

Annual Report 2016

- 92% six year graduation rate
- 39% graduated with no debt
- 3,100+ Scholar-Advisor Meetings
- 484 applicants
- 143 Scholarships awarded
- Class of 2016 Scholars:
- 70% Students of Color
- 58% 1st Generation Students
- Average family taxable income: \$22,800
- 53 Total Donor Partners
- 11 New Donor Partners
- Media Mentions:
- Star Tribune
- Life to the Max
- Workforce Magazine
- Jack Rice Radio
- NPR Marketplace

Spotlight on Scholar Shayla Thacker

I was encouraged to apply for the Wallin scholarship from one of my Get-Ready counselors in high school. At the time, I didn't really understand the impact that the organization would make on my college experience.

My advisor displayed tireless effort in supporting me and fostering my success especially right before and during my junior year when I was faced with many obstacles from financial to personal that could have impeded on my chance of graduation. The belief in me that my advisor displayed was encouraging and useful and without that relationship I am honestly not sure if I would have had the confidence to overcome those challenges.

I have participated in the Wallin program in other ways as well. I have attended events that Wallin has put on and gone to gatherings hosted by my sponsor, General Mills. These have all helped me to get to know other scholars and build my network but the relationship I had with my advisor made the biggest impact and played the biggest role in ensuring my success in college.

Shayla Thacker graduated from the Carlson School of Management at the University of MN in May 2016. She is working at one of our Corporate Donor Partners, U.S. Bank, in commercial lending.



Spotlight on Advisor Annie Berge

When the class of 2020 was notified that they had been awarded a scholarship from Wallin Education Partners, they received a deeper promise above and beyond financial assistance. Unlike other programs, our scholarship reflects the idea students have that someone out there who cares about their success, honors their hard work and acknowledges the numerous barriers they've overcome. In my first year as a Scholar Advisor, I have come to view my work with scholars as the actualization of this promise to students from you, our donor partners: we see you. We want to help you reach your goals. We know you can do it.

With a caseload of over 100 scholars, my work as an advisor varies each day. For some students, it means working with them as they draft a personal statement for a prestigious fellowship application; for others, it means coaching them on how to respond to a professor who has graded them harshly. It can mean going with them to the bank to set up their first checking account. With each interaction, my goal as an advisor is to ask questions that facilitate critical thinking, to listen deeply and with empathy, and to validate their experiences as real and legitimate.

As I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed by the individual stories of resilience and hope that our scholars share daily. Together, our commitment to these scholars--financially, academically, and personally has the potential to transform both the lives our students and the communities in which we live.

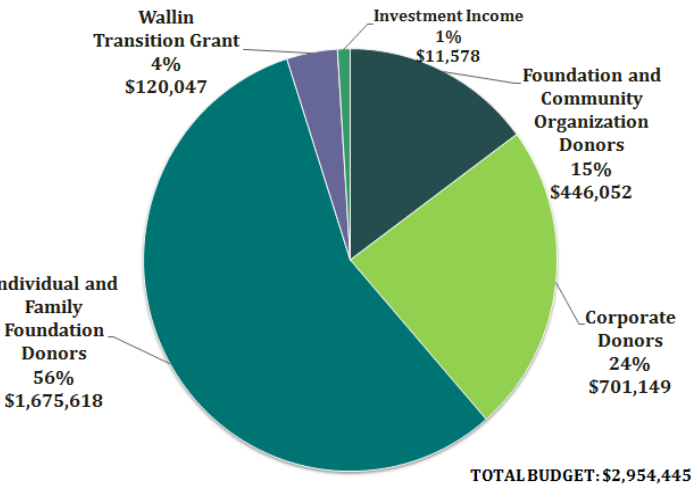
Annie Berge has a Masters degree in Student Affairs and a Bachelors degree in German from Macalester College



90% of Funds spent on programming & scholarships

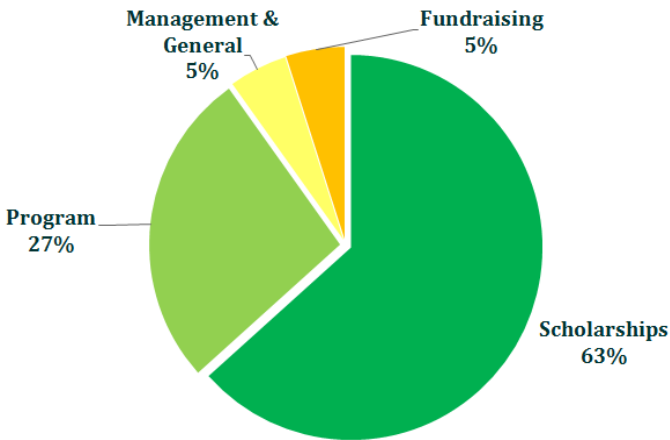
Sources of Funds FY 2016

Foundation and Community Organization Donors	\$446,052
Corporate Donors	\$701,149
Individual and Family Foundation Donors	\$1,675,618
Wallin Transition Grant	\$120,047
Investment Income	\$11,578
Total	\$2,954,445



Use of Funds FY 2016

Scholarships	\$1,876,177
Program	\$784,611
Management & General	\$155,021
Fundraising	\$138,636
Total	\$2,954,445



Greetings from our Executive Director

It is with pleasure that I share an update on the work and impact of Wallin Education Partners. In the past twelve months we have had the honor to work with over 500 college students in our program. As we reflect on their challenges and their success, we are grateful for the support of our high school and college partners and especially the generosity of our donor partners who make this work possible.

It was just a few years ago that nine donor partners supported scholars; this year there are fifty-three. Even with this increase in support we are not able to meet the demand for our program that exists in our community. 143 students from lower income families received scholarships but nearly 300 others who met all of our criteria did not receive support. We are motivated every day to find additional support so that these qualified students can benefit from our approach.

For the second year in a row 92% of scholars graduated within six years, making Wallin Education Partners one of the most effective programs of its type in the country. We recently completed a detailed analysis to compare our graduation rates with the 13 colleges that enroll the largest number of Wallin Education Partners scholars. In every case, being a Wallin Education Partners scholar increased the likelihood of graduation.

Thank you to our generous donors, our tremendous staff and our excellent Board of Trustees who are working together to make college graduation a reality for the students we serve.

Susan Basil King



Award Established to Honor Chuck Denny

Before his death in 2010, Win Wallin asked his friend Chuck Denny, former CEO of ADC Telecommunications to help lead Wallin Education Partners into the future. For five years, Chuck served the organization with distinction, helping transition the organization from a family foundation to a public charity. His contributions were invaluable and positioned the organization for stability and growth. "Win was ill but he was still on fire that this was his greatest legacy and he was going to see it perpetuated," Denny shared. "I couldn't say no to someone who had given so much time and, I believe, about \$30 million over the years. After all, Win was a scholarship student himself in college."



Chuck left the board of trustees in 2016 and Wallin Education Partners established the Chuck Denny Award in his honor. The award is given to a graduating scholar who will be attending graduate school with an interest in pursuing a career in public service. This June, General Mills Scholar and 2016 University of Minnesota graduate See Moua became the first recipient of the Chuck Denny Award (above). See will be attending St. Kate's to pursue a Master in Library Science. She remarked, "I am proud to say that I will be the first in my family to attend graduate school and this is an achievement that makes me nervous and excited. St. Kate's Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program aims to "build bridges among people, information, and technology" and I aspire to become a local librarian that contributes to this bridge-building process in our diverse community."



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