

# 2019 - 20 ANNUAL REPORT



## CAREER COMPASS

Louisiana's Nonprofit Authority on College & Career Access

[careercompassla.org](http://careercompassla.org)

## Friends,

Spring 2020 was an extraordinarily challenging time for all of us. The global COVID-19 pandemic forced us rethink how we work, live, and connect with our loved ones.

For our students, this spring semester was anything but normal. But even in the midst of confusion and disruption, our seniors (more than 13,000 of them!) were able to graduate with plans for their futures. They knew that this uncertain time wouldn't last forever and that they needed to be prepared for the next step in their lives. We are so proud of them and their resilience during this historically challenging period of their lives. Congrats, Class of 2020!

We want to thank our wonderful team of college & career coaches for rising to the occasion. They rallied when Gov. Edwards issued a Stay-at-Home mandate, and we shifted from a face-to-face, school-based model to a completely virtual model. We had never done this before on such a massive scale.

As our coaches began to work from home, continuing to serve students, we witnessed their fierce love for and dedication to our students. Losing time on such an important mission – our students' futures – was not an option for our coaches. Their steadfastness to ensuring students' access to educational opportunities during this time was an inspiration to us, and confirmed again that we have the best team EVER!

Recent national surveys have shown that many students and their families are now facing unforeseeable financial struggles due to COVID-19. Many students decided to take a gap year to work and save for college, while others were forced to trade their college choices for more inexpensive options. Unfortunately, a growing percentage of students nationwide is deciding to skip college. We must not allow this to happen in Louisiana.

This is why Career Compass exists – to remove the obstacles that keep students from pursuing a post-secondary education. That has been our mission since 2006, when we were founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and it remains true now, as we confront the formidable challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**More than ever, now is the time** to provide students with extra support and innovative options. As a society, we cannot afford to allow them to forgo their futures. We hope that you join us on our mission to remove the obstacles that keep students from pursuing a post-secondary education.

**It's time.**



Edward Scott



# STATEWIDE IMPACT

**202** Louisiana Public Schools Served

**39** School Districts Across Louisiana

**100** Professional, Trained Coaches



Graduate of Haughton  
High School, 2014

Graduate of Bossier Parish  
Community College

Louisiana State University  
Shreveport, 2018


Employee, Blue Cross  
& Blue Shield of Louisiana

Career Compass Student



# Eleanor Chandler

“I felt pretty clueless about college, financial aid, scholarships, etc. Then, I remember meeting with my Career Compass coach my senior year. My coach was very helpful and talked to me about my options. I knew where I wanted to go, which was Bossier Parish Community College, because I knew I would have more opportunities to receive scholarships there. So my coach got straight to work and found an application form, helped me fill it out, and answered my questions. The hardest part about understanding college as a senior in high school was financial aid, FAFSA, and state scholarships like TOPS and how important it is. Looking back now, I wouldn’t have known what in the world I was doing without my Career Compass coach.”



# No Better Time than Now

We help all students gain access to education and training opportunities beyond high school.



GRADE  
6-11

College & Career  
Awareness Seminars

Our coaches connect with students to begin the conversation about career choices and post-secondary options, helping them identify potential obstacles before they get in the way of success.

GRADE  
8-10

Small Group  
Mentoring

This early intervention sets students on the right track toward earning their diploma, regardless of the type.

GRADE  
12

College &  
Career Coaching

Professional coaches work one-on-one with high school seniors, equipping them with regionally-relevant workforce and post-secondary information. Students are empowered to explore their options, develop a realistic plan, and make it happen.



Onward and Upward To...  
Top 10 School Choices

# It's Their Time to Advance

Our students made some big strides in 2019-20, in spite of COVID-19. They set lofty goals for themselves, and our coaches provided the planning and support to get there.

## 2019-20 Outcomes



98%

### College & Career Coaching Outcomes

- 98% of 12th graders in Career Compass schools applied to education & training opportunities
- 13,344 12th graders headed to education & training after graduation
- \$136,958 worth of exam and college application fees were waived or covered by Career Compass

44K

### 6<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> Grade Outcomes

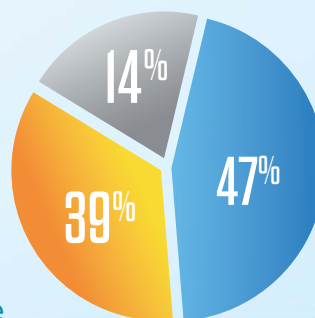
- Empowered 44,066 6th - 12th graders statewide
- 15,577 12th graders
- 28,489 6th-11th graders

72%

### FASFA Outcomes

- 72% of Louisiana students completed FASFA
- Louisiana is #2 in the nation for FASFA completion

## College Application by Type



- Technical or Community College
- Four Year University
- Military, Private or other

- #1 Baton Rouge Community College
- #2 Bossier Parish Community College
- #3 Northwestern State University
- #4 Louisiana Tech University
- #5 Nicholls State University
- #6 Louisiana State University
- #7 Fletcher Technical & Community College
- #8 Central Louisiana Technical Community College
- #9 Southeastern Louisiana University
- #10 University of Louisiana Lafayette

# Preparing for the Future Now

We leveraged 14 years of experience and partnerships to continue to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although social distancing presented an unprecedented challenge, we remained committed to serving our students and partners.

School closures across Louisiana meant that we could no longer meet face-to-face with our students past mid-March. **So how did we connect with students?**



Connected with **12th graders** through **11,213** text messages, **6,480** phone calls, **5,649** emails, and **27** virtual visits via Zoom/FaceTime



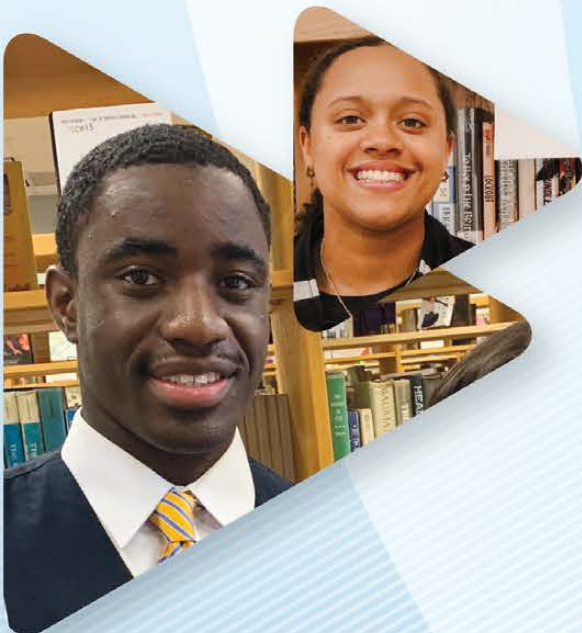
Set up a **FAFSA help line** where we received over **750** requests from seniors across the state for FAFSA completion assistance



**Video recordings** of all seminars + materials for underclassmen were offered to our school district partners



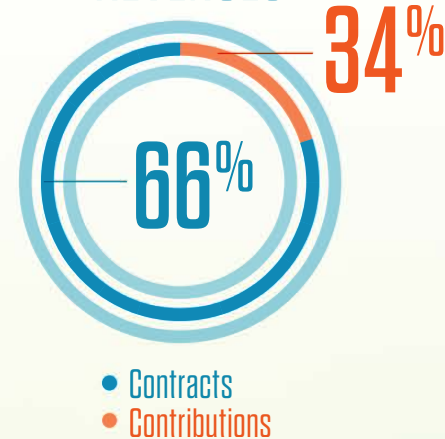
Reached out to underclassmen through **1,115** text messages, **989** phone calls, and **116** emails



## Our 2019-2020 Partners

- Boo Grigsby Family Foundation
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation
- Tricia Grigsby Sanchez Foundation
- Bossier Parish Community College
- Capital One Bank
- Central Louisiana Technical Community College
- Community Foundation of North Louisiana
- Huey & Angelina Wilson Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation of Northwest Louisiana
- LSU-S
- Parks Family Foundation
- Pennington Family Foundation
- Southern University Shreveport
- The Orchard Foundation
- William Edwin Montan Charitable Foundation
- Donors Wishing to Remain Anonymous

## REVENUES



## EXPENDITURES



Career Compass is a tax-exempt charitable organization. We accept donations, grants, and sponsorships. All figures derived from most recent audited financial statements.

## School District Partners

- Allen Parish School Board
- Assumption Parish Schools
- Avoyelles Parish School Board
- Bogalusa City Schools
- Bossier Parish Schools
- Caddo Parish Public Schools
- Calcasieu Parish Public Schools
- Caldwell Parish School District
- Catahoula Parish School Board
- Central Community School System
- Claiborne Parish Schools
- Concordia Parish School Board
- DeSoto Parish School System
- East Baton Rouge Parish School System
- East Carroll Parish School Board
- Friends of King School District
- Friendship Capitol High School
- Grant Parish School Board
- Iberville Parish School Board
- Lafourche Parish School District
- LaSalle Parish Schools
- Monroe City Schools
- Natchitoches Parish School Board
- New Beginnings School Foundation  
John F. Kennedy High School
- Plaquemines Parish School Board
- Pointe Coupee Parish School Board
- Rapides Parish School Board
- St. James Parish Schools
- St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools
- St. Mary Parish School Board
- Tangipahoa Parish School System
- Tensas Parish School Board
- Terrebonne Parish School District
- Vernon Parish School Board
- Washington Parish School System
- Webster Parish School Board
- West Baton Rouge Parish School Board
- West Carroll Parish School Board
- Winn Parish School Board



## OUR MISSION

To remove the obstacles that keep students from pursuing a post-secondary education.

## 2019-20 Board of Directors

Roxson Welch  
Board Chair

Dr. Jim Henderson

Jennifer Parks

Collis Temple III

Kacy Edwards

Co-Founder,  
Executive Director

Julie Scott

Co-Founder,  
Executive Director



# CAREER COMPASS

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### HEADQUARTERS:

5441 Jones Creek Road, Suite H  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

[info@careercompassla.org](mailto:info@careercompassla.org)

**(225) 236.2385**



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[www.careercompassla.org](http://www.careercompassla.org)

Many of the photos in this report were captured by our amazing Career Compass staff.