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The 2018-2019 academic year was a year of unprecedented growth for EMERGE. We supported 2,000 students across 52 high schools and 150 colleges, expanded to our third school district - Spring ISD, launched our college success team, doubled the size of our staff, conducted our second audit and took more than 400 high school students on six life-changing college tours.

As I reflect on our progress over the last year, I'm humbled by the village of supporters that has grown alongside the organization since 2010. From the early days of EMERGE to where we are today, one thing has always remained true - meaningful relationships fuel us.

Because of our partnerships with public school districts, colleges and universities, and community supporters, we have prepared and empowered thousands of high-achieving students from Houston's underserved communities to apply to, attend, and graduate from the nation's most selective institutions year after year. The class of 2019 enrolled in more than 100 colleges and universities such as Harvard, Boston University, Duke, Spelman, University of Chicago, Stanford, and University of Texas at Austin.

Each year, I am inspired by the resilience and talent of students like Cecilia Garcia. Cecilia is a Spring Branch ISD graduate who is currently a freshman at Emory University studying public health and international affairs. Before joining EMERGE, she had never heard of Emory and never would have known that attending a selective college was a possibility. Cecilia said that the best part about being in EMERGE is that "it allows you to see all of the open doors in front of you and guides you every step of the way."

More than 80% of our students earn a college degree within four years of high school graduation. Our results are on par with the completion rates of some of the wealthiest students in the country. EMERGE has made great strides in closing the college access and completion gap, and we recognize that significant challenges remain. Currently, only 13% percent of students from low income communities in Houston earn a post-secondary degree. While this startling statistic has clear economic ramifications, I can't also help but wonder how much talent is squandered each year in our city. Imagine how many doctors, scientists, inventors, lawyers, engineers, business leaders, and teachers will never "EMERGE" to solve the problems they were born to solve. Until these statistics change, we will continue to expand our footprint to reach new students, families, and communities.

As you read through the pages of this report, I invite you to celebrate with us in our accomplishments and take a moment to reflect on the role you played in increasing opportunity and access for Houston students in the 2018-2019 academic year. We couldn't do this work without your support and we sincerely appreciate your partnership.

The mission of EMERGE is to empower and prepare high-performing students from underserved communities to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation.

#### **DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP MODEL**



EMERGE partners with traditional public school districts to identify high-performing students from underserved communities to join the program. We work together to eliminate barriers and build systems to ensure more students have the information, tools, and support to apply to the nation's top colleges and universities.

#### STUDENT PROFILE ELEVATION



Our goal is for every EMERGE senior to be one of the most competitive college applicants in the country. To do this, we reduce the student-to-college counselor ratio from 500:1 to 60:1 and focus on elevating the student profile. Between 10th and 12th grade, our team provides course and extracurricular advising, bi-weekly after-school sessions, SAT preparation, and support to enroll in a high impact summer opportunity.

#### **SELECTIVE COLLEGE EXPOSURE**



Every summer, sophomores and juniors in the EMERGE program participate in a week-long trip touring colleges in one of six regions across the country. In 2019, students visited the following regions: Boston, Connecticut/New York City, Washington D.C./Maryland/Virginia, Pennsylvania, Chicago/Midwest, and Southern California.

#### **COLLEGE PERSISTENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS**

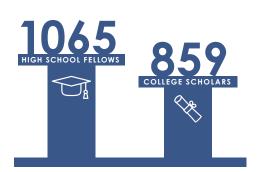


EMERGE launched the college success team with three people supporting more than 850 students across 150 selective colleges and universities. The "to-through-and thrive" vision of the college success team is built on the belief that, for low-income students, getting accepted into a selective college is not enough. Our goal is for students to graduate on-time and prepared to thrive in the job market.

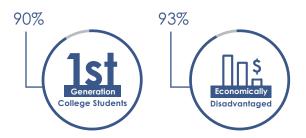
Executive Director

## **IMPACT & RESULTS**

#### **OUR REACH**



#### **OUR STUDENTS**



#### **OUR IMPACT**



Applied to at least one selective college or university



Accepted to at least one selective college or university



Matriculated to a four-year college or university



Matriculated to a selective fouryear college or university



**Graduated** from a four-year college or university within four years

#### **LUIS LEON MEDINA**

Bellaire High School | Houston ISD Yale University | Class of 2022

"I cannot begin to describe the role that EMERGE has played in getting me to this point in my life. My initial exposure to Yale was through the EMERGE summer college tour and now I am here studying Prospective Sociology and Film & Media Studies".



#### **CHRISHAWNA JOHNSON**

Spring High School | Spring ISD Boston College | Class of 2024

"EMERGE is a family outside of my own. Through the program, I grew as an individual alongside my peers who are destined to change the world."

#### **JOEL MELENDEZ**

Spring Woods High School | Spring Branch ISD The University of Texas at Austin | Class of 2021

"EMERGE quite literally changed my life. Coming from an underserved community, I always believed that the things I could accomplish were limited to what people expected of me. EMERGE empowered me to become a leader in my community and believed in me when I didn't believe in myself."



## **FY19 HIGHLIGHTS**

2010 2019





#### **MEET YESENIA**

Yesenia is a part of EMERGE's inaugural class of students at Spring ISD. Thanks to the generous support of The Brown Foundation and Laura and John Arnold, in the spring of 2018, Spring ISD became EMERGE's third school district partner. Yesenia graduated from Dekaney High School in the spring of 2019 and is now a freshman at DePauw University in Indiana.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, EMERGE served over 1,000 high school students across three Houston-area school districts (Houston ISD, Spring Branch ISD, and Spring ISD) and nearly 900 college students at more than 150 colleges and universities.



We served nearly **2,000 students**, our largest class of students to date

We expanded to serve our third school district, Spring ISD

We received great results on our audited financials for the **second year in a row** from Blazek & Vetterling

We moved into **our own office** space located at 11251 Northwest Fwy, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77092

The **college success team** expanded to three full-time employees to support close to 900 students

We sent **433** students on **six college tours** across the country

We doubled the size of our non-profit staff to 16 employees

CNN and the New York Times featured Micheal Brown, an EMERGE senior, who was accepted into all of the nation's most selective colleges and universities that he applied to attend (he chose to attend Stanford)

Over 60% of EMERGE students participated in a summer opportunity at places like Choate, Carleton College, and Harvard University

We held our inaugural **SQUADS** event to connect rising college freshmen from EMERGE, YES Prep, and KIPP who are attending the same selective institutions



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### **Statement of Financial Position**

as of July 31, 2019

#### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,651,384
Contributions receivable	\$405,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$9,415
Total assets	\$2,065,799

#### Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$25,743
Deferred revenue	\$81,000
Total liabilities	\$106.743

#### **Net Assets**

Total liabilities and net assets	\$2,065,799
Total net assets	\$1,959,056
With donor restrictions	\$788,740
Without donor restrictions	\$1,170,316

#### **Statement of Financial Activities**

as of July 31, 2019

#### Revenue

Contributions	\$1,330,004
Program service fees	\$1,207,973
Special events	\$365,940
Direct donor benefit cost	(\$26,197)
Total revenue	\$2,877,720

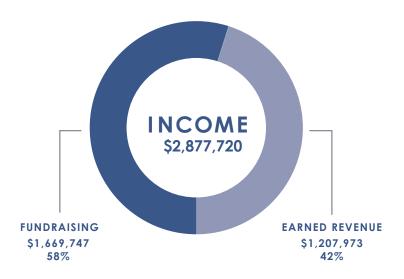
#### **Expenses**

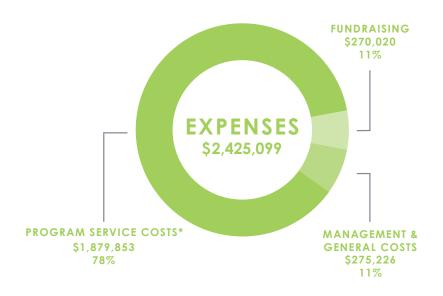
Program services	\$1,879,853
Management and general	\$275,226
Fundraising	\$270,020
Total expenses	\$2,425,099
Changes in net assets	\$452 621

Net assets, end of year	\$1,959,056
Net assets, beginning of year	\$1,506,435
Changes in net assets	\$452,621

**FINANCIALS** 

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**





\*HISD incurs approximately \$1.5 million of additional costs to operate the program within the district. With these costs included, EMERGE's total program costs come to 86% of the total budget.

# Denise Smith PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANT

Denise Smith Consulting

## Pedro Caruso VICE PRESIDENT MANAGING DIRECTOR

Accenture

## Abdullah Khan TREASURER PRINCIPAL

ΕY

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Community Volunteer

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#### **Louise Wiggins**

#### **PRINCIPAL**

The Boston Consulting Group

#### Maria Zerr

Community Volunteer

#### Trisha Cornwell

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

### Thank you to our 2018-2019\* donors.

#### SUMMA CUM LAUDE LEVEL

\$100.000+

Laura and John Arnold The Cullen Foundation Houston Endowment, Inc. Carrie and Thomas Hutchinson Samuels Family Foundation

#### MAGNA CUM LAUDE LEVEL

\$50,000 - \$99,999

The Guill Family Foundation Katie and Nick Johnson The Powell Foundation Project 88 Foundation Wayne Duddlesten Foundation

#### **CUM LAUDE LEVEL**

\$15,000 - \$49,999

3M Foundation Karen Arnold

The Brown Foundation. Inc. Maria Andrea and Pedro Caruso

CFP Foundation

Virginia Clark **HP** Foundation

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#### **DEAN'S LIST LEVEL**

\$5,000 - \$14,999

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Maria and John Zerr

#### \*This list recognizes gifts greater than \$1,000 made from August 1, 2018 - July 31,2019.

#### HONOR ROLL LEVEL

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Julie and Drew Alexander

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Kristen Berger

The Boston Consulting Group

Johnny Carrabba

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Michael Vellano

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66 Because of our partnerships with public school districts, colleges and universities, and community supporters, we have prepared and empowered thousands of high-achieving students from Houston's underserved communities to apply to, attend, and graduate from the nation's most selective institutions year after year.

TRISHA CORNWELL

