

# PROJECT LAUNCH

RAW's college access and career exploration program

## RAW's Class of 2016:

**100%**

of our graduates are attending college or career development programs that earn college credits.

**85%**

of teens lived in the city of Lynn.

**73%** will be the first in their family to graduate from college.

**107**

acceptances were received to 39 different colleges & universities.

**3 RAW Teens**

won the ADOBE Creativity Scholarship that provides 4 years of financial support to attend college.

## About Project Launch

In 1997, RAW's art therapy staff worked after-hours to help teens navigate the complexities of the college process. In a community where the dropout rates were almost double the state average, many of our teens did not see the possibility of a higher education.

RAW believed we could help to change that reality. We made a significant investment into building what is now a thriving and relevant college access and career development program.

19 years later, we are living the incredible results from our investment. Project Launch now includes two full-time staff (one of whom is a RAW alum), 20+ one-on-one mentor relationships and a robust curriculum that creates broad exposure, deep community engagement, and access with a high level of integrity and accountability.

Toward the end of their junior year, teens are submerged into our comprehensive college access and career development program, Project Launch. Each is matched with a volunteer mentor. RAW staff and mentors offer endless support/structure to ensure that all of our seniors write strong resumes and essays, as well as job, college, and scholarship applications. Youth will spend over 100 hours with their mentors in the course of a year. Parents and guardians are brought into the process from day one so they understand what Project Launch can offer their family, such as understanding college costs and the financial aid process. Project Launch also assists students in finding career training opportunities for teens who may not be able to attend college directly out of high school. Teens feel the impact of staying focused, committed, and driven even when they are struggling. Young people learn how their success is built upon their ability to hold themselves accountable, while gaining skills in accessing their resources and building community.

- ✦ This year, of the **30 teens** in the who completed the program, **100%** graduated from high school and were accepted to a college and/or university. Of those, 93% are in college, and the remainder are in workforce development programs. This year, **100% of ALL RAW graduates are attending a program that yields college credits.**
- ✦ **60%** of these young people will be attending a four-year university (compared to only 32% of Lynn Public School's seniors).
- ✦ The class of 2016 has the financial backing of over \$1.5 million in scholarships and grants over their four years of college. Nearly \$200,000 comes from private scholarships alone.
- ✦ Through the FLY program, the Project Launch team provides structured support for our teens in their first year of college. In our pilot year, 7 members of the class of 2015 signed up for support. Only one year later, that number has tripled, with 22 members of the class of 2016 enrolled in the FLY program.
- ✦ Over the past seven years, seven students have won the prestigious four-year, full-tuition, leadership scholarship from the Posse Foundation.
- ✦ In 2016, three students were awarded four-year, full-tuition scholarships from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Champlain College, and Gordon College.