CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ........... 4
MISSION & MODEL ........................................... 5
IMPACT & RESULTS ............................................. 6-7
GROWTH ........................................................... 8
FY19 HIGHLIGHTS .............................................. 9
FINANCIALS ...................................................... 11-12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ..................................... 13
SUPPORTERS ....................................................... 14-15
The 2018-2019 academic year was a year of unprecedented growth for EMERGE. We supported 2,000 students across 52 high schools and 150 colleges, expanded to our third school district - Spring ISD, launched our college success team, doubled the size of our staff, conducted our first audit and took more than 400 high school students on six life-changing college tours.

As I reflect on our progress over the last year, I’m humbled by the village of supporters that has grown alongside the organization since 2010. From the early days of EMERGE to where we are today, one thing has always remained true - meaningful relationships fuel us.

Because of our partnerships with public school districts, colleges and universities, and community supporters, we have prepared and empowered thousands of high-achieving students from Houston’s underserved communities to apply to, attend, and graduate from the nation’s most selective institutions year after year. The class of 2019 enrolled in more than 100 colleges and universities such as Harvard, Boston University, Duke, Spelman, University of Chicago, Stanford, and University of Texas at Austin.

Each year, I am inspired by the resilience and talent of students like Cecilia Garcia. Cecilia is a Spring Branch ISD graduate who is currently a freshman at Emory University studying public health and international affairs. Before joining EMERGE, she had never heard of Emory and never would have known that attending a selective college was a possibility. Cecilia said that the best part about being in EMERGE is that “it allows you to see all of the open doors in front of you and guides you every step of the way.”

More than 80% of our students earn a college degree within four years of high school graduation. Our results are on par with the completion rates of some of the wealthiest students in the country. EMERGE has made great strides in closing the college access and completion gap, and we recognize that significant challenges remain. Currently, only 13% percent of students from low income communities in Houston earn a post-secondary degree. While this startling statistic has clear economic ramifications, I can’t help but wonder how much talent is squandered each year in our city. Imagine how many doctors, scientists, inventors, lawyers, engineers, business leaders, and teachers will never “EMERGE” to solve the problems they were born to solve. Until these statistics change, we will continue to expand our footprint to reach new students, families, and communities.

As you read through the pages of this report, I invite you to celebrate with us in our accomplishments and take a moment to reflect on the role you played in increasing opportunity and access for Houston students in the 2018-2019 academic year. We couldn’t do this work without your support and we sincerely appreciate your partnership.

The mission of EMERGE is to empower and prepare high-performing students from underserved communities to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation.

DISTRIBUTION PARTNER MODEL
EMERGE partners with traditional public school districts to identify high-performing students from underserved communities to join the program. We work together to eliminate barriers and build systems to ensure more students have the information, tools, and support to apply to the nation’s top colleges and universities.

STUDENT PROFILE ELEVATION
Our goal is for every EMERGE senior to be one of the most competitive college applicants in the country. To do this, we reduce the student-to-college counselor ratio from 500:1 to 60:1 and focus on elevating the student profile. Between 10th and 12th grade, our team provides course and extracurricular advising, bi-weekly after-school sessions, SAT preparation, and support to enroll in a high impact summer opportunity.

SELECTIVE COLLEGE EXPOSURE
Every summer, sophomores and juniors in the EMERGE program participate in a week-long trip touring colleges in one of six regions across the country. In 2019, students visited the following regions: Boston, Connecticut/New York City, Washington D.C./Maryland/Virginia, Pennsylvania, Chicago/Midwest, and Southern California.

COLLEGE PERSISTENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS
EMERGE launched the college success team with three people supporting more than 850 students across 150 selective colleges and universities. The “to-through-and thrive” vision of the college success team is built on the belief that, for low-income students, getting accepted into a selective college is not enough. Our goal is for students to graduate on-time and prepared to thrive in the job market.
IMPACT & RESULTS

OUR REACH

1065 HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWS
859 COLLEGE SCHOLARS

OUR STUDENTS

90% 1st Generation College Students
93% Economically Disadvantaged

OUR IMPACT

99% Applied to at least one selective college or university
93% Accepted to at least one selective college or university
97% Matriculated to a four-year college or university
70% Matriculated to a selective four-year college or university
82% Graduated from a four-year college or university within four years

CHRISHAWNA JOHNSON
Spring High School | Spring ISD
Boston College | Class of 2024

“EMERGE is a family outside of my own. Through the program, I grew as an individual alongside my peers who are destined to change the world.”

LUIS LEON MEDINA
Bellaire High School | Houston ISD
Yale University | Class of 2022

“I cannot begin to describe the role that EMERGE has played in getting me to this point in my life. My initial exposure to Yale was through the EMERGE summer college tour and now I am here studying Prospective Sociology and Film & Media Studies”.

JOEL MELENDEZ
Spring Woods High School | Spring Branch ISD
The University of Texas at Austin | Class of 2021

“EMERGE quite literally changed my life. Coming from an underserved community, I always believed that the things I could accomplish were limited to what people expected of me. EMERGE empowered me to become a leader in my community and believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself.”
Yesenia is a part of EMERGE’s inaugural class of students at Spring ISD. Thanks to the generous support of The Brown Foundation and Laura and John Arnold, in the spring of 2018, Spring ISD became EMERGE’s third school district partner. Yesenia graduated from Dekaney High School in the spring of 2019 and is now a freshman at DePauw University in Indiana.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, EMERGE served over 1,000 high school students across three Houston-area school districts (Houston ISD, Spring Branch ISD, and Spring ISD) and nearly 900 college students at more than 150 colleges and universities.
Statement of Financial Position  
as of July 31, 2019  

**Assets**  
Cash and cash equivalents $1,651,384  
Contributions receivable $405,000  
Prepaid expenses and other assets $9,415  
Total assets $2,065,799  

**Liabilities**  
Accounts payable and accrued expenses $25,743  
Deferred revenue $81,000  
Total liabilities $106,743  

**Net Assets**  
Without donor restrictions $1,170,316  
With donor restrictions $788,740  
Total net assets $1,959,056  
Total liabilities and net assets $2,065,799  

Statement of Financial Activities  
as of July 31, 2019  

**Revenue**  
Contributions $1,330,004  
Program service fees $1,207,973  
Special events $365,940  
Direct donor benefit cost ($26,197)  
Total revenue $2,877,720  

**Expenses**  
Program services $1,879,853  
Management and general $275,226  
Fundraising $270,020  
Total expenses $2,425,099  

Changes in net assets $452,621  
Net assets, beginning of year $1,506,436  
Net assets, end of year $1,959,056
FINANCIALS

INCOME
$2,877,720

EARNED REVENUE
$1,207,973
42%

FUNDRAISING
$1,669,747
58%

EXPENSES
$2,425,099

PROGRAM SERVICE COSTS*
$1,879,853
78%

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL COSTS
$275,226
11%

*HISD incurs approximately $1.5 million of additional costs to operate the program within the district. With these costs included, EMERGE’s total program costs come to 86% of the total budget.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Smith  PRESIDENT
EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANT
Denise Smith Consulting

Pedro Caruso  VICE PRESIDENT
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Accenture

Abdullah Khan  TREASURER
PRINCIPAL
EY

Erin Patterson  SECRETARY
Community Volunteer

David Bell  ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR, RETIRED
University of Houston

Denise Hamilton  FOUNDER
WatchHerWork

Katie Johnson  Community Volunteer

Ann Kennedy  Independent Performing Arts Professional

Judy Le  PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER
TakeRoot Leadership Consulting and Coaching

Mia Mends  CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Sodexo North America

Jeniffer Ramirez  EMERGE Student Scholar

Dr. Srinivas "Vasu" Rao  FOUNDER / CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Texas Vein & Wellness Institute

Bryan Sanchez  SHAREHOLDER & CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER
Lionstone Investments

Louise Wiggins  PRINCIPAL
The Boston Consulting Group

Maria Zerr  Community Volunteer

Trisha Cornwell  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Because of our partnerships with public school districts, colleges and universities, and community supporters, we have prepared and empowered thousands of high-achieving students from Houston’s underserved communities to apply to, attend, and graduate from the nation’s most selective institutions year after year.

TRISHA CORNWELL