

BLU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



YEAR OF ELEVATION



SCHOOL DATA



STUDENTS SERVED

1478 total students served

492 students from Arroyo Valley HS

282 students from Carter HS

238 students from Rialto HS

185 students from San Geronio HS

139 students from Eisenhower HS

94 students from across the Inland Empire

SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED

In addition to dedicated case-management at Rialto Unified & San Bernardino City Unified BLU advisors served students from the following districts in 2023-2024:



SENIOR DATA

Verified Financial Aid Applications **>>** **396**

Exceeded Financial Aid Goals by **>>** **98%**

Verified College Acceptances **>>** **200**

COLLEGE SUCCESS ADVISORS

BLU's College Success Advisors are current college or graduate students who work with seniors to complete college and financial aid applications at high schools throughout the Inland Empire.



AUSTIN LANIYI

UC Riverside

“

BLU allowed **opportunities for me to grow** as an individual and equipped me with the **tools to prosper** in both my educational and professional career.

The biggest thing I learned is the **importance of helping others**. Being a leader to students, and seeing my **impact**, helped me push myself in all aspects of my life.

”



ALLYAH HERNANDEZ

Riverside Community College

“

I'm an **aspiring teacher** and I've learned so much on how to keep kids motivated, and **building those relationships with students** too

BLU's supportive staff has given me the ability to keep going not only for school, but in life. **I'm truly grateful to be a part of BLU Educational Foundation.**

”

19

College Success Advisors served in 2023-2024

47%

were first-generation college students

5

higher ed institutions represented
UC Riverside
Cal State San Bernardino
San Bernardino Valley College
Riverside Community College

3

inland Empire graduates
Cajon High School
San Geronimo High School
Carter High School

CEP SCHOLARS

SCHOLAR DATA

105 case-managed high school students

53 seniors

27 juniors

10 sophomores

15 freshmen

20 high schools represented

4 full-time college & career advisors



PROGRAM DETAILS

The College Exodus Project (CEP) Scholars Program is BLU's keystone college access program. Scholars in this program are case-managed by one of BLU's College & Career Advisors. This **free program** offers students access to full-service **college advising**, mentorship, scholarship opportunities, **internship programs**, leadership workshops, **college tours**, field trips, financial aid assistance, **and more!**



1:1 COLLEGE ADVISING

*Fatimah Jackson & Davonte Gaston (top)
Walter Thompson & Miracle Johnson (above)*

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Scholars Identify as Black **>>> 61%**

Scholars Identify as Males of Color **>>> 35%**

Scholars Identify as Hispanic **>>> 31%**

CEP SCHOLARS

TESTIMONIALS



SYDNEY POUILLARD

Carter High School 2024

“BLU Educational Foundation has been one of the **most helpful programs I've ever been in** regarding me being a future college student and support. Whether it's scholarships, making sure you're on the right track (whether you're in highschool or college), and overall just helping with anything education wise. **They look after all of their scholars perfectly** and they can get you the help you need.”



RAY'SHON STANLEY

Carter High School 2024

“My experience with **BLU has been extraordinary.** A very supportive staff especially my advisor, Walter T. He helped me through so much, **I couldn't have done it without him.**”



ODALIS GARCIA

Arroyo Valley High School 2024

“Joining the BLU Foundation has been the **best decision I have ever made.** The program has helped me tremendously with signing up for scholarships and researching different colleges for my career preference. As a student, **I feel relieved knowing I am not alone in starting my college journey.**”

RETENTION CASE MANAGEMENT

STATE-WIDE

in the 2023-2024 school year, students were case-managed across California by our retention team at the following schools:

CSUs

CSU Dominguez Hills
CSU Fullerton
CSU Los Angeles
CSU Long beach
CSU Northridge
CSU San Bernardino
CSU San Marcos
Sacramento State University
San Diego State University
San Jose State University

UCs

UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC Riverside

CA Community Colleges

Chaffey College
Crafton Hills College
Mt. SAC
San Bernardino Valley College
Victor Valley College

Private Institutions

California Baptist University
Providence Christian College
Stanford University
University of Redlands
University of San Francisco
USC



\$ 220,500

scholarships provided by BLU to retention students in 2023-2024



RETENTION PROGRAM TESTIMONIAL

“

Being an out-of-state student, it's easy to feel like you are on your own with getting the help and support you need.

This program has provided life skills, opportunities for goal setting, academic advising, and financial assistance.

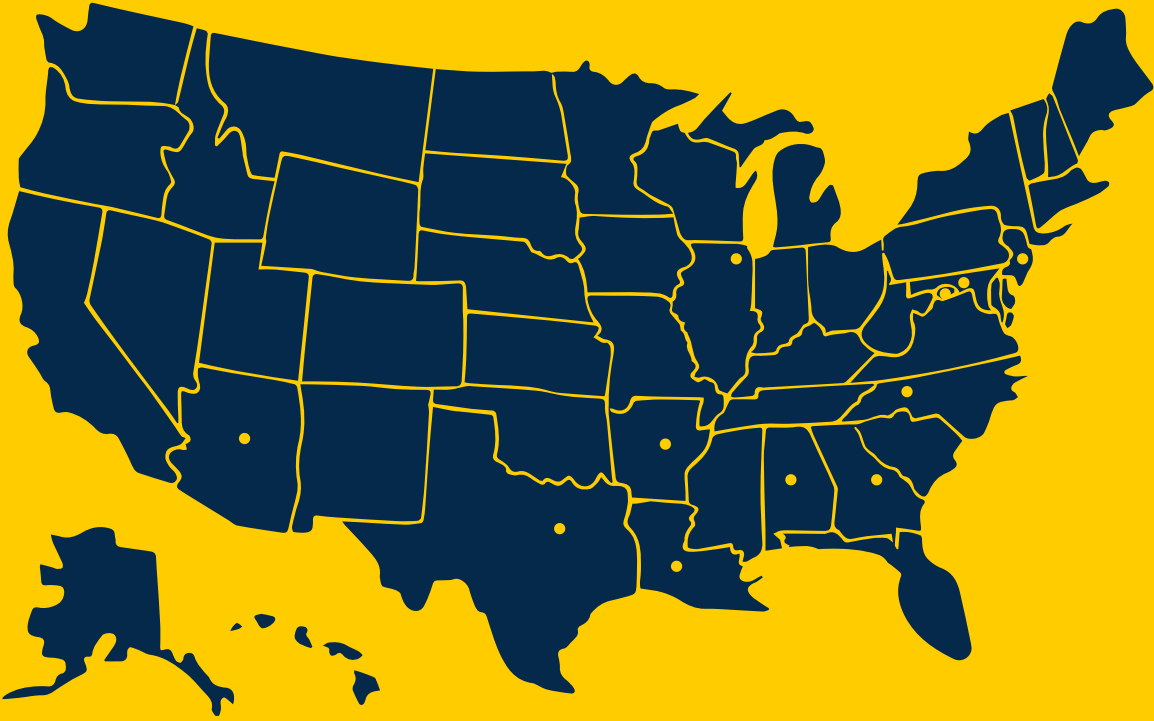
I have been provided amazing mentors who want nothing but the best for me. The most beneficial aspect I have found within this program is **the ability to call on my mentors and receive advice.**

GENESIS IBRAHIM-BALOGUN

North Carolina A&T

”

Getting into college is only the first step in obtaining a college degree. Students in our Retention Program continue to receive academic advising, targeted programming, field trips, and more. Ensuring that students have all the resources and skills they need to be successful in college is a key aspect to BLU's College Access Program



NATION-WIDE

in the 2023-2024 school year, students were case-managed throughout the country by our retention team

Alabama

Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University

Arizona

Arizona State University
Grand Canyon University

Arkansas

Philander Smith College

Georgia

Clark Atlanta University

Illinois

DePaul University

Louisiana

Grambling State University
Southern University

Maryland

Morgan State University

New Jersey

Elizabeth City-State University

North Carolina

North Carolina A&T State University

Texas

Texas Southern University
University of North Texas

Washington, D.C.

Howard University

80

total college students
case managed

26

in-state institutions

15

out-of-state institutions

3

skills workshops provided

CAREER EXPLORATION



19 career panel attendees

17 job shadow day attendees

12 career partnerships secured

JOB SHADOW DAY SPRING 2023

In February of 2023, BLU worked with students from Rialto Unified School District to host a job shadow day in the following industries:

- Nutrition Services
- Child Welfare & Attendance
- Technology Service
- Purchasing

93% of students rated the experience of 4+ on a scale of 1-5



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



**CARTER
HS**



**RIALTO
HS**



**EISENHOWER
HS**

RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HUSTLE & FLOW JOB SKILLS TRAINING

Students Served



38

Workshops Held



18

CAREER ACCESS

BLU SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2023

BLU's Summer Internship program allows high school and college students to tackle projects related to BLU's various focus areas.



INTERN TESTIMONIAL

“

The internship is incredibly valuable because the experience can't be replicated. BLU does a great job of putting interns in a position to maximize what they get from that experience. For those interns with little to no work experience, **the internship is a real intense introduction to the expectations of being part of the workforce** while still being understanding of that lack of experience and pointing us all in a direction that's helpful.

RJ FORTUNAT

”

INTERN DEMOGRAPHICS

 17 interns

 9 females, 8 males

 15 African American, 2 Hispanic

 14 college, 3 high school



PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY INTERNSHIP



SUPPORT FOR CAL GRANT REFORM

Students in this internship **collaborated with policy makers** to develop and advocate for policies that enhance **access to affordable education**, ensuring that college remains an attainable goal for all students.

Students met with **CA Assemblymembers Corey Jackson & Sabrina Cervantes** and convinced them to support Cal Grant Reform.



INTERN DEMOGRAPHICS

 19 interns

 11 females, 8 males

 18 African American, 1 Hispanic

 15 college, 3 high school



SOL BROTHERS & SOUL SISTERS



LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023

SOL Brothers Servant Leadership Camp is **designed to train young men of color** to begin to address issues affecting themselves and their community.

Soul Sisters is an **intense leadership training for young Black women** focused on Black Women's history, cultural identity, exercising talents to lead and serve in school and community, and college & career planning.

In summer of 2023, BLU took **65 students to an overnight camp at UC Santa Barbara**



65

camp participants

32 female students
34 males students

26

high schools
represented from
across the Inland
Empire

15

students gave public
comment at school
board meetings to
garner support for the
2024 camp

2

school districts
sponsored 2024 camp
costs as a result of
student advocacy in
2023

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THE ARTS



ARTS PROGRAM DATA 2023-2024

students
attended
Ailvin Ailey
Dance Show

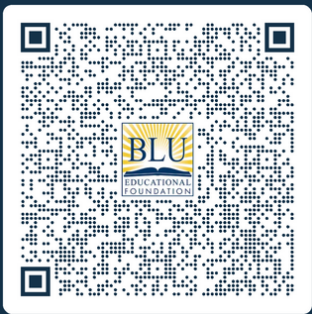
»» 28

Students
attended Hip
Hop Til Infinity
Arts Exhibit

»» 20

Students
attended Black
Boy Art Show

»» 8



READ THE FULL
2023-2024
REFLECTIONS
REPORT