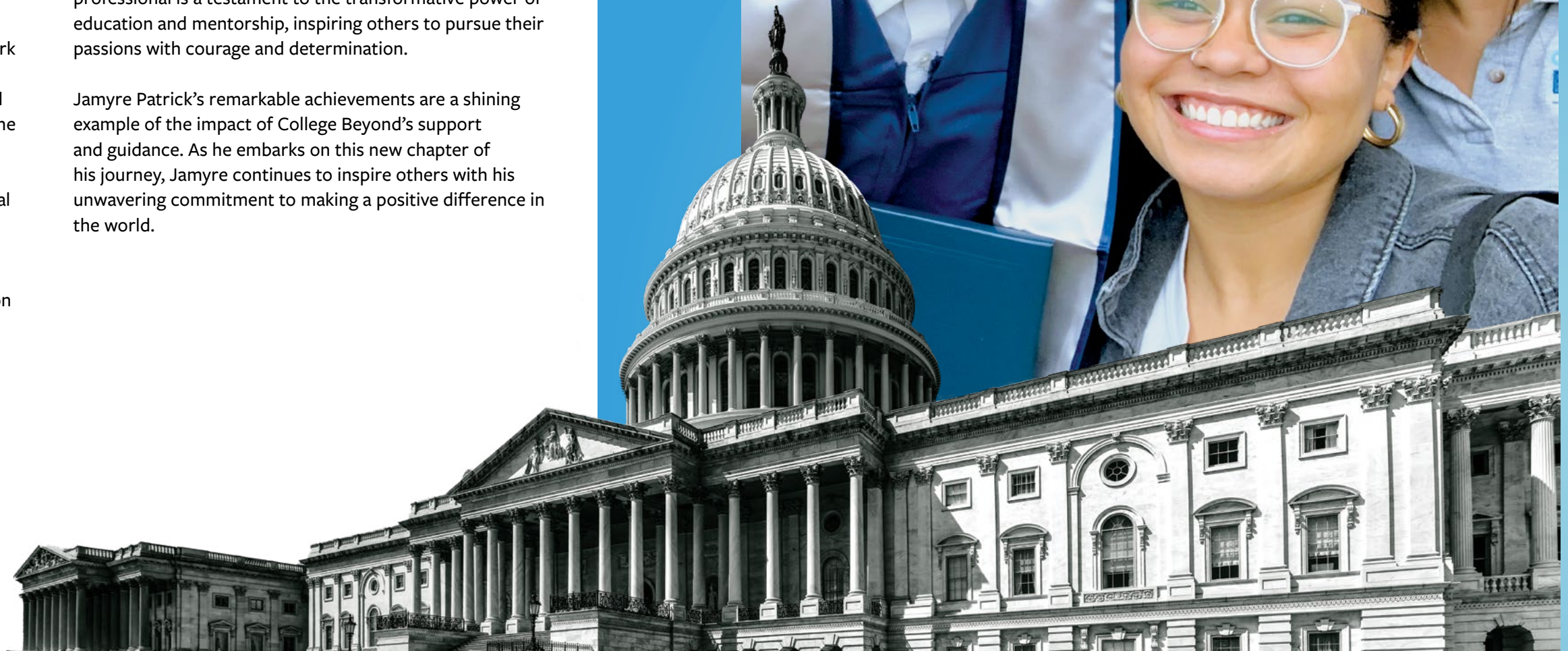
Jamyre's thirst for knowledge and passion for international relations and diplomacy were evident throughout his college tenure. Despite the challenges of commuting to campus daily, he fearlessly embraced rigorous coursework and immersed himself in extracurricular activities. His dedication extended beyond the classroom as he worked tirelessly as a student worker in the library, embodying the spirit of hard work and perseverance.

Jamyre's involvement in College Beyond was instrumental in shaping his college experience. Regularly stopping by to engage in discussions on politics, world events, and current affairs, Jamyre enriched the College Beyond community with his insights and passion. His participation in prestigious events such as the Model United Nations in New York City and a transformative study abroad experience in Innsbruck broadened his horizons and deepened his understanding of global issues.

As an ambassador for UNO and College Beyond, Jamyre demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment. His active engagement with the College Beyond team exemplified his commitment to personal and professional growth, laying the foundation for his future success.

Following numerous coaching conversations about his career aspirations, Jamyre achieved a significant milestone by securing a position at his dream job location, the U.S. Department of State. His journey from student to professional is a testament to the transformative power of education and mentorship, inspiring others to pursue their passions with courage and determination.

Jamyre Patrick's remarkable achievements are a shining example of the impact of College Beyond's support and guidance. As he embarks on this new chapter of his journey, Jamyre continues to inspire others with his unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the world.



STUDENTS WE SERVE ACROSS
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

2022-23 FRESHMAN COHORT

98%

PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

87%

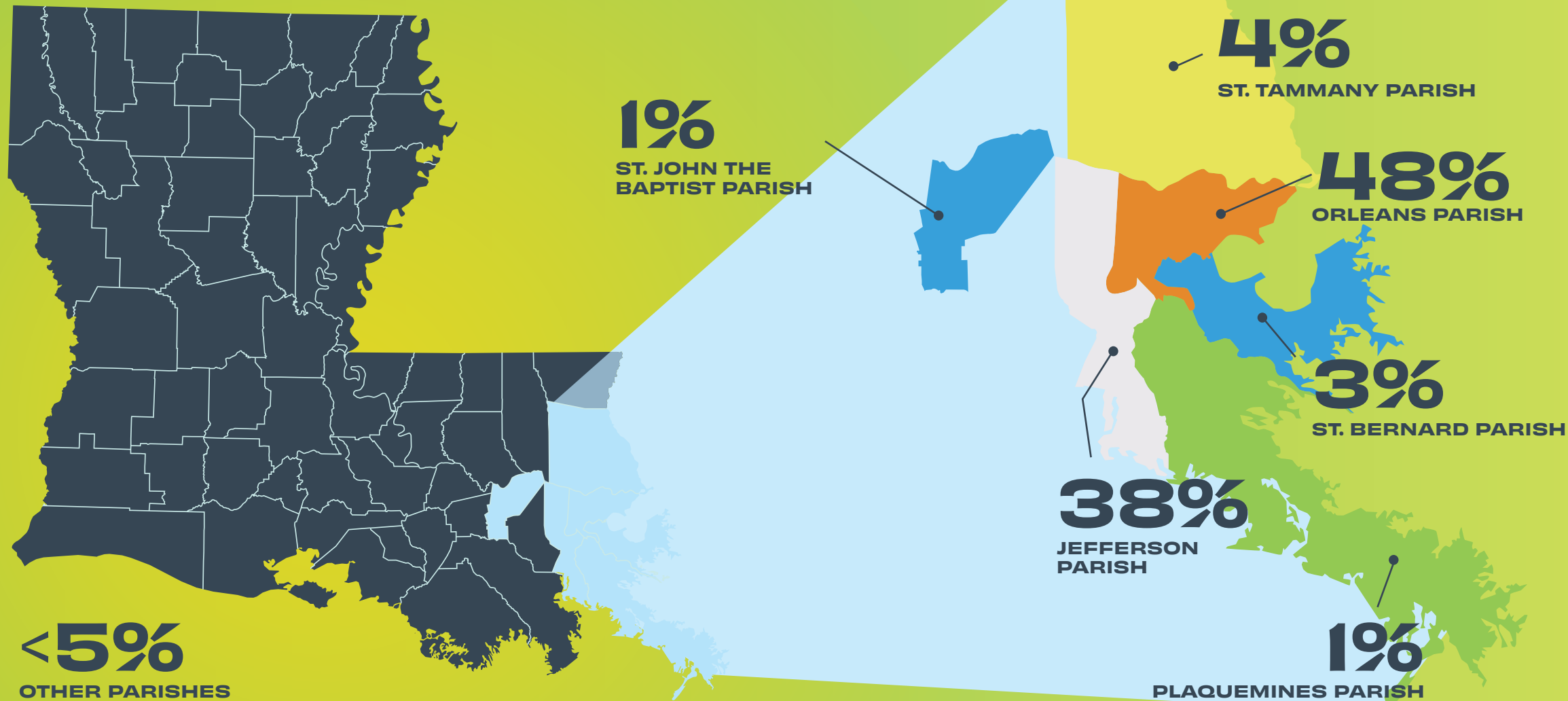
FIRST GENERATION GRADUATES

87%

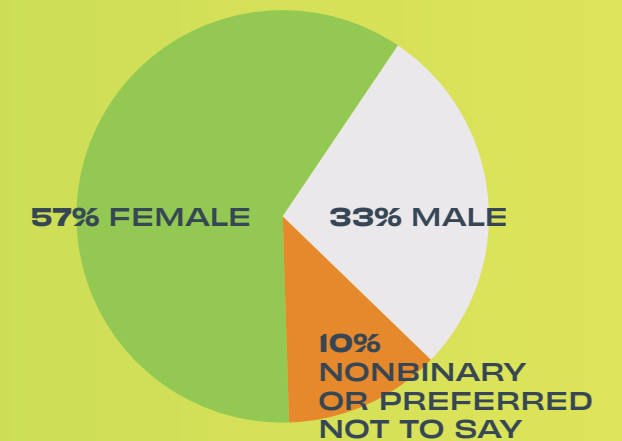
BIPOC

OUR ONLY CRITERION IS NEED

STUDENTS SERVED BY PARISH



- 47.8% BLACK
- 18.7% MULTI-RACIAL
- 14% HISPANIC
- 13% WHITE
- 6.5% ASIAN



* ALL NUMBERS ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST WHOLE & BASED ON SELF-REPORTED DATA

GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

Trellis Powell | Bachelor in Civil & Environmental Engineering | 2023

In 2023, Trellis Powell earned his Bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, marking the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. His journey to success was not without its challenges, but with the unwavering support of his family and the guidance of College Beyond, Trellis overcame obstacles and emerged triumphant.

Trellis's mother, a pillar of strength and support throughout his college journey, expressed her gratitude for College Beyond's invaluable assistance. Reflecting on her experience, she shared heartfelt sentiments about College Beyond's profound impact on Trellis's educational and personal growth.

“College Beyond was instrumental in supporting Trellis during his college years,” she remarked. “Their dedicated staff was always there for him, offering guidance, support, and encouragement every step of the way.”

With College Beyond by their side, she felt empowered and supported, knowing her son had a team of caring professionals looking out for his well-being.

“Every semester, the College Beyond staff provided me with valuable tips and kept me updated about important academic deadlines,” she emphasized.

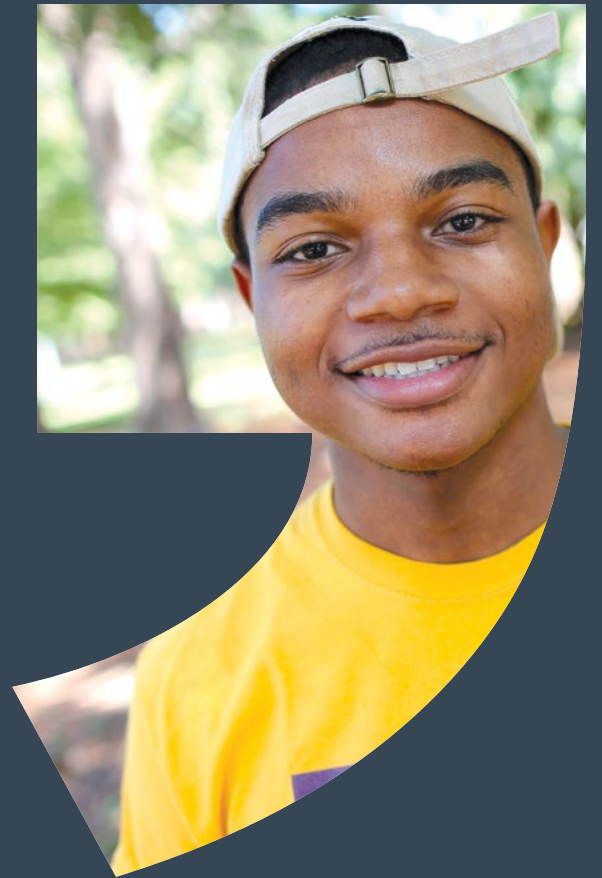
“Their assistance helped me navigate the college experience with confidence and ease, despite not having previous exposure to higher education.”

From keeping her informed about important academic deadlines to providing financial assistance during times of need, College Beyond went above and beyond to ensure Trellis's success. Whether it was providing a Jazzy pass or offering grocery store gift cards for essential supplies, the organization's support was invaluable in alleviating the burden on Trellis and his family.

Moreover, when Trellis encountered obstacles with his financial aid, College Beyond stepped in to provide guidance and assistance, ensuring that he remained on track toward his educational goals.

Trellis's mother emphasized the profound impact College Beyond had on her son's academic journey. “My son was really on the verge of quitting,” she recalled. “But with the support of College Beyond, he found the motivation and encouragement he needed to persevere. Their assistance not only helped him academically but also provided him with opportunities to network, enjoy memorable moments, and thrive in college.”

Trellis's story is a powerful testament to the transformative power of both family support and organizations like College Beyond's invaluable role in empowering students to achieve their dreams. As we celebrate Trellis's achievement, we also recognize the profound impact of College Beyond in nurturing students and their families every step of the way.



2015

College Bridge was founded by Paris Woods and Sarah Payne



2016

- Coached Cohen College Prep classes of 2014, 2015, 2016
- Launched Freshman Cohort at the University of New Orleans
- Coached a Freshman Cohort at Loyola University of New Orleans

2018

- Launched microgrant funding with students



2019

- Expanded programming to support students during their sophomore year

2023

- Launched Social Work Internship Program through partnerships with LSU, SUNO, and Tulane.
- Launched Mutual Aid Food Locker
- Launched McCollum Scholars Program



2021

- Added cohort from Southeastern Louisiana University

2024

- Launched new strategic vision to triple the number of students served
- Expanded to partner directly with high school programs and community partners



2022

- Launched our Student Lounge space



PROMOTING STUDENT WELL-BEING OUR WELLNESS INITIATIVES

Under the seasoned guidance of Karaline Zeigler, LCSW, MSW, College Beyond embarked on a transformative journey with the launch of our Social Work Internship Program. This initiative not only serves to bolster support for our students but also aims to nurture and cultivate the skills of future professionals in the field. Grounded in our unwavering commitment to holistic student development, our interns undergo comprehensive training, supervision, and support to hone essential skills in direct practice, advocacy, program development, and macro-level interventions.

At the heart of our coaching model lie evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing, trauma-informed approaches, and solution-focused techniques. Interns are equipped with invaluable coaching skills, from active listening to prioritization, aimed at holding space for students' needs. Additionally, they engage in general case management and referral processes, ensuring students are connected with vital campus and community resources for their overall well-being.

Interns take on the responsibility of maintaining a small caseload of students, offering tailored success coaching that addresses each student's unique goals and challenges. Moreover, they are encouraged to co-create learning goals based on their interests and the evolving needs of our student community.

Contributing to various projects geared towards enhancing student success and well-being, interns facilitate evidence-based workshops, mentor student ambassadors, develop grant proposals, and champion initiatives promoting mental health and wellness, such as teletherapy apps and alumni support programs.

The impact of our program is exemplified through the words of Cameron Neiblum, our inaugural intern from Tulane University, who beautifully articulates the transformative nature of her experience. She reflects,

“Every day I came into work with my students and coworkers at College Beyond, I found this endless spring of hope bubbling up. It was through this internship that I truly learned the value of teamwork, the importance of going one step at a time, and trusting that the most important part of my job is not to change the world, but to support the students in reaching their goals to become the change the world needs.”

Cameron Neiblum | 2023 Social Work Intern

Cameron's journey serves as a poignant reminder of the profound impact our Social Work Internship Program has on both interns and students alike. As she transitions to a certified LCSW, her success underscores the program's ability to prepare future social work leaders. At College Beyond, we are steadfast in our commitment to nurturing individuals who will empower students to realize their fullest potential and effect positive change in the world.



MADE POSSIBLE BY

MERCY FAMILY CENTER

In partnership with Mercy Family Center's Project Fleur-de-lis, students had access to a Traumatic Grief Group.

THE JED FOUNDATION

Thanks to The Jed Foundation's collaboration in the NCAN ECOM project, College Beyond has developed a robust crisis intervention policy and enhanced wellness initiatives.

KRESGE FOUNDATION

Students had access to META Teletherapy through support from the Kresge Foundation

INTERNSHIP PARTNERS



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Karenisha Jackson | Class of 2025 | Pre-Dental Biology



Karenisha epitomizes resilience and determination on her journey through college. Fueled by a passion for healthcare and a drive to make a difference, she has flourished both academically and personally with College Beyond's unwavering support.

As a volunteer, Karenisha's commitment to serving her community shone through as she meticulously documented vital signs for medical professionals. Her leadership skills were evident in her roles within the Pre-Dental Society and as Secretary, where she excelled in organization and event planning.

Karenisha's internship at Ochsner was a turning point. It immersed her in cancer research and provided hands-on experience. Back in the classroom, she eagerly shared her newfound knowledge with peers, fostering a culture of collaborative learning.

Through College Beyond's programs, Karenisha refined her interpersonal skills and expanded her professional network. The 1:1 coaching sessions were particularly impactful, offering personalized guidance on LinkedIn, budgeting, and professional development.

Attending the College Beyond leadership retreat was a highlight for Karenisha, where she gained valuable insights into networking and leadership. She encourages others to step out of their comfort zones and actively engage in social events and networking opportunities.

Looking ahead, Karenisha's sights are set on dental school, with plans to first enroll in UNO's pre-health graduate program to further her education. Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and mentorship, inspiring others to pursue their dreams with unwavering determination.



WHAT WE'RE REALLY MOST EXCITED ABOUT IS THE KIDS, BEING ABLE TO **CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY** SOME OF THESE KIDS' LIVES, SOME OF THESE FAMILIES' LIVES

CJ McCOLLUM

Professional Basketball Player | New Orleans Pelicans of the NBA

THE McCOLLUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The McCollum Scholars program will provide 10+ Pell-eligible New Orleans high school students with a need-based scholarship of up to \$80,000 over four years (or up to \$20,000 per year) towards completing their four-year college degree. Any remaining funds will be reallocated towards McCollum Scholars' school/career-preparation-related expenses.

At College Beyond, we firmly believe that college choice significantly influences one's success in higher education. This scholarship is designed not only to alleviate financial barriers to obtaining a college degree but also to assist students in identifying and selecting institutions that will enable them to flourish and pursue their aspirations.

We've designed a program that will allow participants the opportunity to embark on college tours and receive guidance throughout the application process, ensuring they can present their best selves. Engaging in a cohort during their senior year, students will continue to receive support throughout their four years in college, ensuring academic, social, and financial success.

Lastly, students will receive career preparation to ensure a smooth transition into the workforce for students. At College Beyond, we understand that our commitment doesn't stop at providing access to college. We're dedicated to supporting our students for the long haul. From initial access to ongoing support — **To. Through. Together.**

SCHOLAR SUPPORT SERVICES

MARCH 2024

- Scholars Selected

SUMMER 2024

- College Tours
- Personal Statement Writing
- Resume Review
- Common Application Support

FALL 2024

- Individualized College Advising
- Submit College Applications
- Financial Aid Support

SPRING 2025

- University Selection

FALL 2025 - SPRING 2027

- 1-on-1 Coaching
- Micro-Grants
- Emergency Funding

SPRING 2027 - 2029

- Career Advising Support
- Resume Writing
- Interview Prep
- Internship Placement

GRADUATION

COLLEGE BEYOND'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

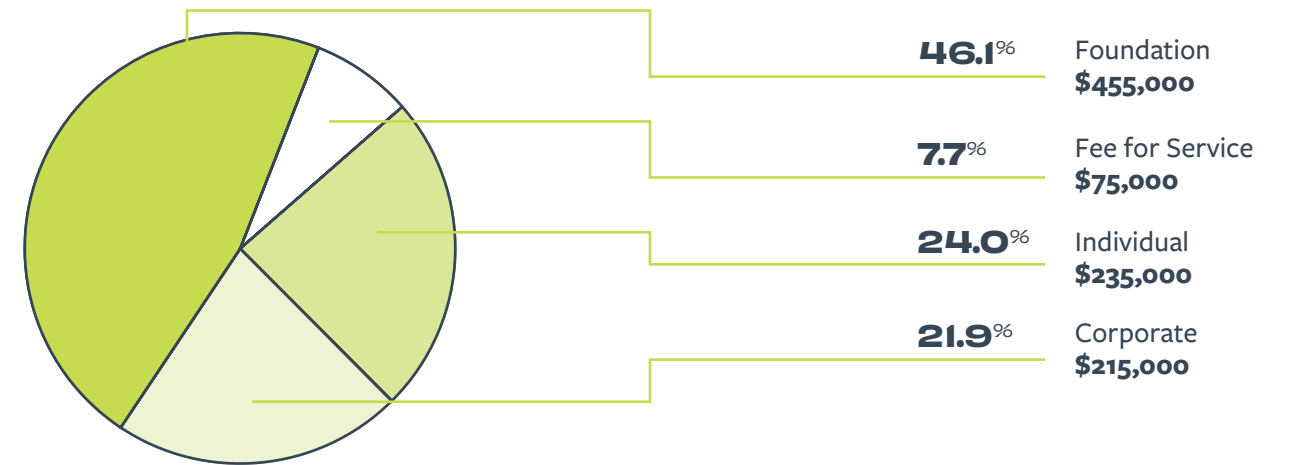


OUR SUPPORTERS

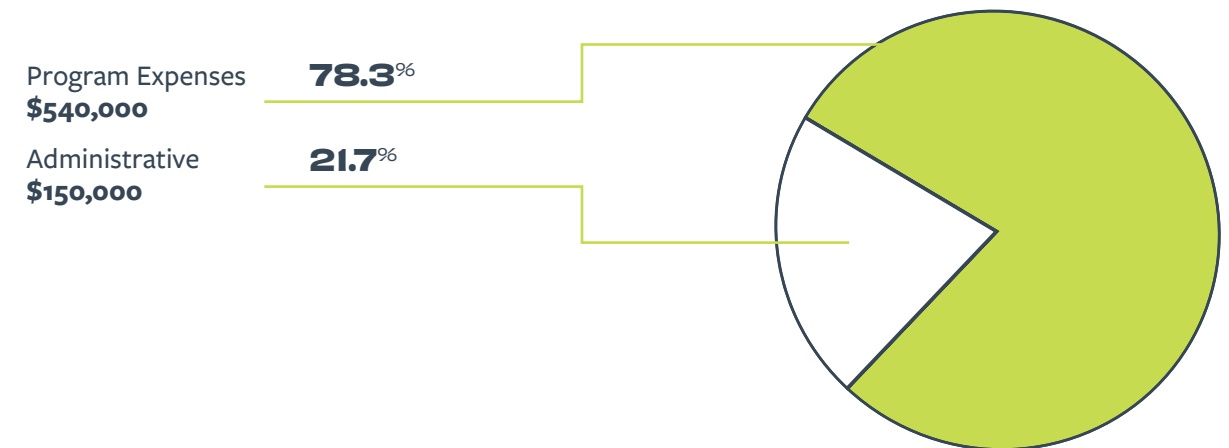
College Beyond's work is possible due to the support of individuals and institutions who have invested in our mission and believe in the potential of the young people of Southeast Louisiana.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE BREAKDOWN



EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



PARTNER WITH US

Your students have dreams—let's help them achieve them. Our individualized, trauma-informed coaching tackles the top challenges to college graduation: academic, financial, and social-emotional. We provide the resources students need to thrive, meeting them where they are and guiding them to their fullest potential.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Your contribution transforms lives across southeastern Louisiana, empowering young adults through education and lifting future generations out of poverty. Whether you're supporting our persistence scholarships to cover small balances that prevent re-enrollment or funding college tours that inspire students with new possibilities, your commitment makes a difference. Thank you.

SCAN TO DONATE



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

**Be the mentor or role model
you always wished for.**

CONTACT US

2000 Lakeshore Drive, Milneburg 170
New Orleans, LA 70122
contact@collegebeyond.org
collegebeyond.org