



PARTNERSHIP 4 KIDS

STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

High School Senior Flourishing with P4K Support

When Gabrielle joined Partnership 4 Kids her freshman year, she expected little more than a scholarship if she showed up and met the requirements. However, she soon learned she would gain so much more than a chance at a scholarship. Now a senior at Benson High School, **Gabrielle credits P4K for helping her unlock her full potential.**

“My sophomore year, I was going through so much. Ms. Becca from P4K was always there and she changed my life. She told me, ‘Kid, get your head on straight and you’ll do great things.’”

Those words lit a fire in Gabrielle. **She went from a 2.93 GPA to a 4.1** and is now even enrolled in college-level courses through Metro Community College this year.

The relationship between Gabrielle and Becca is certainly a special one. Gabrielle joined P4K at a time when she needed a mentor, someone to help her navigate her academics. Having moved numerous times in high school and providing additional care to her mother battling cancer, **Gabrielle found support, stability and opportunity in P4K that helped her through difficult times and focus on the future.**

In addition to improving

academically, Gabrielle has also become more interested in social justice because of P4K. **Through P4K college tours and career exploration activities, Gabrielle has discovered a passion for social work.** “I want to be there to comfort kids,” she said. “My best friend is in foster care and she was bounced around to bad homes and good homes. The system is corrupt. I want to study social work so I can help change that. **I want to change the world.**”

In addition to her regular P4K involvement, Gabrielle is also a member of a student-led “Current Events” group facilitated by P4K. “We talk about life and what’s going on: the elections, Covid, Black Lives Matter, etc. We process things together,” she said.

In addition to academic support and career exploration opportunities, P4K has helped Gabrielle find more balance in life. She explained that through P4K she learned skills and mindfulness exercises that have helped her become more self-assured and confident “I’ve learned how to create a self-awareness headspace,



Gabrielle

P4K Student

Senior, Benson High School

“

It’s been a rocky road but the support from P4K has always been steady.

and I now organize everything,”

Gabrielle said.

“I went from awkward to flourishing.”

Gabrielle cherishes her time with P4K so much that she is working to convince her younger brother to join the program,

too. She looks back on her time with P4K with a smile, “It has been a rocky road to get to where I want to be, but the support from P4K has always been steady,” she said. “The P4K staff have been amazing.”

Cultivating diversity, equity, and inclusion

Partnership 4 Kids established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee in early 2019 to promote inclusive practices, awareness, and understanding of our diverse staff, mentors, and students we serve.

The Committee's main objectives are:

1. To create ways to provide inclusion and understanding of all staff and their diversity
2. To find and promote ways for staff to be heard and represented
3. To use and create ways to equally and/or equitably serve mentors and students in our program

After one year, the Committee has:

- Updated program curriculum for middle school through post-secondary
- Attended over 95 hours of trainings since Sept. 2020
- Created a staff resource library
- Updated mentor trainings

Future objectives

- Offer lunch & learn sessions on appropriate topics to improve mentoring relationships
- Promote the development and advancement of underrepresented mentors and mentees through professional development seminars and trainings
- Increase staff leadership and Board diversity
- Offer training sessions for community partners
- Conduct youth training sessions to raise awareness and teach strategies regarding how to handle racism

Three new P4K Board members



Monique Cribbs
Director of Enrollment
Metro Community College



Thomas A. Andreoli
Vice President, Law Litigation
Union Pacific



Sen. Tony Vargas
Nebraska
Legislature, District 7

Staff Spotlight

“ P4K is on an intentional journey creating a mentoring culture that celebrates and values differences at all levels. We are working in unison to ensure that our staff, our mentees, and mentoring supporters are accepted for their differences and valued for the talents and skills that they bring to the mentoring sector. When we have the ability to work together despite our differences, we achieve greater access for everyone involved and more importantly for those in the future. It is truly an honor to lead P4K's diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives where young lives are inspired and encouraged to accomplish their educational goals.



Debra Shaw
Diversity, Community & Recruitment Leader
Partnership 4 Kids