



MINDS MATTER
COLORADO
CELEBRATING 20^{years}

IMPACT REPORT

2023-24



"The connection I have with my mentors and my fellow mentees makes me look forward to every Monday night with Minds Matter. To me, this is a safe space where I can be myself because of the connections I have with my peers. We are constantly laughing, and cheering each other on, and most of all I have a team that has my back and I know I can come to with anything."

Although we have our times of laughter, we also have times when we have to buckle down to get over the next hurdle. We are constantly being pushed to follow our dreams and to take a leap of faith. "Don't let anything stop you.""

- Kiara A., Class of 2024

89

students served

195

volunteers donated 16,803 hours
of their time

15

different high schools in Denver
and Aurora and were
represented among MMCO
students



29

seniors
graduated and
are headed to
college this fall

91%

of MMCO Students
identify as BIPOC

100%

of seniors got into
four-year colleges
with scholarships

17

colleges and universities across the
country will be the new academic
home of Minds Matter Colorado
graduates

The Year in Review

20 years of Minds Matter Colorado!

In 2004, Minds Matter Denver was launched with aspirations of supporting Colorado youth with the people, preparation, and possibilities to create their futures and change the world.

These past 20 years we've seen extraordinary growth and expansion. In 2019, we rebranded to Minds Matter Colorado, as we moved to serve students in Denver and Aurora. We've evolved from being 100% volunteer run to having five paid staff members. We've grown the number of students served from 8 in 2004 to 89 this past year and 109 in the upcoming school year.

We send our students all across the country for summer programs. Our seniors earn prestigious scholarships, like Greenhouse, Gates, Daniels, and Questbridge, and matriculate to a broad spectrum of post-secondary institutions.

Despite so much growth and expansion over two decades, one thing remains true: we exist with the sole purpose of ensuring that the systemic inequities of college access are overcome by the students who are up for the challenge.

As our CELEBRATE alumni speaker, Dr. Eric Ndikumana from the class of 2008, reflected in his remarks this spring:

"I credit Minds Matter with challenging me to become the best version of myself, helping me believe that I can do great things. I thank the Minds Matter community for giving numerous opportunities for mentorship and career exploration to someone like me. Thank you for showing me that you care for us as people, giving us the tools to be successful in life, opening our eyes to dream big, and encouraging us to pursue aspirations that we thought were unattainable."

Funder Highlight

MMCO was thrilled to have received a three-year grant from the Denver Broncos Foundation to support the growth and expansion of our student recruitment efforts

Summer Program Highlight

Students attended 47 different university summer programs across the country including at Harvard University, Georgetown University, Brown University, John Hopkins University, University of Colorado, Colorado College, Syracuse University and more!

Scholarship Highlight

Three MMCO seniors were awarded the prestigious Questbridge Match scholarship. Thomas '24 (DMLK) will be attending Colgate, Marla '24 (GW) will attend Grinnell, and Mila '24 (West) will attend Smith College. These students will receive full-ride, four year scholarships from those institutions

CELEBRATE Highlight

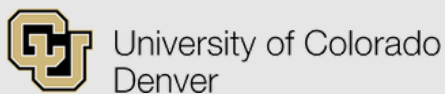
Nearly 400 guests gathered together for our 20th Anniversary event. Thanks to our guests and sponsors, we raised more than \$530,000 in support of our students!

College Bound!

THE CLASS OF 2024 IS ATTENDING:



Colgate University



Politecnico di Torino



UNIVERSITY of NORTHERN COLORADO



SMITH COLLEGE



SWARTHMORE



Scholarship Summary

Despite difficult circumstances — including a 6% increase in first-year applications submitted nationwide, the Department of Education's fraught revamp of FAFSA, and the Supreme Court decision to remove categorical race data from the admissions process — our seniors persevered.

62%

of the class of 2024 will take on \$0 in debt thanks to scholarships and/or sufficient financial aid packages

\$32,000

of MMCO scholarship dollars was awarded to eight seniors

6

students received full rides from highly competitive scholarships: Questbridge (3), Sean "Ranch" Lough (2), Greenhouse (1)

We'd like to thank all our donors and partners for their generous support



Thank You!

Funds were used to support mentee expenses and program supplies for high-achieving, low-income students during the 2023-2024 academic year. Students enrolled in the Minds Matter program are guided through valuable lessons in academic preparedness, writing and critical thinking, and college-readiness programming and test preparation.

The opportunity to partner with you allowed Minds Matter Colorado to help deserving students living in the Denver metro area navigate the college access landscape, get into college, and achieve their dreams!

