To see the full Annual Report, go online:
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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help low-income teenagers transform what they believe is possible for themselves and develop the skills they need to become college-educated leaders who give back to their families and communities.
Dear Friends,

This past year was exciting on several fronts: we launched our group mentoring pilot innovation thanks to a grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation; we enrolled more young men of color and served more students than ever; we developed our foundation for greater program growth; and we began to raise the profile of Summer Search. And most importantly, we were witness to thousands of young people learning how capable they are and what they have to offer to the world.

I invite you to take a moment to read more about our highlights from this past year on the following pages (and online at www.summersearchsite.org/annualreport2014). Thanks to your investment, our students are creating a brighter future for themselves and our country—93% of our graduating seniors are headed to college and 72% have earned a 4-year college degree compared to just 11% of their peers.

As kids at the lowest socio-economic level face a widening opportunity gap, I’m deeply grateful for your partnership to support our students in becoming college-educated leaders who give back to their families and communities. Thank you for your support and for your commitment to join Summer Search in creating powerful, lasting change. I look forward to continuing this journey together for many years to come.

Warmly,

Amy H. Saxton
“I think my support system would have been very different had Summer Search not been a part of it. No one was telling me how to get to college; I tried to figure out whom to talk to and Summer Search was there for me.”

— Edgar Garcia

Since 2012, Summer Search, PwC and the PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc. have collaborated in our shared efforts to support the next generation of community leaders—investing more than $130,000 in financial support. PwC employees also provide meaningful volunteer support as regional board members, event hosts, and leadership committee members.

COACHING FOR SUCCESS
More than 25 PwC employees served as career coaches with Summer Search in 2014. Each career coach works one-on-one with a college student to help them build the skills to be a successful, first-generation professional. Additionally, students serve as interns to develop workplace skills, expand their professional network, and explore career options. Summer Searcher Joe Munayer recently accepted a full-time position with PwC following his summer internship.

SETTING SMART GOALS
In 2014, PwC donated 260 pro bono hours to strengthen Summer Search’s National Performance Management System. Thanks to PwC’s extended support and expertise, Summer Search now has a more comprehensive system for setting expectations, developing leaders, and tracking and managing performance metrics.

PAYING IT FORWARD
Summer Search launched the Alumni Donor Society, a community of alumni donors who make gifts of $500 or more each year. The benefits of membership include access to events with Summer Search leadership and board members. We celebrate and thank the alumni who have joined the society.

BUILDING A COLLEGE-GOING PIPELINE

93% of our high school seniors continued on to college last year

$7.6 million awarded in financial aid

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“The opportunity to develop my workplace skills while gaining ‘real world’ experience has been invaluable. I learned so much through my internship and am thrilled to be starting my career at PwC after I graduate. I am confident that the combination of support from Summer Search and my internship experience have prepared me with the skills I need to succeed.”

— Joe Munayer

ENROLLING MALES OF COLOR

We increased our enrollment of male students to 44%—up 10% from 34% in 2011. We attribute this increase to enhancements made to our outreach strategy: revising expectations with referral partners, modifying our messaging, conducting all male orientation sessions, and providing more support during the application process.

PILOTTING GROUP MENTORING

Supported by a generous grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, we launched our first innovation pilot: group mentoring in San Francisco and Boston! This exciting opportunity will help us determine if stronger student impact per dollar can be achieved when delivering a hybrid approach to mentoring that includes both 1:1 time with mentors and group sessions with peers.

ENGAGING THE FIELD

We aspire to learn from and influence the youth development field in order to collectively serve more young people. In collaboration with Philadelphia Academies, we convened a hands-on Design Lab with leaders across sectors, representing corporations, nonprofits, academics and Philadelphia schools to examine how grit and resiliency can be replicated so that more young people can thrive. We also began discussions with the White House to identify opportunities to partner in their vision to expand college opportunity for many more low-income students through the College Opportunity, Reach Higher and My Brother’s Keeper initiatives.

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TREKKING THE WORLD
This past summer, Summer Searchers hiked 21,119 miles, paddled 17,429 miles, climbed 38,008 feet, and completed 21,496 community service hours in 22 countries. More importantly, these challenging summer experiences helped our students discover how capable they really are and what they have to offer the world.

DEEPENING A FOUNDATION FOR EVALUATION
In partnership with Equal Measure (formerly OMG), we refreshed our Theory of Change to link it to evidence-based research. This work was made possible by support from the Gap Foundation and provides us with a more robust foundation for our evaluation efforts. From this, we have developed a set of program performance metrics to help us understand our progress toward student outcomes.

VALIDATING OUR APPROACH
Now that we have a refreshed Theory of Change, our evaluation work has kicked into high gear and we are building an enhanced set of data collection tools to better capture the interim changes we see in students in four areas: self, academics, relationships and social responsibility. The collection of this data will help validate our work externally, while also identifying opportunities for future innovations and enhancements.

“I learned a lot about myself from this trip. I learned to love me for my true self, to express myself, to let people be there for me, and to not grow up to be angry.”

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