



# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

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**Created By:**  
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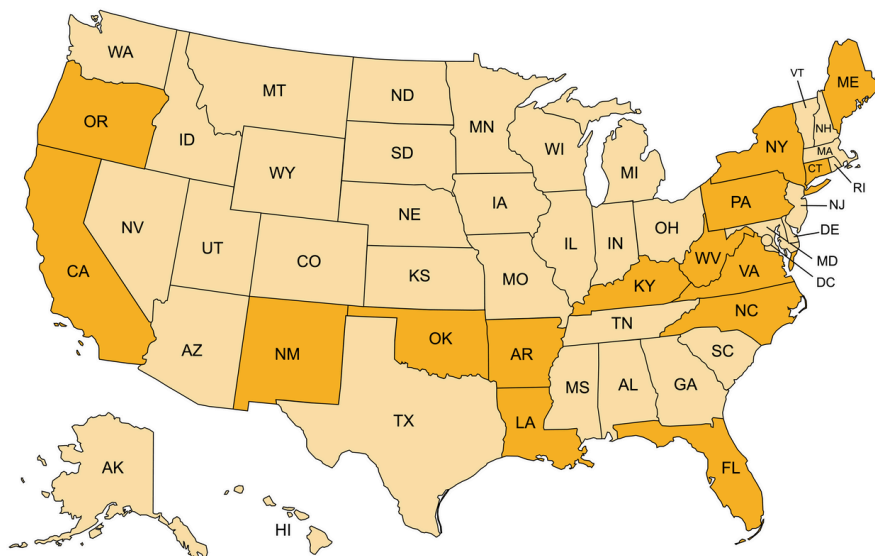
# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



The NPSS Support Hub distributed \$175,000 in Community Collaboration Challenge stipends to 22 communities across the country in 2024 with support from the Leon Lowenstein Foundation. In the program’s second year, microgrant awardees used funds to host small pilot programs or local collaboration events in their communities, bringing together diverse stakeholder groups such as schools, districts, nonprofit organizations, out-of-school time programs, colleges, student groups, families, local government agencies, and other community leaders, to identify shared assets and challenges and set initial goals to grow people-powered and evidence-based student supports in their communities.

Awardees were announced at an NPSS Hub event on February 16th, 2024, at the AASA National Conference on Education. The NPSS Hub received over 90 applications from organizations in 36 states. Awardees hail from all corners of the country across 15 states. Organizations range in type from school districts, to higher education institutions, local government agencies, and nonprofits.

**Read more about each awardee on the following pages!**



# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



**22** AWARDEES

**15** STATES

**90 +** APPLICANTS

**1K +** PEOPLE ENGAGED

**\$175K** IN AWARDS

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM LOCATION	STATE
ABC Community School Partnership, Bernalillo County	Albuquerque	NM
Bay Area Tutoring Association	Santa Clara County	CA
California State University Stanislaus	Turlock	CA
Cherokee County Health Services Council	Tahlequah	OK
Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania	Somerset	PA
Dillard University	New Orleans	LA
Dufur School District 29	Dufur	OR
Foundation for Art & Health, Inc.	Glen Allen	VA
Horizons Bridgeport	Greater Bridgeport	CT
MENTOR New York	Western New York	NY
National Association of Secondary School Principals	Indio, CA + National	CA

NC State College Advising Corps	Greater Raleigh	NC
New York City Department of Education District 26	Queens	NY
RISE Network	Statewide Urban Communities	CT
South Wasco County School District	Greater Maupin	OR
Step Up Tutoring	Greater Los Angeles	CA
Teach for America - Appalachia	Greater Hazard	KY
The Lucy Project	Miami-Dade County	FL
TNTP	Mississippi County	AR
Trekkers	Thomaston & Rockland	ME
Virginia Learns	Greater Richmond	VA
West Virginia University Foundation	Morgantown	WV

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** New Mexico
- **Organization:** ABC Community School Partnership, Bernalillo County
- **Support Areas:** Mentors, Wraparound/Integrated Student Supports



ABC Community School Partnership, Bernalillo County utilized their award to expand opportunities for community engagement in their All Hands In (AHI) project, the county's Full-Service Community School initiative. AHI strives to strengthen community school strategies and support services across three Albuquerque Public Schools campuses, pre-K through graduation. The Community Collaboration Challenge award complemented these efforts by supporting the AHI Community School Council Convening held on June 11th, 2024. Students, families, community members, and staff came together to share challenges and opportunities for students in their community and to help lay the groundwork for the development of a graduate profile (e.g. a shared community vision of what students should know and be able to do by the end of their PK-12 education). Additional activities supported by the award included a community member focus group, professional learning, and supporting Del Norte High School Jumpstart for incoming freshmen (activities to support the transition from middle school to high school).

## Awardee Advice:

**“Be clear about your goals, but also be flexible enough to pivot when project activities have to shift to maximize community engagement.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** California
- **Organization:** Bay Area Tutoring Association
- **Support Area:** Tutors

The Bay Area Tutoring Association (BATA) collaborated with various local, regional, and national organizations to host the inaugural Silicon Valley High Dosage Tutoring Summit on October 11th, 2024. With 130 attendees from local school districts, higher education institutions, and community organizations, BATA was able to convene key stakeholders to discuss the effectiveness of high dosage tutoring and how best to support students living in Silicon Valley. Expert local and national panelists provided information on topics including outcomes-based contracting, research best practices, and partnership opportunities. All attendees received access to a digital backpack with information about each participating organization, research, presentation decks, and resources.



## SV HIGH DOSAGE TUTORING SUMMIT

### FRIDAY OCT 11, 2024

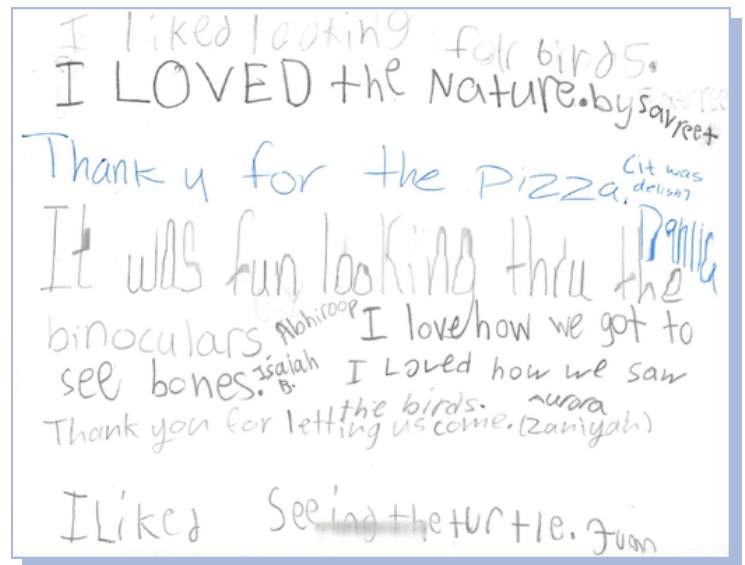
HOSTED BY THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** California
- **Organization:** California State University Stanislaus
- **Support Area:** Mentors

California State University Stanislaus expanded student support services for the Junior Scientist program, which provides supplemental STEM education to K-12 students while also providing college students majoring in STEM fields with early instructional field experience and mentoring opportunities. K-12 students from the Turlock Unified School District were welcomed back to campus for the first time since the pandemic to participate in lab activities from May through September 2024 at the STEM Instructional Lab at the College of Science located at Stanislaus State. Over 250 students and 24 college students participated in the program and relationships with the local schools were re-established. The award provided incentives and transportation to schools to return to campus for programming and expanded the number of college mentors.



## Awardee Highlight:

“One highlight was the return of 4th grade students to the campus for an event rather than having online activities. The teacher is very supportive of our programs and expressed appreciation for our willingness to help bring science alive to her students.”

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Oklahoma
- **Organization:** Cherokee County Health Services Council
- **Support Areas:** Wraparound /Integrated Student Supports



Cherokee County Health Services Council addresses wrap-around mental health and well-being in Cherokee County schools in Tahlequah, OK. The award provided an opportunity to convene partners—schools, government organizations, nonprofits, tribes, and hospitals—for the September 18th, 2024, Rural Health and Education Summit. At this day-long symposium for community educators, community partners, school collaborators, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and AmeriCorps VISTA members, attendees identified mental health and well-being challenges to address as a greater community to support the young people they serve.

## **Awardee Highlight:**

**“It's not common in our community for all educational levels, from PreK to high school, to convene and discuss current trends. Everyone learned they were observing similar patterns in both elementary and high school students, such as the increase in screen time since COVID and its mixed effects, and the number of students who could benefit from one-on-one interactions. Additionally, school attendees discussed how Cherokee County Health Service Council, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps Seniors programs could also assist in schools. The highlight was witnessing the interactions between school representatives and community partners. There were productive group discussions, enabling community partners to identify schools and issues they could assist.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** Pennsylvania
- **Organization:** Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania
- **Support Areas:** Wraparound /Integrated Student Supports

Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania's (CISPA) primary objective is to empower students in rural communities to overcome non-academic barriers hindering their success, such as untreated health and mental health needs, limited access to social services, food insecurity, housing instability, and insufficient parental engagement or support. The award provided an opportunity to work with existing partners to expand resources and pilot a new site at the Morrell Neighborhood School in Johnstown, PA. Coordinating resources with partners like the Greater Pittsburgh Community Foodbank, Cambria County Backpack Project, Somerset Mobile Food Pantry, and the Cambria County Child Development Corporation increased the reach and effectiveness of the Mobile Farmers Market Program. In its current capacity, the program takes place throughout the summers to provide fresh produce for families who receive SNAP/EBT benefits at a significantly discounted rate. Through these partnerships, CISPA now plans to continue the expansion of nutritional programs into additional school-based rural sites.

## MORRELL NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL'S GARDENING & RECIPE BOOK



### Awardee Highlight:

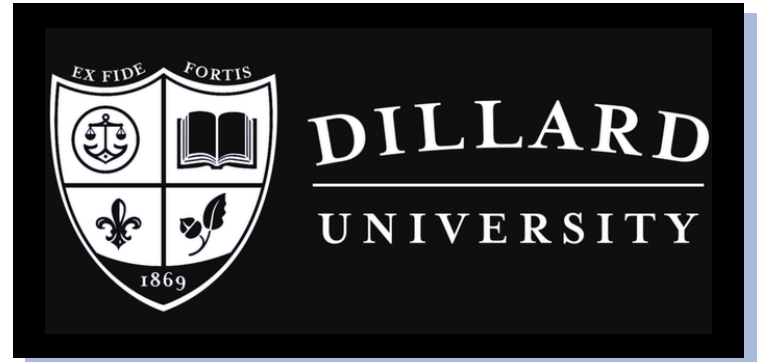
**“Ultimately, all of our partners in this effort bring something incredible to the table!”**



# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Louisiana
- **Organization:** Dillard University
- **Support Area:** Tutors



Dillard University partnered with EDUCARE New Orleans Charter School via their Jumpstart program to increase the number of college students serving their community, particularly supporting students in elementary school. The program assigned college student tutors and mentors to help improve academic outcomes among early childhood students. Summer learning packets were also designed to support the home-to-school connection. Tutors utilized these materials to support students in the classrooms as well.

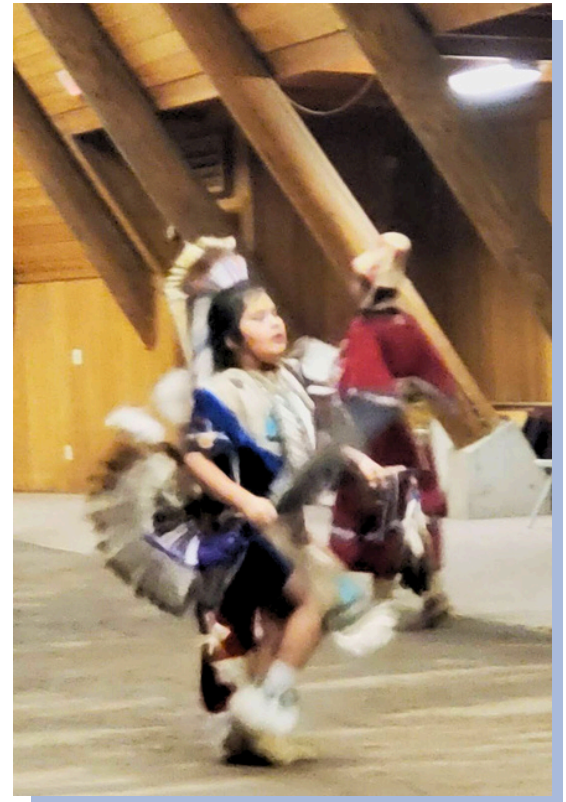
## Awardee Highlight:

The award supported the creation of 60 multisensory summer learning kits which were designed to support learning from the classroom and to be used at home for reinforcement for students and can now be used for any future summer programming. The goal is to double this amount in the future.

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** Oregon
- **Organization:** Dufur School District 29
- **Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors

Dufur School District 29 consists of agricultural communities and students who live in the Celilo Village. Their goal is to establish a satellite after-school program within the Celilo Village Education building. By doing so, students from the village can benefit from the after-school program without the logistical challenges posed by the current transportation system in an extremely rural area of Oregon. The award was allocated to cover necessary materials for community collaboration and committee work sessions associated with the start-up of the after-school program, as well as curriculum and materials for the satellite after-school program. It also supported the kickoff event.



## Awardee Highlight:

The kickoff event took place in March 2024 at the Celilo Village as part of the school board meeting, a first time for the meeting to be hosted at Celilo Village. Parents were excited about a satellite after school program that would have their kids back home earlier in the afternoon rather than later in the evening. Youth native dancers from Celilo Village also performed at the event.

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Virginia
- **Organization:** Foundation for Art & Health, Inc.
- **Support Areas:** Mentors, Post-secondary Transition Coaches, Wraparound/Integrated Student Supports



On July 27th, 2024, the Foundation for Art & Health, Inc. held a student success symposium in partnership with 22 community leaders from the larger Richmond, Virginia area. They also included guidance counselors from two Richmond Public Schools, mental health professionals, faculty from Virginia Union University, and nonprofit youth development staff. Following the symposium, there were several outreach efforts to ensure families of all backgrounds were aware of the services available to them from a variety of community organizations that took part in the symposium. Then in September, the Foundation for Art & Health, Inc. conducted a joint presentation that included over 10 staff members and 103 local youth (juniors and seniors) about the available supports through the community partners that included educational supports for FAFSA, tutoring services, community college resources, and STEM resources.

## Awardee Advice:

**“We are proud and excited to establish a relationship with a local Hispanic led nonprofit serving ESL families in support services for migrant students. We are planning to partner for future outreach targeting this population from K-12.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** Connecticut
- **Organization:** Horizons Bridgeport
- **Support Area:** Student Success Coaches

On September 14th, 2024, 15 organizations came together to discuss the state of supports for high school students in Bridgeport, CT, and to increase access to students through the community partnerships present for the convening.



Stakeholders in attendance included higher education institutions, community based nonprofits, the local community foundation, and the local school district. The meeting goals included: 1. Identify and prioritize the skills and mindsets high school students need to thrive; 2. Understand and share how participating organizations are supporting these priorities; 3. Build new relationships and identify potential for partnerships; 4. Analyze the current landscape; and, 5. Create an action plan to continue the conversation.

## **Awardee Highlight:**

**100% of survey respondents said the catalyzing event met or exceeded their expectations. Several next steps came out of the convening, including a commitment from attendees to meet quarterly moving forward.**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** New York
- **Organization:** MENTOR New York
- **Support Area:** Mentors

MENTOR New York’s goal is to bridge the mentoring gap, where one in three young people want or need access to a caring adult mentor but do not have one. The award allowed MENTOR New York to convene mentoring and youth development practitioners with students, educators, and administrators from Western New York, Central New York, and the Capital District for an in-person symposium on inclusive mentoring strategies. On June 4th, 2024, 50 attendees joined MENTOR New York for the first targeted symposium hosted in Niagara Falls, New York. The fifth event of a five-event series, the symposium focused on cultural humility in mentoring, and included eight speakers, two networking sessions, two panel discussions, and two breakout session options. Sessions focused on creating affirming spaces for young people and authentically amplifying their voices, with topics including mentorship’s role in supporting youth mental health, creating safe mentoring spaces for boys and young men of color, building school mentorship networks for academic success, and the importance of credible messengers in youth mentoring.



## Awardee Highlight:

**The feedback for this first-time event was overwhelmingly positive. Feedback included: “I think the symposium could have been longer! If you could build in more time for networking/participant conversation, that would be awesome!” “Really appreciated the speakers and panels. I'd be happy to come to another event like this!” “It was great. More communication and collaboration only helps. I'm grateful for MENTOR New York for setting this event up. Please...MORE!”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** California
- **Organization:** National Association of Secondary School Principals
- **Support Area:** Mentors

National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) partnered with Indio High School (Coachella Valley, CA) to serve as a model for how community collaboration can lead to student success and positively impact schools and communities. The school's principal convened with the Coachella Valley Leadership Team (CVLT) advisors to expand student leadership potential and voice on various civic groups. The award supported and empowered student voice, culminating in a June 2024 leadership training led by students for students.



## Awardee Highlight:

“Typically students in ninth grade coming into their freshman year do not pursue leadership until after school begins, and then it is usually a very few because of timidity or anxiety over the transition from middle to high school and a new setting. However, as a result of this project and the massive collaboration between middle high schools that we saw, students were working together across those grade and high school for the sessions that were held. As a result, we had a full crew of ninth graders that participated in our June and August Leadership pre-service camp and ended up with a full slate of students running for office and applying for leadership class; we went from a class of 28 to 30 to almost 50!”

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** North Carolina
- **Organization:** NC State College Advising Corps
- **Support Area:** Mentors



Through this award, North Carolina State College Advising Corps (CAC) supported their communities in navigating the recent changes to the FAFSA process. In July 2024, NC State CAC hosted a FAFSA Training and Best Practice Sharing Event for school partners. The convening offered training for school staff and AmeriCorps member college advisers at service sites across North Carolina. They also celebrated service sites that boosted FAFSA completion in the previous cycle and shared best practices across sites. The day ended with time for school districts and AmeriCorps members to reflect on the previous year's data and set new goals for the upcoming year. 17 of 23 districts attended. This was a success given that many of school partners were still on summer break, and several districts drove over two hours (one-way) to attend.

## Awardee Advice:

**“First, build on what the organization is already doing well and consider the needs gap (in the communities served). Also, ask the communities with whom you partner what they need.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** New York
- **Organization:** New York City  
Department of Education District 26
- **Support Area:** Mentors

NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE) District 26, a diverse school district located in Queens, NY, recognized that there are subgroups of students who are not achieving at the rates of their peers. So District 26 created an internal working group to personalize and update their

District 26 Mentoring Handbook, establish point persons at the schools to facilitate this work, and ensure that students/mentees are engaging in interactions that address their developmental needs. Through the award, District 26 operated a successful summer pilot through which college student mentors from City University of New York college campuses were able to support students in summer school programming. The pilot informed expansion efforts for the 2024-25 school year.



## Awardee Highlight:

One mentor in the fall 2024 program who spoke the home language of students with language barriers was able to significantly boost their involvement. The project lead noted, “The feedback from the principal and the teacher was that it was just a level of work... a level of production that those students were doing, after the mentors’ integration, that just was absent before.” This holistic support has also contributed to a decrease in unexcused absences, as families recognize the benefits and express a desire for their children to attend school.



# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Connecticut
- **Organization:** RISE Network
- **Support Areas:** Student Success Coaches, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches



A roundtable discussion took place April 23rd, 2024, followed by a 2-day Grade 9 Symposium in June 2024, both to support grade 9 on-track achievement. Both events were open to all RISE Network schools and more than 100 partners joined. These convenings played a vital role in fostering collaboration and celebrating the achievements of RISE's educator community. The convenings also fostered purposeful collaboration across school districts and increased their tools and resources to plan and prepare for the 2024-25 school year.

## **Awardee Highlight:**

**“Prioritize following up with individuals and organizations you are introduced to during the virtual gatherings. CT RISE learned a ton about how people were approaching their work, problem-solving, testing ideas, etc. Email or reach out to any organizations willing to chat and share resources and ideas. It's also important to think broadly about learnings and how they can be applied to other aspects of community collaboration. CT RISE learned a ton about supporting our Core Network convening, and we're thinking deeply about expanding some in-person gatherings and other collaborative settings both within our existing networks and, for the first time, across our networks to increase connection and collaboration.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Oregon
- **Organization:** South Wasco County School District
- **Support Areas:** Tutors, Mentors



The South Wasco County School District (SWCSD) designed and piloted an outreach campaign to recruit more community stakeholders to become tutors and mentors for students. Much of the year was spent

gathering ways to incorporate volunteer recruitment. It was finally decided to utilize back to school nights to pilot outreach and get community feedback to inform future planning and implementation. The award was used to plan the campaign and provide prizes at back to school nights to increase interest.

## **Awardee Highlight:**

**SWCSD continues to build out the work it began last spring. Using Fridays to invite stakeholders from the April invite to support and mentor students, the district is also building out its mentor training and plans to build its capacity to support even more community mentors in the future.**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** California
- **Organization:** Step Up Tutoring
- **Support Area:** Tutors

Step Up Tutoring, in partnership with the Greater LA Education Foundation (GLA), convened relevant stakeholders and shared resources with participating organizations to support implementing effective and low-cost high-impact tutoring programs, particularly in out-of-school time, that are sustainable post ESSER funding.



In doing so, Step Up Tutoring was able to expand access to research and resources on how to implement low-cost and sustainable high-impact tutoring programs. Step Up and GLA hosted a webinar for 57 attendees May 22nd, 2024, which also offered insights and best practices for engaging college students through Federal Work-study funding. Additionally, Step Up Tutoring hosted back-to-school nights coupled with volunteer information sessions and training in partnership with Columbia Gorge Community College.

## Awardee Advice:

**“Start promoting your convening early to allow time for follow-up in case you don't get an initial wave of RSVPs.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** Kentucky
- **Organization:** Teach for America - Appalachia
- **Support Area:** Post-Secondary Transition Coaches

Teach For America - Appalachia went on a two-day Road Show on September 19th and 20th, 2024. Through this Road Show event, the local Teach for America - Appalachia director traveled to each of the five district partners: Floyd County, Harlan Independent, Knott County, Jenkins Independent, and Letcher County.

The goal was to meet with district leaders across the five districts, provide resources, and gather feedback for a later in-person gathering.



## Awardee Highlight:

On October 25th, 2024 Teach For America Appalachia was able to host its second annual 2X Symposium at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg, KY. School partners engaged in a student journey mapping activity that highlighted major choice points and supports for each grade transition from middle school through high school graduation. Participants gained a renewed empathy for their students and identified gaps in support that could be altered to have a positive student impact. Districts shared their insights with one another.

They highlighted major concerns like chronic absenteeism and the teacher shortage as well as promising opportunities such as revising near peer mentoring supports. The goals for this convening were rooted in increasing postsecondary access and success. They will also host a follow-up gathering, either virtually or in person, to discuss any challenges and successes with implementing strategies discussed during the symposium and to share additional resources coming out of the initial gathering.

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Florida
- **Organization:** The Lucy Project
- **Support Areas:** Tutor

The Lucy Project through their Literacy Hub Project participated in Miami's Science of Reading Summit July 30th, 2024, with over 200 educators. Their reach was expanded with additional professional development provided for



Literacy Hub teachers to improve literacy instruction. The Literacy Hub also offered regularly scheduled professional development throughout the award period in Miami-Dade County, particularly in communities like Miami Gardens where there is a high need.

## **Awardee Advice:**

The Literacy Hub was able to expand community engagement, including a “Dad Day,” which was designed to identify strategies to strengthen relationships with parents/caregivers and the broader community. They also created a digital drive to store and share educational resources, making them readily accessible to all involved in the program.

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE

- **State:** Arkansas
- **Organization:** TNTP
- **Support Areas:** Wraparound/  
Integrated Student Supports

The Mississippi County Education & Workforce Partnership Convening was held November 19th, 2024. Stakeholder groups were invited to support charting pathways for sustainable, long-



term prosperity in Mississippi County. More than 40 stakeholders from various sectors in Mississippi County came together to grapple with the question, "What can we do to ensure all young people in our community have access to the tools needed for economic and social mobility?" Joined by TNTP's CEO Dr. Tequilla Brownie, the audience consisted of business leaders, parents, students, school and district leaders, and teachers. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Office, the Arkansas State Board of Education, and Arkansas Northeastern Community College were also in attendance.

TNTP plans to use what it heard and learned to continue engaging stakeholders and collaborating with community members to set the path forward.

## **Awardee Highlight:**

Grounded in one of TNTP's most recent reports, *Paths of Opportunity*, they facilitated a panel of eight students from local high schools and the community college. In addition to sharing their experiences on college and career readiness, they also challenged the audience to develop innovative solutions that will afford them opportunities, such as paid internships, exposure to emerging careers, and opportunities to become involved in local civic activities.

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Maine
- **Organization:** Trekkers
- **Support Areas:** Mentor



Trekkers offers long-term mentoring relationships to the youth in Midcoast Maine. Trekkers also engages two AmeriCorps members each year to serve as mentors in Knox County. Award activities included expanding 1:1 and small group mentoring throughout the summer months

to the students engaged in their programming. They continue to explore ways to expand access to experiential learning to students in targeted districts who are not otherwise Trekkers participants. Every grade level embarks on expeditions and the 11th grade expedition focuses on post-secondary transitions as students begin to plan their life after high school.

## **Awardee Highlight:**

**“Trekkers took this year as an organization to pilot the partnership with RSU 13's NOVA/Alternative Education program. Although they work closely with the district, running a year-long program outside of the core mentoring program was a large new endeavor. It was prompted by RSU 13 asking Trekkers to collaborate in mentoring this group of students during the school day and provide access to outdoor and experiential learning. The students and Trekkers staff built solid relationships, engaged in several community service projects, and explored the outdoors one afternoon each week during school. This greatly benefited the students and allowed staff to work with a different population - one that may be less represented in our core programs. It was very successful and both RSU 13 and Trekkers worked hard to secure resources so it can continue and grow next year.”**

# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** Virginia
- **Organization:** Virginia Learns
- **Support Areas:** Tutor



Virginia Learns hosted a three part webinar series which kicked off September 18th, 2024, and which will be used to develop content and build engagement to support an annual in-person, first-of-its-kind statewide convening in the spring, in partnership with William & Mary. The virtual session goals included improving the overall effectiveness of tutoring programs by incorporating evidence-based practices and developing sustainable funding models through collaborations with potential funders, local businesses, and community organizations.

The virtual session goals included improving the overall effectiveness of tutoring programs by incorporating evidence-based practices and developing sustainable funding models through collaborations with potential funders, local businesses, and community organizations. The seminar series topics were:

- Scheduling & Logistics
- Data Collection & Action
- Barriers to Success & What's Working

## **Awardee Advice:**

**“Be prepared to make adjustments based on your audience's needs.”**



# OUTCOMES BRIEF: 2024 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CHALLENGE



- **State:** West Virginia
- **Organization:** West Virginia University Foundation
- **Support Areas:** Mentors, Post-Secondary Transition Coaches



West Virginia University (WVU)'s Center for Community Engagement (CCE), serves as the backbone for connecting the university

with statewide nonprofits. The CCE works to establish a robust framework for collaborative efforts with community-based organizations, at-risk students, and community leaders. The Guiding Futures convening was held July 11th, 2024, with statewide nonprofits provided mentoring opportunities through the Purpose2Action program. The convening was designed to not only support students in their academic journey, but to also address broader issues related to community service, fostering a sense of belonging, and promoting retention.

## Awardee Highlight:

“Through this opportunity, the CCE has also been able to work across the institution with new teams/departments. We collaborated with another division on campus, the Purpose Center, to talk about our student-focused convening and how we can support one another in this effort. We also talked to WVU's REACH Center which focuses on at-risk students. Knowing that some of these students may also be financially constrained, and leaning on the evidence that community engagement can increase academic success and retention, we have been discussing collaboration to help us identify students for the Purpose2Action program. Additionally, we met with the WVU Hub (Financial Aid office) on April 16th to discuss our ongoing collaboration, but also to invite them to speak as part of our community partner convening.”

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