



## KIPPsters Explore Careers on Job Shadowing Day

On April 8th, the KIPP King junior class participated in Job Shadowing Day. KIPP Bay Area Schools first piloted the program last fall with students from KIPP San Jose Collegiate. The program offers an opportunity for corporate community members to connect directly with students while providing an invaluable experience for KIPPsters to gain an inside perspective on potential career choices. KIPPsters visited nine sites including Yelp, PG&E, UBS, the San Francisco Zoo, the Exploratorium, Gap/Old Navy, Parthenon Capital, Highland Hospital, and GreatSchools. Many thanks to board members Doris Fisher, Lauren Dutton, Mary Robinson, and Chief Operating Officer Emily Rummo for helping to make this valuable experience possible.

TOGETHER, WE ARE REVOLUTIONIZING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE BAY AREA.

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## Bay Area Schools

Essential College Prep Public Education

# newsletter

SPRING 2011

**THE MISSION OF KIPP BAY AREA SCHOOLS** is to operate high-achieving public schools in educationally underserved communities, developing in our students the knowledge, skills and character essential to thrive in college, shape their futures, and positively impact the world.

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**College Day (clockwise from top left):** Student's shirt bears the KIPPster declaration; members of KIPP Bayview's founding class returned to speak on a panel about high school experiences; KIPPsters returned from a visit to Stanford; students collaborated on an urban planning project in Professor Frederick's seminar.

## TO AND THROUGH: College Day at KIPP Bayview Academy

In March, KIPP Bayview held its third annual College Day. The event is designed to prepare these middle school students for college by simulating a three-part experience including college application, acceptance, and classes.

For KIPPsters, preparing for College Day begins when they complete an online application with their grade point average, test scores, and personal statement. Grade level chairs review applications and then place students in the university level, state level, or junior college level. "This equitable process serves as a catalyst for inspiration among our students who struggle most," said Director of Student Life and Ethnic Literature teacher Tiffani Johnson.

After receiving their acceptances, KIPPsters embarked on a day in the life of a college student. University level KIPPsters visited Stanford, while

state and junior college level KIPPsters attended seminars taught by guest instructors including poets featured on HBO, music instructors, law students, UC Berkeley students, and the school's founder, Molly Wood.

Seminar topics included Harlem Renaissance Poetry, Urban Planning, Biological Anthropology, and Photography. KIPPsters also attended a panel discussion by KIPP Bayview alumni, now juniors and seniors in high school.

College Day's genesis dates back to 2008 when KIPP Bayview alumna Krystal Kendrix came to Johnson with the idea. Together, they organized the first annual College Day in 2009. Though the event continues to evolve, College Day has become an important tradition as a fun, hands-on learning experience for these students who are on the path to and through college.

### THE BUZZ ABOUT KIPP:

"We know what works, and it's not a miracle cure. It is the no-excuses-seriousness of the KIPP founders...and it is the quiet heroism of millions of public and charter school teachers and parents who do put kids first by implementing the best ideas, and in so doing make their schools just a little bit better."

—Thomas L. Friedman, *The New York Times*

**ASSIGN YOURSELF:**  
GET INVOLVED AT YOUR LOCAL  
KIPP SCHOOL!

**Upcoming Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremonies,  
KIPP King Collegiate Founders' Graduation**

OAKLAND | KIPP BRIDGE CHARTER SCHOOL  
Thursday, June 9th at 5:00 P.M.  
Contact: scoughlin@kippbridge.org

SAN FRANCISCO | KIPP BAYVIEW ACADEMY  
Saturday, June 4th at 11:00 A.M.  
Contact: dhall@kippbayview.org

KIPP SAN FRANCISCO BAY ACADEMY  
Thursday, June 2nd at 6:00 P.M.

SAN JOSE | KIPP HEARTWOOD ACADEMY  
Thursday, June 9th at 3:30 P.M.  
Contact: ggordon@kippheartwood.org

SAN LORENZO | KIPP SUMMIT ACADEMY  
Thursday, June 9th at 6:00 P.M.  
Contact: sanderson@kippsummit.org

KIPP KING COLLEGIATE  
Saturday, June 18th at 12:00 P.M.  
Contact: eherrera@kippking.org

**Academic Mentors Needed this Fall**

Become an academic mentor for the College Scholars Program, part of KIPP Through College. Tutors proficient in math or English are needed to provide support to KIPP alumni in community colleges. College Scholars meets twice a month in San Francisco or Oakland.  
Contact: samantha.epstein@kippbayarea.org

**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**Executive Director Beth Sutkus Thompson**

In the midst of another difficult budget year with no relief expected for next year, your support has helped our students continue to prove the possible. This year, we grew our student enrollment by 13% to 2,300 students, bringing KIPP King Collegiate to scale with a twelfth grade, and adding a junior class at KIPP San Jose Collegiate.

The budget crisis in California that exacerbated already low levels of public funding, combined with the inequities in funding charter schools face, has meant that we must be leaner and more efficient than ever. But no matter what: we will not compromise our mission.

We entered this school year with significant gains in our student achievement results, and due to the incredible talent, commitment, and resolve of our teachers, students, and staff, have continued the momentum throughout the year.

As you know, our mission is about character and academics for college and life. Academic mastery will unlock countless opportunities for our students—giving them the freedom to choose their life courses. The journey to and through college is long, but our schools continue to rise to the challenge and chart the path for success.

**In recognition of their success demonstrating educational excellence for all students, KIPP Bayview Academy, KIPP Bridge Charter School and KIPP Summit Academy were each honored with the prestigious California Distinguished Schools Award in late April.** Our other two middle schools, KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP SF Bay Academy, were named California Distinguished Schools previously, making all five KIPP middle schools in the Bay Area recipients of this honor.

In March, KIPP Bayview was recognized with the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award, and KIPP Bridge was one of two charter schools chosen out of over 900 charter schools in California to receive the Hart Vision Charter School of the Year Award.

This past fall, our first cohort of students from KIPP Bridge entered college. They will be joined this year by our founding classes of students from KIPP Bayview, KIPP SF Bay, KIPP Summit, and KIPP King Collegiate—our region's founding high school. Eight years after we opened our doors in San Francisco and San Lorenzo, we are on our way to making good on the promises we made in 2003 to over 200 fifth graders and their families: to prepare them for success in college and in life.

We could not accomplish our goals without the help and encouragement of our friends and supporters. We've been fortunate this year to have a particularly noteworthy partner in Bain & Company. Bain's Bay Area offices selected KIPP Bay Area Schools as their nonprofit partner for a multi-year pro-bono engagement spanning everything from consulting services to volunteer engagement. Thank you, Bain, for embracing the KIPP motto: *Work hard. Be nice.*

Here's to a wonderful spring—and to lots of *thick* acceptance letters for our seniors!

Best,

Beth Sutkus Thompson



At the awards ceremony in San Diego (clockwise from top left): School Leader **Lolita Jackson** with Assistant Principal **Sherrye Hubbard**; students from KIPP Bridge; **Mrs. Jackson** with Board Chair **John Coghlan**; math teacher **Kerry Muse** with parent volunteer **Shannon Perkins**.

**PROVING THE POSSIBLE:**

**STUDENTS & ALUMNI**

**Congratulations to KIPP King Collegiate students Jessica Peregrina, Ilian Meza, and Oluwasegun Agbeti-Nalls.** Their question about equal access to education for low-income, minority students was selected by YouTube to be included in an online interview with **President Obama** on January 27th. Watch the video and the CBS news story: [www.kippbayarea.org/about/news](http://www.kippbayarea.org/about/news)

**Congratulations to KIPPster Jorge Gonzalez for advancing to the final selection round for the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars program.** Last year, a cohort of 50 Young Scholars, including **Indaneesha Wells** from KIPP Heartwood Academy, were selected from an applicant pool of over 1500.

**Congratulations to five Bay Area KIPPsters who were accepted to the KIPP STEP summer program at Deerfield Academy.** These seventh graders will spend three weeks experiencing academic challenges and opportunities at one of the most prestigious boarding schools in the country. Participating KIPPsters include:

- Emiliano Salazar**, KIPP Bayview Academy
- Jezreel Bigornia-Meza**, KIPP Bridge Charter School
- Vanessa Sanchez**, KIPP Heartwood Academy
- Zachary Yeap**, KIPP Heartwood Academy
- Paula Jurado**, KIPP Summit Academy

**KIPP Bridge Named Charter School of the Year by CCSA**

KIPP Bridge Charter School was honored with the Hart Vision Award as Charter School of the Year at the 18th Annual California Charter Schools Conference in early March. The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) bestowed this award to only two out of more than 900 California charter schools for their commitment to students of all backgrounds and for making a true difference in their communities. Dr. Olga Mohan High School in Los Angeles was the other recipient.

At KIPP Bridge, we are truly making a difference in the lives of our scholars as they build a future for a better tomorrow. Our scholars have triumphed in the face of adversity and challenges, and they have developed grit and perseverance.

—Lolita Jackson, KIPP Bridge Charter School

"These two charter schools go beyond the call of duty, and are having a positive influence in the education and lives of their students. They are some of the highest-performing charters that are also influencing other charters, and preparing our students for the future," said Jed Wallace, President and CEO of CCSA.

In the 2009-2010 school year, KIPP Bridge earned an API score of 864, a jump of 75 points over the previous year, making it the second most improved middle school in the Oakland Unified School District.

**KIPP Summit Academy's Charter Renewed for Five Years**

At the January 18th charter renewal hearing, the San Lorenzo Unified School District's School Board received a few more guests than usual: more than 150. KIPP Summit Academy students, parents, and teachers crowded into the meeting to demonstrate support for their school's charter renewal. After reviewing the charter agreement and listening to testimonies, the school board voted unanimously to renew KIPP Summit's charter, approving five more years of operation.

To continue to receive public funding, all California charter schools must have their charter reauthorized every five years. As the local authorizer, it was up to the San Lorenzo Unified School District's School Board to assess KIPP Summit's ability to provide a quality education. Board members reviewed a revised charter and visited the school. Their conclusion would either approve or deny KIPP Summit's continued existence.

A crowd of supporters attended the meeting to impress upon the board members KIPP Summit's positive impact in the San Lorenzo community. "I



Last year, the founding class of KIPP Bridge students graduated high school, and over 80% enrolled in college for the fall term. 71% of KIPP Bridge's enrolled students are African American, 24% are Latino, and 75% of students qualify for the federal free and reduced price meals program.

Lolita Jackson, principal of KIPP Bridge, accepted the award on behalf of the school, amongst a crowd of proud students, staff, and family.

"I'm truly honored to accept the Hart Vision Award on behalf of the KIPP Bridge Charter School team and family. There are very few schools in the state that are closing the achievement gap the way we are," Jackson said.

I'm so excited to be a fifth grader this year. I have been waiting to be in a KIPP school since second grade. Do you know, Mr. Ric Zappa, that I want to be a doctor?

—from a letter to the principal by an aspiring KIPPster read at the charter renewal hearing

After nine additional testimonies, the school board took a vote. One by one, every board member voted in favor of KIPP Summit's renewal, allowing its doors to remain open for at least another five years.

**KIPPSTERS TO COLLEGE:**



I have been accepted to UC Santa Cruz, CSU Northridge, and CSU Los Angeles. I am leaning towards CSU Northridge because of their performing arts program, since I am interested in acting.  
**ANNABEL MOUA,**  
CLASS of 2011



I have chosen to go to Notre Dame de Namur University. I will miss my teachers. They all helped me make wiser decisions in life. All of their hard work taught me many unforgettable lessons.  
**FRANCISCO DE LEON ZARATE,**  
CLASS of 2011



After deep consideration and talks with my parents and teachers, I've decided to attend Sacramento State University. The Criminal Justice Department is a very prestigious one; that is my intended major.  
**DARYA JONES,**  
CLASS of 2011



Every student and staff member received pedometers, donated by former Assemblyman Joe Coto's office.

## Health Awareness Month Teaches KIPPsters to Stay Healthy

On March 4th, KIPP Heartwood Academy's students and staff clipped brand-new pedometers on their belts and stepped up to the challenge of taking the most steps in one month. Weekly tallies kept score through the end of the month, when students received prizes such as athletic equipment, Jamba Juice gift cards, and a Wii and Wii Fit. The walking competition was just one of many strategies KIPP Heartwood used to educate students and families about fighting obesity and diabetes during KIPP Heartwood's Health Awareness Month.

The initiative was inspired by a presentation given by former California Assemblyman Joe Coto on rising rates of obesity and diabetes among children. To kick off the month-long event, Coto and childhood obesity expert Dr. Daniel Delgado teamed up at KIPP Heartwood to explain the importance of fighting obesity and diabetes with exercise and healthy eating during an all-school

assembly. Mrs. Ashton, KIPP Heartwood yoga teacher, rounded out the presentation by leading the school in a relaxing yoga session.

Throughout the month, students learned about a range of health topics both in their classes and as a school community. Weekly all-school assemblies covered health awareness topics, one of which featured a top dietician from Kaiser Permanente, who helped KIPPsters examine their diets and identify healthy alternatives.

KIPP Heartwood welcomed a range of health specialists to the culmination of Health Awareness Month: a health fair. Special guests from Kaiser Permanente, the American Diabetes Association, the Children's Dental Center, the Health Trust, Breathe California, Youth Advocates and the Latino Community Development Foundation educated students and their families on the importance of healthy habits.

## LIFE LESSONS: Dina Asfaha, KIPPster and Capitol Page

BY DINA ASFAHA, CLASS of 2012

Getting accepted into the Page Program felt amazing, but I never knew how great of an experience it would be until I came here. From attending Page School to harmonizing work and play, every day has brought a new challenge that I would not be as prepared to combat had it not been for KIPP. KIPP has provided me with a gamut of experiences to reference while in D.C., such as keeping up with the demanding responsibilities of both home and work, meeting tight deadlines, and being able to balance playing hard with working hard.

Having been a KIPPster for almost six years now, I am well-prepared for the many hours and responsibilities I carry out as a House Page. On work days, I wake up at 5:00 A.M. to properly assemble my uniform—grey slacks or skirt, a tie, a white shirt, blue blazer, and black shoes. Additionally, my roommates and I have to get our room up to par for room check. Pages are required to have the garbage taken out, clean showers, spotless sinks, and vacuumed carpets. We attend school from 6:45 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., then go to lunch, and head back to work until Congress adjourns for the day, which could be any time from 4:00 P.M. to early morning the next day.

Schoolwork is promptly tended to as soon as Pages get home. On long work days, we have to plan homework time wisely to keep up with the workload—some may choose to spend the evening at Starbucks while others might work as a group on Calculus homework.

In addition to being better prepared for time management challenges I'll face as a college student, the Page Program has taught me money manage-



Dina shaking President Obama's hand. Just a few days after arriving in Washington D.C. to serve Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren as part of the U.S. House of Representatives Page Program, Dina was captured on live TV and in this photo shaking President Obama's hand after the State of the Union address.

ment. I have learned that budgeting is necessary to be able to both save money and go out with friends.

Being a House Page has been a life changing experience. I am grateful for all the preparation and unwavering support of my KIPP team and family. I know I will look back at this time in my life as a great memory. I am excited to see future KIPPsters follow in my footsteps someday.



Before I taught at KIPP SF Bay, my niece was a member of the founding class. I was impressed by how motivated she became, how the school pushed her to improve. I saw KIPP work for my niece, and so when we talk about team and family, it really does mean that for me.

—Elmer Rivera, KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy

## EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY: Social Studies Teacher Elmer Rivera

Prior to joining the faculty as a social studies teacher at KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy in 2005, Elmer Rivera taught high school in New York City for three years. He grew up in Daly City and earned a B.A. in History and Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University, and an M.A. in Social Studies Education at the University of Michigan.

**Why did you choose to become a teacher?** It started when I did community organizing in high school to integrate ethnic studies into our curriculum. But, the major kick for me was a professor in college who opened my eyes to the nation's history and my place in it. I was inspired by her to be in the classroom and inspire students to be more curious about their own personal history and the nation's history. I want my students to be curious, explore ideas, and ask questions.

**Why do you teach at KIPP?** I had taught high school, and I wanted to work with students at a younger age to make a difference before they got to high school. Now, I have roots at KIPP SF Bay. I feel a connection to students and parents. Seeing alumni come back is awesome, especially now that our first class is graduating high school. At SF Bay we are encouraged to develop as educators. Here, I am constantly pushed to be better—by students, parents, and staff. There is always more to contribute and learn as a teacher.

**How is teaching at KIPP SF Bay different from teaching at other schools?** I think the biggest difference is the emphasis on collective effort. There is a true sense that what we do in our classrooms is the determining factor for our students' success.

**What do you get most excited about teaching?** The Declaration of Independence, especially about "all men are created equal." We discuss how that has been interpreted differently throughout history. I challenge my students to debate the extent to which we live up to this ideal in 2011.

**How do you work to prepare students for high school, college, and life beyond KIPP?** We encourage students to reflect on past successes and challenges in and outside of school. Students use that to determine their goals. We also have Life Orientation Advisory to help students get to know themselves and each other better by learning and practicing specific, essential life skills. As a group, students learn how to give and receive support.

**Anything else you'd like to share?** I take to heart how much our parents are putting in our hands. We have a huge responsibility to students and families; it extends beyond these four walls. It is important that we nurture and support our students in school and for life. The relationships we build continue beyond their time at KIPP.

## KIPP Bayview Academy Students Win Teach For America National Essay Contest

Last Thanksgiving, KIPP Bayview's sixth graders set aside their leftovers and got to work on their at-home writing project: an essay on the importance of education. It was a tough assignment, but their English Language Arts teacher, Teach For America corps member Bryan Twarek, assured them it would be worth it: "This is an opportunity for you to show off your skills and let your voices be heard across the country."

And indeed they were. The class submitted their essays to the 2011 Teach For America Essay Contest, an annual competition open to all students taught by a corps member. After weeks of waiting, the results were finally revealed during an all-school assembly. Seven Bayview KIPPsters—Marjani Gilford, Isaiah Hammond, Jazmyne Ahminah Lyons, Destiny Nisby, Miles Thomas, Cheyenne Tompkins, and Markila Williams—were named semifinalists, and two—Isaac Grisham-Fletcher and Rubi Esmeralda Garcia Reyes—were named first and second place finalists, respectively. Grisham-Fletcher and Garcia Reyes will receive \$500 and \$200 Savings Bonds, respectively, from the Phi Sigma Pi honor fraternity in recognition of their excellent work.

The following are excerpts from the students' essays.



ISAAC GRISHAM-FLETCHER, CLASS of 2017

"In today's society and throughout history, people of color have been told that they cannot achieve things such as education. I know that I am a smart, young man and refuse to allow my talent and possibility slip away.

The second reason education is important to me is because as a young black man I already have many people wanting me to fail. Too often in the news I hear about how many black men lose their lives to the streets or jail. As a young black man, I refuse to become another statistic or fall into stereotypes. For this reason, I must try hard and get an education."



RUBI ESMERALDA GARCIA REYES, CLASS of 2017

"Education is important because education helps you go to high school and allows you to go to college. Education not only gives us the opportunity to learn new things, but also it allows us to get a good job and therefore live a better life. By going to college, we learn about life, science, math and other subjects that are essential to succeed in life.

Getting an education is important because it gives us an opportunity to succeed in life, to gain knowledge about the world around us. Succeeding in life not only means getting a good job and making money, but also understanding the society we live in. This means making the right decisions and getting along with the people around us."

## KIPPsters Attend SAP Open

On February 9th, nearly 40 KIPPsters attended the SAP Tennis Open in San Jose. Students had the opportunity to watch professional matches, meet and talk to tennis players, hear from SAP executives, and participate in cutting-edge interactive technology demonstrations. SAP is a long-standing corporate partner of KIPP Bay Area Schools and we are grateful for their support.



## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES:

### CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

The following is a partial list of college acceptances received by Class of 2011 Bay Area KIPPsters:

Arizona State University  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Bryn Mawr College  
California College of the Arts  
Cal. Polytechnic State University, Pomona  
Cal. Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
California State University, Chico  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, Los Angeles  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
California State University, Sacramento  
DePaul University  
Fisk University  
George Washington University  
Hampton University  
Holy Names University  
Howard University  
Humboldt State University  
Lewis & Clark College  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Middlebury College  
Mills College  
Morehouse College  
Notre Dame de Namur University  
Pitzer College  
Reed College  
Saint Mary's College of California  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco Art Institute  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University  
Sonoma State University  
Spelman College  
University of California at Berkeley  
University of California at Davis  
University of California at Los Angeles  
University of California at Riverside  
University of California at San Diego  
University of California at Santa Barbara  
University of California at Santa Cruz  
University of Michigan  
University of Oregon  
University of Redlands  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
University of Wisconsin  
Xavier University

## First Bay Area KIPP High School Graduates Founding Class

Eight years ago, ten-year-old Darya Jones' mother made her put on khaki pants and a white collared shirt and took her to her first day at KIPP Summit Academy. "It was so early in the morning and here I was in these ugly clothes going to a school that none of my old friends were going to!"

After eight years of hard work, Darya is now a college-bound high school senior. "When I got my first acceptance to San Francisco State, I screamed at the top of my lungs...I had a smile from ear to ear. As soon as I was able to catch my breath I told my mom and threw my arms around her."

Darya is one of 67 seniors graduating from KIPP King Collegiate this spring. In addition to being the founding students of KIPP King which opened in 2007, many are founders of KIPP Summit Academy, the San Lorenzo middle school which opened in 2003.

Since before the high school opened its doors, founding school leader Jason Singer and his team have been working together to prepare students for the undergraduate-level coursework they'll face in just a few more months.

Students say close and supportive relationships with their teachers have been a critical underpinning of their ambitious expectations. Senior Francisco De Leon Zarate remembers one night that he almost gave up. His teachers noticed his dejection

## Founding San Francisco KIPPsters Graduate High School

After months of preparing to open a new KIPP school in the summer of 2003, KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy founding school leader Lydia Glassie needed one final critical element—its students. To recruit the founding class, Glassie and her staff posted flyers, knocked on doors, and talked to families at local parks. "We did whatever it took to spread the word about the opportunity KIPP SF Bay would provide," Glassie recalled.

"I remember driving down Webster and spotting a woman walking down the street with three children, one of whom looked like he could be a fourth grader. I circled the block, pulled over, jumped out of the car, and ran after her. I introduced myself and told her about KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy, a school that would provide a safe, college-prep education to her child. She said, 'God must have sent you.' Her name was Pia Moss, and her nephew, Brandon, entered our founding class."

"That summer, and every summer since, I am amazed by the willingness of our families to listen and trust us. In 2003 they were willing to take a chance on what was then really just an idea."

right away and sat down to encourage him. "A few months passed and I became one of the top honor roll students at my school."

Throughout high school, KIPP King's college counseling program offers students exposure to higher education and supports students in reaching it. "It's [about] making them aware of college options, putting the concept of college in front of them and making it tangible as they grow older," explains Sharon Cravanas, College Counseling Director at KIPP King.

## KIPP KING COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation is an impressive milestone for these KIPPsters, but college will introduce new challenges. "Getting into college is just part of the journey," says KIPP Through College Director David Ling.

Like all KIPP alumni, KIPP King's class of 2011 can turn to KIPP Through College for support in the future. Services include academic, financial, emotional, and social advising; one-on-one academic mentoring; alumni reunions; and internships, job-skills workshops, and career roundtables.

But for a few more weeks, KIPP King's class of 2011 will be busy finishing up their last semester, basking in the triumph of their college acceptances, cherishing their last days on campus together, and reflecting on the remarkable journey they've taken alongside each other from founding fifth graders to college-bound high school graduates.

Chris Schaefer, a founding fifth grade teacher at KIPP Bayview Academy, can recall when "the entire founding class could fit in our community room for our regular all-school meetings. It was an amazing feeling to see the entire school coming together in that one little room for the first time."

I am amazed by the willingness of our families to listen and trust us. In 2003 they were willing to take a chance on what was then really just an idea.

—KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy Founding School Leader, Lydia Glassie

Eight years later, the members of the founding classes of both San Francisco KIPP middle schools, KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy and KIPP Bayview Academy, are just weeks away from high school graduation and deciding where to attend college.

To date, the seventy alumni from KIPP San Francisco middle schools' class of 2011 have been accepted to almost seventy four-year universities.



Perla Albavera-Palomares, KIPP Bridge alumna, is a freshman studying International Studies and Italian Language at St. Mary's College of California in Moraga.

## THROUGH COLLEGE: Alumna Reflects on Freshman Year

**What lessons from KIPP served you most this year?** "There are no shortcuts." If I don't hand in an assignment or don't show up for class, I think about this. I don't make up excuses and I'm growing as a person. Also, "going above and beyond." I do this in my schoolwork, whether it means doing more research than I have to for a simple essay or asking questions of my professors during class.

**Who is your favorite professor?** My English Composition professor. Out of the whole English department, he grades the hardest. He pulls you beyond what you think you're capable of doing. If we have a research paper, he goes out of his way to set up a way for us to learn about research from the librarian. He sets up events, like a visit to the art gallery. We went to one and learned about the Civil War, about Grant and Lee and then wrote a comparative essay about the two men. In that class, we also do a lot of peer reviews. I meet my professor during office hours to work with him one-on-one if I need it.

**What's your favorite class?** My Italian class, because it's an experience to learn about another culture and language. I plan to study abroad my junior year in either Italy, London, or Spain.

**What are you involved in outside of your courses?** I'm in the Habitat for Humanity Club; we build houses for low-income communities and come up with ideas for helping those in need. I'm also involved in the Dante Club, where we learn about Italian culture through putting on events.

**Now that you're almost finished with your freshman year, how would you describe the transition to college?** I didn't have time management skills, so I had to get used to it. I'm part of the High Potential program, which is for first-generation college students. They helped me get adjusted in terms of dealing with financial problems, stress, and other issues that can arise for first-generation college students. Like many, I struggled with a lack of confidence. I felt like I couldn't handle my schoolwork. But it's not too hard; as long as you have time management skills, you'll be alright.

**Any advice for KIPPsters who will be transitioning to college this fall?** Never give up when times get difficult because it will get easier; you're able to do anything you want to achieve. It's really important to make new friends because they'll be there to support you and make it fun. When you get to college, locate resources and build relationships with professors and faculty.

## HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES:

### CONGRATULATIONS EIGHTH GRADERS!

The following is a partial list of high school acceptances received by Class of 2015 Bay Area KIPPsters:

Archbishop Riordan High School  
The Bay School of San Francisco  
City Arts and Technology High School  
The College Preparatory School  
Convent of the Sacred Heart  
Drew School  
Eastside College Preparatory School  
Gateway High School  
International High School  
Leadership High School  
Lick-Wilmerding High School  
Lowell High School  
Metropolitan Arts & Technology High School  
Oregon Episcopal School  
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory  
Saint Ignatius College Preparatory  
San Francisco University High School  
The San Francisco Waldorf High School  
Santa Catalina School  
The Urban School of San Francisco  
Woodside International School

## KIPP Launches Partnership for College Completion, 6to16

Last fall, the KIPP Foundation launched the Partnership for College Completion with the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute, the United Negro College Fund, and The Corporation for Enterprise Development to increase KIPPsters college readiness and financial literacy.

6to16 will provide students, teachers, schools, and parents with a high school and college readiness solution that equips historically underserved students across the United States with the knowledge, beliefs, and skills to select, enter, and successfully graduate from college."

—from the Urban Education Institute

The University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute created a college readiness curriculum, called 6to16 ("six to sixteen"), to equip students with the knowledge and skills to embark on the path to college. Currently, six KIPP Bay Area Schools participate in the program starting in sixth grade at four middle schools, and continuing at both KIPP high schools.

As the name suggests, the 6to16 focuses on developing the necessary college readiness

skills and social capital beginning in sixth grade that will prepare them for success through "sixteenth grade," which refers to the expected completion of an undergraduate degree. By providing students with a college readiness curriculum, the program prepares students to understand aspects of higher education, such as college options, applications, financial aid, and more before they apply.

Rachel Zell, sixth grade social studies teacher at KIPP Bridge Charter School, says the curriculum allows her students to, "make authentic connections between what they learn in 6to16 and their classes, like writing a business letter or determining interest accrual for their college savings account. 6to16 puts into practice instilling the mind-set, skills and habits that will ensure they are all college bound."

In addition to the 6to16 curriculum, the partnership also includes a college savings account program, facilitated by the United Negro College Fund and Citibank. Families who sign up for a restricted college savings account are given \$50 that is matched dollar-for-dollar for an initial gift of \$100. After that, families are eligible for dollar-to-dollar matching funds up to \$250 for each of the next two years. Next year, 20% of the class of 2012 will be eligible for a \$2500 scholarship, renewable for up to five years, from the United Negro College Fund.