



# Annual Report

2017-2018





# Dear Friends,

Planning and piloting a new student reengagement center for out-of-school and disengaged youth began in 2010 and 2011. Since then, the D2 Center has served over 700 young people, including 269 high school graduates. These students had either dropped out of school or were headed in that direction and were facing a broad range of barriers, such as: parenting and childcare, lack of transportation and family support, juvenile or criminal justice involvement, substance abuse, and behavioral health issues.

The D2 Center works directly with students and families, school staff members, and many youth-serving organizations in the community to address the problems of high-risk youth. Answering this challenge lies at the core of who we are as a community because of the powerful economic, social, and moral consequences of not addressing the issue.

During the past year, the D2 Center has reached new heights:

- Three hundred students served with nearly two hundred still fully active in the program;
- Seventy-five graduates – the highest number of graduates since we opened;
- Full implementation and expansion of a new partnership with the Omaha Public Schools;
- Through the partnership, outreach to nearly 250 students who had withdrawn from school but were eligible to re-enroll;
- Nearly one hundred students served with one-on-one assistance with postsecondary planning.

The D2 Center is funded by grants from The Sherwood Foundation, the Weitz Family Foundation, the City of Omaha, the United Way of the Midlands, and by individual contributions through programs such as Omaha Gives! sponsored by the Omaha Community Foundation. We thank you for your support.

We look forward to celebrating our five-year anniversary as a nonprofit in October 2019. Stay tuned for ways you can help us celebrate. In the meantime, please check us out on Facebook and Twitter, and consider a donation at [d2center.org/donate](https://d2center.org/donate).



Jerry Bexten  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

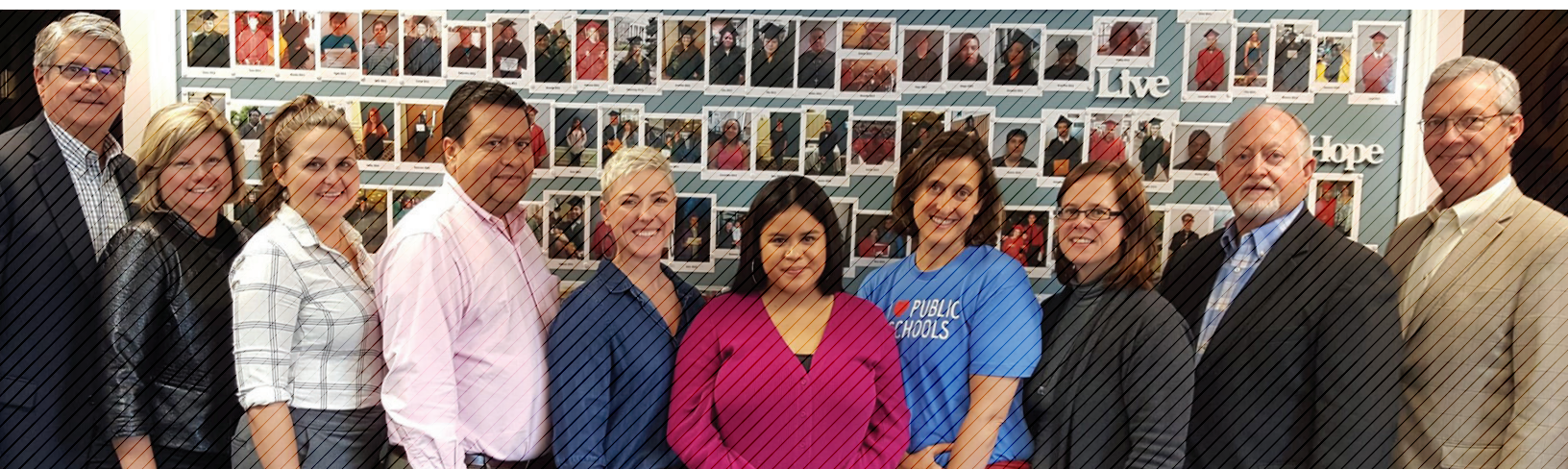


Greg Emmel  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Carolyn T. Miller  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## Board of Directors

**Dr. Jerry M. Bartee**, Community Advocate

**Mr. Jerry Bexten**, Director of Education Initiatives, The Sherwood Foundation

**Dr. Chuck Chevalier**, Associate Vice President, Secondary Partnerships, Metropolitan Community College

**Mrs. Susan Christopherson**, Director of Secondary Education, Omaha Public Schools

**Mr. Greg Emmel**, Executive Director, D2 Center

**Mr. Dominique McDaniel**, Student, D2 Center

**Ms. Karina Mejia Garcia**, Student, D2 Center

**Ms. Lauren Micek Vargas**, Assistant Public Defender, Douglas County Public Defender's Office

**Ms. Carolyn T. Miller**, Executive Director, D2 Center

**Mr. Daniel Padilla**, Executive Director, Lending Link Omaha

**Dr. Katie Weitz**, Executive Director, Weitz Family Foundation

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## D2 Center Staff

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Greg Emmel  
Carolyn T. Miller

### INTAKE SPECIALIST

Charnella Mims

### CAREER NAVIGATORS

Bette Norton Ball  
John Moore

### YOUTH ACADEMIC NAVIGATORS

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jesi DeWitt     | Olga Yaneth López |
| Hansel Gonzalez | Curtis Morgan     |
| Kelsey Hansen   | Netta Prince      |

### PART-TIME CERTIFIED TEACHERS

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Clem Bell        | Terry Kocsis  |
| Dianne Kielniarz | Jackie Thomas |
| Kathy Kocsis     |               |

# How Students Connect With D2 Center

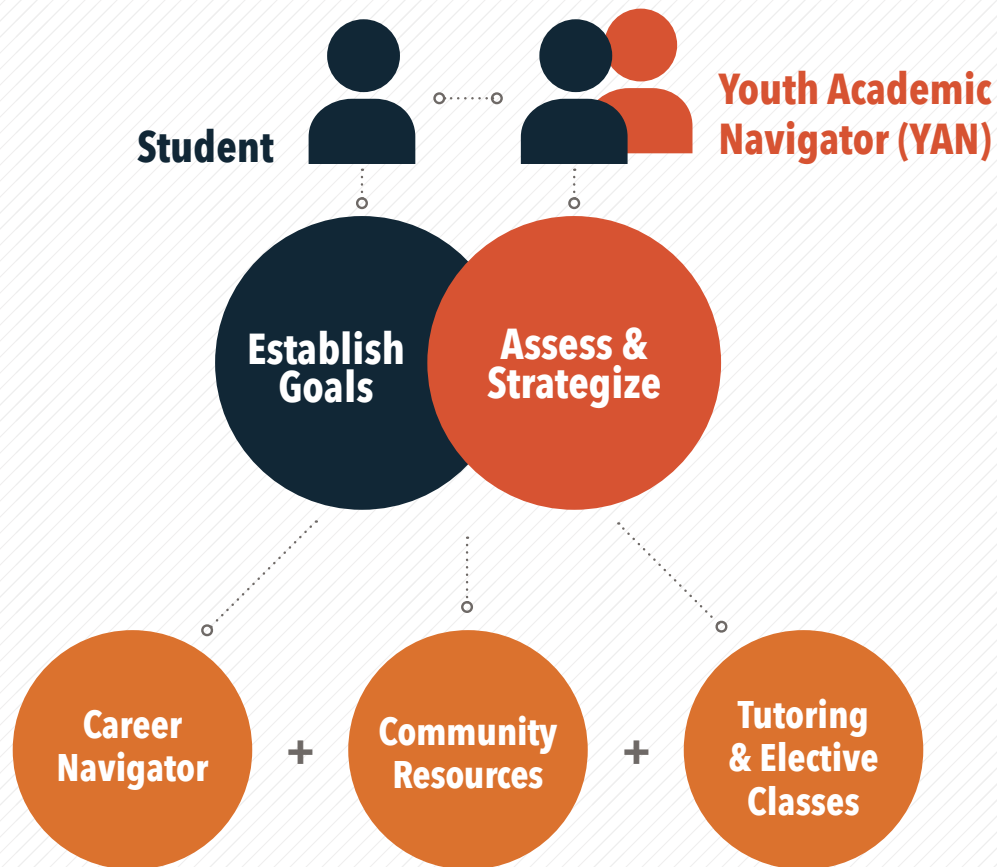
## ✓ Omaha Public Schools

Via Social Workers,  
Guidance Counselors, etc.

## ✓ Student/Family

## ✓ Community/Programs

Via DC Juvenile Services, Promiseship,  
NECC Teen & Young Parent Program, etc.



## IDEAL OUTCOMES



**Reenrollment**



**Graduation**



**Postsecondary/  
Career**



# New in 2017-18

## Numbers of Youth Served, Graduates, and Outreach:

All-time highs in each category include:

- 323 total students served
- 175 new students
- 75 students graduated from high school
- 242 outreach attempts to withdrawn students (this figure almost doubled)

## D2 Center/OPS Reengagement Project:

- So far, 13 students from the 2017-18 project and 22 from the 2016-17 project have graduated. Many other students in these groups could still graduate in the months ahead.
- 22 students were recruited into the D2 Center program.
- 250-300 students is the outreach goal for the 2018-19 school year.

## Program Expansion:

In order to provide quality services to a larger population of students, the D2 Center added the following staff members:

- Bette Norton Ball, part-time Career Navigator, who joined the D2 Center in the spring of 2018.
- Jesi DeWitt, full-time YAN, was hired in the spring and becomes the seventh YAN on the team. Like other YANs, Jesi is also doing outreach to OPS students who have withdrawn from school but are eligible to reenroll.

## Funding Update:

- In June 2018, the D2 Center received great news of securing funding through the United Way of the Midlands Community Investment Grant for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Each year \$24,000 will help support the D2 Center YAN program.
- For the past four years, the D2 Center has had funding from the City of Omaha in the amount of \$30,000 to support the YAN program.

## Board News:

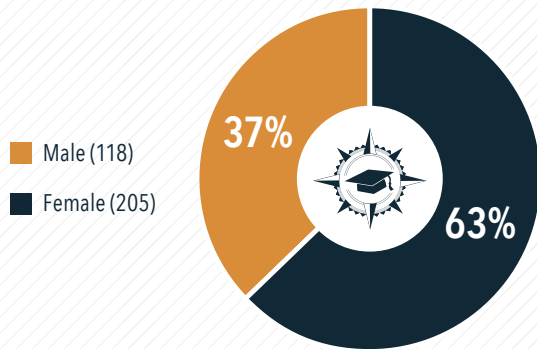
- Student graduates Dominique McDaniel and Karina Mejia-Garcia joined this past year.
- The Board approved the hiring of a consulting firm to develop a strategic plan during the coming months.



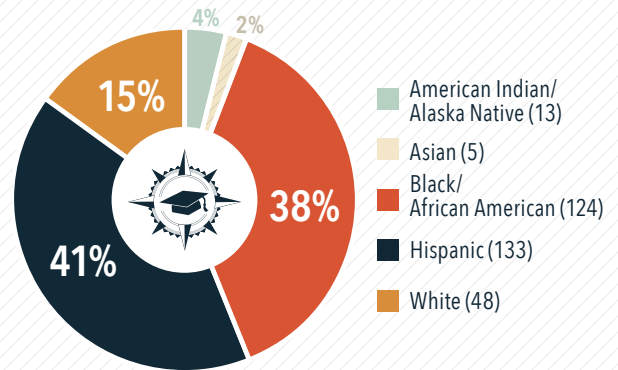
# D2 Center Student Snapshot

323 TOTAL STUDENTS

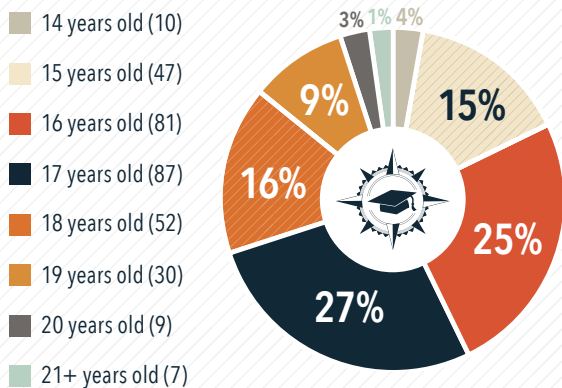
STUDENT GENDER



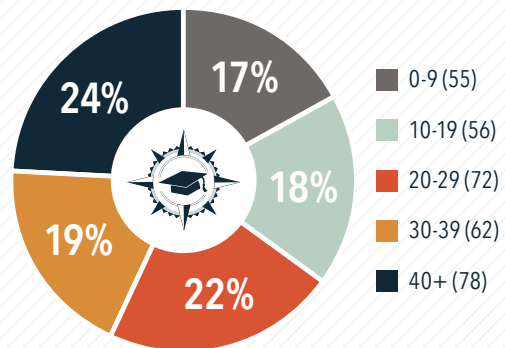
STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY



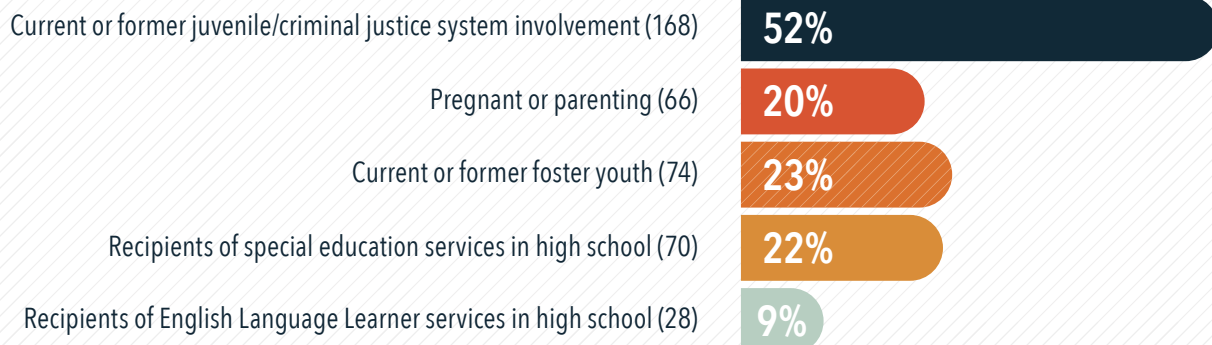
STUDENT AGE AT INTAKE



NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS AT INTAKE



PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE:



## YOUTH ACADEMIC NAVIGATORS

  
**175**  
New Active Students

  
**75**  
Graduates

  
**178**  
Students Still Active

  
**323**  
Total Students Served

## CAREER NAVIGATOR

**D2 Center**  
Students Served

**42** | **50**

Additional OPS  
Multiple Pathways  
Students Served

## RE-ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

242 Students Contacted\*

Reenrolled & Graduated **15**

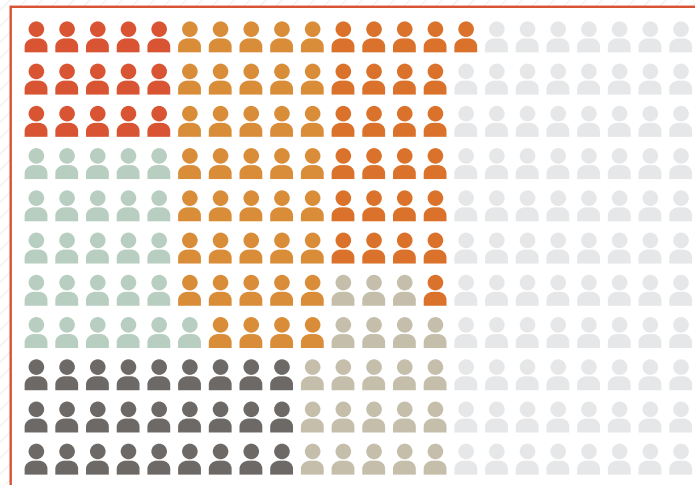
Reenrolled & Still Enrolled **26**

Still Attempting to Reengage **27**

Reenrolled & Dropped **39**

Moved Out of Metro Area **22**

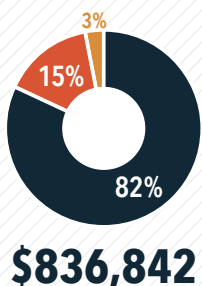
Not Interested **26**



**87**  
Unknown  
(ceased attempts at contact)

\*22 students recruited into D2 Center program

## EXPENDITURES



■ Payroll & Benefits\*  
\$682,598

■ Operations  
\$128,832

■ Professional Fees,  
Professional Development,  
Community Outreach & Events  
\$25,412

\*Full-time Staff - 8 Part-time - 8

## ELECTIVE CREDIT CLASSES & TUTORING



**18 students** earned  
**21 elective credits**  
at the D2 Center

**57 students** attended  
tutoring **210 times**



# Mission

The mission of the D2 Center is to connect out-of-school and disengaged youth ages 15-21 into an educational pathway with other resources and supports needed to earn a high school diploma and prepare for post-secondary opportunities and a career.

The D2 Center is a voluntary program for youth who are currently not in school, are in alternative education programs, or are in a traditional high school and are exhibiting risk factors indicating they may drop out of school or may not graduate on time.

# Value Statements

We develop individualized solutions for disengaged students through a creative team approach

We build genuine, long-lasting relationships with youth

We connect youth with community resources and empower them to improve their life circumstances

We help youth maximize their potential to be successful in school, post-secondary, and career endeavors

