

Program Report 2022



Our Mission and Vision



Mission

Increase accessibility to higher education through a multi-generational community of high achieving, underrepresented students

Vision

Establish an ongoing, comprehensive support model throughout the high school careers of our students that will prepare them to apply and attend the college or university of their choice and cultivate the leadership skills needed to thrive

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The Connectrix Model

District Partnership

Connectrix partners with the Houston Independent School District (HISD) to prepare high-achieving students from underserved communities to attend college, with an emphasis on first generation students. Connectrix recruits from all HISD campuses with an emphasis on Achieve 180 schools.



College Partnership and Engagement

The organization of our program is heavily based on Rice University's Orientation Week, a program that eases the transition of students from high school to college. Our partnership with Rice University manifests itself through collaboration with Housing and Dining executives, key offices including the Center for Career Development, Office of Financial Aid, Office of Multicultural Affairs and many more to showcase the best a campus has to offer.



The Connectrix Model

Higher Education Exposure

We design our curriculum and program to prepare and excite students to begin their journey to college today. Students are given the opportunity to experience an authentic college life through multiple avenues including overnight stays on campus, assigned roommates, on-campus dining halls, lectures with university professors and faculty.



Advising

Connectrix creates lasting relationships by prioritizing personal and professional connections between students and advisors. Advisors come from a variety of academic disciplines, racial and ethnic backgrounds, hometowns, and colleges.



Curriculum Objectives

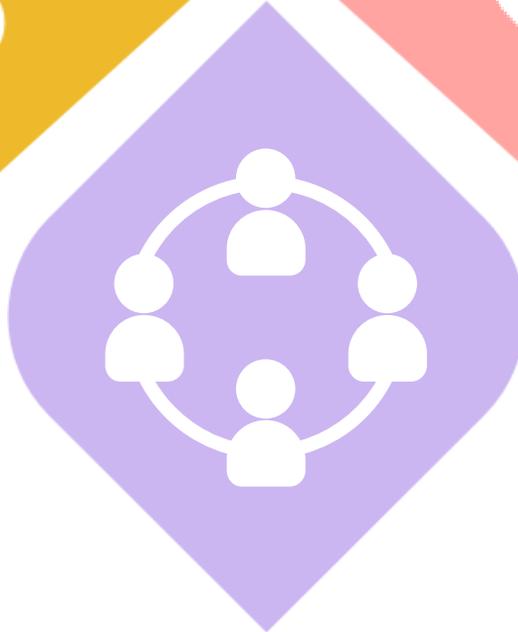
Provide students with college readiness resources and college access opportunities



Provide students with exceptional, out-of-the-box experiences



Equip students with self-reflection practices and leadership skills



Develop a strong sense of community and ongoing engagement

Objective 1: "Provide students with college readiness resources and college access opportunities"

Connectrix students are given a step by step introduction to the college application process from college selection through college matriculation. Additionally, students are given a first look into key programs to help initiate their college journey today.

Key Activities:

1. Essay writing session hosted by Rice Office of Admissions
2. Mock interviews hosted by Rice alumni interviewers
3. Financial Aid overview hosted by Rice Office of Financial Aid



Objective 2: "Equip students with self-reflection practices and leadership skills"

Students take part in various group activities to develop leadership skills through collaboration, active listening and communication, further supported by nightly reflections to help turn new learnings into action.

Key Activities:

1. Diversity and self-identity sessions hosted by Rice Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
2. Motivational speeches by Rice professors and outside Speakers
3. Nightly reflections on leadership and team-building activities



Objective 3: "Develop a strong sense of community and ongoing engagement"

Advisors are focused on building personal relationships with and among students that will allow each cohort to serve as a continued resource through high school graduation.

Key Activities:

1. Connectrix matriculation ceremony
2. Cohort culture building
3. Life mapping
4. Nightly bonding activities



Objective 4: "Provide students with exceptional, out-of-the-box experiences"

Expand student appreciation of Houston culture and arts through music, dance, theater, and cuisine.

Key Activities:

1. La Sylphide at the Houston Ballet
2. Cultural appreciation and advancement keynote speakers
3. Connectrix graduation dinner



College Partnership and Engagement

Connectrix and Rice University partner to ensure students receive the academic resources needed to achieve their goals in a welcoming environment

Key Activity Highlights:

Connectrix students engage directly with thought leaders and professors to better understand key components of the college application process including: resume and essay writing, financial aid, major selection and initial career path considerations.



High School Program and Highlights

 28% Acceptance Rate

Our Impact

Students gained the tools to start their college journey now.

- 77% increase in students who felt knowledgeable about and plan to apply to college readiness programs.
- 8.4 average confidence in ability to independently fill out college application, 60% increase from pre-program survey.

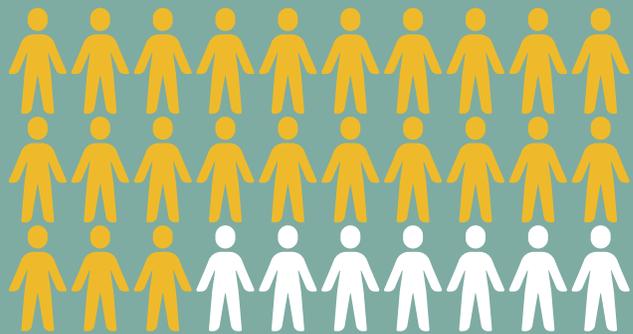
Students have an increased understanding of resources to increase accessibility to higher education.

- 8.4 average understanding of the financial aid process, 73% increase from pre-program survey.

Connectrix students are prepared to grow into the next generation of leaders

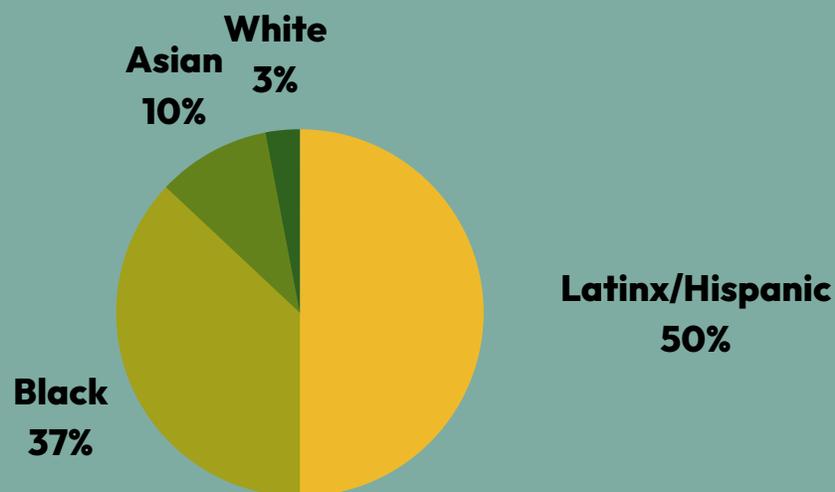
- 57% increase in growth-oriented student leaders.

Demographics



77% Free or Reduced Lunch

50% First-Generation Students



Testimonials

"[Connectrix] let me figure out my different identities and realize how important they are to me."

[Connectrix] showed me that you don't have to come from a big money background to be successful. Just go after what you want and be ready to fight for it."

"I had completely different thoughts about what admissions officers looked for in college essays. I thought it would be heavily focused on things like dedication. I also like how we are able to express ourselves in our essays instead of following the same format that schools usually have."

"It was pretty impactful realizing how much perseverance goes into the college application process and the overall college experience."

Donor and Supporter Recognition

Program Speakers

Dr. Alexander Byrd, Dr. Beth Beason, DeAnna Daniels, Chelsea Drake, Dr. Suzanne Kemmer, Pamela McInturff, Maya Reine, Dr. Raylea Rideau, Renelda Robles, Dr. Anthony Sutton, Dr. Ruth Turley, Dr. Fay Yarbrough

Program Supporters

Diana Alvarado, Sarah Birenbaum, Christopher Burbridge, Evelyn Chui, Diana DeSantiago, Larry Garvey, Harry Golen, Alberto Maldonado, Savannah Parrot, Ana Regalado, Luz Rocha

Sponsors

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2022 Program Coordinators



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Building diverse leaders through community and education

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