



Discover 
Fantastic Learning Opportunities

2018 IMPACT REPORT

**Experience
Matters.**

Dear Friends,

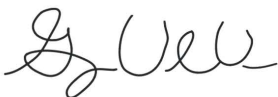
I am thrilled to share with you DiscoverU's 2018 Impact Report. DiscoverU helps students of all backgrounds gain access to amazing experiential learning through our extensive and innovative Fantastic Learning Opportunities (FLO) Program. Our commitment to ensuring equity of access to experiential learning has produced incredible results in communities across Houston.

Since our founding in 2007, DiscoverU's reach has grown from one high school to now 37 school sites across four school systems (2018-2019). Along with the expansion of partner locations, we boosted our number of students served from a dozen to now several hundred . In order to sustain such exponential growth, we sought out and secured nearly \$500,000 in scholarships and financial this year alone to defray the costs of participation for students and families.

In 2018, DiscoverU made our biggest impact ever: 683 individual students successfully participated in 95 different FLOs. We hope this report gives you a clearer picture of the inputs, outputs, and--most importantly--outcomes that make DiscoverU a leader in out-of-school time and experiential learning.

All of DiscoverU's success would not be possible without the trust and support of all of our stakeholders. The districts, schools, community members, FLO providers, parents, and students have been instrumental in helping DiscoverU achieve remarkable results. You understand what is at the very core of our approach: That experience matters. Your support allows DiscoverU the opportunity to provide resources and personalized mentoring to students. Our students--FLOsters--are then positioned to build their own informed, confident vision for the future. With your continued and increased support I am certain we can continue to help more students access the experiences they need to succeed in life.

Thank you,



George Vander Veer
Executive Director



DiscoverU believes every young person needs access to high-quality, out-of-school learning experiences that give them the skills, confidence, and mindset to advocate for their own success. We call these experiences Fantastic Learning Opportunities, or FLOs.

Fantastic Learning Opportunities, or FLOs, are:

EXTERNAL

FLOs are planned and executed by organizations beyond the traditional high school setting. FLO providers include non-profit organizations, companies, and colleges & universities. Many FLOs take place during the summer, when many students experience the “summer slide,” a loss of learning due to inactivity.

EDUCATIONAL

FLOs explicitly develop knowledge, skills, and values essential for success beyond high school, specifically in college and careers. FLOs offer the kind of immersive, hands-on experience that allow students to inhabit the future success they desire.

VOLUNTARY

FLOs are not mandatory, nor are they assigned to students; instead, individuals choose to apply to programs based on their interests and abilities. Even before students participate in a FLO, they grow and learn during the application process.

DiscoverU provides essential **program services to overcome obstacles** that traditionally prevent our students from **successfully participating in FLOs**:

- 1. Access to Information:** We identify, evaluate, and organize information about FLOs in a portfolio available to directly to students of partner organizations.
- 2. Personalized Guidance and Support:** We’ve learned that personal interactions are key to successful student FLO participation, from initial interest to applications to preparation and travel. We provide partners with the structures and strategies for establishing a FLO program, which include training and support for campus-based FLO Coordinators, as well as tools and resources for use in their work with students.
- 3. Financial Services and Logistical Solutions:** To lower financial barriers to participation, DiscoverU works with FLO providers to offer families extended payment timelines, tuition reduction, and fundraising opportunities. DiscoverU also provides partial need-based financial aid and travel booking services for our FLO Plus partners.
- 4. Post-FLO Reflection and Goal Setting:** Even after students return from a Fantastic Learning Opportunity, DiscoverU continues to engage them, helping them to process their experience and leverage it to achieve further success in college applications, job interviews, and professional networking.

PROGRAM RESULTS

683

Number of Students
Completing FLOs

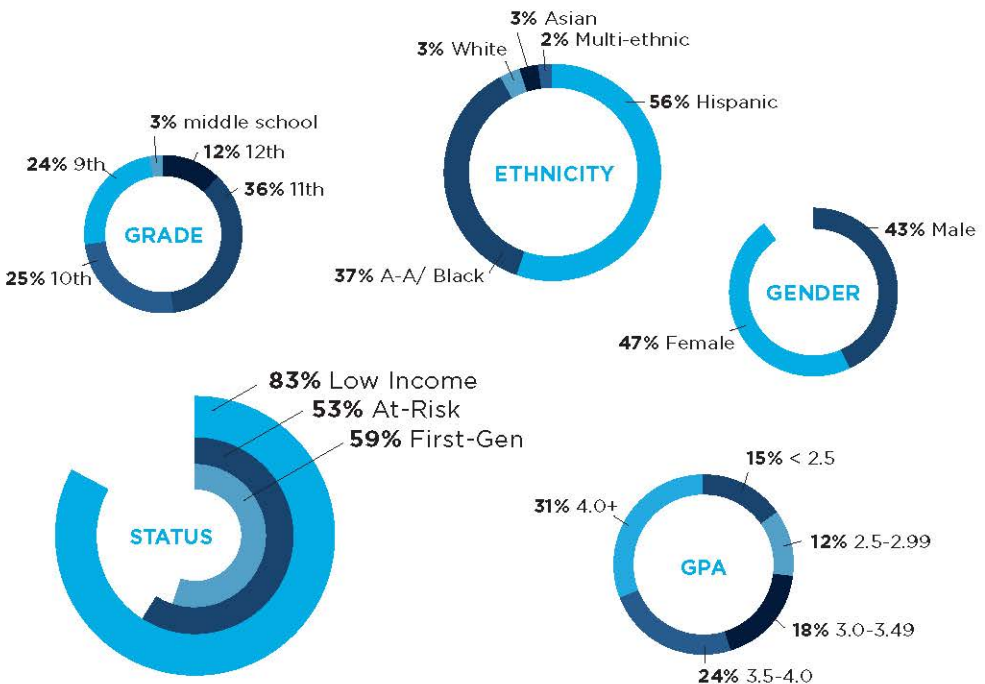
95

Number of FLOs

NUMBER OF FLOs ATTENDED BY FOCUS AREA(S)

 Engineering	19	 Health Services	17
 Mathematics/Science	19	 College Immersion	24
 Technology	14	 Community Service	15
 Business	15	 Wilderness/Outdoor	7

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



2017-2018

SELECT LIST OF FLO PROGRAMS



1. Andover Summer Admissions
Phillips Academy Andover

**Historically Black Colleges
& Universities Tour**

2. Jackson State University
3. University, LA Grambling State
4. University, LA Xavier University

5. Leading the Way Grand Canyon
Sound Academy
No Barriers Youth

6. Alaska Backpacking & Sea Kayaking
National Outdoor Leadership School

7. Cutting Edge to Medical Techniques
M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital and University
of Houston-Downtown

8. Intensive Chinese Language & culture
CIEE- High School Summer Abroad
CIEE-Global Navigator High School Program

9. Aviation Summer Academy
Saint Louis University's Parks College
of Engineering

10. Mickey Leland KibbutzIm Internship
Office of Sheila Jackson Lee

**11. Global Prep: Comparative
Journalism In Cologne**
AFS-USA

SCHOOLS SERVED

Cristo Rey Jesuit

Energy Institute High
School

Houston Academy for
International Studies

Kashmere High School

Liberty High School

Madison High School

Milby High School

Mickey Leland College
Preparatory Academy
for Young Men

North Forest High
School

Sharpstown High
School

Victory Prep South

Washington High
School

Westbury High School

Wheatley High School

Worthing High School

Yates High School

YES Prep Eisenhower

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

98%

OF FLOsters RATED THEIR FLO EXPERIENCE AS “EXCELLENT” OR “VERY GOOD”

98%

OF FLOsters EXPERIENCED ACADEMIC AND/OR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AS A RESULT OF THEIR FLO

86%

CONSIDER THEIR FLO EXPERIENCE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR FUTURE SUCCESS

75%

OF FLOsters (2010-2017) MATRICULATED TO A 2- OR 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY

67%

OF FLOsters (2010-2017) WHO MATRICULATED TO COLLEGE ARE STILL WORKING TOWARD THEIR DEGREES



6-YEAR COLLEGE GRADUATION RATE

(2010-2012 HS grads):

STUDENTS MATRICULATED TO 2-/4-YEAR
NATIONAL AVERAGE

69%
55%



MATRICULATED STUDENTS GRADUATED/PERSISTING

59%



OF TOTAL STUDENTS GRADUATED
NATIONAL AVERAGE

41%
20%



Comparison Data Source: "High School Benchmarks-2018."
National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.



PROGRAM INPUTS

2,066
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENGAGED

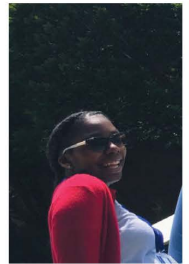
267
FLOS IN CATALOG

The programs in our catalog have been heavily vetted to ensure students have a quality experience. We provide in-depth information on each FLO in an easily searchable format.



74%

of FLOsters had **THREE OR MORE PERSONAL INTERACTIONS** with DU staff, campus coordinators, and/or trained volunteers. Resulting in over 2,000 personal connections and 500 hours spent in conversation with students and families.



\$439,746
IN TUITION AND TRAVEL REDUCTION

through FLO Program Scholarships and DiscoverU Financial Aid

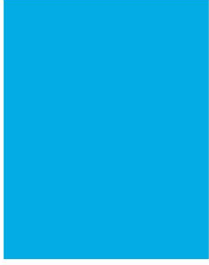


250

FAMILIES DIRECTLY ENGAGED

through our 1st Annual Bon Voyage Parent Meeting for student-preparation for summer programs and during our Parent Phone Banking sessions for making contact with the parents of students accepted to FLOs





1,257
NUMBER OF STUDENTS SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

12
HISD HIGH SCHOOLS SERVED
 DiscoverU formed our first district partnership, allowing us to serve the high schools associated with HISD's "Achieve 180" initiative



500+
STUDENTS & FAMILIES ATTENDED
 1st-ever DiscoverU/HISD Summer Opportunities Summit in March 2018



1,042
NUMBER OF STUDENTS GAINING ACCEPTANCE



185
ALUMNI SUMMIT ATTENDEES
 a day-long event that allowed students to reflect on their own FLO experience, meet other FLOsters, and network with area professionals in their chosen career path

OUR YEAR TO COME

1.

EXPANSION TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS

DiscoverU recently partnered with HISD's Department of Innovation & Post-Secondary Programming to provide FLO Programming to all Project Explore cohort members. Up to 500 middle school students will have the opportunity to research, select, and take part in a Fantastic Learning Opportunity in summer of 2019. Project Explore campuses:

Attucks Middle School
Burbank Middle School
Deady Middle School
Fleming Middle School
Fondren Middle School

Navarro Middle School
Pilgrim Academy
Reagan K-8 Educational Center
Sugar Grove Academy
Thomas Middle School

2.

PARTNERSHIP WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS

In partnering with EMERGE Fellowship, DiscoverU will be serving high-achieving students in schools across Spring Branch ISD and Spring ISD

3.

ACCESS FOR ALL PILOT

In the past 5 years, DiscoverU has invested considerable resources into an online platform that allows students and families direct access to the FLO Catalog, as well as essential planning and preparation tools for successful FLO participation. In fall of 2018 we launched our "FLO Access for All" pilot, granting online FLO Programming access for up to 2,000 Houston students. In fidelity to our mentorship program model, the online access information is distributed through parents, school staff, district personnel, and other adult mentors committed to help students navigate the process.

OUR FUNDERS

FOUNDATIONS

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A PHILANTHROPY ENDOWED BY JESSE H. AND MARY GIBBS JONES



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Samuels Family Foundation

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Fantastic Learning Opportunities

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