“Thank you for funding a program that encourages students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with limited English, and limited access to educational opportunities, the chance to dream bigger. My story is an Aim High story. It wouldn’t be possible without you. Thank you for the chance to dream bigger.”

—Patty Nguyen, Aim High 2013 Distinguished Alumna
Dear Friends,

Hearing Patty Nguyen speak at our 2013 Generations Gala was a powerful and unforgettable moment for both of us. We hear stories and testimonials like hers all the time. Our community of supporters makes Aim High possible for young people like Patty. Thank you.

2013 was an extraordinary year for Aim High. Of all that we’ve accomplished over the past year, these following five points of pride stand out:

1. **Our Community:** Aim High was awarded the 2013 Excellence in Collaboration Award by the National Partnership for Educational Access.

2. **Our Students:** More than 1,400 students experienced the Aim High Magic—learning, community and opportunity!

3. **Our Educators:** We recruited, trained, and supported 372 teachers, 70% of whom were teachers of color, and 27% of whom were graduates of Aim High themselves.

4. **Our Environmental Education Program:** 374 students in their final year at Aim High spent a week outdoors, learning about environmental stewardship and leadership.

5. **Our Celebration:** We celebrated the achievements of our community at our most successful Generations Gala to date, where we raised enough funds to send more than 280 new students to Aim High in 2014.

This annual report celebrates the power and potential of our students, and also recognizes the generosity of our supporters: foundations, corporate sponsors, Aim High families and hundreds of individuals. Thank you for believing in our mission. Thank you for making Aim High possible for thousands of young people across the Bay Area.

We have much to look forward to in 2014 including launching a new campus in East Oakland, welcoming 1,700 students across 15 sites and developing our next strategic plan, Vision 2020. We are filled with hope and excitement about all that lies ahead.

Thank you for being part of our success.

Alec Lee  
Executive Director

Bruce Wheeler  
President, Board of Trustees
Aim High was created in 1986 by two teachers who recognized the significant impact summer learning could have on the lives of middle school youth. Today, the organization is the largest provider of summer learning opportunities in the Bay Area. Aim High is changing lives by giving students a strong academic foundation, creating a vibrant community of support, and inspiring them to succeed in high school and college. We continue to dream bigger. Our vision is to provide all middle school youth from underserved Bay Area communities with transformational summer learning experiences so they enter high school on track and ready to succeed.
Project-Based Learning
Our students learn side-by-side with teachers. They learn by doing, not from lectures.

“We rapped about our Headlands trip and presented the rap to our entire campus. We cried together in Issues & Choices while talking about family hardships and bullying. We made Barbie into life-size girls in Math and aqua-terra bottles in Science.”
Aim High isn’t your typical summer school.

Team Teaching
By putting multiple teachers in every classroom, Aim High maintains a low student to teacher ratio, while providing young adults—including many graduates—hands-on teaching experience.

“As an Aim High graduate, I remember how my teachers would motivate me and make me feel like I have the potential to be someone great in life. Aim High is not just about education; it is also about having a great future and making sure you are ready to strive emotionally and academically.”

Rigorous Academics
Aim High students take four academic courses: science, humanities, math, and issues & choices. These lay the foundation for success in the upcoming school year.

“Aim High gave me a safe learning environment to explore my interests without the pressure of grades and negative peer pressure.”
College/Career Readiness
Through an innovative curriculum, our students learn how choices they make now will impact their future success. Their knowledge is supplemented by visits to corporations, colleges, and visits from Bay Area professionals ranging from chefs to CEOs.

“Each class made me prepared for middle school and I have a better understanding of college and how to get to it.”

Outdoor Education
By spending a week outdoors, Aim High students learn about environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and the interplay between ecosystems and communities.

“Learning about the environment and my community gave me a strong sense of belonging and devotion to service.”
Youth Development
Middle school is a challenging time in a young person’s life. Through our thoughtful course, known as “Issues & Choices,” we explore personal identity, healthy relationships, and decision-making. Students gain positive role models and the skills they need to navigate the difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood.

“There’s only one way to describe it: Aim High is *magical*. Being there everyday just brings out who you are and you just can’t do that in school. People stare and people judge, but here on campus you feel safer, happier, and just you.”
Our teachers reflect the diversity of our students. 70% of Aim High teachers are teachers of color. In contrast, teachers of color make up only 33% of California’s teaching force.
2013: By the Numbers

14 Campuses
serving students in San Francisco, Oakland, Marin City, San Rafael, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and Truckee/Tahoe.

372 Teachers
27% Aim High alumni
53% bilingual

1,444 Students
97% students of color
78% will be the first generation in their family to graduate from college
74% speak a language other than English at home
75% receive free or reduced lunch at school
$28,000 median household income
Our Impact

99% of students say they have an adult or teacher at Aim High who cares about them

95% of students can imagine themselves as successful college students

79% of students improved their math skills (based on pre- and post-test scores)

87% of students tell us they were challenged at Aim High

90% of students report they are better prepared for the upcoming school year
“Because of Aim High I have become a new person. In the 6th grade I was a C student and now I’m an A student. I can’t thank this program enough.”

—Aim High student
Every year, we gather to celebrate our community and to recognize the hard work of our teachers, students, partners and leaders. This year’s award recipients spoke at our annual Generations Gala and are profiled below.

**Tony Rodgers,**  
**Aim High Distinguished Educator**

“Working alongside Tony inspired in me the same joy for teaching that I have as a learner. He instilled in me a sense of wonder.”  
—Carl Siegel, Aim High Site Director

Tony Rodgers has been enthusiastically teaching science at Aim High for the past 12 summers. He spent his early years in Missouri before moving with his family to Oakland when he was in middle school. He attended U.C. Berkeley where he studied African American Studies. During the school year, Tony teaches sixth-grade math and science at Anna Yates Elementary School in Emeryville.

**Patty Nguyen,**  
**Aim High Distinguished Alumna**

“I remember Patty as bright and engaged with everything going on around her—even though she hardly spoke a word of English when she first came to Aim High.”  
—Paula Egan, Aim High Site Director

Patty Nguyen attended Aim High for three consecutive summers and graduated from the program in 1999. In 2003, she returned to Aim High as a Teaching Assistant in mathematics. Since graduating from the program, she has earned her B.S. in Chemistry from U.C. Davis and an M.S. in Chemistry from Pennsylvania State University. She currently works as a Chemical Hygiene Officer at UCSF.
In November, we celebrated the achievements of our community members at our Generations Gala, where we raised enough money to send more than **280 new students** to Aim High this summer. The success of the evening was due in large part to our honorees: **Shorenstein Properties** and **Mark Lampert and Susan Byrd**. Our inaugural Partner of the Year, Shorenstein Properties, has been instrumental in our growth and development over the past decade. Additionally, Mark Lampert and Susan Byrd founded the **Youth Opportunity Scholars** program, for which we honored them as our Visionary Leaders of the Year. Their scholarship program has allowed 225 Aim High students to enroll in extracurricular activities they otherwise would not be able to afford. Two student scholars spoke at the event and shared their newfound love of taekwondo and guitar thanks to the generosity of Mark and Susan’s program.
Revenue by Source

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Total: $3,290,352

Expenditures by Category

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Total: $3,248,012

Information excerpted from Audited Financial Statements conducted by Lautze and Lautze.
When dividing exponential expressions with the same base, you can SUBTRACT the exponent of the denominator from the exponent of the numerator.
As an alumna, my Aim High experience is something I will never forget. I created relationships with others that I still have, even though I don’t get to see them everyday. I always felt I had a greater advantage academically for the upcoming year, especially in math and science because of Aim High.

I think I am a great example of how one can grow in the program. Before Aim High, I was a B to C average student who was very shy and did the minimum to get by, and after attending three years of the program, I am a straight A student who has grown out of her shell and who is exceeding expectations.

Before attending Aim High, I believed that I might not complete or even go to college. Aim High taught me that no matter where I come from socially or economically, with hard work and determination, I can exceed expectations, and ultimately I can go to college and be successful. Aim High’s message is extremely powerful and I want to be a part of continuing to share that message to future students.
# Our Supporters

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### $100,000+

- Anonymous
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- Charles and Gail McCabe
- Oakland Fund for Children & Youth
- SF Dept. of Children, Youth, and Their Families
- Shorenstein Realty Services, L.P.
- Sobrato Family Foundation

### $50,000 to $99,999

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
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- Roger Low
- Marin Community Foundation
- Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
- S.H. Cowell Foundation
- San Francisco 49ers Foundation
- San Francisco Unified School District
- The Reid Hoffman Foundation

### $25,000 to $49,999

- Anonymous
- S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
- Susan and Mitchell Cohen
- Bob and Martha Falkenberg
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- Quest Foundation
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### $10,000 to $24,999

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Aim High Honored

Aim High was awarded the 2013 Excellence in Collaboration Award by the National Partnership for Educational Access. This award honors a program that has “demonstrated successful and positive results in forming, cultivating, and implementing a collaboration that serves to increase the educational opportunities for underrepresented students.”
I really went out of my comfort zone and learned more about who I am in the process. Aim High taught me that we are all one big community. I felt like I really belonged. —Aim High student

Aim High makes my child brave. —Parent of an Aim High student

While at Aim High, students are not only learning during the summer, but they are building relationships with our teachers who are also their advocates, mentors, and cheerleaders. —Aim High Site Director