



508
GRADUATES



5
Posse
Scholars

4 Gates
Millennium
Scholars

13
Questbridge
Scholars

OVER
\$9M
RAISED

ACCEPTANCES AT

194
COLLEGES

Acceptances at
35
Graduate Schools

Attended
111
High Schools



About Reach for Excellence

Reach for Excellence is a non-profit, classroom based, academic and leadership enrichment program. In 2001, this program was begun by the Marist Fathers and Brothers, who also operate Marist School in Atlanta, Georgia. Through its mix of academic, cultural, and community-based experiences, this tuition-free program prepares talented, limited income middle school students to meet the challenges of college preparatory programs and high schools. Students, along with their families, commit to three six-week summer sessions and three years of Saturday sessions throughout the school year.



Dear Friends and Supporters of Reach for Excellence,

I am pleased to share the following report on our 2022–2023 fiscal year performance. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, Reach for Excellence’s financial position is strong and we are well positioned to continue to provide high-quality academic enrichment to low-income youth in metro Atlanta.

The 2022–2023 school year was filled with milestones for our program. In July, we celebrated the graduation of Cohort U, the group that began their three-year Reach for Excellence journey during the pandemic. While this was hopefully our last cohort to face the challenges of school closures during their time at Reach for Excellence, we do know that students and schools are still seeing the effects of the pandemic on academic achievement. Programs like Reach for Excellence provide the necessary tools to help these high achieving students stay on track for college preparatory high schools and programs.

This year we also said farewell to our long-term Executive Director, Karen Dessables, who retired in July after seventeen years at the helm of our organization. We are immensely grateful for Karen’s leadership and commitment. During her tenure, Karen spearheaded several initiatives to expand access to Reach for Excellence, from the introduction of our transportation program in 2009 to the addition of sixth grade in 2016. She will be missed.

Following a board-directed search, Dr. Linda Lehmil was appointed our new Executive Director on July 1. Dr. Lehmil joins us from Marist School where she served as a French teacher for several years. Dr. Lehmil has extensive nonprofit experience, both in the United States and internationally. Linda’s passion for Reach for Excellence is clear. As the child of immigrants in France, Linda benefitted from a program similar to Reach for Excellence. She can identify with our students and our families and is committed to helping them succeed. We are thrilled to have her as our new leader.

This year also saw two additional new faces on the Reach for Excellence team. Catherine Markwalter moved from our board to Director of Development in March, and Teresa Enriquez Taxis was named Hispanic Initiative Coordinator in May. With Linda, Catherine, and Teresa in place, Reach for Excellence is poised for continued success.

We hope you will enjoy reading our 2022–2023 annual report. Most importantly, we hope that you will continue to generously support Reach for Excellence. Your commitment helps change lives, not only for these scholars but for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Rocco Testani

Chairman of the Board

I was thrilled to join the Reach for Excellence team on July 10 as the new Executive Director. This is a role and an organization that I am passionate about as my own childhood experience was similar to that of many of our Reach for Excellence families.



I was born in France as the child of immigrants with limited resources but was able to use education to change my path. Like many of our students, I am a first-generation college graduate. I now hold several master's degrees as well as a PhD from Tulane University. My career has taken me to Hong Kong, where I worked in the non-profit sector managing and evaluating programs around the world, and back to Marist School where I taught AP French. I want to show our Reach for Excellence scholars that they too can use education to achieve their dreams.

This summer, I joined the other Reach for Excellence scholars as part of our summer sessions. I watched as seventy-five eager students gathered at breakfast, then

headed to classes in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Computer Science, and book clubs. After a hearty lunch, our scholars participated in electives ranging from art to sports to robotics. Our scholars enjoyed field trips including visits to The Blue Heron Nature Preserve and other cultural and outdoor attractions, a college visit to Oglethorpe, career-oriented experiences at Montag & Caldwell, and more. We had snakes and lizards come to our classrooms and our oldest students even went to a Braves game. Volunteers and business leaders hosted our Mentoring Luncheon, and we welcomed visitors to our Open House. During this excitement, we were filming a new informational video.

After a summer filled with hard work and fun, we watched as Cohort U, our rising 9th graders, received their Reach for Excellence diplomas at the Stepping Up Ceremony on July 22. This fall, Cohort U headed to a diverse group of high schools including Cristo Rey, Marist School, Chamblee Charter High School, Tucker High School, Westminster, Holy Innocents, Paideia, Berkmar High School, and Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy. We also bade farewell as two students headed to boarding school at Miss Porter's School in Connecticut and Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts. We wish them all luck on this next step of their journey.

Our recent high school graduates in Cohort 2019 Q have excelled as well, matriculating to colleges and universities across the country. This cohort boasts a QuestBridge Scholar attending Boston University, a Posse Scholar headed to Texas A&M, and an Amazon Future Engineer Scholar attending Centre College. In addition, Reach for Excellence was pleased to award Tim Cambias Memorial Scholarships to four students in this group. For the first time, we have Reach for Excellence graduates attending Boston University and The College of the Holy Cross.

While our scholars continue to Commit the Climb, I am equally as focused on helping them achieve their goals. Together with our team of experienced and enthusiastic teachers, our amazing staff, and our dedicated Board of Directors, I will continue to explore ways to improve and expand our program to meet the needs of highly talented, low-income students throughout Atlanta. At the end of my first year as Executive Director, I look forward to celebrating with Cohort 2024 V at their graduation during our Stepping Up Ceremony.

I am grateful to each of you for the confidence you have shown in me and Reach for Excellence. The success of our program is a direct result of your generosity and support. I cannot thank you enough.

With gratitude,
Dr. Linda Lehmil, PhD.
 Executive Director

GENDER



55%



45%



ETHNICITY

Hispanic
49%

Black/African-American
43%

Asian
7%

Multiracial
1%



**AVERAGE FAMILY
 INCOME**
\$29,475

August 1, 2022–July 31, 2023

Star Society**\$30,000 and above**

Barbara and Jim MacGinnitie
Katherine John Murphy Foundation
Society of Mary
The Goizueta Foundation

Stepping Up Society**\$15,000 – \$29,999**

Mr. John T. Bourbonnais and
Ms. Barbara Nye
Ms. Natalie Smith Childs
DFCS/United Way Learning
Loss Grant
Georgia Department of Education
and Georgia Statewide
Afterschool Network
UPS Foundation
Yardi Systems

Ladder Society**\$10,000 – \$14,999**

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Chick-fil-A, Inc.
The Edward Colston Foundation
DeKalb County Human Services
Ms. Whitney M. Frank
Dr. Andrew MacGinnitie
Nordson Corporation Foundation
The Sartain-Lanier Family Foundation
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Alison and Joe Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. John Utsch

Scholar Society**\$5,000 – \$9,999**

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The Atlanta Foundation
Katharine and Russell
Bellman Fund
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\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Mr. & Mrs. Phil Beeson
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Scholarship Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buchanan
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Catholic Foundation of N. GA
- Catholic Foundation of
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CKC Foundation
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Mary Ryan and Henry G
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Mr. & Mrs. Norman L. Moore, Jr.
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Alex and Betty Smith Donor-
Advised Endowment Fund -
Catholic Foundation of
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Drs. John Zora and Marian Finan

\$500 – \$999

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Ms. Christina Chandra
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Coussoule
Ms. Elizabeth Etoll
Mr. Dave Felty
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Mr. & Mrs. Jaime Lanier
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B.
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Mr. & Mrs. Dale Maulding
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Michaud
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Mohan
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Robb
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodriguez
Mrs. Kristen Turk

\$250 – \$499

AMB Group, LLC
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Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hamby
Mr. Eric Hanemann
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Trieger Fund of the Jewish
Community Foundation
Mr. Jerome Kendrick '07 E
Mr. & Mrs. C. Matthew McGee
Mr. & Mrs. John Meyers
Mr. Kevin O'Toole
Jane and Michael Walsh
Family Fund

Up to \$249

Mr. Jared Alexander '07 E
Amazon Smile Foundation
Ms. Jharionne Anderson '14 L
Ms. Genie Arcila '06 D
Mr. & Mrs. Benton Ashby
Ms. Christina Ashley '12 J
Ms. Helen Bartal '06 D
Ms. DaMarea Brevitt '10 H
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Mrs. Susan DeDeyn
Mr. Maeles Desta '10 H
Mrs. Jessica Devins '08 F
Ms. Aissatou Diallo '07 E

Mr. Huy Diep '10 H
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Dollar, Jr.
Ms. Martha Egan
Yasmeen Enahora
Mr. Jose Francisco Cuevas Feliu
Ms. Miriam Fountain
Ms. Josiane Galley '08 F
Goldman Sachs
Ms. Kayla Hill '10 H
Ms. Rebecca Keller
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Layman
Mr. Derrick Lewis '10 H
Mrs. Jennifer Mannelly
Ms. Amy McCrory
Mr. Uriel Medina-Espino '08 F
Mr. Dawit Mesfin '12 J
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Mr. Jordan Snellings '07 E
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Ms. Chanel Tobias '10 H
Ms. Sau Ha Tong
Nhan Tran
Ms. Susan Tucker
Ms. Grace Uttarotai '04 B
Ms. Veronica Valencia '11 I
Mrs. Roseann Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Whitehead
Ms. Rachel Wong '11 I
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Walsh

**Tim Cambias Memorial
Scholarship Supporters**

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Mr. & Mrs. John Buyarski
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Mr. Timothy Cambias, Jr.
Ms. Natalie Smith Childs
Ms. Krista Cosgrove
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard White

Tomorrow's Scholars Circle

Recognizing supporters who have
included Reach for Excellence in their
estate plans, empowering Reach
Scholars of future generations.

Barbara and Jim MacGinnitie
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen M. Raeber
Ms. Eva Trieger

Endowed Funds

Mrs. Marie Crean
The Goizueta Foundation

Gifts That Honor**Cohort D**

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Cohort H

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Mr. & Mrs. Norman Moore, Jr.

Ms. Megan Mavity

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Mavity
Mrs. Betty Mavity NeSmith*

Quyên & Jacob

Nhan Tran

Ms. Rachel Wong '11 I

Ms. Sau Ha Tong

Gifts That Remember**Dr. Mario J.R. Ravry**

Mrs. Yvette M. Ravry

*deceased

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

	Net assets without donor restrictions	Net assets with donor restrictions	Total
Public Support and Revenue			
Contributions	\$483,565	\$19,715	\$503,280
In-Kind Contributions	\$122,861	-	\$122,861
Investment Income, Net of Investment Management Fees	\$7,359	\$32,577	\$39,936
Miscellaneous Income	\$6	-	\$6
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$96,910	(96,910)	-
Total Revenue and Support	\$710,701	(44,618)	\$666,083
Expenses			
Program Services - Mission	\$454,212	-	\$454,212
Management and Administration	\$115,604	-	\$115,604
Fundraising	\$92,642	-	\$92,642
Total Expenses	\$662,458	-	\$662,458
Changes in Net Assets	\$48,243	(44,618)	\$3,625
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$334,930	\$669,380	\$1,004,310
Net Assets, End of Year	\$383,173	\$624,762	\$1,007,935

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	\$180,709
Unconditional Promises to Give, No Allowance Necessary	\$64,600
Investments	\$722,666
Prepays and Other	\$3,896
Property and Equipment, Net	\$53,977
Total Assets	\$1,025,848

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$16,079
Due to Marist School	\$1,834
Total Liabilities	\$17,913
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restriction	
Undesignated	\$161,303
Board Designated	\$221,870
	\$383,173
With Donor Restriction	\$624,762
Total Net Assets	\$1,007,935
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,025,848

High Schools

Arabia Mountain High School
 Archer High School
 Atlanta Girls School
 Atlanta International School
 Banneker High School
 Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy
 Ben Franklin Academy
 Berkmar High School
 Blair Academy, NJ
 Brookwood High School
 Carver Early College
 Cedar Grove High School
 Chamblee Charter High School
 Chapel Hill High School
 Charles Drew Senior Academy
 Chattahoochee High School
 Collins Hill High School
 Columbia High School
 Columbia High School, CO
 Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School
 Cross Keys High School
 Darlington School
 Decatur High School
 DeKalb Early College Academy
 DeKalb School of the Arts
 Druid Hills High School
 Duluth High School
 Dunwoody High School
 Episcopal High School, VA
 Fayette County High School
 Frederick Douglass High School
 Grady High School
 Grayson High School
 Gwinnett School of Math, Science & Tech.
 Hapeville Charter Career Academy
 Heritage High School

Highville Change Academy, CT
 Holy Innocents' Episcopal School
 Horizon School
 Irondequoit High School, NY
 KIPP Atlanta Collegiate
 Lakeside High School
 Langston Hughes High School
 Lanier High School
 Lebanon High School, TN
 Lithia Springs High School
 Lovejoy High School
 Marietta High School
 Marist School
 Martin Luther King High School
 Maynard Jackson High School
 Mays High School
 McComb High School, AL
 Meadowcreek High School
 Midtown High School
 Miller Grove High School
 Miss Porter's School, CT
 Morrow High School
 Mount Vernon Presbyterian School
 New Schools of Carver High School
 Norcross High School
 North Atlanta High School
 North Gwinnett High School
 North Springs High School
 Notre Dame Academy
 Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School
 Pace Academy
 Parkview High School
 Paul Duke STEM High School
 Peachtree Ridge High School
 Peattie School, NJ
 Phillips Andover Academy, MA

Phillips Exeter Academy, NH
 Providence Christian Academy
 Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
 Riverwood International Charter School
 Rockdale County High School
 Rockdale Magnet School
 for Science & Tech.
 Roswell High School
 Salem Academy, NC
 School Without Walls, Washington D.C.
 Shawnee Mission North High School, KS
 Shiloh High School
 South Atlanta High School
 South Cobb High School, Magnet
 South Gwinnett High School
 Southwest DeKalb High School
 Sprayberry High School
 St. Andrew's - Sewanee School, TN
 St. Pius X Catholic High School
 Stephenson High School
 Stockbridge High School
 The Asheville School, NC
 The Galloway School
 The Lawrenceville School, NJ
 The Lovett School
 The New School
 The Paideia School
 The Walker School
 The Westminster Schools
 Tri-Cities High School
 Tucker High School
 Wesleyan School
 Westlake High School
 Westside High School, Macon
 Wheeler High School
 Woodward Academy



College, University, and Graduate School Acceptances

Agnes Scott College
 Albany State University
 Alabama A & M University
 Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
 American University
 American Public University, WV
 Armstrong Atlantic State University
 Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
 Atlanta Metropolitan State College
 Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
 Atlanta Technical College
 Auburn University
 Augusta University
 Bard College, NY
 Barnard College
 Baylor University
 Berry College
 Benedict College
 Boston College
 Boston College, Law School
 Boston University
 Brandeis University
 Brenau University
 Brown University
 Centre College
 California Institute of the Arts
 Carleton College, MN
 Christian Brothers University
 Clark Atlanta University
 Clayton State University
 Clemson University
 Cleveland State Community College
 Colgate University
 College of Charleston
 College of Wooster
 College of the Holy Cross
 Colorado College
 Columbia College, SC
 Columbia College of Chicago
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College
 Davidson College
 Dayton University
 DeVry Institute of Technology
 Drexel University
 Eastern Michigan University
 Eckerd College
 Elon University
 Emory University
 Emory University –
 Rollins School of Public Health
 Florida A & M University
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Fort Valley State University
 Furman University
 George Mason University
 George Washington University
 George Washington University School
 of Business
 Georgetown College, KY
 Georgetown University
 Georgetown University, Walsh School
 of Foreign Services
 Georgia College and State University
 Georgia Gwinnett College
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Georgia Perimeter College
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia Southwestern State University
 Georgia State University
 Grambling State University
 Guilford College
 Hamline University
 Hampton University
 Harvard University
 Haverford College, PA
 Hinds Community College, MS
 Hofstra University
 Houston Community College, TX
 Howard University
 Howard University College of Medicine
 Huntingdon College, AL
 Iowa State University
 Jacksonville State University
 Jacksonville University
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice
 Johnson and Wales University, RI
 Kennesaw State University
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola University Chicago
 Loyola University - New Orleans
 Lycoming College, PA
 Macalester College, MN
 Marquette University
 Maryland Institute College of Art
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Medical College of Georgia
 Mercer University
 Mercer University, Walter F. George
 School of Law
 Miami University, Ohio
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Middle Georgia State University
 Midland University
 Milligan College
 Morehouse College
 New York University, Tisch School of the Arts
 North Carolina A&T University
 North Carolina Central University
 North Carolina Central University –
 School of Law
 North Georgia College & University
 Northwestern University
 Notre Dame University
 Oglethorpe University
 Ohio State University
 Ohio State University College of Medicine
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 Old Dominion University
 Oxford College of Emory University
 Philander Smith College
 Pitzer College
 Presbyterian College, SC
 Princeton University
 Purdue University
 Queens University of Charlotte, NC
 Reinhardt University
 Rice University
 Rhodes College
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rollins College
 Saint Leo University
 Saint Augustine's University
 Saint Mary's College
 Salem College
 Samford University
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 School of the Arts Institute of Chicago
 Shorter University
 Simmons College
 South College, TN
 Southern Illinois University
 Southern Polytechnic State University
 Spelman College
 Spring Hill College
 Stanford University
 Stetson University
 Stillman College
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University
 Talladega College
 Temple University
 Tennessee State University
 Texas A & M University
 The University of Chicago
 Tuskegee University
 Tulane University
 Union College, NY
 United States Air Force Academy
 University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa
 University of California,
 San Francisco – Dental School
 University of Chicago
 University of Dayton
 University of Georgia
 University of Georgia School
 of Pharmacy
 University of Georgia School
 of Veterinary Medicine
 University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign
 University of Indiana
 University of Iowa
 University of Kentucky
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan – Dental School
 University of Minnesota
 University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pennsylvania – Dental School
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Richmond
 University of the South
 University of Southern California
 University of Tampa
 University of West Georgia
 Valdosta State University
 Vanderbilt University
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia State University
 Wake Forest University
 Washington and Lee University
 Washington University, St. Louis
 Watkins College of Art, Design, & Film
 Wellesley College
 West Virginia University
 Western Carolina University
 Williams College
 Wofford College
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 Xavier University, LA
 Xavier University, OH
 Yale University
 Young Harris College

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Mt. Pigsah Christian School

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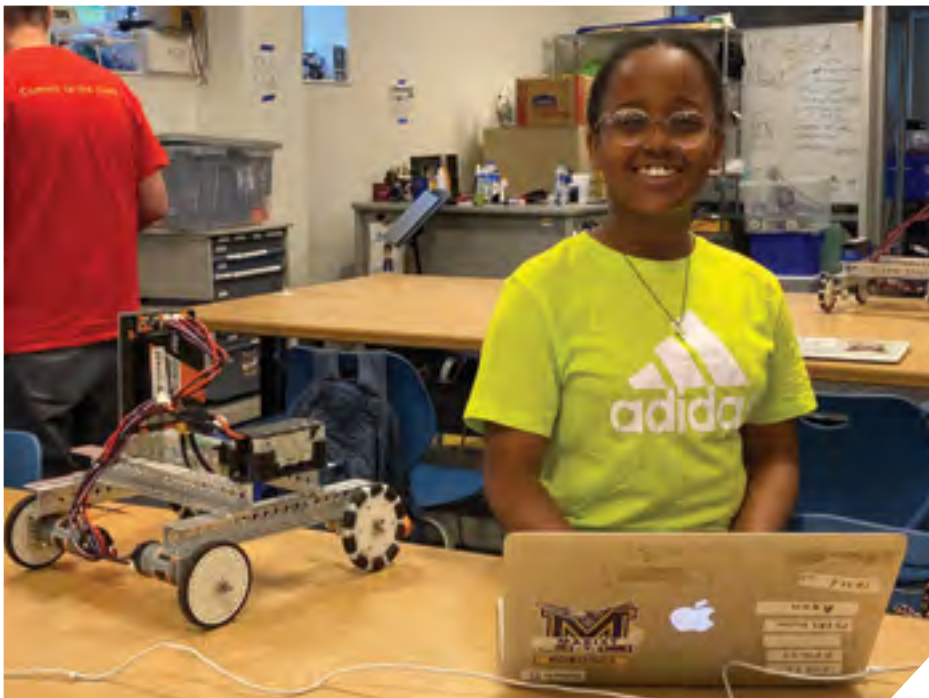
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770-936-6481
lehmill@reachforexcellence.org

Catherine Markwalter

Director of Development
770-936-6489
markwalterc@reachforexcellence.org

Teresa Enriquez Taxis

Hispanic Initiative Coordinator
770-936-3544
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