

TWO THOUSAND

19

ANNUAL REPORT

**BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS**  
**CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP**





**Dr. Angela Hedwall**  
Executive Director  
Alexander Hamilton Scholars

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude that I reflect upon my first year with AHS, an organization dedicated to closing the opportunity gap for low-income students. Our 5-year program provides mentorship and a comprehensive network of support to students, ensuring our scholars forever change our world.

Your generous support made the following possible in 2019:

- 29 high-achieving, underserved high school juniors joined AHS
- 120 scholars attended four leader weeks in New York, Seattle, Dallas, and Guatemala
- 25 conference calls and 56 leader week sessions for active scholars

I am looking forward to 2020 with enthusiasm – in addition to our empowerment program, our foci will be:

- Partnering as NARPM's nonprofit of the year to elevate both organizations
- Building capacity in Dallas and bolstering Texas Leader Week with three (3) post-bachelor graduation pathways: career/internship, gap year(s), and graduate school

In short, in 2019, you have contributed to our ability to connect, mentor, and lessen educational opportunity gaps for 153 active scholars from across the US attending colleges throughout our nation.

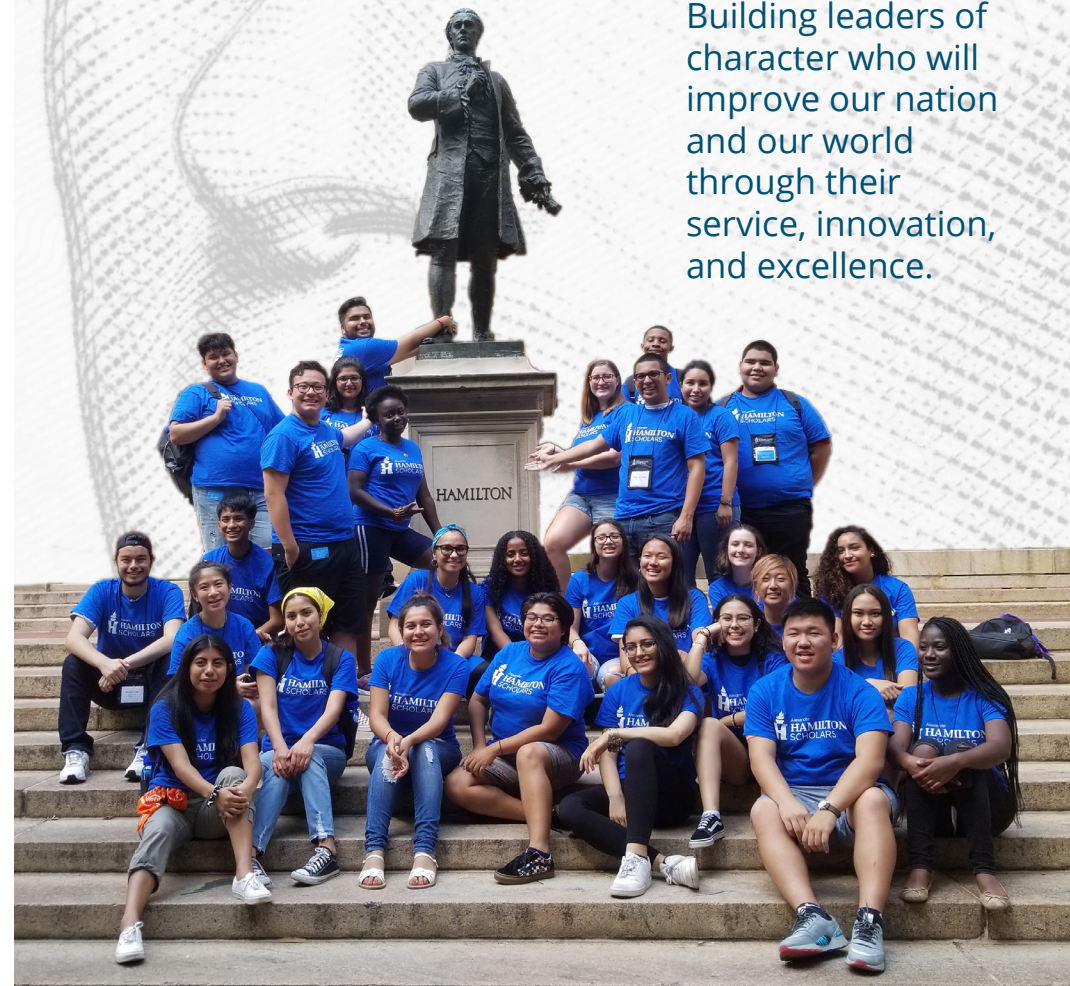
Looking forward to seeing you in Seattle on June 24, 2020 for our annual Gala at the Museum of Flight.

All of my best,

# MISSION & VISION

Inspired by Alexander Hamilton's legacy of leadership through service, Alexander Hamilton Scholars empowers high achieving, underserved students to succeed in college and career.

Building leaders of character who will improve our nation and our world through their service, innovation, and excellence.



**Year 1 | College Readiness**  
**Curriculum Spotlight: Financial Literacy**

FINANCIAL LITERACY: Provide understanding of the financial aid process, budgeting tools and awareness, debt-management skills, and informed investing.



As **Josue Herrera Rivera** (2019) and his peers began applying for college and financial aid during their senior year of high school, AHS' counselors provided tailored, skillful advising low-income students often struggle to access. This guidance ultimately empowered Josue to apply for, and be admitted to the school of his dreams, Hamilton College, where he will start

this fall. At 2019 **New York Leader Week**, scholars participated in one-on-one sessions with AHS staff where they received comprehensive assistance in understanding the complexities and terms of the financial aid application process and award packages for college. "I come from a very complicated housing situation," Josue explains, "and having AHS' counselor, Lynell Engelman, helping me every step of the way was very relieving. No one in my high school could even begin to tackle my situation in terms of financial aid, yet with Lynell's help, I completed all my requirements on time." Through AHS' College Readiness Curriculum, Josue has the tools to pursue his ambitious goals: "AHS has encouraged me to not only be proactive in college but also come back home to give back to my community. I aspire to make a change not only in Alief, Texas, but also in my hometown of San Martín in El Salvador."

**NEW YORK  
LEADER  
WEEK  
2020**



# 2019 Cohort Stats

FIRST GENERATION  
TO ATTEND  
4 YEAR COLLEGE



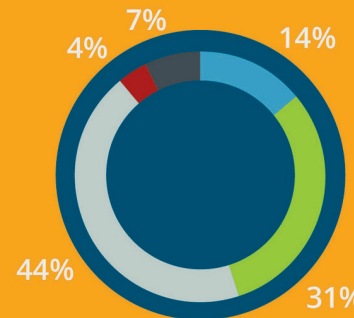
**REGIONAL  
DISTRIBUTION:**

Midwest	6%
Northeast	11%
Southeast	26%
Southwest	23%
West	34%

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:  
**\$30,000**



NATIONAL  
AVERAGE:  
**\$60,336**

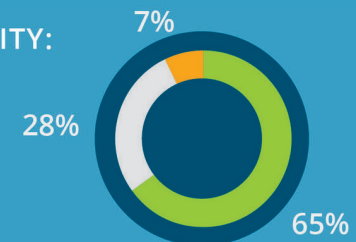


**RACE / ETHNICITY:**

- African American or Black
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Middle Eastern
- White

**GENDER IDENTITY:**

- Female
- Male
- Other



## Year 2 | College Transition

### Curriculum Spotlight: Transition

**TRANSITION:** Focus on key periods that research has identified as being particularly challenging for underserved youth: high school to college and college to career.



When **Ruthchamar Jolibois** (2018) received her first syllabus at college, she felt overwhelmed and immediately reached out to AHS staff, who helped create a tailored study plan for the semester and encouraged her to review the goals she set for herself during **Seattle Leader Week**. Over the course of her first semester at Wellesley

College, Ruthchamar was able to overcome the difficulties she faced. "As a scholar, we all have these big dreams," she says, "and it helps when you can go back and look at the goals you have for yourself. It gives you motivation to continue with the hard times." Only 54% of underserved youth enter a 2- or 4-year degree program, and of those 54%, only 79% advanced to their second year of studies, compared to 88% of their higher-income peers (NSCRC). The transition from high school to college is a pivotal moment that defines success for students like Ruthchamar throughout their higher education track, future career, and quality of life. AHS' curriculum area of Transition bridges the gap scholars face, enabling them to successfully navigate college and career.



2018 Cohort: Average Household Income

**\$37,890**

## Year 3 | Leadership & Service

### Curriculum Spotlight: Leadership

**LEADERSHIP:** Impart Alexander Hamilton's legacy of principled character and commitment to public service in the face of adversity as the basis of true leadership.



**International Leader Week** "taught me to always fully take in every experience and opportunity I am given and to be fully present as a leader," says 2017 scholar, **Valerie Nguyen**, of her experience in Tépán, Guatemala. During this week of engaged global citizenship, scholars participate in a service learning project, investigate the relationship between service, culture, and leadership, and revise their goals and Personal Development Plans (PDPs). Valerie says refining her PDP served as an "accountability check and pushes me to improve myself and be more self aware [which is] especially important in my development as a leader." Valerie demonstrates empathetic leadership in her studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and eventually hopes to pursue an MD or MD/PhD as a Pediatric Hematologist - Oncologist. True to her values, Valerie says, "I always try to stay humble, help others when I can, and never forget those who got me to where I am right now."

2017 Cohort: Race & Ethnicity



17% 28%

Asian

Black / African American

3% 38%

Native American / Pacific Islander

Hispanic / Latinx

10% 7%

White

Other

## Year 4 | Career Readiness

### Curriculum Spotlight: Empowerment

**EMPOWERMENT:** Convey the knowledge and confidence to excel and thrive as they pursue their ambitious goals.



The AHS Empowerment Curriculum's focus on mission-driven work led 2016 scholar, **Sarah Hill**, to take a gap year before college as a City Year AmeriCorps Member in Philadelphia, where she served as a tutor and mentor for students in under-resourced schools. "There is not one right way to be a Hamilton Scholar," Sarah says. "AHS

empowers each individual student to cultivate their own vision while providing them with the support and resources they need to become exactly who they strive to be." Sarah is now a sophomore and Student Government Association President at Webster University, where she studies Political Science, Spanish, and Leadership. She recently completed an internship with FairVote, and through the support of AHS' **Independent Internship Support Program**, Sarah says, "I know more about the specifics of what I am—and am not—looking for in a career post-grad, and how each aspect relates to my mission, vision, and values." In the future, Sarah hopes to serve in the Peace Corps, obtain joint Law and Public Policy degrees, and ultimately pursue a career in public service.

## Year 5 | Career Transition

### Curriculum Spotlight: Heritage

**HERITAGE:** Instill the idea that understanding the history of the United States is vital to claiming personal, political, and social power.

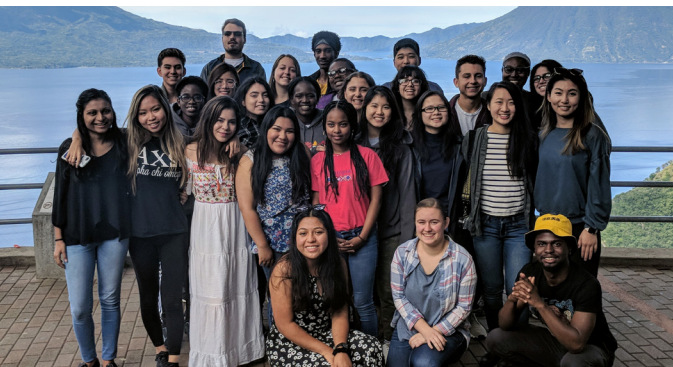


"The life I live today is a culmination of geopolitical processes and histories that I may not even be aware of," **Juan Luna** (2015) says. "Understanding my heritage as a Queer and Trans Latinx person has been vital for me to find my voice. AHS pushed me to find my voice by better understanding my heritage, and for that I am forever

grateful." Juan noticed there was a gap in heritage programming during our service work in Guatemala during International Leader Week, and they became instrumental in enriching and strengthening AHS' curriculum, leading pre-trip calls for younger scholars and offering resources from their own studies. Juan will be graduating debt-free this May from Colby College, where they are double majoring in Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Latin American Studies. They cite both their experiences during **Texas Leader Week** and AHS' focus on values-driven work as integral to determining their future trajectory: "I have learned that I need to follow my passions. AHS has allowed me to see how strong I can shine. I am brilliant."

2019 Independent Internship Support:

5 Scholars |  
Average  
Scholarship:  
\$2,667

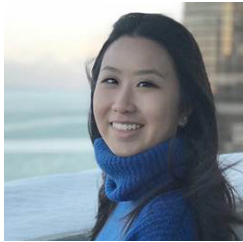


TEXAS  
LEADER  
WEEK  
2019

## Alumni Showcase

### Curriculum Spotlight: Career Transition

CAREER TRANSITION: Provide tangible, real world support to scholars for a successful transition to their chosen post-graduation field.



A 2019 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, **Cecilia Pan** (2014), currently works as an Associate at Berkeley Research Group, where she provides data analytics and advising services to a variety of economic consulting clients. Cecilia reflects that the **Personal Development Plan (PDP)** she developed in 2015 during Seattle Leader Week has been central to her journey and continues to motivate her today. "Looking back on my PDP helps to ground me and gives me a fresh perspective."

*She also credits AHS' Career Transition Curriculum and Independent Internship Program for providing professional development support which ultimately helped her secure several unpaid internships integral to her career trajectory.*

Cecilia says AHS' personalized financial curriculum and focus on budgets, investments, and taxes were "really helpful," adding, "My parents know nothing about those things and having frank discussions about those topics was incredibly helpful, especially when I was receiving job offers. It helped inform my tough decisions." Cecilia has recently updated her PDP and plans to take the LSAT later this year and eventually attend law school. Ultimately, Cecilia credits AHS as an integral part of her personal, academic, and professional development over the last 5 years and is grateful to be a part of this lasting community.

Retention rate:

84%

Graduation rate:  
(of retained scholars)

74%  
(4 years)

96%  
(5 years or less)

## 2014 SCHOLAR DATA\*

\*2014 scholar data is presented as this is our most recent college graduating cohort

## What are 2014 Hammies doing now?

### Rhajni Gooden

Master of Health Administration & Master of Business Administration at the University of Pittsburgh

### Liz Chinchilla

Gap Year Research in Speech Language Pathology at the University of Texas at Austin

### Isabelle Yang

Business Technology Analyst at Deloitte Consulting in NYC

2014  
& 2015  
COHORTS



facts & figures

THANK YOU FOR  
INVESTING IN THE  
BRIGHT FUTURES OF  
HAMILTON SCHOLARS



Your contribution is the ultimate gift of empowerment, and helps provide motivated students with the tools to confidently navigate life's transitions.

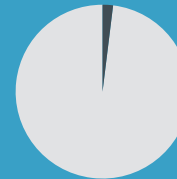


Total Revenue: **\$736,810**

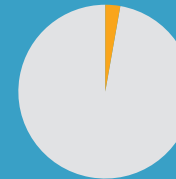
Individual Donations	\$437,956
Corporation Sponsorships	\$15,500
Grants	\$22,400
Events & Other	\$260,954



Individuals



Corporations



Grants

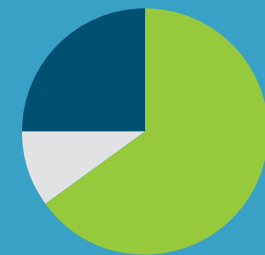


Events & Other

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total Expenses: **\$729,865**

Programming	65%
Fundraising	10%
Administration/ Overhead	25%



expenses & revenue

## ALEXANDER HAMILTON SCHOLARS 2019 GALA SPONSORS

THE  
**EMPOWER**  
**NOW**  
CELEBRATION



We partnered with Carter Subaru in a service project with Project Greenway this fall.



The Endeavour Group  
at Morgan Stanley



## MEET THE TEAM

Angela Hedwall, Executive Director

Darlene Germino, Assistant Director

Bre Legan, Marketing & Volunteer Manager

Mikala Lain, Program Manager

Jonathan Louangrath, Program Specialist

Lynell Engelmyer, Program Advisor &  
College/Financial Aid Counselor

Kelly Herrington, Senior Advisor & College Counselor

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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