



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024



CERTIFICATE

*Kayla Kasper*

*Mia Dye*

CERTIFICATE

*Julia Rumbert*

*Olivia Tapp*



A WORD FROM OUR

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear LYTE Community,

As we reflect on 2024, one truth remains at the heart of our work: *the success of LYTE is rooted in partnerships.*

Our first and most important partnership is with our students. Guided by the motto, “*Once a LYTE Scholar, always a LYTE Scholar,*” we center their needs in every decision we make. This foundation of trust is the key to our success, ensuring that each scholar feels seen, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Supporting our scholars starts with their families and guardians, whose role in their journey cannot be overstated. We work closely with parents and caregivers to ensure students receive the encouragement and resources they need to thrive. Schools also play a critical role, allowing us to meet with students, access academic records, and advocate for their success.

*In 2024, our partnerships expanded in transformative ways.* Our growing collaboration with Delaware middle schools and high schools has allowed us to deepen our advocacy for students, while our new college partnerships have opened doors to college fairs, campus visits, and admissions resources. This year, we also strengthened our *commitment to college persistence,* ensuring that LYTE post-secondary students — many of whom are the first in their families to attend college — are *equipped for long-term success.*

Beyond academics, we recognize the importance of *connecting education with professional opportunity*. That's why, in 2024, we launched eight Career Pipelines in collaboration with universities, local businesses, and community organizations. A special thanks to the Delaware Department of State and Kris Knight for their support of our Future Leaders Internship Initiative (FLii) program, which provides LYTE students with paid internships in state and local government offices. Additionally, our partnership with the Delaware Treasurer's Office teaches LYTE Scholars *financial literacy* and helps them open *DE529 college savings accounts*, enabling them to bridge financial gaps that too often hinder students' goals of pursuing higher education.

*These partnerships change lives.* For many low-income students, even a small financial gap can be the difference between earning a college degree and watching the opportunity slip away. Last year, one of our LYTE Scholars received a financial aid package that covered 90% of her \$82,000 college tuition – however, she was still left with a balance that seemed insurmountable. Sitting together in my office, the student and I discussed her options. As we explored ways to close this financial gap, she suddenly smiled and said, “Mr. Arya, I’ve got it. I have a 529.”



THIS IS THE POWER OF **PARTNERSHIPS.**

THIS IS THE POWER OF **COMMUNITY.**

THIS IS THE POWER OF **LYTE.**



*To our supporters – YOU make this possible.* Because of you, LYTE is able to support our ambitious, underserved students *from classroom to career*. Thank you for believing in our students, investing in their success, and ensuring that together, we *create a legacy in Delaware that will impact generations to come.*

With gratitude,

**ANKUR ARYA**

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYTE extends our deepest appreciation for our Board of Directors' unwavering dedication and leadership over the past year. *A special thank you to our new Board President, Zach Beattie* — we are excited to embark on this next chapter under Zach's leadership and look forward to the vision and expertise he brings to LYTE.



**ZACH BEATTIE**

CURRENT BOARD PRESIDENT, 2025



**LISA LESSNER**

FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT, 2024

*We also want to express our profound appreciation to our former Board President, Lisa Lessner.* Lisa's guidance and strategic vision have propelled LYTE to new heights, leaving a lasting impact on our organization and the students we serve. Thank you all for your passion, hard work, and belief in LYTE's mission. We look forward to another year of progress and impact together.

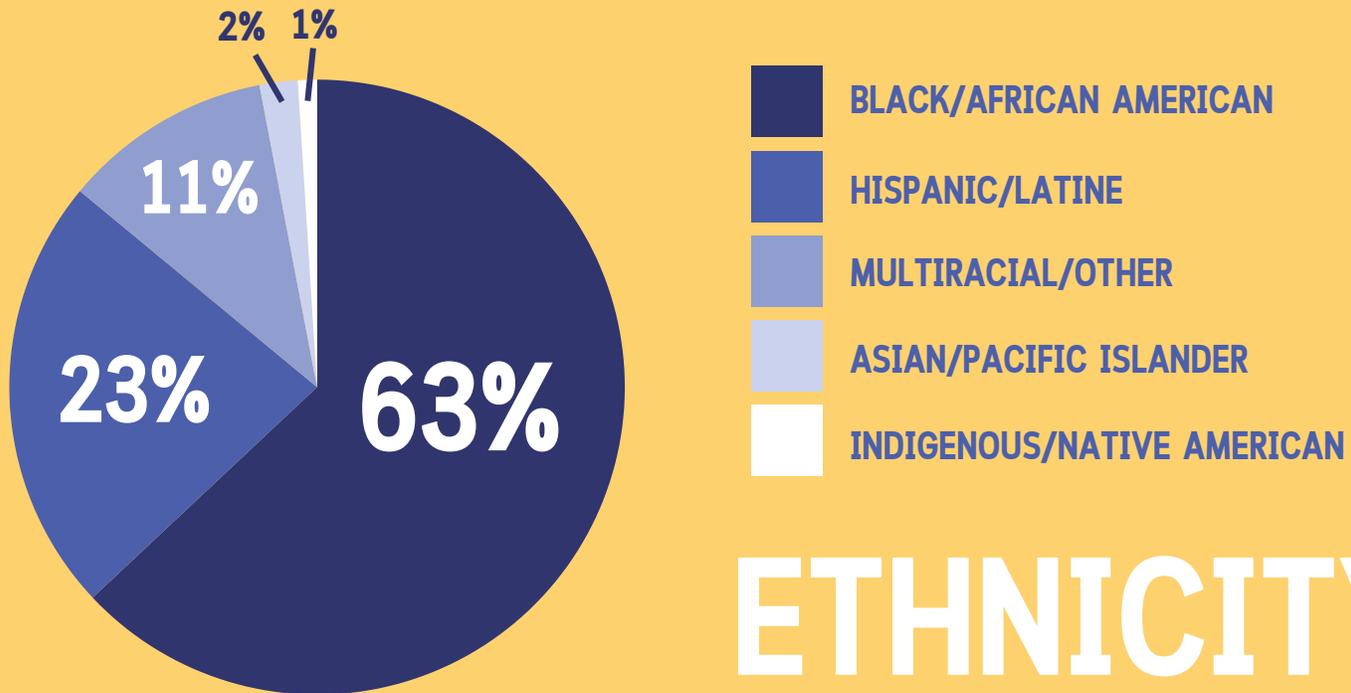
# OUR MISSION



LYTE believes  
**EDUCATIONAL  
SUCCESS**  
is foundational to  
**LIFELONG  
SUCCESS.**

LYTE changes the trajectory of economically disadvantaged youth by preparing middle school students to attend and succeed at competitive high school programs and then colleges, by providing personal mentoring, rigorous academic instruction, and leadership opportunities.

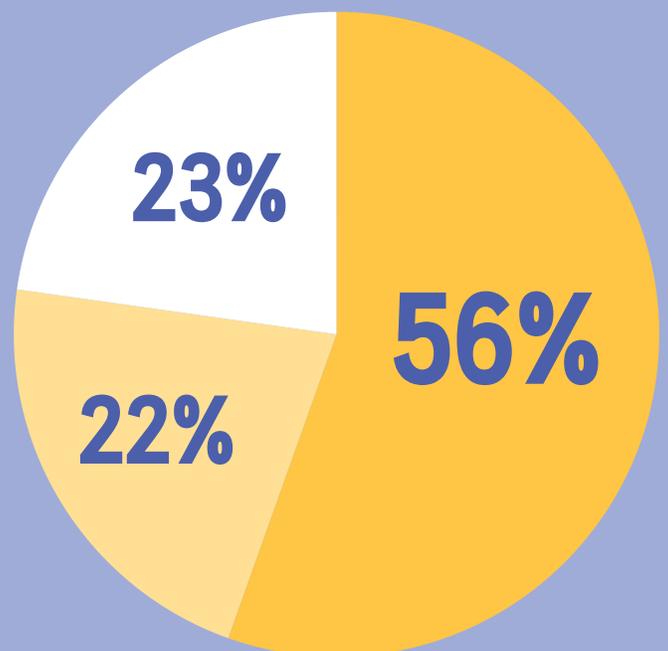
# DEMOGRAPHICS



## ETHNICITY

700 ACTIVE SCHOLARS

## INCOME



# JOURNEY OF A LYTE SCHOLAR

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Summer and after-school advanced classes
- High school guidance, placement support, & choice application support
- Placement test prep & free entrance exams
- Group community service projects
- High school fairs & information sessions
- Financial aid training
- Introductory career workshops & field trips

## 9TH & 10TH GRADE

- Setting SMART goals & individual success plans
- Course & academic schedule planning
- Monthly meetings with LYTE Advocates
- Grade tracking & free tutoring services
- Socio-emotional skill building
- Summer program application support
- Career panels, field trips, & networking events
- Shadowing & experiential learning opportunities
- Professional development workshops

## 11TH & 12TH GRADE

- SAT preparation classes
- Free tutoring services
- College fairs & information sessions
- College guidance, application, and essay support
- Financial aid training (FAFSA & CSS Profile)
- Strategic planning for college selection
- Paid internship opportunities
- Open DE529 college savings accounts

## COLLEGE

- Priority internship & early career placement
- Pre-professional skill building
- Job hunting, resume building, cover letter writing, and interview skills support
- Financial literacy training

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOAL: Set students' educational trajectory and prepare them for a rigorous high school program

1

## 9TH & 10TH GRADE

GOAL: Ensure a smooth transition to high school and navigate the challenges of young high schoolers

2

## 11TH & 12TH GRADE

GOAL: Guide students through the college application process and make sure they are college-ready

3

## POST-SECONDARY

GOAL: Persistence, retention, and completion of a post-secondary degree

4

## END GOALS

- 1 MAXIMIZE STUDENTS' OPPORTUNITIES FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER
- 2 ENCOURAGE HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS TO RETURN TO DELAWARE POST-GRAD
- 3 CREATE DELAWARE'S NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

# CAREER PIPELINE

DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & BUILD COLLEGE SAVINGS

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Career Pipeline launches our scholars into high-growth industries and positions them to become **Delaware's highly skilled workforce of tomorrow**

CAREER EXPLORATION

DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL ACUMEN

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

SHADOWING & NETWORKING

EARN CERTIFICATIONS

PAID INTERNSHIPS

EARLY CAREER PLACEMENTS

BUILD COLLEGE SAVINGS



GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION



LAW



BUSINESS



EDUCATION



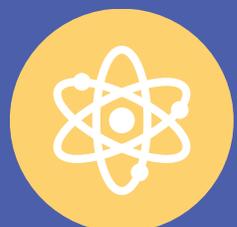
HEALTH  
SCIENCES



MENTAL HEALTH  
& SOCIAL SERVICES



IT & COMPUTER  
SCIENCE



SCIENCE &  
ENGINEERING

## DID YOU KNOW?

LMI students who have at least \$500 in savings are 5x more likely to graduate college.

As a part of our Career Pipeline, LYTE helps scholars open DE 529 college savings accounts.

# 700

active LYTE Scholars

\* (grades eight through college)

# 94%

of students have taken  
an advanced course

\* (honors, AP, above grade  
level, phase 4 or 5, or IB class)

# 100%

of 12th grade students  
were accepted to college

# \$9.3M

amount of grants,  
scholarships, and financial  
aid secured by LYTE  
Scholars



## 2024 IN NUMBERS

# 513

students enrolled in  
a Career Pipeline

# 140

internships secured  
by LYTE Scholars

# \$230K

total internship  
stipends earned

# TESTIMONIALS

## JAELO R.

ARCHMERE ACADEMY, 2024  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, 2028

As a LYTE Scholar of six years and counting, I can truly express the gratitude I feel for this program. Throughout my journey with LYTE, I've had phenomenal opportunities to further my education and future career. LYTE helped me receive admission into one of the most prestigious private high schools in Delaware, apply for and receive extraordinary scholarships, assisted with my college applications, and allowed me the great privilege to participate in their Health Sciences Career Pipeline. LYTE helped me get an internship at ChristianaCare and become certified to perform Basic Life Support.

Also, with the help of LYTE, I will soon become a certified phlebotomist! These experiences helped solidify my desire to pursue a career in healthcare. I cannot thank LYTE enough for their generosity and commitment towards our futures!



## DANIELLE W.

MOT CHARTER SCHOOL, 2024  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, 2028

The word "transformative" fits perfectly when describing my experience at LYTE. Each day entering the office, I would leave knowing I took away valuable lessons, whether it be specialized feedback on my essays, free financial aid nights, or guidance throughout the school year. LYTE is filled with people and resources carefully chosen to cater to my individual goals, creating a space not fueled by competition, but by self-growth and individual development. LYTE's work culture fosters individual goals while supporting and guiding students in a positive direction. I am grateful for the resources accompanied by the environment crafted by LYTE staff. I encourage all young scholars to join. Thank you LYTE for everything!

# TESTIMONIALS

## JAHMARI D.

SUSSEX ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, 2025

Support is a privilege I do not take lightly. Since middle school, LYTE has been an amazing tool that has helped me navigate the world. LYTE's support with scholarships and internships have made me stronger in both my career and my personal life. I received the Give Something Back Scholarship, which gives me a full or partial scholarship to the University of Delaware. LYTE helped me with every step of the long process to receive this amazing opportunity. Through LYTE's Career Pipeline, I had the amazing opportunity to intern at the Department of Justice in Sussex County for the Attorney General of Delaware. The network I received from this is incredible, and I now have knowledge of how courts function and different careers in law. In the end, being a LYTE Scholar has made me a stronger individual who is college-bound and destined for success.



## MARIAM F.

MT. PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL, 2024

COLORADO COLLEGE, 2028

As much as LYTE supported me in my early high school years, nothing compared to the support I received in my senior year. My LYTE Advocates ran a college bootcamp over the summer, helped us with financial aid, and assisted with college applications and essays nearly every day for three months. LYTE's scholarship support changed my life. I was awarded the QuestBridge Scholarship in which students are matched to the top colleges and universities in the country. I matched and will be attending Colorado College with nearly all expenses paid. Colorado College has a 14% acceptance rate and is one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country, and I would not be attending without the support of LYTE.



# CLASS OF 2024



This past summer, LYTE celebrated our 7th graduating senior class. This year, the FAFSA application for financial aid opened about two months later than usual, leaving less time for students to fill out their applications, receive and evaluate their financial aid offers, and ultimately less time to make their final college decisions. In some cases, students were expected to commit to a college without knowing their financial aid package, which was a substantial barrier for our LMI students.

With LYTE's help, 100% of our seniors overcame these barriers. LYTE seniors submitted an average of 9.3 college applications per student. Our Class of 2024 was accepted to 117 different colleges all around the country. You can find a list of this year's college decisions to the right.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

3 QuestBridge Scholars

1 annual \$10k Amazon scholarship

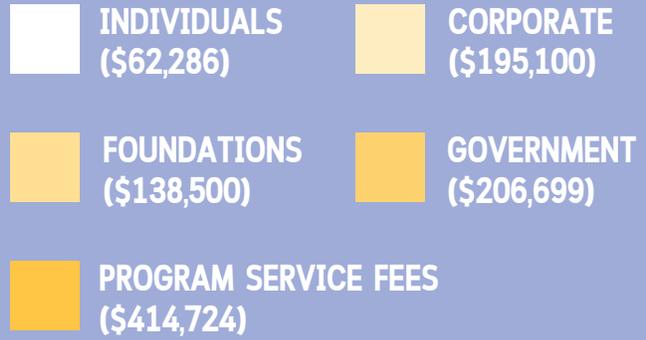
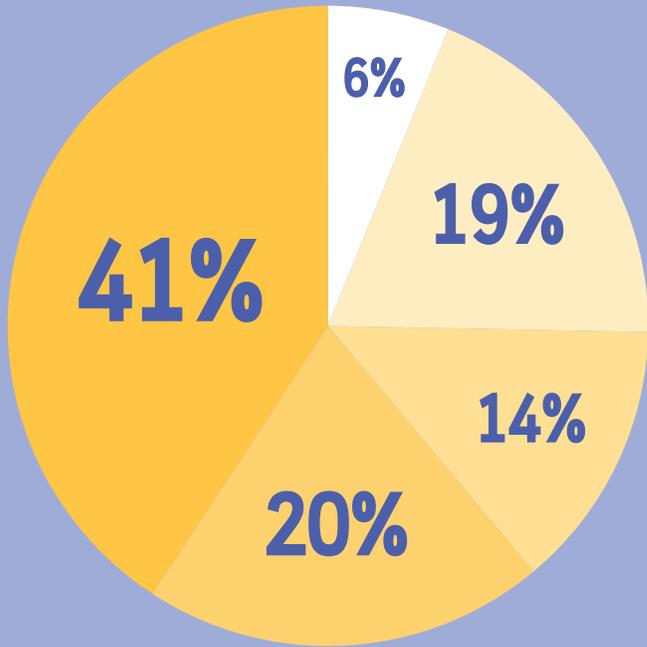
2 \$10k Capital One scholarships

5 GSB full-ride scholarships to UD

1 presidential full-ride scholarship to Norfolk State

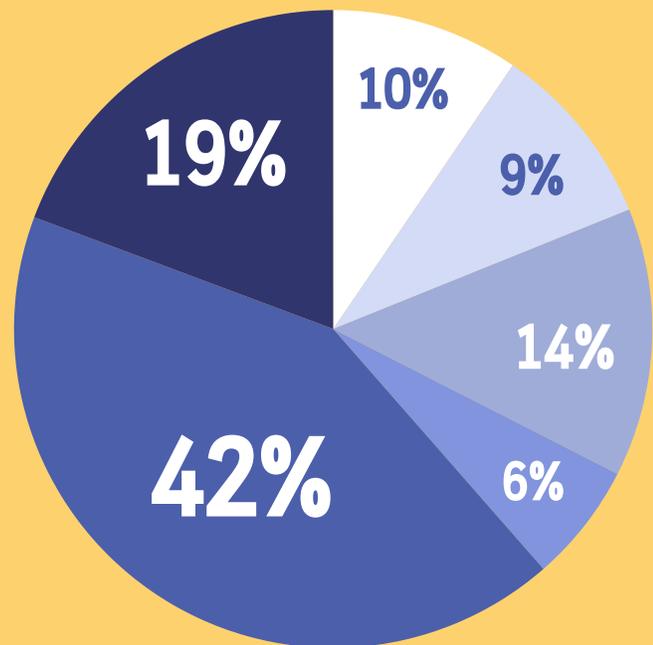
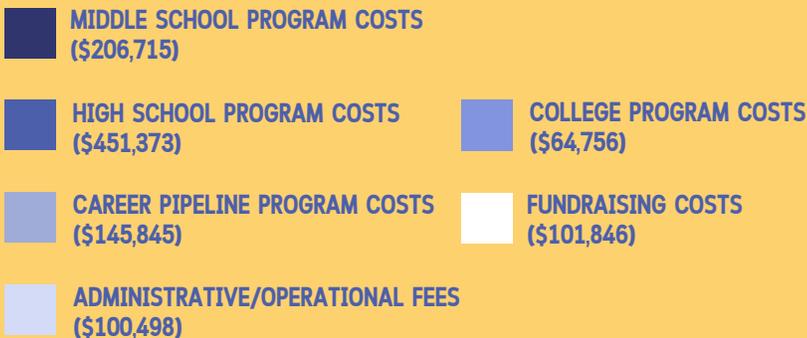
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- Colorado College
- Davidson College
- Delaware State University
- Delaware Technical Community College
- Diablo Valley College
- Franklin & Marshall College
- George Washington University
- Goldey-Beacom College
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lincoln University
- Marywood University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Norfolk State University
- Salisbury University
- Smith College
- Swarthmore College
- Temple University
- Thomas Jefferson University
- University of Delaware
- University of Miami
- University of Pittsburgh
- Washington and Lee University
- Wilmington University
- Yale University

# FINANCIALS



**REVENUE:**  
**\$1,017,309**

**EXPENSES:**  
**\$1,017,033**



# A YEAR OF GROWTH

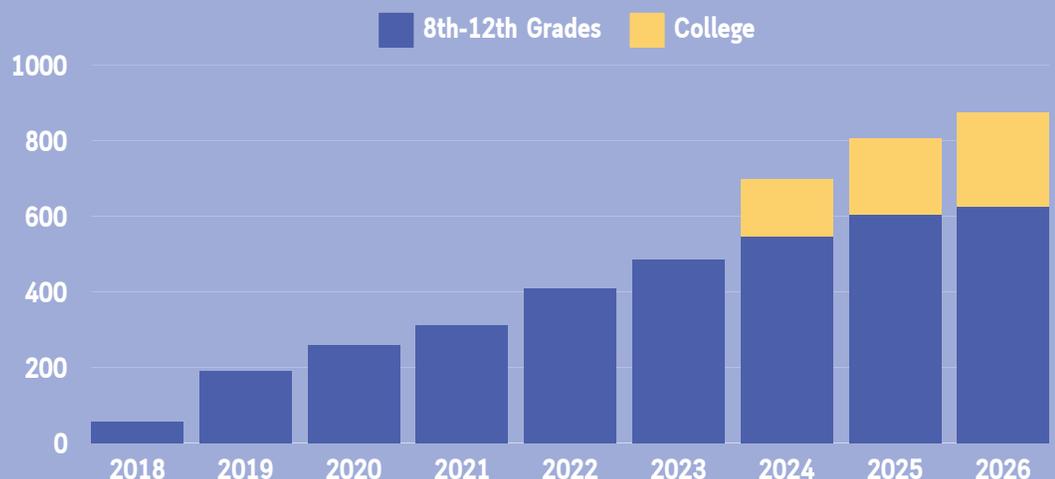
DONATE



What started 10 years ago as a small program for only 10 ambitious middle school students has grown into a life-changing support system for 700 students in middle school through college.

**AND WE'RE NOT STOPPING THERE.**

ACTIVE  
LYTE  
SCHOLARS



CONTACT



To support LYTE or share funding opportunities, please contact Marisa Ray at [marisa.ray@lytescholars.org](mailto:marisa.ray@lytescholars.org)

**BUT GROWTH REQUIRES FUNDING.**

LYTE's impact is growing, but so are our financial needs. With more students eager to join and more schools seeking our help, we need resources to keep expanding.

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE.**

Whether you'd like to donate directly, explore corporate or foundation funding opportunities, or connect us with potential funders, we'd love to hear from you.

# THANK YOU!

At LYTE, our work empowering ambitious, underserved students is only possible because of you – our donors, sponsors, partners, funders, volunteers, and supporters. Your generosity drives our programs, giving our students life-changing opportunities that they wouldn't otherwise have access to.

As supporters of LYTE, you are the heart of our organization, and we can't express enough how grateful we are for your support. Thank you for believing in our mission and making 2024 one of LYTE's most successful years yet!

## SPONSOR A LYTE SCHOLAR!

At LYTE, all of our services are completely free for our students and their families. LYTE Sponsors give a yearly donation of \$2,500 or more, equivalent to the cost of sending one student through a year of LYTE programming. LYTE Sponsors are matched with a LYTE Scholar and sponsors receive several personalized letters from them throughout the year.

### YOUR SPONSORSHIP

\$2,500/year for up to 5 years

Value of a Great High School Education

\$12,500 Investment

**College**  
Financial Packages  
Cornell University \$72k/year  
Swarthmore College \$62k/year  
Bryn Mawr College \$60k  
University of Delaware GSB Scholarship \$28k/year  
All LYTE Scholars receive significant financial aid

### Adulthood

Future community contributors  
Healthier and more stable lives  
Children more likely to pursue higher education  
Delaware's next generation of leaders



SCAN HERE

## LYTE SPONSORS

Andrew & Mary Bostick  
Christine Livadas  
Clint Walker  
James Nieuwland & Laura Iwanyk  
Jeanana Lloyd  
John & Carol Mongan  
Kate & Bob Pincus  
Laurisa Schutt  
Lisa & Marty Lessner  
Michael Nestor  
Paul & Monica Loughman  
Paul & Rachel Gaskell  
Peyton Carper  
Pilar Kraman  
Rachel & Todd Harad  
Rashid Abdul  
Rod & Gina Ward  
Shiv Venkatesetty  
Stephen & Joyce Lamb  
Tam & Darin DeFer  
Todd Veale & Andrea Rocanelli

# PARTNERS



## SCHOOLS

Alexis I. du Pont High School  
 Alfred G. Waters Middle School  
 Appoquinimink High School  
 Archmere Academy  
 Brandywine High School  
 Brandywine School District  
 Brandywine Springs School  
 Cab Calloway School of the Arts  
 Caesar Rodney High School  
 Cantwell Bridge Middle School  
 Charter School of New Castle  
 Charter School of Wilmington  
 Christiana High School  
 Christina School District  
 Christ the Teacher  
 Colonial School District  
 Concord High School  
 Conrad Schools of Science

Delaware Military Academy  
 Delcastle Technical High School  
 Dover High School  
 Dover Middle School  
 Early College High School at DSU  
 Eastside Charter School  
 Everett Meredith Middle School  
 First State Military Academy  
 Freire Charter School Wilmington  
 George Read Middle School  
 Glasgow High School  
 Great Oaks Charter High School  
 Gunning Bedford Middle School  
 Holy Angels School  
 Howard High School of Technology  
 John Dickinson High School  
 Kuumba Academy Charter School  
 Las Americas Aspira Academy

Louis L. Redding Middle School  
 McCollough Middle School  
 Milford Central Academy  
 MOT Charter School  
 Mount Pleasant High School  
 Nativity Preparatory School  
 NCC Vo-Tech School District  
 Newark Charter School  
 Newark High School  
 Odessa High School  
 Odyssey Charter School  
 P.S. Dupont Middle School  
 Padua Academy  
 Paul M. Hodgson Vo-Tech School  
 Polytech High School  
 Red Clay Consolidated School District  
 Saint Mark's High School  
 Salesianum School

Serviam Girls Academy  
 Skyline Middle School  
 Springer Middle School  
 St. Andrews School  
 St. Elizabeth School  
 St. Georges Technical High School  
 Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences  
 Talley Middle School  
 The John Dickinson School  
 The Tatnall School  
 Thomas Edison Charter School  
 Thomas McKean High School  
 Tower Hill School  
 Ursuline Academy  
 Valley Forge Military Academy  
 William Penn High School  
 Wilmington Christian School  
 Wilmington Friends School



## CAREER PIPELINE

Apollo: Youth in Medicine	DE Department of Treasury
Capital One Coders Live!	Delaware Courts
Children and Families First	DELREC
Christiana Care	Future Leaders Internship Initiative (FLii)
Christiana Care Gene Editing Institute	Healthy Communities Delaware
DE Department of Education	Project GROW
DE Department of Finance	UD CHARM
DE Dept of Health & Social Services	UD College of Health Sciences
DE Department of State	UD Lerner College of Business
DE Dept of Technology & Information	Widener University Delaware Law School
DE Department of Transportation	Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

Special thanks to the  
*DE Department of Labor*  
 and *DE Americorps*  
 for partnering with LYTE!



# FUNDERS

LONGWOOD *foundation*



**AmeriCorps**

*The Laffey-McHugh  
Foundation*



THE CHICHESTER DUPONT  
FOUNDATION



**DISCOVER**



**NORDSTROM**



**DCF** Delaware  
Community  
Foundation™  
Engaging Communities, Empowering Giving™



# GET INVOLVED!

## DONATE

SUPPORT OUR MISSION



## SPONSOR

AN INDIVIDUAL SCHOLAR

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY

## NEWSLETTER



## CONNECT WITH US



(302) 786-5983



LYTEINFO@LYTESCHOLARS.ORG



@LYTESCHOLARS



LEADING YOUTH  
THROUGH EMPOWERMENT