MESSAGE FROM KEVIN BOTTINI

Board Chair

While this past year has certainly had its share of challenges, we have also been presented with new opportunities. Opportunities to explore how technology can connect Scholars with volunteers in various careers; the opportunity to create partnerships with like-minded organizations to enhance our programs; and one that I am most proud of, time to strategize and plan for the future of Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar. Over the past year, our dedicated group of Board members and those who have invested in our programs came together to provide feedback and ideas that ultimately led to a comprehensive strategic plan to enhance our growth and further our program excellence and financial stability.

Drawing on the strength, resilience, and 24 years of experience working with youth in the Capital Region, we know we are well on our way to accomplishing these goals. Together we can strengthen and fuel our local community with the next generation of educated, dedicated, and skilled leaders. Thank you for joining us on this very important journey.

MESSAGE FROM LAURA MARX

President/CEO

Despite the challenges, this past year was a big one for Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar. Just like many other organizations, we had to figure out how to plan when you can’t plan, follow ever-changing guidelines, and sharpen our comedic skills to engage groups of students through virtual workshops. I’m proud to say we did all that and so much more. We moved our offices to a more accessible location for our Scholars, we strengthened our staff and Board of Directors, we increased communication and engagement with our mentors, we officially partnered with Russell Sage College to enhance opportunities, and we achieved Stage 2 of the National Quality Mentoring System. These accomplishments didn’t come easy, and they don’t happen alone. It is because of our community of investors, all of YOU, who support our programs, invest in our Scholars, and believe in the transformational power of higher education that all of this can be achieved.

We know our Scholars need us more now than ever before and we are ready to meet that challenge. Through innovative events like our Summit to Success in January, and skill-building activities through the Leadership Certificate program with Russell Sage College, we are looking forward to the year ahead. Follow along with us and see for yourself how investing in the future leaders of tomorrow has the power to change lives today.

Please visit https://crsas.org/community for a full list of investors.
Our Mission
To provide specialized programs, mentoring, professional guidance, and academic and financial support for qualifying high school students in the Capital Region. By assembling a network of business leaders, educational advocates, and dedicated volunteers, promising youth are provided opportunity and access to higher education that may otherwise be unavailable.

Our Strategic Priorities
Financial Stability
Growth
Program Excellence
Staff
Director of Development
Chair – Kevin J. Bottris, CRA
Chair Emeritus – Charles B. Buchanon
Vice Chair – Jeffrey A. Cohn
Secretary – Linda London
Treasurer – Kevin M. Reilly
Jennys Moses Amodoa
Conor Bryant
Crystal Campbell
Paul Colette-Hackett
Carol L. Duken
Jill Gentry
Nancy Gilford
Geraldine Golub, Emeritus
Ross Goodman, Esq
Teresa Kramer
Elizabeth A. Oliver-Gray
Patrick Owusu
Philip Schwartz
Herbert L. Shultz, Jr.
Michael Treadwell, Emeritus
Chryssa Wells
John T. White
F. Michael Zivczak
Advisory Directors
Kaweedee G. Adams
John Carmello
Christopher Chark
Ronald G. Dunn, Esq
Hon. Patrick Madden
Hon. Gary McCarthy
Hon. Kitty M. Sheehan
Laura Mars, President/CEO
Christina Doyle, Director of Donor Engagement/VP of Operations
Katie Oue, Program Coordinator
Jae-Ni Blanton-Dale, Office Assistant
Marty Anderson, Library Academic Coordinator
Earl Barone, Schenectady Academic Coordinator
Ryan Mack, Troy Academic Coordinator

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Completed the National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS) – Stage 2
- Enhanced recruitment and selection process for High School Scholars
- Strengthened connections with College Scholars by offering virtual workshops and volunteer opportunities.
- Re-energized Mentor and Alumni Councils.

Financial Report
Balance Sheet: July 2020-June 2021
Assets
Cash $44,314
Receivables $271,425
Investments $1,069,394
Other Assets $14,713
Total Assets $2,145,447
Total Liabilities $85,745
Total Net Assets $2,059,112
76% of assets are restricted for stipends for college Scholars

Programs
Revenue $692,033
Interest and Investments $341,211
Event $40,031
Corporate Foundation $158,711
Individual Donations $114,080
Expenses $460,679
Development and Outreach $63,199
College Programs $69,301
Supporting Services $73,952
High School Programs $136,150
College Scholars $110,437

To request a copy of Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar's 2020-2021 audited financial report, please call 518-753-1045 or email info@cras.org

Congratulations to the accomplishments of High School graduates with Scholar Celebrations

81 High School Scholars
80% College Graduation Rate
70% of Guest Speakers at Afternoon Sessions
34 College Graduates
91 Mentors

Come join the SPARK!
Supporters of the Power and Reward of Knowledge
We are a community of investors who share the belief that education has the power to transform lives.

Sponsorship Levels
Supporter $10,000 and Up
Sustainer $5,000-$9,999
Friend $1,000-$4,999
Patron $500-$999
Advocate $199-$499
Buddy $50-$198

To find out more visit https://cras.org/spark

To our students