



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## CAREER COMPASS

Louisiana's Nonprofit Authority on College Access



“ I knew where I wanted to go to college and what I wanted to study. The problem was that I was clueless on how to get there! My college & career coach helped me with my college application, making sure I met all of the requirements to get in. She also helped me with FAFSA — and I didn’t even know what FAFSA was at the time! We talked about TOPS and what was required, and we worked on applying for scholarships together, too. My coach helped make the transition to college so much easier. Career Compass is like a friend to me. They are actually more like family.”

– Jaden Johnson, Student at Southern University A&M





## **HERO /hērō/: A person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.**

Every great story has hero — a person who must complete a task or reach a goal in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. The hero or heroine always encounters an obstacle, somehow finds a way to overcome it, and triumphs in the end. Cue curtain closing. At Career Compass, we are honored to play a supporting role in tens of thousands of the most epic stories out there.

### **But we are not the heroes of these legendary tales.**

Our 2018-19 annual report highlights the real heroes of the Career Compass story — **our students**. The heroes in our story depict the full spectrum of diversity, from every possible angle you can imagine. We insist on working with every student in our partner schools, because we believe that there is place for everyone after high school, no matter what obstacles they may face now.

Thanks to our partners from school districts, post-secondary institutions, foundations, and corporate funders, we are pleased to announce that since 2006, we have **empowered more than 100,000 12th graders to apply to education or training programs after high school.**

Because of our students — **our heroes** — we get to do what we love. Because of them, we wake up each day knowing we make an impact on future generations. We hope that their stories inspire you, move you, and push you to achieve your next big thing.

In service,

Kacy Edwards and Julie Scott  
Co-Founders, Executive Directors

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

► **12th Grade College and 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.

► **Small Group Mentoring (9th and 10th grade)**

This early intervention for high school freshmen and sophomores sets students on the right track toward earning their diploma, regardless of the type.

► **College & Career Awareness Seminars and Boot Camps (6th — 11th grade)**

Reach students in grades 6–11 to begin the conversation about career choices and post-secondary options. Help them identify potential obstacles before they get in the way of success.

► **Mobile Apps to Empower and Educate Parents and Students**

Career Compass ASK Me! for students links them to info on graduation, college, FAFSA, ACT, scholarships, and more. Career Compass Parent links families to financial aid help, info about Jump Start/CTE, and more. Parents in partner districts can message coaches when they are on the go.

► **College Success**

School district or school staff collaborates with our trained coaches to develop a plan to decrease summer melt after high school, and increase post-secondary enrollment and retention in college. Contributes to increased post-secondary enrollment rates.



REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



Statewide Impact

156 LOUISIANA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SERVED

36 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS LOUISIANA

80 COACHES WITH 60+ HOURS OF TRAINING EACH

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Heroes



**MORE THAN 100K** 12th graders from our partner schools worked alongside a Career Compass coach to apply to education or training opportunities after high school since 2006

**LAST YEAR (2018-19)**

**▲ 97%** of 12th graders in Career Compass schools applied to education or training opportunities

**13,932** 12th graders headed to post-secondary programs

**48%** Headed to technical or community college

**38%** Bound for four-year university/college

**14%** Aiming for private, military or out-of-state schools



## Top 10 School Choices

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

**\$150,187** Value of application/exam waivers obtained by or covered by Career Compass for our students

**77.15%** of Louisiana 12th graders in the class of 2019 who completed FAFSA



# Heroes on the Rise



Building a college-going culture early can help students better structure their high school experience. Small group mentoring takes the conversations up a notch, helping smaller cohorts of students get on the right track toward earning their diploma. At all grade levels, students are empowered to be proactive in addressing future obstacles before they arise.

LAST YEAR (2018-19)

23,391

6th — 11th graders improved their college & career awareness through seminars, small group mentoring, and boot camps

1,864

College and career awareness seminars were provided statewide

2,911

9th, 10th, and 11th grade students were mentored on Jump Start college and career pathways by Career Compass



# The Year of the Angels

In 2018, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation honored 10 everyday Louisianians doing extraordinary good for the state's children at the 2018 Angel Award® ceremony. This year, our **Kacy Edwards and Julie Scott were two of the honorees.**

This year's honorees were chosen from a record number of nominations submitted from across the state, from Gretna to Ruston. All Angels received a \$25,000 grant to the charity of their choice to deepen the impact of their work.



“Our Angels are not billionaires or celebrities. They’re everyday people who have thrown themselves fully into a life of service and impact,” said *Foundation President Michael Tipton*. “We hold these people up because we want to show how a commitment to everyday goodness takes hold and spreads in a way that completely changes the future for our state’s children.”





# CAREER COMPASS

Louisiana's Nonprofit Authority on College Access

## Senior Leadership

Kacy Edwards

Co-Founder, Executive Director

Julie Scott

Co-Founder, Executive Director

Stacie Gardana

Director of Administration

Crystal Burch

Director of Strategic Partnerships

## 2018-19 Board of Directors

Roxson Welch

Board Chair

Kacy Edwards

Dr. Jim Henderson

Jennifer Parks

Julie Scott

Collis Temple III



## OUR MISSION

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

### HEADQUARTERS:

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