



Increasing Our Impact

Informed by our strategic planning process and current educational research, Gateway has launched three critical initiatives that are certain to increase Gateway's impact on our own students and provide important resources and services to students and educators beyond our walls.

❖ **Building a 21st Century Model – All Students College and Career Ready**

At Gateway, we seek to beat one of the most persistent issues facing students in public schools: the opportunity gap, or the difference between the types of academic and enrichment opportunities afforded to low-income students compared with their more privileged peers. Our 96% college-bound rate tells us that we are on the right track.

In order for academically disadvantaged students to be prepared for success in college and career in the 21st century, they need access to rigorous learning experiences that build connections between what happens in the classroom and in the real world. They need strong training in the emerging fields of science, engineering and technology. They need intensive support to understand and navigate the college process. And, they need access to professional role models/mentors and workplace experiences that help fuel ambitious college and career aspirations.

Projects:

- **Increase learning opportunities in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math).** This includes building a state-of-the-art STEAM Center, as well as investing in computer science classes and robotics, and developing ongoing partnerships with the nonprofit programs in these areas.
- **Enhance Gateway's college access and readiness programs** to ensure that all students have systematic mentoring necessary to understand the college process, successfully apply (and get into) challenging and appropriate colleges, and receive ample financial aid and scholarships. This includes developing a fund for students to visit target colleges, participate in test prep courses, etc., creating a network of preferred colleges, and increasing supports for students to access a broad range of scholarships and college access programs.
- **Expand opportunities for career exploration and exposure** in order to make learning relevant and help students expand their vision of themselves and their futures. Specifically, this means doubling Gateway's internship program and expanding our career speaker series at both Gateway High School and Gateway Middle School to include more fields, more events such as workplace tours, and mentoring.

❖ **Supporting Excellence in Teaching and Learning – Quality Teaching Matters**

From our inception, Gateway has been committed to supporting excellence in teaching and learning. Research confirms that highly skilled teaching is the most important factor for students' experience and growth in school. Great teachers unlock students' potential and are agents of transformative change. However, educators do not often receive the prestige, compensation, or support they deserve. As a result, too many great teachers leave the profession, the pool of talented and committed teachers is insufficient, and too many students do not find success in our public schools. At Gateway, we aim to change this. We are leading the way by rethinking the roles of teachers, the way they are trained, supported and compensated, and the resources they can marshal to support their important work.

Projects:

- **Double our investment in professional development and teacher training** to ensure all Gateway teachers have access to research-based and high value learning opportunities so that they are better equipped to understand how learning happens for public school students
- **Increase opportunities for teacher leadership and career growth**, including serving as instructional coaches, leading professional development, and strengthening programs and practices that promote student agency.
- **Establish a new compensation model** that enables Gateway to better align teacher salaries with our mission and teachers' impact on school and student success.

❖ **Launching Gateway Impact Labs – Building Partnerships and Strengthening Community**

In addition to providing an empowering education to our own students, Gateway serves as a catalyst for innovation and social change within the sphere of public education. We are committed to increasing our impact as an organization by supporting the success of students beyond our walls. Now, as we prepare to launch Gateway Impact Labs, we are building the programs and infrastructure to carry out this important charge.

Gateway Impact Labs' new website and initial programs will connect public school students and teachers with powerful opportunities and resources within the community. We will also provide meaningful and approachable ways for individuals and businesses to support public schools – and public school students – by sharing their expertise, connections, and professional experience. Finally, Gateway Impact Labs will enable Gateway to share our best practices and hallmark programs, as well as serve as a hub for other educators, through open source materials, webinars, and face-to-face workshops.

Projects:

- Create a **powerful online tool that connects students with opportunities** including internships and jobs, enrichment classes, camps and programs, career exploration and college readiness programs, mentors, and speakers, etc.
- **Serve as a hub for sharing professional development opportunities, grants and fellowships, best practices and instructional resources for educators**

- Harness **community support and expertise** for public schools and students
- Develop a **collaborative leadership council** comprised of education and business leaders that drives community engagement events in support of students such as career days, job fairs, college awareness events.