



# 2023 Annual Report

This report was created for the CPASS Foundation by IntuWork.

# CPASS Foundation Overview

CPASS  
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# Dr. Eric E. Whitaker Board Chairman



Last year marked a period of profound transformation that strengthened our dedication at the CPASS Foundation. Despite strides in post-pandemic recovery we recognize that there are still communities experiencing ongoing challenges related to economic revitalization, employment disparities, and enduring education inequalities, including setbacks that continue to be exacerbated by the pandemic. The need for advocacy efforts toward racial equality and social justice remains unchanged.

In the face of these obstacles, our commitment to our mission deepened. At CPASS, our fundamental goal remains steadfast: introducing underrepresented Illinois students to the world of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM). Our ultimate goal is to guide and empower them toward rewarding careers in these diverse fields, undeterred by the barriers that surround them.

This year, we continued to break down these barriers by creating a strategic plan that will guide our future growth trajectory. This plan centers on fostering holistic STEMM programs from early education to career entry, advocating for STEMM education in Black and Brown communities, and supporting parents as they navigate their children's STEMM journeys. The Associated Press reported that many university's, engineering and biology majors are struggling to grasp fractions and exponents, overshadowing the necessity for early STEMM engagement. Early STEMM exposure fosters curiosity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and literacy, thus preparing children for future careers in an increasingly STEMM-driven world.

As we execute our strategic plan, expansion of our Mini Medical School is a priority and we are on track to open our fifth site at the University of Illinois Peoria in the fall. In 2023 we launched our first site outside Illinois, at Ponce Health Sciences University. These milestones coincide with the launch of a new residential high school program, offering three summers of tuition-free STEMM education on college campuses to high school students statewide. However, we acknowledge that students require vital familial support on this educational journey. Recognizing this, we take pride in the strides made to bolster family support, notably through the introduction of our STEMM Parent Academy. This initiative centers on equipping parents with the tools and resources crucial for nurturing a STEMM-ready scholar.

Our Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™ (CAHMCP) has continued to evolve, offering invaluable resources, including free Kaplan® test prep, professional development workshops, and financial aid to students underrepresented in medicine (URiM), eliminating barriers to medical school completion. We engaged in thought-provoking dialogues at our Annual STEMM Pathways to Health Equity Breakfast, rallying community leaders, educators, and health professionals to engage in innovative strategies for medical education and health equity.

In 1982, I embarked on a transformative journey through CAHMCP, a program that laid essential paths toward healthcare careers, sparking my passion for medicine and preparing me for the journey. Today, the need for diversity in healthcare professions remains critical, and CPASS is at the forefront, paving the way for students underrepresented in STEMM to thrive.

This year, the CPASS Foundation has been driven by an urgent need for our STEMM programming, and recent data from the Illinois Department of Education reinforces the criticality of our mission. The report highlights a concerning disparity in STEMM education, particularly among underrepresented communities in Illinois. According to the Illinois State Board of Education Report Card, data shows a 17.9% and 22.7% passing rate for eighth-grade algebra among Black and Brown students, respectively, in contrast to 36.8% among white students. This is a critical data point as it predicts the likelihood that a student will pursue and persist in a STEMM major. Ideally, the math course sequence starts with Algebra I followed by Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. Those who successfully pass Algebra I in 8th grade are more likely to take high school Calculus, one of the “gateway” courses to a STEMM career. It is also worth mentioning access to 8th-grade Algebra I is limited in Illinois. Additionally, findings from The Root’s report further affirm what we’ve long understood: students from marginalized backgrounds continue to face barriers in accessing quality STEMM education. These glaring inequities drive us to focus our efforts on providing holistic opportunities for these students to engage meaningfully with STEMM subjects.

We must encourage and guide young minds toward STEMM disciplines early in their educational journeys. CPASS programs align with this call to action, emphasizing the importance of introducing STEMM concepts to underrepresented students from kindergarten through high school and supporting families on this journey. The aim is to instill a foundational interest in STEMM that can shape their educational trajectories and future career paths.

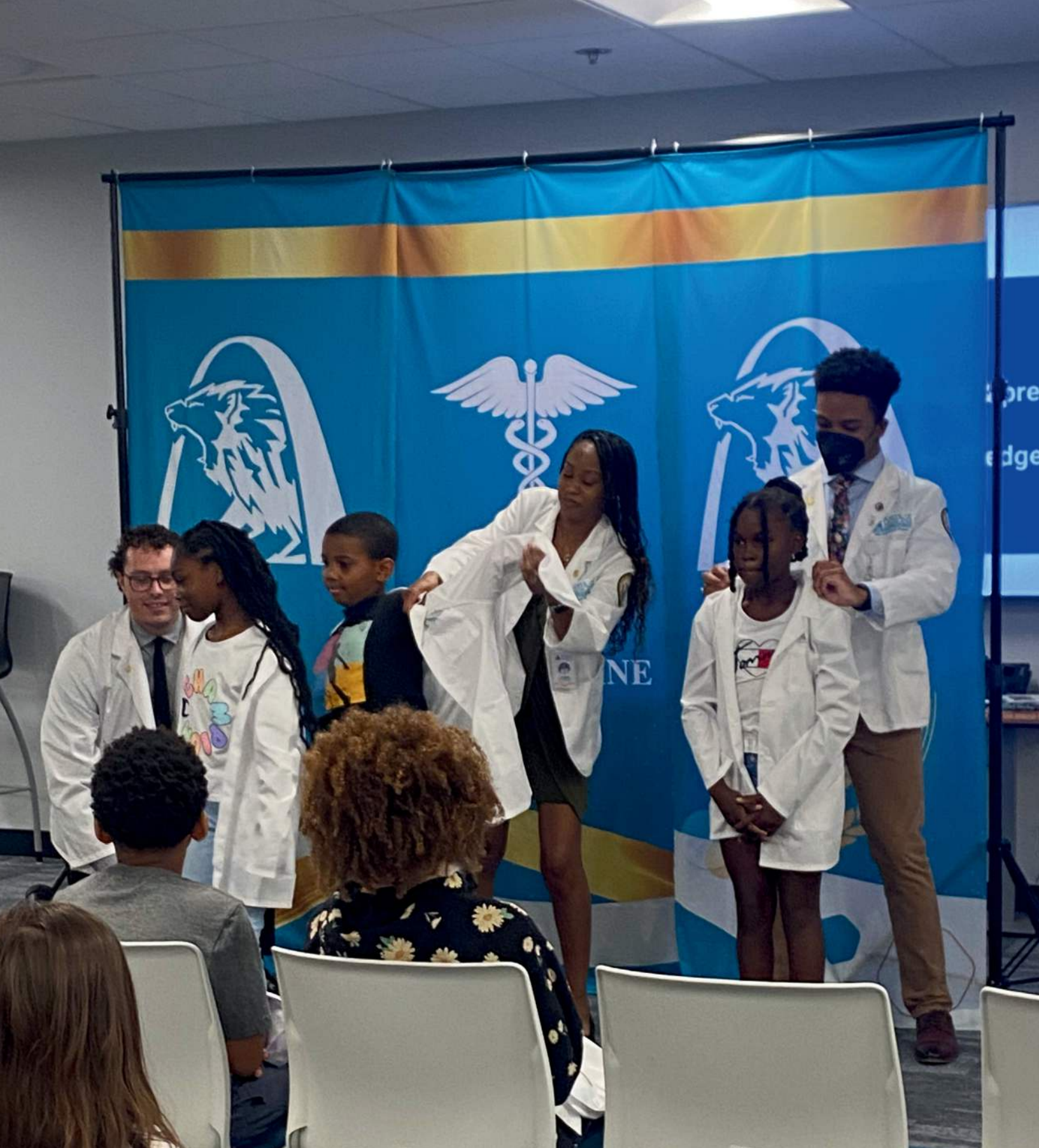
As we strive to offer accessible STEMM education to Black and Brown youth, your support becomes pivotal in shaping future doctors, scientists, engineers, and beyond. Your continued support enables us to forge ahead in our mission, addressing these pressing needs in STEMM education and championing equity and inclusion in the pursuit of shaping future generations of STEMM professionals.

Together, let’s prepare our youth for the health and tech careers of tomorrow, ensuring equitable opportunities for all.



*Eric E. Whitaker*

Eric E. Whitaker, Board Chairman



**Inaugural White Coat Ceremony  
Mini Medical School at Ponce Health Sciences University  
September 2023**

# OUR HISTORY

A STEM education is your pathway to a career in exciting technology-based fields. We offer exposure to STEM careers in medicine and other fields.

The CPASS Foundation builds upon the successes of the Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™ (CAHMCP, known as “Champs”). Founded in 1979 at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), this was a pipeline program for underrepresented high school and college students. CAHMCP prepared motivated students for careers in healthcare and medicine by showing them that they could succeed in these fields. The instruction included hands-on activities and field trips, as well as counseling for graduate school and medical college admission tests.

## What We Learned

What we learned from CAHMCP is that underrepresented students should start preparing for STEM careers much earlier. We needed to begin our program Our Vision CPASS will be the premier pipeline organization for underserved students to persist in STEM careers and dismantle health inequity. in middle school, so that students would be motivated to form good study habits. We also needed to take a broader view of technology-based medical careers for underrepresented students.

## Looking to the Future

Established in 2018, the CPASS Foundation is the second chapter in our story. The CPASS Foundation exposes underrepresented students to the wide range of career paths open to them. Mentoring and hands-on instruction help students prepare for a great future in STEM. We invite alumni of the CAHMCP program to work with us, as mentors, donors, and shining examples of career success for underrepresented students.

## OUR VISION

CPASS will be the premier pipeline organization for underserved students to persist in STEM careers and dismantle health inequity.

## OUR MISSION

CPASS provides STEM programming for underrepresented Illinois students while impacting policy change, providing access to valuable STEM programs, empowering their STEM identity, supporting them to excel as advocates, and lead social justice efforts in their home communities

# 2023

## OPEN FORUM FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING



1287

Scholars Served

30%\*

First Gen Scholars

## More Accomplishments:

- Strategic Planning: Open Forum and Brainstorming Sessions
- Black Men in White Coats
- Chicago Elite Classic
- Math with EEE's Scholarship Dinner Award

## BOARD RETREAT STRATEGIC PLANNING



\*First Generation percentage based on those reporting.



# Highlights

CPASS FOUNDATION BECOMES  
A PARTNER OF THE STEMM  
OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE



Achieving STEMM Equity and Excellence in  
Communities and Schools



## UIC MINI HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROGRAM GRADUATION



## MAPSCORPS AND ITS NU CHAPTER!



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Taliyah  
Rice**

Spelman College, Computer Science  
Maggie L. Birmingham Memorial  
Scholarship  
**Sponsors:** Deborah Birmingham,  
Raphael Bryant, Michael & Larraine Bryant



**Jeremy  
Hall**



Morehouse College, Biology (Pre-med)  
Mark Myers Memorial Medical  
Scholarship  
**Sponsors:** Michael & Larraine Bryant,  
Melody Myers & Morgan Myers

# I AM Abel Foundation



Hosted by Rush University Academic Center

I Am Abel Foundation and I Am Abel Law Presents  
**6th Annual Chicago Health, Medical and Law Careers Citywide Student Conference**

*Healing The Divide*

**Our Heroes of Tomorrow Fighting for Equity in Health and Law Today**

Thursday - Saturday May 18 - 20th 2023



### INTENDED AUDIENCE

For Middle School, High School, College, Graduates, Post-bacc and Medical Students (M1-M4) Law Students L1-L3

### MEDICAL STUDENTS ONLY!

A Clinical Skills Conference within a Conference

CHOOSE YOUR TRACK!

CPASS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

## Creating Equity in STEM

A LinkedIn audio event. FREE.

November 9 at 11 AM CST [Live]

**Riana Lynn**

Neoscientist, Founder  
Journey Foods



CONVENE.  
CREATE.  
ADVOCATE.  
ACCELERATING DIVERSITY IN STEM AND HEALTH-RELATED CAREERS

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## Annual Pathways to STEM Health Equity Breakfast



Annual Roseland Matters  
Tim Hardaway Basketball &  
Technology Camp



CPASS One Week  
STEM Camp



Mini Medical School  
at Ponce Health  
Sciences University



**CPASS STEMM CAMP**  
**at the Museum of Science and Industry**  
**Summer 2023**

# OUR PROGRAMS

## CPASS Mini Medical School

This program originated at Rush University Medical Center, and the success of the program allowed CPASS to expand to Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Ponce Health Sciences University.

Robust student engagement was fostered by active learning strategies, particularly through hands-on activities such as dissections, which effectively captivated the students' interest. CPASS' revamped curriculum, including increased exposure to prominent black and brown physicians, creative classroom engagement tools, combined with their enthusiasm, enhanced the absorption of knowledge effectively. The learning journey in each session was documented, with improved pre- and post-test outcomes serving as tangible evidence of progress.

## CPASS STEM Camp

The CPASS Foundation collaborated with the Museum of Science and Industry to create summer programming for high school students interested in STEM. Over 30 students attended STEM Camp at MSI and stayed overnight on the campus of IIT where they were provided an opportunity to explore a college campus, participate in civic engagement, mental health, and STEM career exploration workshops.

## Governors State University STEAM Camp

Governors State University's STEAM Camp introduces students ages 11 to 16 to current topics in science, the arts, career development and life on a dynamic and modern college campus. Students engage in camp modules that are taught by a diverse array of professionals and participate in project-based learning, field trips, and presentation opportunities that are organized in a fun and structured schedule.



# Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™

The Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™ (CAHMCP or “Champs”) is designed to meet the educational, professional, and financial needs of URiM students pursuing medical or health professions. The CAHMCP Program provides holistic resources to these undergraduate, graduate, and medical students along their journeys.

CAHMCP initiatives directly address barriers URiM students face by providing access to Kaplan® test prep for the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) Step test and other standardized health professions exams. Also, students can apply for financial support to cover the residency interviewing process (including travel, registration fees, and attire) and Step exam registration fees.

Throughout this process, CAHMCP provides professional development workshops and networking opportunities.



*“Participating in the online classes allowed me to see how far I must go with my preparation... The generated MCAT preparation schedule, ... showed how I should be progressing... This is assisting me in developing time management skills.”*

- Qiana Thornton

CHICAGO AREA HEALTH AND MEDICAL CAREERS PROGRAM™ LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM!!!

CPASS FOUNDATION

CAHMCP TEST PREP Access + Professional Development Initiative

CAHMCP logo

CHICAGO AREA HEALTH AND MEDICAL CAREERS PROGRAM™ LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM!!!

CPASS FOUNDATION

CAHMCP MCAT Resource Access Program

FREE KAPLAN® MCAT COMPLETE 7-BOOK TEST PREP

CAHMCP logo

CPASS FOUNDATION

Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™(CAHMCP) launches STEP Access: Step Test Exam Prep Access

CAHMCP logo

CPASS FOUNDATION

Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™(CAHMCP) launches Step Pathway

CAHMCP logo

CPASS FOUNDATION

Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™(CAHMCP) launches RESIDENCY INTERVIEWING RESOURCES INITIATIVE!

CAHMCP logo

MINI MEDICAL logo

## STEMM Path Navigator Academy

STEMM Path Navigator Academy supports families in nurturing “STEMM-Ready” scholars. Our program is designed to equip parents and guardians with the essential tools, resources, and strategies needed to foster STEMM readiness from early childhood through college. Through SPNA, parents can join virtual sessions tailored to specific age groups, covering topics such as Imposter Syndrome, fostering STEMM engagement at home, and preparing for college majors in STEMM fields. Empowering families to customize their participation, they can attend as many sessions as they desire, ensuring they have the support they need every step of the way.

## INSPIRE

The Influence Student Potential and Increase Representation in Education (INSPIRE) Summer Research Program at Rosalind Franklin University, powered by the CPASS Foundation, prepares local at-risk students for college and careers in STEMM fields.

A student stated, “I cannot begin to describe how incredibly fortunate I feel to be a part of the INSPIRE Program. I truly believe that this program has given me some of the many skills that one needs to pursue medicine. A journey that once felt like a walk in the dark now feels possible for students like me.”

INSPIRE students worked in RFU’s research laboratories, gained new knowledge and skills through the laboratory simulation program Labster, and/or participated in MCAT training. INSPIRE students also participated in academic enrichment classes, received one-on-one mentoring from faculty members and graduate students, and learned clinical skills through fun and engaging workshops.

## MAPSCorps

MAPSCorps strengthened its partnerships with STEM-related local businesses and organizations such as Digital Youth Network, Project Exploration, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to offer unique learning opportunities for youth that link them to STEM and health-related careers. MAPSCorps engages Chicago college and high school students in yearlong, technology based community asset mapping, STEM training, and policy advocacy programming. MAPSCorps engaged more than 220 local college and high school students to map 60 communities in Chicago.

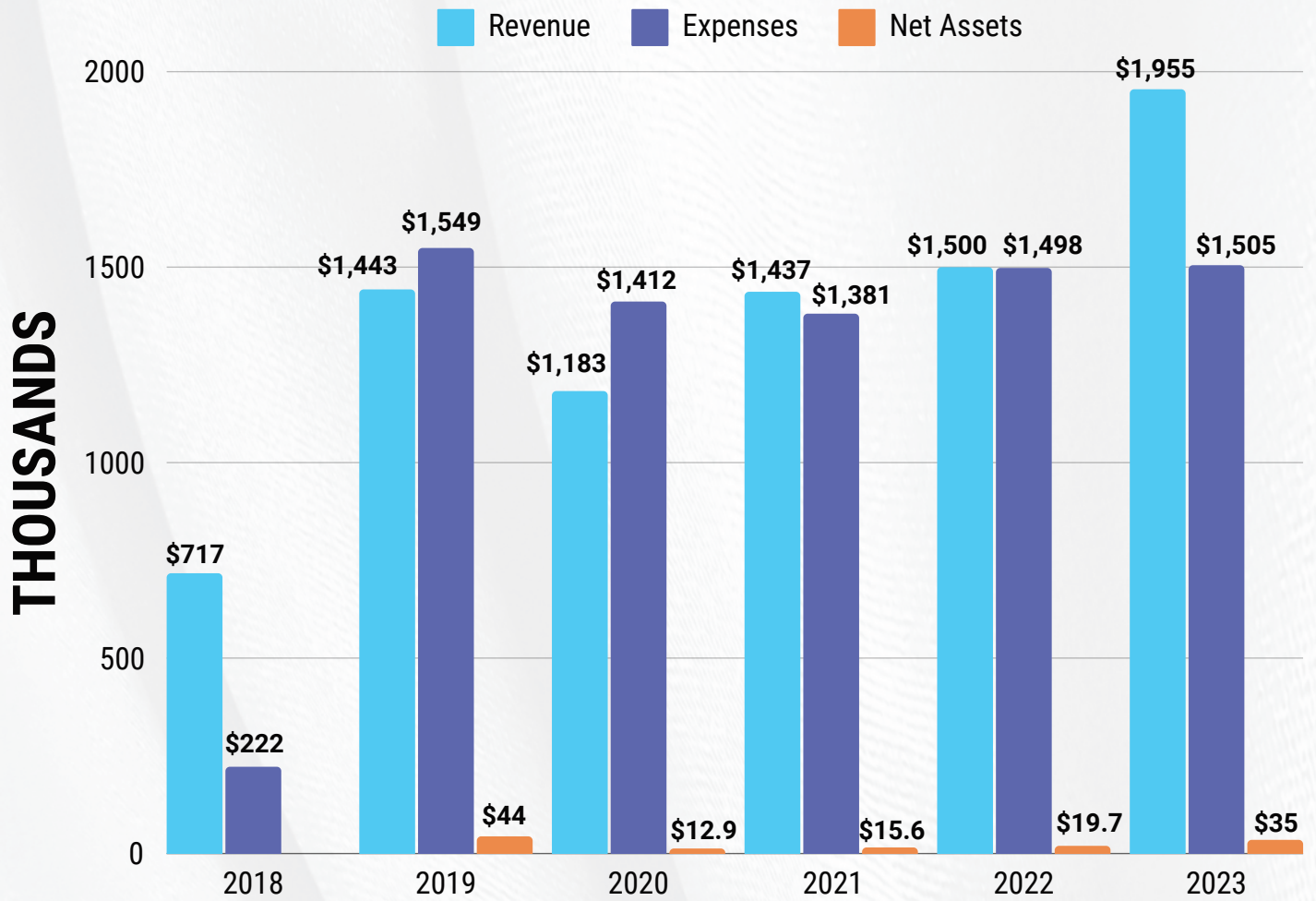
Future  
**ENERGY**  
Chicago

**LEADERS IN**  
STEM EDUCATION  
IMPACTING  
UNDERREPRESENTED  
YOUTH  
[www.cpassfoundation.org](http://www.cpassfoundation.org)

Supported by  
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summer  
explore

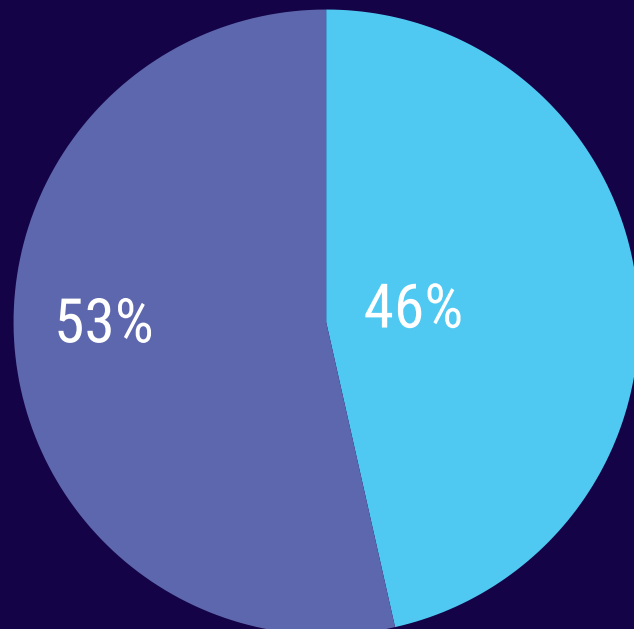


## ANNUAL STATEMENT



## EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

Management, Operations, and Other Ancillary Program Support    Programming



# Scholar Spotlight



**Perla**  
INSPIRE Scholar

“

*“Towards my first and second year, I had a pretty close relationship with Jesus Sagan, the program director. He was the one who really encouraged me to continue the program, to continue doing well, both in the program and in high school at the time. And then up until now, I’ve also been in very close contact with Dr. Escalo, who is just always encouraging me, giving me advice, and providing me with a lot of support.”*

# Scholar Spotlight

Scholar Spotlight 18



**Matthew**

CPASS Scholar

“

*“I wish [the CPASS STEM Camp] was longer... I really hope we can see this become a longer program in the future. There’s only so much you can teach a kid in a week and only so many programs or projects that you can actually complete in a week, so it really limits our accessibility to learn.”*

# Scholar Spotlight



**Sefonobong**  
CAHMCP Scholar

“

*“If I knew there was a program like CPASS when I was in high school, I wonder if my route to medical school would have been more streamlined because you have people who can mentor you specifically and say okay this is a good school this is a good program, you want to highlight this, or even just someone who can sit down with you read and over your essays and read over your resume and be like this is good put this on there.”*

# Our Leadership



Eric E. Whitaker, MD, MPH  
Board Chair



Stephen A. Martin Jr., PhD, MPH  
Executive Director



Tracie Screven  
Associate Director



Laura Lucero, MD  
Board Member



Terry Mason, MD, FACS  
Board Secretary



William A. McDade, MD, PhD  
Board Treasurer

# Our Partners



Donate  
Now:



CPASS  
FOUNDATION

Text "STEMM" to 53555 to Donate

Contact Us:  
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[www.cpassfoundation.org](http://www.cpassfoundation.org)

