Empowering underserved students to succeed in education, career and life.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

“To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has already achieved, but at what he aspires to.”

Khalil Gibran

Aspiration – the ‘A’ in the LEAP acronym – can simply be defined as the hope or ambition of achieving something of substance or importance for oneself. All of our young people should be able to articulate an aspiration, yet so many cannot. To be able to do this – articulate one’s aspirations – one needs agency. When we have agency, we can shape our thoughts, behaviors, experiences and choices in order to take control over our own life trajectories. We know we have that control when we create a set of goals and aspirations we are confident we can attain.

Simply put, with agency and aspiration we can own our futures.

How does LEAP staff build agency? We help our students explore their strengths, interests and values as well as opportunities for personal growth. By doing this, they take control of their own stories and don’t let themselves be defined by others. As trusted adults in their lives, LEAP staff sets high expectations and provides the encouragement and support to help our young people understand their possibilities and choices and then guides them to a vision for their future.

At LEAP, students prepare an annual educational and career plan that lays out their goals and documents their aspirations as they move from middle school to high school and then to a
post-secondary degree or credential. As they complete these annual plans and as they gain maturity, students evolve in their thinking about their future and their place in it. And, as they evaluate their post-secondary choices, and eventually their career choices, they are able to make thoughtful and intentional decisions along the way.

This Education and Career Plan will also include the detailed tasks and milestones to get to their goals such as what courses to take, what volunteer and job opportunities to seek out, what career resources are needed, what tests to take, and what social connections to make, in order to complete a degree or credential and successfully enter into the workplace.

On March 1, we officially launched our Business Partner Network. We need you as partners. Together we can help our students build agency. As a partner you might participate in our career events, provide job shadowing and other workplace learning opportunities. And, for our older students, you might offer internship and job opportunities. Might you be one of them?

Any business interested in pursuing this can request a brochure from me and I will be delighted to set up a time to talk.

Sincerely,

Linda E. Saris
Executive Director
Carol Kasule moved to the U.S. in 2017 from Uganda and will be the first in her family to go to college. At LEAP she is in our College Success Program, The 84’s Statewide Leadership Team, Sisters for Success, EL Street, and other Teen Center activities. During her junior year in high school, Carol became a Mass Ideas student ambassador and is earning college credits through the Forten Scholars Early College Program. Carol plans to major in Communications with a concentration in broadcasting.

Deury Collado has been attending LEAP programs since middle school years. He is now in our College Success Program, Brothers for Success, The 84, and many of our Teen Center activities. As a junior, he earned college credits through the Forten Scholars Early College Program. Deury is proud to be the first in his family to go to college where he would like to study theater at Salem State University.

Dhayana Silva is the youngest of four children in her family and is the first generation to go to college. As a junior, she enrolled in the Forten Scholars Early College Program, earning college credits. As an ambitious and caring person, Dhayana would like to one day start her own business.
Dominika Brzozowska and her family came to the U.S. in 2016 from Poland. In addition to LEAP’s College Success Program, Dominika is earning college credits through the Forten Scholars Early College Program and participates in several extracurricular activities including sports, gymnastics, drama, jazz band and marching band. Dominika plans on a course of study that will lead her to a career as a veterinarian.

Eboni Williams has been participating in LEAP programs since middle school. She is a founding member of Sisters for Success at LEAP and has been an active participant in the Teen Center since 9th grade. She is a student in the Culinary Program at Salem High and graduate of the Root Culinary Program. Eboni is currently exploring post-secondary options in phlebotomy, cosmetology, and culinary.

Erny Cerda is another LEAP veteran who started in our Expanding Horizons middle school program. He is currently an active participant in our College Success Program, Brothers for Success, and the Teen Center and is earning college credits through the Forten Scholars Early College Program. Born in the Dominican Republic and an only child, Erny will be the first in his family to go to college.
Hannah Pearl Cajobe moved to Salem a year ago from Las Vegas. Born in the Philippines, Hannah moved to the United States when she was 13. She joined our College Success Program at the start of this school year, as a high school senior, and soon after, joined Sisters for Success as well as The 84. Outside of LEAP, Hannah is also part of the North Shore Medical Center STEM Internship Program. Her plan is to study nursing and will be the first generation to go to college.

Matthew Williams is a participant in our College Success Program, as well as an active member in the arts community. He is a creative, out-of-the-box thinker. Matt’s love for the arts has inspired his interest in studying music production.

Nadia Nkwetta was born in Cameroon, West Africa and came to the U.S. in 2017. Nadia is an active participant in LEAP programs including College Success Program, Teen Center, Sisters for Success, and The 84 movement. Nadia is earning college credits as part of the Forten Scholars Early College Program. She wants a career in science and will be exploring her interest in biochemistry.
Naomi Sanchez is the first in her family to go to college. Naomi’s extensive involvement with LEAP includes our College Success Program, Teen Center, and Sisters for Success. Naomi is earning college credits as a student in the Forten Scholars Early College Program. She has a lot of interests that she would like to explore, but ultimately wants to be in human services.

Oladapo “Dapson” Olofinmoyin immigrated to the U.S. from Lagos, Nigeria in 2017 with his family. While in Nigeria, Dapson was top of his class and has strived to continue doing the same in school here including earning college credits in the Forten Scholars Early College Program. Dapson is often seen at the Teen Center studying with his tutors. During his junior year, Dapson was accepted into the QuestBridge Scholars Program for juniors. He and his older brother are the first generation to go to college in the U.S. Dapson’s plan is to major in biology and minor in business.

Warren Pimentel comes from a large family and identifies as half Dominican and half Salvadorian. Warren’s extensive participation with LEAP includes the Teen Center, College Success Program, Brothers for Success, and Life Talks, a program he holds a leadership role in. Warren is earning college credits through the Forten Scholars Early College Program and was asked to speak at the State House in support for more funding for these programs. Upon high school graduation, he plans to go to Salem State University to study business.
Winni Gomez lives with both her parents, who immigrated from Guatemala, and is the oldest of three children. As the oldest sister, Winni helps care for her siblings when her parents are at work and has also served as a translator for her parents. She is earning college credits as part of the Forten Scholars Early College Program. Interested in the engineering field, Winni will be the first in her family to go to college.
Arleth Pamela Jimenez moved to the United States at the age of 17 from the Dominican Republic. She is an active member in our EL Street program at LEAP and La Union Latina at Salem High School. She participated in North Shore Medical Center’s internship program and grew a passion for the field of medicine from her experiences there. This fall she will attend North Shore Community College’s ESL program as a first step in obtaining a medical degree.

Dasmil Reinoso Garcia participates in our EL Street program at LEAP. She plans to attend North Shore Community College. Dasmil wishes to specialize in pediatric care. She says she chose this specialty because “I love children and I like taking care of them and what better way to do it than doing this profession.” She will be the first in her family to attend a college in the United States.

Tessa Engdahl was a part of a competitive football cheerleading team in Salem, as well as a community garden that provided food and revenue for the city. She is currently an active member of Sisters for Success at LEAP’s Teen Center. She will be attending North Shore Community College in the fall to study science, with her long-term goal of being an environmental activist. She will be the first in her family to attend college.
Alexander Freedman is involved in hockey, community service, and the Robotics Club at PVMHS. Outside of school, Alex currently works at the Ultimate and referees soccer (season depending). Still undecided on a major, Alex has shown strong interest in STEM, including computer science and electronics.

Alexis Cortes is a member of the National Honors Society and DECA. She is also a co-founder of the Environmental Club at PVMHS. When not at school, she spends most of her time at work, volunteering as a tutor, or at community events. Alexis will be the first in her family to attend college. Passionate for politics and law, she plans on majoring in political science on a pre-law track.

Aracelis Rivera is a first-generation student born in the Dominican Republic and arriving in the U.S. in 2014. Aracelis likes to sing, play piano, draw, take pictures and learn languages. She speaks four languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese, Korean, and is currently learning Russian.
Calvin Ingemi plays baseball as part of a travel team and the PVMHS varsity team. Calvin intends to continue playing baseball in college, where he will also pursue a degree in Public Health & Wellness. He hopes to become an athletic trainer and continue on to graduate school to become a physical therapist.

Erin Silva is the second in her family to join LEAP’s programs. Erin was one of 10 LEAP students to attend a Women’s Conference, which she found to be inspirational. She is also involved with the performing arts program at PVMHS, including the jazz band and wind ensemble where she plays the saxophone and guitar respectively. She volunteers at a cat shelter on weekends and works at Starbucks. Erin plans on majoring in Psychology and hopes to become a therapist.

Jean-Eddy “Johnny” Moise served as a Track Captain and a section leader for the school’s Chorale singing group. Johnny spends most of his time outside of school at his church or working at Karl’s Sausage Kitchen. He aspires to obtain a chemistry degree with an interest in forensic science.
Jodasha Phlipo is a first-generation-to-college student who is very active in her school. In addition to being involved in the school choir, National Honors Society, and Student Council, she is also a co-founder of the Culture Club. She plans to major in psychology with an interest in mental health.

Mileady Santana is a first-generation-to-college student who hopes to pursue her bachelor’s in Biology with a Pre-Med track. Through LEAP, Mileady attended the Women’s Conference. At PVMHS, she is in Student Council, acts as a mentor to underclassmen, and is on the tennis team. Outside of school, Mileady works at Brooksby Village and is a summer intern at Peabody Institute Library.

Nicolas Fiory is the first in his family to attend college. Nic is a student athlete at PVMHS, maintaining high grades while playing on the school’s varsity baseball team. He currently works at Brooksby Village in Dining Services. Nic plans to major in criminal justice at Northern Essex Community College. His goal is to enter the law enforcement field, possibly as a police officer.

Nicole Ciampa is the first in her family to attend college, and an aspiring early childhood educator. She gets lots of practice watching her younger siblings. She also uses her skill sets to tutor, and participate in other volunteer efforts to help those in need.
**Rebecca Truong** runs track in the winter and plays tennis in the spring. She is also involved with the school’s student advisory board, the literary magazine editorial staff, and math team. Rebecca plans to major in chemistry with a particular interest in environmental health.

**Sally Nguyenhoang** is the fourth Nguyenhoang sibling to attend LEAP’s College Success Program. Sally is an active member of the National Honors Society and the school’s track team. Most of her time spent outside of school is usually at her church. Sally is an aspiring entrepreneur and plans to major in business management.

**Samantha Truong** is the Secretary of the National Honors Society, a captain of the school’s cross country and track teams, as well as a member of the Student Council. When not in school, Samantha babysits at her church and volunteers at food kitchens. She plans to major in biology, attend medical school and pursue a career as a pediatrician.
Benjamin “Ben” Bergstrom

Ben has been with LEAP since his junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. This year, Ben will be graduating from Salem State University (SSU) with a bachelors in chemistry with minors in math and physics. During his time at SSU, Ben acted as a tutor in the Chemistry Department and is the current Vice President of the Chemistry Society. Upon graduation, Ben hopes to work in the industry for a while, before he pursues his masters in chemistry or an accelerated bachelors in physics. With his interests in the sciences, Ben hopes to pursue a career in either cannabis analytics or inorganic chemistry with a focus on batteries and metals. Ben’s academic journey has been arduous and long, and this bachelors degree is a reward for all of the time, energy, and hard work that Ben has invested into his education and to bettering himself.

Denisha Dominguez

Denisha joined LEAP during her junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. Denisha has always given back to LEAP through volunteering her time with us, participating on panels, discussions or wherever else we needed her. Denisha’s personality and charisma is so infectious that for these reasons she was the MC at our 2019 Great Expectations event, alongside her best friend Glade. She also showed the same level of passion and drive on campus, becoming involved in numerous clubs and moving into roles of leadership. As a nursing student at Salem State University, Denisha’s plate was always full academically and beyond. This past December, Denisha graduated with her bachelors in nursing. Upon completion of her Nclex RN Exam, she will go on to find a full-time job in the nursing field. Denisha is a first generation-to-college student and is a role model for her sisters as well as those around her.
Estefany Villalona

As a Peabody Veterans Memorial High School graduate, Estefany has been with LEAP since her junior year of high school. This year, Estefany will be graduating from Salem State University as a biomedical science major with minors in both chemistry and Spanish. Estefany emigrated from the Dominican Republic in 2003 and since then has worked increasingly hard academically to make her parents proud as a first generation-to-college student. Beyond her academic excellence, Estefany has worked at Brooksby Village in Danvers since 2013. She initially started as wait staff in the dining services and quickly rose in leadership and is now a nursing assistant for the elderly. Upon graduation, Estefany hopes to follow her dream of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Glade Vasquez

Ever since joining our College Success Program during her junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, Glade has always been driven. Driven to succeed academically, driven to excel through challenges, and driven to open doors for herself. Through her drive, Glade chose to study nursing at Salem State University, one of the most challenging programs at the school, but nothing Glade could not handle. Glade was not only a part of the honors program during all four years, but also became a mother during her college experience. Aaron, her son, became even more of a reason for Glade to be driven to become a registered nurse. Being a full-time mom and a full-time student is not easy, but Glade continued to excel, and got grades that kept her in the honors program. As a first-generation-to-college student, Glade achieved her goal of graduating college this past December and now is taking the next step of becoming a full-time registered nurse.
Jacarlys Roman

Jacarlys came to the U.S. in 2012 from the Dominican Republic for just one year. This is when she joined our program as a junior at Salem High School. She then moved back to D.R. to complete her senior year of high school. Upon completion, Jacarlys returned to the U.S. to pursue her academic dream of becoming a doctor. Jacarlys began her collegiate career at North Shore Community College and then transferred to University of Massachusetts Lowell where she will be graduating with a bachelor’s in public health on the pre-med track. Jacarlys will be the first in her family to graduate from a four-year university in the U.S. She is currently applying to medical school and hopes to gain entrance into a doctoral program for osteopathic medicine in the spring 2021 semester.

Jhonel Roberts

As a first-generation-to-college student, Jhonel has been a part of LEAP since his junior year at Salem High School. At the time, Jhonel was an aspiring basketball star, and chose Stonehill College to pursue his academic and athletic career. Throughout his collegiate experience, Jhonel became a valued asset to the Stonehill campus and quickly rose as a leader through his involvement in extracurricular activities such as the peer mentoring program, and career services where he currently works. Beyond his involvement on campus, Jhonel also gives back to the local community of Taunton, where he is a mentor of middle school students. Jhonel will be graduating from Stonehill College with a bachelor’s in business administration. He hopes to combine his natural born leadership skills and his degree to create his own non-profit in the future, focusing on the development of young men in underserved populations through sports engagement.
Karen Cevallos

Karen has been with LEAP since her junior year at Salem High School. Karen will be graduating from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a bachelors degree in psychology on the pre-med track. Due to Karen’s commitment to herself and her career goals, she has gained early admission to UMass Medical School, where she will begin in the fall of 2021. During the summer of 2019, Karen was seen often at LEAP studying for her medical school admission test. Beyond her own academic perseverance, Karen has also played a major role in other students’ successes by acting as a teaching assistant on campus, a peer advisor for the College of Natural Sciences, and a leader at UMass’ multicultural center. Karen was a recent speaker with her father at LEAP’s Great Expectations event. Her family has always championed her and supported her throughout her whole academic experience, and now she will be the first in her family to graduate from college!

Katerina “Kat” Kerastaris

Kat joined LEAP her junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. As a first-generation-to-college student, Kat began her collegiate experience at University of New Hampshire, but transferred to University of Massachusetts Amherst after her freshman year. She will be graduating with a bachelors in public health. Throughout her time at UMass Amherst, Kat maintained her position as a participant in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars due to her leadership skills and high scoring GPA. More so, while being a full-time student, Kat also became a certified nurse assistant and a home health aid. After graduation, she will be taking a year off to get more work experience, and study for the GRE before she enters physicians assistant school in the fall of 2021.
Lishberny Alcantara

Lishberny has been a part of LEAP since her junior year at Salem High School. In high school, Lishberny wanted to pursue culinary arts so she combined this passion with her interest in management and decided to pursue business at Salem State University, with a concentration in hospitality. Throughout her college career, Lishberny held multiple jobs while being a full-time college student. Due to her goal-oriented mindset, Lishberny set two specific goals for herself which she was able to accomplish: graduate college debt free and have A’s every semester. During her junior year, Lishberny had the opportunity to study abroad in Florence, Italy where she got to explore the hospitality industry and had an opportunity to work in local restaurants. As a dedicated member of our community, she’s been a speaker at multiple college events and programming for high school students, in addition to doing an internship with us in the summer of 2018.

Lisa Nguyenhoang

Lisa joined our program her junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. Six years later, Lisa will be graduating this spring from Merrimack College with a bachelors in biology and a minor in religion. While at Merrimack, Lisa was a student athlete on the rowing team. Lisa was the first recipient of the Merrimack-LEAP scholarship and is the first of her four siblings (who are all part of our College Success Program) to graduate from college! Her commitment to her family is admirable and she is always doing what she can to support her siblings. After college, Lisa hopes to gain some more lab and research experience before pursuing her masters.
Sabrina Silviera

Sabrina joined LEAP during her junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. After high school, Sabrina received her associates from North Shore Community College (NSCC) where she explored different career paths and completed her general requirements. As a first-generation-to-college student, Sabrina knew she wanted to help those in non-traditional life circumstances like herself. So, combining her career exploration, her empathetic nature, and active listening skills, Sabrina decided that the realm of Social Work would be the first step to fulfill her true dream of becoming a sex therapist. Therefore, after graduating from NSCC, Sabrina continued on to Salem State University where she chose to pursue a bachelors in social work. She plans on pursuing a masters in the same discipline upon graduation.

Sarah Smialek

Sarah joined our College Success Program as a high school senior while studying at Salem High. Sarah will be graduating from Fitchburg State University with a bachelors in human services. On campus, Sarah is heavily involved with Campus Ministry as a campus ambassador of the Christian Fellowship. Sarah is a motivated, kind-hearted student who is fulfilled by service to others. Sarah is strengthened by her faith, friends and family, and hopes that whatever she does in life she can continue to help people in any way that she can.
Tori Thompson

Tori has been a part of LEAP since her junior year at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. After high school, Tori decided to attend Gordon College where she will graduate this spring with a bachelors in communications and history. Beyond her academic achievements in these disciplines, Tori has dedicated a lot of her time to developing her craft as a videographer. Tori began recording music videos on her cam recorder in high school, and now, in her senior year in college, has been offered a position with Lightmark Creative, here in Salem. In order to refine her videography skills, Tori took advantage of many opportunities on the Gordon campus, such as managing the equipment room and becoming the senior media tech person in the center for technology. Throughout college, Tori has dedicated herself to service and has completed two service trips to Mexico where she served at La Casa de Esperanza, an orphanage for children, and where she plans to return soon.

THE LEAP TEAM WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A BIG THANK YOU
to Tori for putting together our amazing Great Expectations fund-a-need video! Need help with your video project? Contact Tori Thompson:

› TORILEETHOMPSON.WEEBLY.COM
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<tr>
<th>CLASS OF 2020 ACCEPTED SCHOOLS*</th>
<th>COLLEGES LEAP STUDENTS ATTEND AND HAVE ATTENDED</th>
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*As of April 1, 2020
LEAP for Education is delighted to award the 2020 Distinguished Leader Award to Rosalin Acosta, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, for her tireless efforts to enhance the educational and job-related skills of Massachusetts’ workforce, which contributes to a strong economy.

Prior to joining the Baker-Polito Administration she was a widely respected financial and banking service professional with over thirty years of experience in Greater Boston financial institutions, most recently as Senior Vice President and Managing Director for Enterprise Wealth Management at Enterprise Bank in Lowell, where she oversaw the operations of the bank’s Wealth Management and Brokerage divisions since 2013. Secretary Acosta has also worked in senior executive roles at TD Bank and Sovereign Bank (now Santander). She has served in many community and civic capacities, including as a board member of The Boston Foundation, a board overseer at Boston Children’s Hospital since 2009, where she was a founding member of Milagros Para Ninos, and a 14-year member of the Boston Chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA). Acosta was a director and planning member of the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board and was appointed a Northern Essex Community College Trustee by Governor Baker in 2016. Secretary Acosta has been named one of Boston’s Most Influential Women by the Women of Harvard Club in 2014, where she serves on the Leadership Committee, and El Planeta’s Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics in Massachusetts for three consecutive years.

Born in Cuba, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in Connecticut where she was a member of the Women’s Varsity Ice Hockey Team. She is the proud mother of five children and an avid traveler, runner and cyclist.
GREAT EXPECTATIONS COMMITTEE

GREAT EXPECTATIONS HONORARY COMMITTEE

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Congratulations to Secretary Rosalin Acosta.
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MISSION STATEMENT

LEAP for Education's mission is to empower underserved and first-generation-to-college students to succeed in education, career and life. We do this by teaching students academic and life-skills needed to perform at higher levels in middle school and high school. Students also receive ongoing personalized support and community connections, which help them graduate from college and create a future based on their strengths and interests.

VISION STATEMENT

LEAP for Education is well-known for the delivery of high-quality and innovative academic and college-ready programs that advance transformational and sustainable change for our students, families, and communities. LEAP is a financially sustainable organization and a regional thought partner that consistently builds deep effective relationships with institutions and families in all the communities we serve.
CORE VALUES

- **Personalized:** Focus on each student’s needs potential and choices—there is no one size fits all to student success.
- **Engaged in the Community:** Collaborate and engage with public, private and non-profit sectors in our communities.
- **Innovative:** Bring innovative, non-traditional learning opportunities to students.
- **Relevant:** Understand the needs of all our stakeholders (students, partners, donors, staff, families and volunteers) and communities we serve.
- **Inclusive:** Welcome all students regardless of ethnicity, gender, GPA, or residence.
- **Supportive:** Assure each student has caring and supportive adults in his/her life.
- **Committed:** Maintain open, honest and consistent interaction; build relationships on trust.

TO MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION

LEAP for Education is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of foundations, businesses, and individuals that support its mission. To make a donation, please visit www.leap4ed.org or scan the QR Code.

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