

PROJECT DISCOVERY

OF VIRGINIA, INC.

Navigate Your Future



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Mission Statement:

To increase access to and prepare elementary through high school students for success in post secondary education.

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During the past year, Project Discovery of Virginia, Inc. continued its commitment to providing essential resources and tools required for students to successfully transition to post-secondary education. Our agency's education access program is offered through 22 community-based programs throughout Virginia with a focus on grades 4 to 12.

Project Discovery has successfully enhanced its governance component as well as the organization's leadership and administrative staff, all designed to more effectively address the agency's programmatic initiatives. In concert with our 22 community-based programs, vital assistance was provided to more than 1500 students enabling them to matriculate to the next grade level or graduate successfully during the past year. Through a clearer and more focused vision, our agency has enhanced its capacity to enable every participating student to

graduate from high school and to attend post-secondary education.

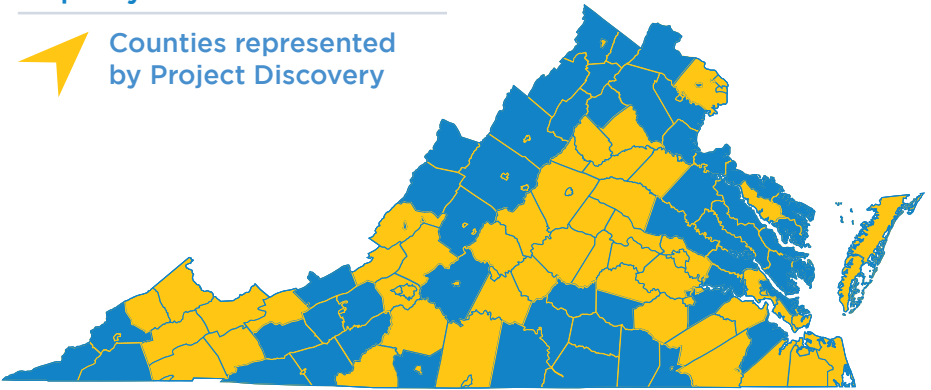
During FY 2020, Project Discovery managed total resources of approximately \$1.2 million, which included \$189,101 in Federal Community Services Block Grant. With these assets, our agency has undertaken an appropriate rebranding initiative, designed to unify essential state-wide partnerships successfully. Concurrently, Project Discovery has introduced and installed essential technologies designed to support and advance client services. Much credit is due to our committed and engaged board of directors, who are ably supported by Project Discovery's very competent staff. Also, our 19 state-wide partner agencies remain essential to the success of our strategic mission. We are grateful to all for your collective efforts and continual engagement.

Sashanda Ellington *Jack D. Lanic*

COUNTIES REPRESENTED

Map Key

 Counties represented by Project Discovery



Project Discovery partners with local Virginia agencies to reach a larger area and benefit more students. A key to our success is the active involvement of individuals and institutions working together to provide enriching experiences for students all over the state. In addition to partner agencies, Project Discovery works with local businesses, churches, community groups, and the Virginia public school system. These contributions from a variety of sources help motivate students to join the program and attend college.

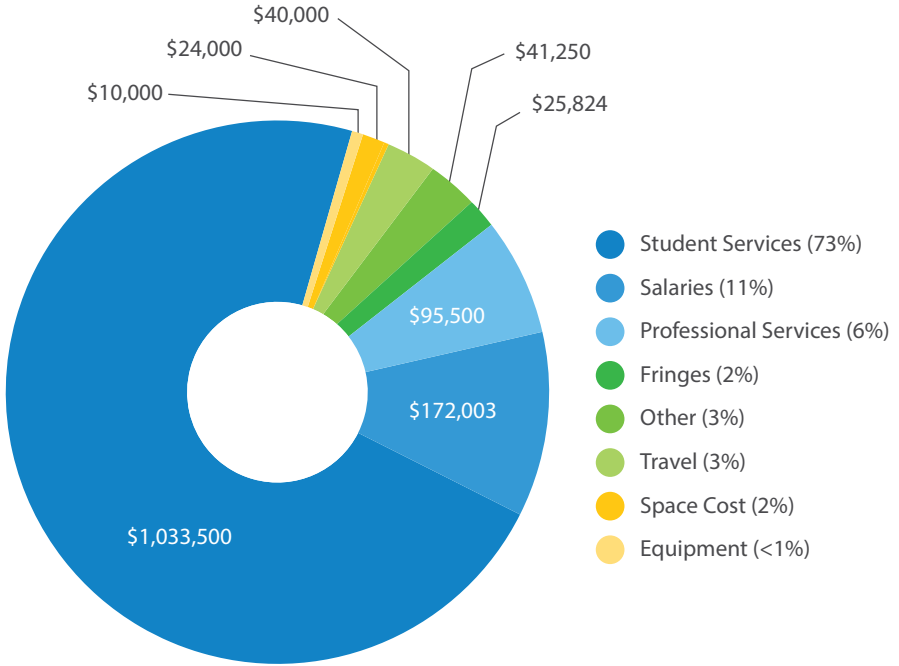
Visit our website for a full list of partner agencies and cities/counties served.

projectdiscovery.org | 540.767.6035

108 N. Jefferson St., Suite 507
Roanoke, VA 24016

FINANCES

Project Discovery is a good steward of the public funds entrusted to us. Seventy-three percent of all agencies funds go directly to programs that benefit Virginia students.



\$1,000,000+
in direct student
services



\$77,000
in community
donations

DEMOGRAPHICS

Project Discovery students come from economically disadvantaged families. Yet, year after year, our students outperform their socioeconomic peers. In fact, Project discovery students graduate from high school on time and go on to college at a rate higher than the general population of Virginia. At just over \$600 per student, the Project Discovery Program provides a great benefit to its targeted population group.



1,501

students active
in our programs

57%

come from low
income families

38%

are first generation
college students

OUTCOMES



55%

of participants
are in advanced
placement
classes



100%

of participants
have graduated
high school



70%

of participants
enroll in an
institution of
higher education

SUCCESS STORIES

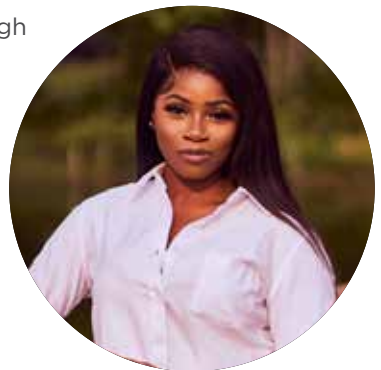


Deaquan

Deaquan has had a number of achievements in high school and has been engaged in countless organizations. Some include being a three-year varsity football captain, SGA co-president, and an African American Scholastic Bowl member. In addition, Deaquan has maintained a 4.4 GPA since his arrival at RCPS. Deaquan has been accepted to attend James Madison University, Princeton University, Harvard University, Brown College, Columbia University, Virginia Tech, Washington and Lee University, Hampden and Sydney College, Middlebury College, Kenyon College, and Hamilton College. Furthermore, Deaquan has earned at least two million dollars in scholarship money. In the Fall, Deaquan will attend James Madison University, where he plans to play football and major in Biophysical Chemistry. Congratulations Deaquan.

Abigail Lamptey

The Project Discovery Program in Alexandria has helped me in ways I never could have imagined. Through PD, I received a scholarship award, aiding me to finance my school tuition. Also, I had the opportunity to visit many college campuses. This experience helped me to choose my current school, Virginia State University. In addition, I was given great advice on how to handle my academic and social life during college, completing the FAFSA and applying for scholarships. Without PD, I would not have been prepared for college as I am now. I am forever grateful for the experience and life lessons PD has afforded me.



PARTNERSHIPS

ProjectCARES

VACARES support ensures that the day to day needs are being met while Project Discovery assists the client in obtaining employment training certifications that result in better, more stable employment at a higher wage. The Project Discovery Program curriculum is aimed at preparing the client by beginning the process of applying for post-secondary educational opportunities. ProjectCARES is the collaboration of two organizations united together to better serve returning citizens.

Virginia Athletes for Education

Virginia Athletes for Education offers a college access curriculum and an intervention program that will help student athletes maintain school eligibility, improve their academic standing, support their athletic dreams, and prepare them for post-secondary education.

SOARVa

Project Discovery is a proud partner with Virginia 529 to bring the SOARVa program to selected communities across the Commonwealth. Project Discovery students who comply with the SOARVa contract can earn up to \$2,000 towards their college tuition. These funds are deposited into a Virginia 529 account and are ready for use when the student enrolls in college.



ABOUT US

Board of Directors

Mr. Robert D. Ayers, Jr.

Representative of The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Virginia State Senate

Ms. Renee Brown

DePaul Community Resources

Ms. Gloria Bynum

The Improvement Association

Mrs. Beatrice Dalton

THRIVE Virginia Community Action Agency

Ms. Taneia Dowell

Monticello Area Community Action Agency

Mr. John B. Edmunds, Treasurer

Sage Creek Planning and Investments

Mr. David Foster

Of Counsel, Norton Rose Fulbright US, LLP

Dr. Jack O. Lanier, President

Representative of The Honorable Betsy B. Carr, Virginia House of Delegates

Mr. Ronald J. Jones, Vice President

Roanoke City Council Representative

Dr. Linda Linnartz

Retired, UVA School of Education

Mr. James M. Meredith, Secretary

STEP, Inc.

Ms. Cathie Skaggs

Retired Virginia State Education/
Counselor

M. Chase Stewart, M.A

Communities in Schools of Southwest Virginia

Dr. Kristen Westover

Representative of the Honorable Terry Kilgore, Virginia House of Delegates
Mountain Empire Community College

Lashanda Ellington, Executive Director

For nearly four decades, Project Discovery has worked with thousands of students in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Project Discovery assists students from predominantly low to moderate-income households or students who would be the first in the family to attend college.

The Project Discovery Program works through 19 partner agencies in 22 locations to provide activities in 145 schools. Project Discovery combines a nationally recognized curriculum of workshops designed to improve study skills, time management, and financial planning with assistance to students and parents applying for both admission and financial aid.

Project Discovery also takes students to college campuses where they can meet with financial aid and admissions officers, talk with students and professors, and see for themselves that college is attainable and important.

Our vision is to enable every student to graduate from high school and to assist every student who has the desire and demonstrates the ability, to attend post-secondary education.