Be A LEADER Foundation



IMPACT REPORT

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR



LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Soilo J. Felix | *President & Chief Executive Officer*

As I reflect on the 2025–26 academic year, I am grateful for the students, educators, donors, volunteers, and partners who make this work possible. Together, we are helping more young people navigate the path from middle school to college with the knowledge, confidence, and support to succeed.

This year, we strengthened that support across the student journey. We launched ASPIRE8 to reach students during the critical transition to high school, expanded last-dollar scholarship assistance, and continued helping thousands of students complete the milestones that lead to postsecondary enrollment and attainment.

The results shared in this report reflect what is possible when a community commits to the belief that every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their goals. Thank you for believing in our students and for investing in their futures. Your partnership continues to make a lasting difference, and we are honored to share the impact of that investment with you.

2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melissa B. Trujillo
Board Chair & Co-Founder
Be A Leader Foundation

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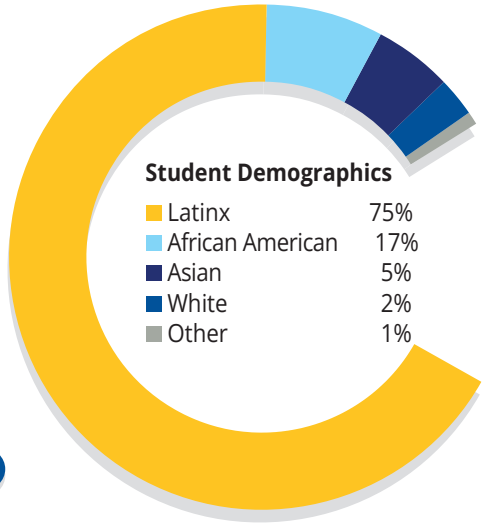
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Glenn Wike
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Burton Family Foundation

PORTRAIT OF A **BE A LEADER** STUDENT



> "Be A Leader is helping me navigate my path to college and supporting me along the way."
>
> **- Esteban**
>
> *8th Grader in the Roosevelt School District*



84%
of Be A Leader students identify as low-income

76%
of Be A Leader students are prospective first-generation college students

**Be A Leader Scholar featured on the cover: Ayram, High School Class of 2026*

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR
IMPACT OVERVIEW

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

STATE OF ARIZONA	BE A LEADER STUDENTS
50%	**78%**

Be A Leader students enroll in postsecondary education at a substantially higher rate than students statewide. Through advising, milestone support, and access to trusted resources, students are better equipped to move from college aspiration to enrollment.

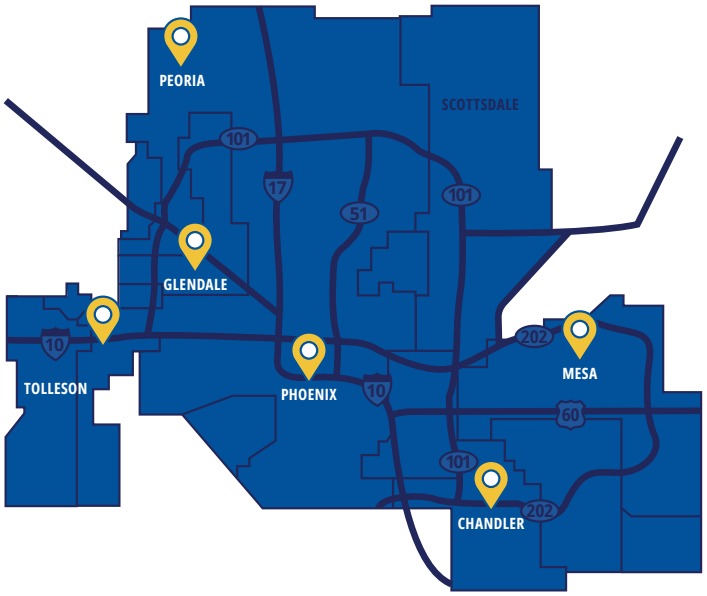
POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT

STATE OF ARIZONA	BE A LEADER STUDENTS
31%	**59%**

Be A Leader students complete a postsecondary degree at nearly twice the statewide rate. Continued guidance helps students navigate challenges, persist in college, and reach graduation.

SOURCE: BE A LEADER | NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE ANALYSIS REPORT (APRIL 2026)

OUR SERVICE MAP



Be A Leader's footprint spans communities across Greater Phoenix, connecting students from middle school through college with guidance, resources, and a network of support.

2025-26 Reach

14,745 Students

Across **21** Districts

In **91** Schools



EVERY STEP TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

From middle school through college, Be A Leader works at two levels: providing students with direct guidance and experiences while strengthening the school systems that help students move toward college success.

One student. Many milestones. A network of support at every step.

1 EARLY AWARENESS – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students explore their strengths, future goals, and pathways after high school.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – MVP ACADEMY

In partnership with the MVP Foundation, Be A Leader supports middle school boys through MVP Academy, a youth and leadership development program that helps students build confidence and strengthen essential skills.



1,304
STUDENTS SUPPORTED IN 2025-2026

Building confidence and a vision for the future

2 ACCESS – HIGH SCHOOL

Students build a plan for life after high school with ongoing college and career guidance, workshops, and individualized support.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – SENIOR BOOT CAMP

In their final year of high school, students receive intensive support to complete applications, FAFSA, scholarships, and the steps required to successfully enroll in college.



169
WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY OUR DIRECT SERVICE TEAM IN 2025-2026



154
SBC STUDENTS SUPPORTED

Turning college aspirations into an actionable plan.

3 SUCCESS – COLLEGE

Students continue receiving guidance, resources, and encouragement as they work toward a degree.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – GARCIA PERSISTENCE PROJECT

Through the Garcia Persistence Project, Be A Leader provides community college students with individualized guidance and resources to help them navigate challenges, remain enrolled, and progress toward graduation.



202
STUDENTS SUPPORTED

Transforming college enrollment into college completion.

STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM AT EVERY STEP

We work alongside schools, districts, colleges, and community partners to identify barriers, use data to improve practice, and build stronger pathways to college success.

EXPERIENCES THAT OPEN DOORS

Signature experiences help students see themselves on a college campus, explore future careers, and take their next step with confidence.

COLLEGE TOUR WEEK

Students experience college firsthand and begin imagining themselves there.



166 STUDENTS SUPPORTED IN 2025-2026

CAREER EXPLORATION WEEK

Students explore real workplaces and future careers alongside professionals.



131 STUDENTS SUPPORTED IN 2025-2026

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS college success

Students participate in a high-energy day connecting them with the guidance, resources, and people that can help them move forward to take the next step toward college and career success.

1,465
STUDENTS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

- 9th & 10th Grade: College Curious Pathway
- 11th & 12th Grade: College Ready Pathway

77%
OF ATTENDEES WILL BE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

29
SCHOOL PARTNERS

98%
of students reported they were likely to reach out to the organizations they learned about at the Summit for additional support

93%
of students feel confident about the next steps toward college after attending the summit







49 Participating Resource Fair Organizations

- **11** Student Support Programs
- **11** Out-of-State Universities
- **8** Scholarship Organizations
- **5** Community Colleges
- **5** In-State Universities
- **4** College Programs
- **3** Student Volunteer Programs

BUILDING PATHWAYS EARLIER:

INTRODUCING:

ASPIRE8

IN PARNERSHIP WITH:

Helios Education Foundation

Murphy Elementary School District



Middle school students work with Be A Leader staff to prepare for their future transition to high school.

This year, Be A Leader launched ASPIRE8 with support from Helios Education Foundation, extending our work upstream to the critical transition from middle school to high school. During this period, students begin making choices—and forming beliefs about themselves—that can shape their future educational opportunities.

For more than two decades, Be A Leader has helped students navigate key milestones on the path to college. ASPIRE8 combines direct student support with collaboration among school and district leaders. Students build confidence, explore future possibilities, and prepare for a successful transition to high school. At the systems level, educators use student perspectives and data to identify barriers, strengthen support, and develop more intentional pathways to college and career success.

ASPIRE8 reflects our knowledge that college success does not begin during senior year—it begins years earlier, when students first start imagining their futures. Through ASPIRE8, Be A Leader is helping students enter high school with a stronger sense of purpose while equipping educators to create conditions in which more students can remain on track.

As we look ahead, ASPIRE8 represents an exciting investment in the next generation of students who will benefit from stronger, more intentional pathways to success.

RISE NETWORK

Thank you to our partners at CT Rise for their assistance facilitating our ASPIRE8 kickoff convening.





School partners brainstorm student-centered solutions at the ASPIRE8 Kickoff Convening in April 2026.

CONVIVIO

For Tomorrow's Leaders

Convivio for Tomorrow's Leaders brings the Be A Leader community together to share stories, strengthen connections, and invest in students' futures. Proceeds from our second annual gathering supported last-dollar scholarships, helping students overcome unexpected financial barriers, remain enrolled, and continue their journey toward a college degree.



At our second annual Convivio, we proudly honored three remarkable individuals representing the many forces that make student success possible: iconic community leader Anna Maria Chávez, dedicated student advocate Nikki Alward, and next-generation leader and changemaker Vanesa Contreras Rodríguez.







THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

EL LÍDER PRESENTING SPONSOR:

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LA FAMILIA SPONSOR:

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VANESA CONTRERAS RODRÍGUEZ & SAMUEL PEREZ DIARTE
THE FELIX ALVAREZ FAMILY
SHARON IRWIN-FOULON & JOHN KEMPER

OVER $26,000 RAISED SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS

$42,000

IN BE A LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 58 EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS IN 2026

Each year, Be A Leader awards last-dollar scholarships to help students overcome financial barriers that could interrupt their education. These flexible funds help students stay enrolled, persist toward graduation, and continue building the future they envision.

JOIN US IN
SHAPING THE FUTURE

At Be A Leader, we know it takes a community to build lasting change. Whether you're an individual or represent a company, educational institution, or organization, there are meaningful ways to get involved:

VOLUNTEER | DONATE | SPONSOR | PARTNER

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Subscribe to our newsletter to stay inspired, informed, and connected:

Delivering water and power®

SRP's history of commitment to the community includes support of organizations like the Be A Leader Foundation.
We want to thank SRP for providing the printing of this report.

Be A Leader Foundation is a qualifying Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Organization (QCO Code #20849) and an approved IRS 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization #55-0850279

Be A LEADER Foundation

300 W. CLARENDON AVE, SUITE 460 | PHOENIX, AZ | 85013 | (602) 758-8000

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