

GREAT EXPECTATIONS 2016

Over 250 supporters of LEAP for Education gathered at Danversport Yacht Club on a cool April evening to celebrate six new college graduates. As has become the norm for LEAP's events, our supporters were treated to an event run by, and for, the students themselves. The speakers, raffle sellers, table ambassadors, event hosts were all high school and college students as well as alumni, who have benefited from your gifts and were eager to tell their stories and try out their newly acquired networking skills. We want to thank all of you for graciously reaching out to our students, engaging them in conversation, providing job search and career advice, and encouraging them in their continued studies. Feedback from you and our students was very positive and at least one of our students got a summer job at Beverly Bank! We are hoping to do smaller networking events through the year so you can really see the faces of the students you have all so generously supported.

Over 30 students participated in Great Expectations 2016, all shining stars, unique in their hopes, dreams and accomplishments but all perfect examples of the impact of your gifts.

STUDENT PROFILE: EMILUIS "EMI" PÉREZ

Emiluis "Emi" Pérez, had been a part of the LEAP for Education family since he was in middle school. He participated in the College Success Program and graduated from Salem State University this past spring.



"I was so honored to be chosen by LEAP staff to speak to so many LEAP supporters at the Great Expectations fundraiser in April. I know that LEAP would not be here today if it weren't for your generosity. I was humbled to speak to so many accomplished and busy people who took time out of their day and money out of their pockets to help me and so many of my peers.

I am proud to be the first in my family to graduate college, but my success will also be measured by my ability to help others succeed, which is what I want to accomplish as much as I want to breathe. I am now part of LEAP's alumni group EMPOWER and committed to giving back to this wonderful organization that has helped me so much."



(l to r): Domingo Quiroz and Emiluis Pérez (both Salem State University graduates), Jacarlys Román (North Shore Community College graduate), Jesús Morales (University of Pennsylvania graduate), Jhonathan Rodríguez Núñez (North Shore Community College graduate) and Victor "Manny" Cruz (Northeastern University graduate)

QUESTBRIDGE RECIPIENT PRAYCELIA PORCHER

Praycelia "Pray" Porcher, who graduated from Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, received a full scholarship including tuition, fees, room and board to Colby College, located in Waterville, Maine.



"I found out about the College Success Program from a few friends and could not be more grateful. QuestBridge was something I would have known nothing about without this program, and without the motivation from the staff I probably would not have thought it was a possibility for me. It meant working on summer days, countless essays and a lot of stress, but paid off in ways I could not have imagined."

Ms. Porcher will be studying biology at Colby on her career path to becoming a pediatrician and is the first in her family to go to college.

"I want to thank everyone at LEAP and all of its supporters for giving me an opportunity I never dreamed of."

GIRLS WHO CODE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ALANA DOUCETTE

Alana Doucette, a rising junior at Salem High School, joined the Girls Who Code club at LEAP this past February. She simply wanted to explore a field she was interested in and learn how to write computer code; she accomplished that and more by also getting a summer job with our Academic Learning Center and joining our College Success Program.

As part of the Girls Who Code program, Alana had the opportunity to experiment with a variety of programming languages, her favorite being Scratch.

“Scratch is a computer programming language that is really fun and easy to use. I coded computer games, stories, and animations,” she shared. “It was really rewarding to see the end result of each project I created.”

After a few months of learning programming skills, the LEAP club attended DigiGirlz Day at Microsoft’s office in Cambridge in early April. The event was designed to provide high school girls with a better understanding of what a career in technology is all about.

“Women can be discouraged and uncomfortable with the atmosphere in some STEM fields, so they choose not to take STEM classes in college. It is really important to have women already working in STEM fields who reach out and



encourage younger women to study these subjects,” said Alana, reflecting on the importance of DigiGirlz Day.

Participating in these girl-powered STEM initiatives strengthened her desire to pursue computer science and engineering in college. Already taking on new STEM experiences, Alana is now working as a teaching assistant for our Zero Robotics middle school program this summer. Having a female teaching assistant in a class that is 50% girls continues the mission of providing young women with STEM role models.

PARTNER PROFILE: NORMAN H. READ TRUST



Dr. and Mrs. Nile Albright, Oliver Robinson, Dr. Martina Albright and Mr. Dennis Spear, trustees of the Norman H. Read Trust, visited LEAP for Education in early June as they do every year. The Trust is a generous donor to LEAP as well the Salem Public Schools, Salem Academy Charter School, and the North Shore Medical

Center. The Trust supports LEAP’s after school and summer STEM and college access programs for hundreds of Salem school children each year. With funds from the Trust, LEAP supports a full time STEM and Career Services Coordinator and instructional staff for our programs. With these funds LEAP is able to sponsor many STEM programs including Zero Robotics, Future City, MIT/JV InvenTeam, and several home-grown STEM curricula, such as Forensics, Food Science, 3D Printing, Science and Design, Digital Design and more.

The Read family goes back to the early days of Salem when John Read arrived in Salem from England. His son, Charles Albert became the family’s first benefactor to Salem in the late 1800’s. Charles set up a trust to provide sleigh rides, picnics, science lectures and money for the poor. John’s grandson, Norman H. Read was educated at Yale University attaining degrees in

both chemistry and geology, and he was also a famed pilot, mountaineer and skier. It was Norman Read who formed the Read Trust with money made in the oil and natural gas industry. Intrigued with science all his life, Mr. Read believed we should encourage the advancement of science.

When Norman Read died in 1992, he bequeathed his fortune to the trust that has since given several million dollars to the youth of Salem. Many know the Read Trust through its summer picnics and science fairs and its more recent September Salem Days at the Museum of Science and Aquarium, free to all residents of Salem.

Today’s faces of the Norman H. Read Trust Fund are Dr. Nile Albright and his daughter Dr. Martina Albright. Dr. Nile Albright is a well-known surgeon and is very active in his community, as well as in Salem. He was a friend and doctor to Norman H. Read and was asked by Mr. Read to be the trustee of the fund after his death. LEAP for Education has worked with Dr. Martina Albright through her work at Think Kids, an organization that does training and research in working and understanding troubled youth. It was through Dr. (Martina) Albright that LEAP was first introduced to the Read Trust.

We want to take this opportunity to publically thank the Norman H. Read Trustees and the Albright family for all their work on behalf of Salem youth. Their impact in Salem has been measurable and their gift will be one that keeps on giving.

WHAT'S NEW AT LEAP

2016 is turning into the most amazing summer ever. With your gifts and support, LEAP is able to offer several academic programs that are keeping 150 middle and high school youth busy this summer with meaningful, project-based and hands-on learning opportunities.

Gloucester U and O'Maley Academy – 16 teens completed a 12 week Internship program at the high school in which they explored different careers and developed their job readiness skills. For their efforts, 12 of these students were placed in summer internships that matched their interests. The high school is also doing a summer Music Theater production of **The Sound of Music**.

O'Maley Innovation Middle School ran a summer Theater Group with 58 budding thespians who have completed their drama production in front of an audience of 200. A much anticipated Musical Theater program runs later this summer. For 30 leftbrained tweens, an exciting Science Academy is combining trips to college campuses with many engaging STEM activities.

Zero Robotics – 20 middle school students are once again working with MIT and NASA to program small satellite robots used on the International Space Station (ISS). Competing against 30 other schools across the country, our budding codesters are programming these robots to play a game that will be played on the ISS, which they will see live at MIT via a satellite hook up to the ISS. Students are also traveling to local companies to learn about careers in this field. *See related story on Alana Doucette.*

Healthy Harbors – 80 middle school youth are engaged in a summer service learning project on the topic of Marine Biodiversity. Students will be doing plenty of field work on the water and at the beaches combining fun activities like swimming and sailing with sampling, collecting, charting and other learning adventures. **Partners:** *Salem Public Schools and Salem Sound Coastwatch.*

Summer ELL Academy Salem at SEA – 35 English Language Learner high schoolers are at Salem State University working on a service learning project to connect the immigrant community to the various community-based organizations in Salem. Students will expand their English proficiency, meet the city's changemakers and learn about the history of Salem's vibrant philanthropic community. This program is a city wide partnership with Salem Public Schools, Salem State University, Essex National Heritage, The House of the Seven Gables and the North Shore WIB.

The Chefs in Schools Summer Cooking Experience is a partnership between LEAP and Project Bread. Each week, Chef Nick brings in fresh groceries and teaches students nutrition and cooking skills. Ten youth are enjoying a day of food prep and lots of eating.

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

The final numbers are in and the impact of your gifts is impressive:

100% of our 38 high school seniors are off to college in the Fall

16% will attend North Shore Community College

45% will attend a state university

39% will attend private 4-year colleges

85% College Persistence / Graduation Rate

In the Fall College Success will be advising 72 college students & 100 high school students



Gloucester U - internship program from the spring



Zero Robotics 2016 - field trip to MIT

OUR STAFF

Linda Saris, *Executive Director*
Mira Riggan, *Office Manager*
Kathy Cooper, *Accountant*
Greg Bedard, *IT Specialist*
Andria Castillo, *Marketing and Outreach*

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

Katherine "Katie" Wilkins, *Program Coordinator*
Erika Vasques, *Mass Promise Fellow*
Kayla Dorst, *STEM Coordinator and Career Services*
Joann Leavitt, *Program Coordinator, Gloucester U & O'Maley Academy*

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Jesenia Tejada-Pérez, *Program Coordinator*
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Norma Ramirez, *Site Coordinator, Salem*
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EMPOWER: GIVING BACK TO LEAP by Victor “Manny” Cruz

EMPOWER is a mission-driven organization comprised of 20 LEAP alumni and young professionals who are committed to giving back to LEAP because of all it stands for and the impact it has had on individual lives and the community. Our mission is to empower young people to achieve their goals by providing them with the skills and tools necessary to lead a successful life. Through EMPOWER, we plan to help LEAP recruit students as well as provide leadership training and mentoring.

Why EMPOWER?

As a proud alumni of LEAP for Education - I have been a program participant for nearly 15 years - I have experienced the LEAP staffs' and Linda's mentorship, which have played a huge role in my growth, turning me into the young man that I am today. I had always told myself that when the time came I would give back to Linda and LEAP because of all they have done for me. In the spring I graduated from Northeastern University with a bachelor's in political science and two minors, one in law and public policy, and the other in philosophy.

Linda was the person that helped me find my passion for policy and politics. She saw my interest in civics and government and used it to motivate me to attend college. Linda challenged me to perform to my academic potential.

I am not alone. This story could be told over and over again by hundreds of youth in Salem, including my two brothers.

The Linda Saris Scholarship Fund

In June, EMPOWER announced the Linda Saris Scholarship Fund in honor of LEAP's founder and director, who has helped so many of us achieve our dreams. We will be raising money throughout the year by hosting socials at Brothers Taverna and a GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign. To date, we have raised over \$1,000 towards our \$15,000 goal, all from LEAP alumni.

Please join us at Brothers Taverna on July 29, 2016, at 9 pm. The entrance fee of \$15 will go towards the scholarship fund. Brothers Taverna will also be donating a percentage of the food proceeds sold that night.

Linda Saris, through her diligence and vision, has helped so many students on the north shore reach their academic potential. I could not think of a better way to honor Linda than creating a scholarship fund that will help send high school students to college. Please join us in raising the funds necessary to establish the Linda Saris Scholarship Fund.

<https://www.gofundme.com/surpriselindasaris>