



Fall 2015

A message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The class of 2015 graduation in June was a beautiful night as we showcased the power of keeping our students in grades 5-12 and the possibility ahead for grades K-12. Ricky D'Oleo, the student selected speaker for the evening, shared his thoughts eloquently. Highlighting the lasting bond that has developed with his classmates over the years and deep appreciation for his leaders and teachers, Ricky shared, "My love for our story is abundant." He continued, expressing humility and empathy for his teachers, when he shared, "I think about the failures that one has to face in order to find solutions that work best for students", then concluded with a tribute to KALC School Leader, Drea D'Angelo, stating, "You truly believe what you do and I hope I can become a leader like the one you have become." You can read more about the celebrative evening on page 4.

Over the summer months, to offset the backsliding of our students, KIPP leaders worked hard and smart to eliminate summer loss wherever possible. We ran summer school at KIPP Boston and KIPP Lynn in partnership with the Match Teacher Residency. Last year we piloted summer school at KIPP Lynn and saw a substantial decrease in summer loss. This summer we doubled the number of students served in our summer program and hope to increase the gains. We also partnered with Generation Teach and our Boston charter peers to bring summer learning to more kids. Generation Teach is dedicated to providing summer teaching opportunities for college students with particular focus on bringing more people of color into the profession. Our own alums, Crystal Morfa and Anaidys Uribe, taught this summer in the inaugural Generation Teacher corps. Seeing our alums teach our current middle schoolers is a marvelous preview of what's ahead as our students become the leaders of this work. We also sent 90 rising juniors and seniors to 33 different programs internationally and across the country. You can read more about these programs on page 2.

In this and future Juntos editions we will feature a story about one of our many teachers or leaders who are making a huge difference in our student's lives. In this edition we feature Nikki Barnes, our Assistant Principal at KIPP Academy Boston, who inspires us all. Nikki embodies much of the spirit of KIPP:MA and shares her story on page 3.

Mid-August, we enthusiastically welcomed our first class of 120 KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary Kindergarteners to our new school on Wheeler Street in Lynn. These Kindergarteners will be our first group of Lynn students to begin the climb towards receiving a complete K-12 education and the first to not experience the achievement gap. We estimate that 75% of these Kindergarteners will continue to and through college, which is 7X the current average. We have much to celebrate!

Many thanks, much love,


Caleb Dolan
Executive Director, KIPP:MA



"KIPP has not just been a place where I receive an education. It has also been the place that proved to me that our stories and opinions, as individuals, matter."

--Ricky D'Oleo,
Class of 2015

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KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate (KALC) Class of 2015 Has Ambitious Plans for the Fall



Seventy-four students in the class of 2015 received diplomas on June 11th to the rousing applause and cheers from friends and family filling nearly every seat in the Lynn auditorium. Lynn's Mayor Kennedy wrote to the class, "As the inaugural class graduating from KIPP, you have much to celebrate tonight. You are the pioneers of the KIPP network in Massachusetts. You believed in what the school offered and because of your hard work, your commitment to longer school days and years, and your dual focus on academic and character development, you are taking that final step in your high school journey and receiving your diplomas this evening."

This class of 2015 is the first class of seniors to graduate from KALC and the first class of students to attend KIPP from 5th through 12th grade. Seventy-eight percent have plans to matriculate to a 4 year college, and twenty-two percent to 2 year community colleges or other educational programs. Some of the colleges these students will be attending include Colby College, Bucknell, Smith, Carleton, Lesley, Fitchburg State, Providence, Hamilton, UMass, Bridgewater State, Bates, Champlain, U of New England, Salem State, Franklin and Marshall, Suffolk, Holy Cross, Middlebury, Marian Court, U of Maine and Framingham State. These graduates are projected to achieve the strongest college outcomes for KIPP:MA so far and to graduate from a 4 year college at 5X the average of their peers attending district schools. KALC opened in 2011 with a class of 96 ninth graders. Today KALC is fully enrolled in grades 9-12 serving 394 students and their families.

Ricky D'Oleo, the chosen student speaker for the evening, shared "As the first graduating class of KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate, we now leave the biggest imprint in the school that will be used to inspire the many generations ahead. Tonight we're making history." Then Ricky introduced KIPP:MA founder, Josh Zoia, who Ricky thanked for believing in the kids of Lynn despite what other surrounding cities thought of them. Mr. Zoia planted the seed in 2004 and has watched it grow to the 5 schools KIPP:MA is today.



Drea D'Angelo, School Leader, awards diploma to Ann Gross, 10 year Gates Foundation Millennium Scholar



Help KIPP:MA save money and go green! After this issue we will be emailing our newsletter quarterly. If you would like to opt in, please email kreynolds@kippma.org to be added to our e-newsletter list.

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Summer Programs at KIPP Lynn and Boston Reduced Backsliding of our Students While Recent Alums Learned how to Become our New Leaders



Many of our 2015 graduates improved their college and post-secondary matches because of their summer choices prior to senior year. This year we sent 90 rising juniors and seniors to 33 different programs internationally and across the country. In addition to Anaidys Uribe, Posse Scholar and alum of the class of 2015 (shown at left teaching middle schoolers), who participated in KIPP's inaugural Generation Teach program, more examples of this year's summer programs are listed below:

- * **Champlain Imagine College** -- Mayreliz Perez, Basel Srour, Kayley Alonzo participated in a week of learning more about Champlain and promoting diversity on their campus.
- * **Lindos Suenos Program** -Johan Lopez Payano participated in a Boston Red Sox program for high school students where American teens traveled to the Dominican Republic to engage in community service and play baseball.
- * **Lycoming College Summer Program** -Daniel Santos learned more about the Lycoming College Summer Program on Campus.
- * **Babson Incubator** -3 KIPP students participated in an on campus opportunity at Babson College to develop business plans.
- * **PwC Accounting Careers @ Bryant** -Some KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate students learned about Accounting and Entrepreneurship at Bryant University in Rhode Island.
- * **Cornell Catalyst** -Corinne Jean Gilles, Egbe Idhaor, Divine Kamba promoted diversity in the field of engineering.
- * **Gardening with McLeod** -Several KIPP students helped maintain and build a garden for the High Rock building.
- * **Brave New Voices** -Tope Sholola participated in a selective International Spoken Word Poetry Festival.

Our KIPP Through College (KTC) program also offered a series of whole group events and 1:1 outreach. It takes a collaborative effort between the KALC leadership and KTC team to ensure we get more students across the divide between the last day of high school and the first day of college. Twenty-four KALC 2015 Grads participated in summer internship opportunities through **Future Focus** a career readiness program focused on building the essential career readiness skills needed for success in the competitive job market. Featured placements include: **Goodwin Procter; Accenture Consulting; Atlantic Veterinary Hospital; Northeastern Marine Science Center and the Boathouse Group**. In addition to internships, Future Focus Fellows shadowed professionals at **Mass General Hospital; Lahey Behavioral Health Clinic & Hubspot**.



KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary (KALE) Welcomes 120 New Kindergarteners this Fall



KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary (KALE) Kindergartener, Thomas Bencosme, at summer home visit.

KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary (KALE) will be the fifth school to open in the KIPP:MA network. In August 2015, we welcomed a founding class of 120 kindergarteners. For the first time ever, we can now offer a K-12 education to students in Lynn.

KALE is rooted in the core KIPP values of rigorous academic preparation and relentless character development, while maintaining focus on achieving success *to and through* college and to leading a life of independence and impact.

"KIPP elementary school students in Boston are producing jaw-dropping results. In the Fall of 2014 only five of our seventy two Kindergarteners could write their full name, much less read. After a year at KIPP, 90% of them are on track to meet or exceed the national average for reading. These students will never experience the achievement gap and we're only getting started." - Caleb Dolan



KIPP Academy Boston's (KAB) Assistant Principal, Nikki Barnes, Continues Family Tradition of Educating Underserved Students in Boston's Spine



Nikki Barnes, Assistant Principal at KIPP Academy Boston Middle School in Roxbury, is instilling her family's tradition of helping underserved students, in her children through her work at KIPP. Barnes taught for 12 years in public school and feels working at KIPP allows her to be part of a community of support where everyone is committed to a common goal of social justice and working smart – not just hard - in teams to inspire kids who deserve equal opportunities to succeed.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia in 1969, Barnes grew up in a segregated neighborhood. She was strongly influenced by her mother, a career woman who worked for the federal government while raising 4 children. She loved music and believed strongly in education. Barnes explains, *"My mother used to take the cardboard separators out of panty hose containers and write the capital and lower case letters of the alphabet on each one, then hang them up as a border in our bedroom."* When Barnes was a child, her neighborhood was purposefully chosen to be bused to a fairly new integrated school. Growing up, she revered teachers like Marva Collins, a public school teacher who started her own school, and Mary McLeod Bethune, an American educator and civil rights leader best known for starting a private school for African-American girls in Daytona Beach, Florida.

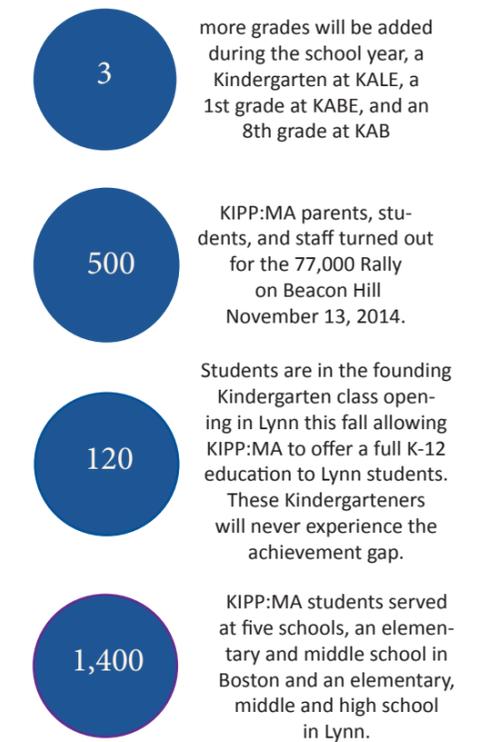
Prior to coming to KIPP Boston, where she began as a 6th grade humanities teacher, Barnes worked for four years as a Team Leader and teacher at KIPP Gaston Prep. Her daughter, Adrianna, attended 11th and 12th grade at KIPP Gaston College Prep in North Carolina and went onto college at UNC Chapel Hill where she earned a degree in Elementary Education with distinction. This Fall, Adrianna will be a 1st grade KIPP Boston teaching fellow. Barnes' son, Jordan, who attended KIPP Gaston College Prep in 9th-12th grade will be a sophomore this fall at Tufts University.

Barnes sees herself as a "warm demander", someone who has high expectations for her students, as well as her children, who walks the talk of providing a living example of persistence, grit and never opting out. GRIT, is a personality trait Nikki believes is personified in her other role model, Harriet Tubman. Born into slavery in 1822, Tubman escaped and made about thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved family and friends using the Underground Railroad. *"If that isn't grit I don't know what is"*, says Barnes.

Nikki and her children are playing an important role on this path to living lives of independence and impact for kids in Boston. Barnes explains, *"While I feel a solemn duty to ensure that our most underserved students receive an excellent education; what makes me proud is knowing that students at KIPP are on track to graduate at 5 times the national average. But what keeps me wanting to keep doing this for another 25 years is the belief that, someday, our kids will graduate at the same rate as their high income peers, and our kindergartener KIPPsters will not experience the achievement gap."*

Six Essential Questions: Are we serving the kids we set out to serve?

Helping our students climb the mountain *to and through* college and achieve their dreams is only possible if we know exactly how we are doing. Data helps us understand our true impact; what is working and what needs to be improved. Our Six Essential Questions provide a yardstick by which to measure our progress, keep us focused as we grow, and most important, help us to keep the promises we make to our students and their families. In each edition of Juntos, we will focus on one of the Six Essential Questions by highlighting programs, people, or statistics that illustrate our commitment to staying on track. In this edition of Juntos, we spotlight: **Question 1: Are we serving the kids we set out to serve?**



Our latest KIPP Report Card Results are posted online @ www.kipp.org