

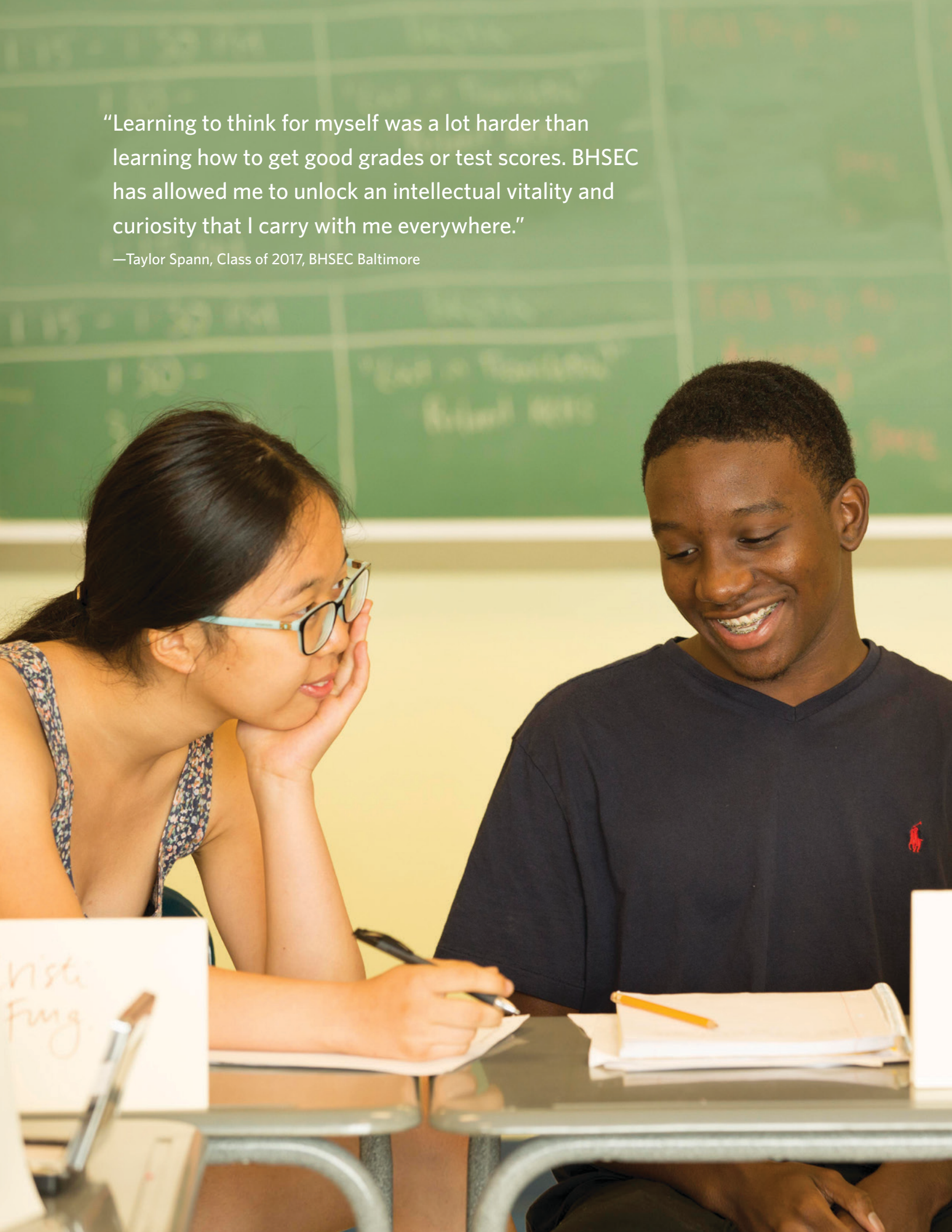


BARD EARLY COLLEGE 2019

Bard College

“Learning to think for myself was a lot harder than learning how to get good grades or test scores. BHSEC has allowed me to unlock an intellectual vitality and curiosity that I carry with me everywhere.”

—Taylor Spann, Class of 2017, BHSEC Baltimore



The Bard Early Colleges begin from a simple idea: that many young people of high school age are ready for college. We act on this idea by leading branch campuses of Bard College—today, eight of them, from Newark to New Orleans—embedded within public school systems. Students on these campuses earn as much as an Associate in Arts degree from Bard College alongside a high school diploma, completely free of tuition.

The Bard Early Colleges are improbable for all of the reasons that they are vitally needed. In defiance of the rigidity of our country’s school systems, of the growing inaccessibility of college in isolated communities, of the untenable gulf that separates high school and college in America, these are college campuses in every true sense of the idea: courses are led by college faculty who are active scholars, the curriculum reflects Bard’s emphatic commitment to academic quality, and the classes are seminars that prize student engagement and critical inquiry.

Nineteen years after the first of these campuses was established, this growing network continues to embody its founding premise: that, in all communities, many young people’s abilities and intellectual ambitions can take them much farther than the traditional high school model allows. Bard has seen decisively throughout this work that adolescents can thrive in a rigorous and rewarding college course of study in the liberal arts and sciences, and that we all benefit—students, families, and public systems—when they are given the chance to do so.

This simple premise has had convincing results. To date, 3,254 students have completed a Bard College A.A. degree concurrent with a high school diploma. Of the class of 2019, 75% of students earned this degree at the end of the early college program. A study following outcomes from comparable groups of students found that Bard Early College students in New York City were 31% more likely to finish a bachelor’s degree than their peers at traditional schools.

Students in the Bard Early Colleges show real courage in embracing the challenge and ambition of this model. They continue to embolden a conviction to which Bard is deeply committed: that we can reconcile equity and excellence in American education when we take the aspirations of young people seriously.

We are inspired by their courage and by the fundamental changes in young people’s opportunities and in American schooling that are possible in the next twenty years.

Stephen Tremaine
Vice President for Early Colleges, Bard College

“... I am forever grateful that I no longer live in a space where I am afraid to have opinions or to express them. Now, I actively engage in difficult conversations and try to not shy away from topics that are hard or uncomfortable to talk about.”

—Wynnnter Fay Millsaps, Class of 2018, BHSEC Cleveland



OUR MODEL

The Bard Early Colleges offer public high school students a tuition-free college course of study in the liberal arts and sciences concurrently with their high school program. The Bard Early Colleges provide students with an excellent secondary school education and a significant academic and financial head start on their college degrees. These innovative public schools, operated as partnerships between Bard College and the local school district, allow students to earn 60 transferable Bard College credits and a Bard College associate in arts degree concurrently with a high school diploma.

The four-year Bard High School Early Colleges (which start in 9th grade) provide both the high school and college education in one building, with a unified, college-credentialed faculty teaching both high school classes (in 9th and 10th grades) and college courses (in place of 11th and 12th grades). Students enter in 9th grade and, after two years of a college preparatory high school sequence taught by college faculty, take a full college course of study in liberal arts and sciences in what would otherwise be 11th and 12th grade. The college program culminates in an associate in arts (AA) degree from Bard College.

Bard also has operated Early College Centers in New Orleans, Louisiana and Hudson, New York. This model provides students within an existing network of schools the opportunity to earn one year of Bard College credit concurrently with a high school diploma.

OUR MISSION

The Bard Early Colleges empower high school students, particularly those at risk of not completing postsecondary education, to access, afford, and complete college prepared to contribute to civic life and a range of professional pathways. The Bard Early Colleges simultaneously work to influence and lead a growing early college movement focused on equity and excellence.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Bard Early Colleges are premised on the belief that intellectually curious high-school-age students, irrespective of background, are ready and eager to do serious college work, that their ambition should be taken seriously, and that a liberal arts education can effectively engage them and prepare them to excel as the next generation of leaders.



In 2019, the Bard Early Colleges enrolled 2,910 students on eight campuses: New York City (Manhattan and Queens), Newark, New Orleans, Cleveland, Baltimore, Hudson, and Washington, DC.



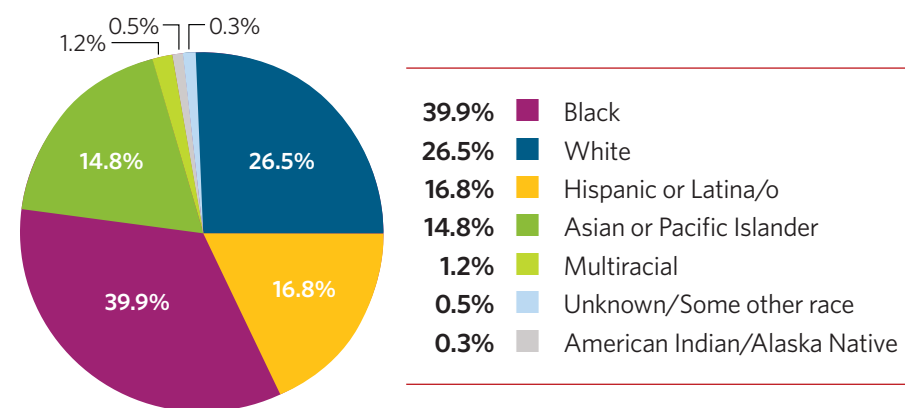
ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Through an unusual combination of rigor, support, and intellectual inspiration, the Bard Early Colleges provide essential access to a serious college course of study to a diverse group of young people.

In 2019:

- 63% of our graduates are eligible for federal Pell grants
- Half of our graduates are first generation college students

Race and Ethnicity





EARLY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

At eight Bard Early College campuses, our students are able to earn one to two years of college credit. They are supported in enrolling in and transferring Bard credits to 4-year institutions upon graduation.

At our Associates Degree granting high schools:

- **75%** of the Class of 2019 graduated high school **with an associates degree and 60 or more college credits.**
- Students from the Class of 2019 who did not attain an associates degree earned **an average of 35 credits—more than one year of free college credits.**

At our half-time Early College Centers:

- The Class of 2019 earned an average of **31 college credits.**

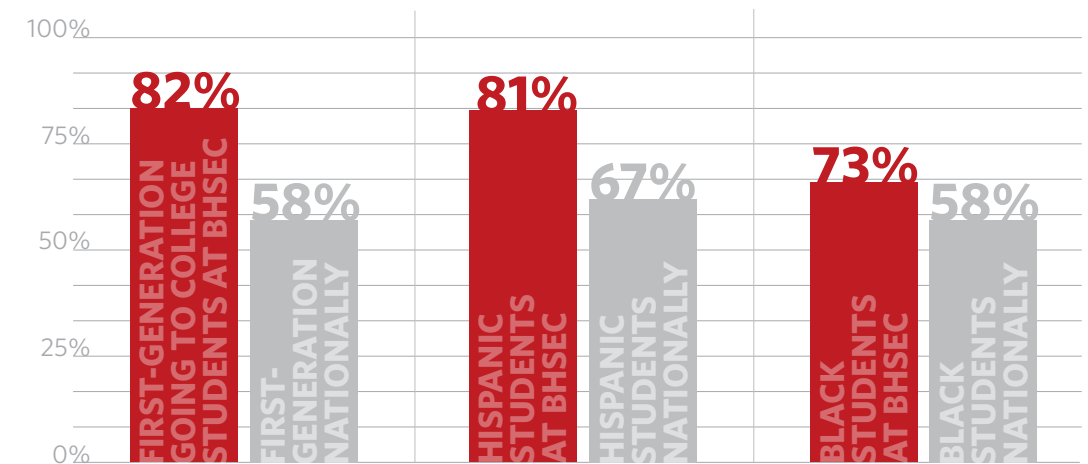
Alumni of Bard Early Colleges enter the next step in their education more prepared for success

- 91% of BHSEC alumni enroll in college within 18 months of high school graduation.
- 85% of our alumni report successfully transferring college credits to their next institution of higher education.
- Recent analysis by the Education Trust follows the rate at which students of economic need in New York State are progressing from high school to a bachelor's degree. Their research found that, among families for whom college was financially inaccessible, BHSEC Manhattan and Queens alumni had higher on-time college graduation rates than any other high school in the state of New York.

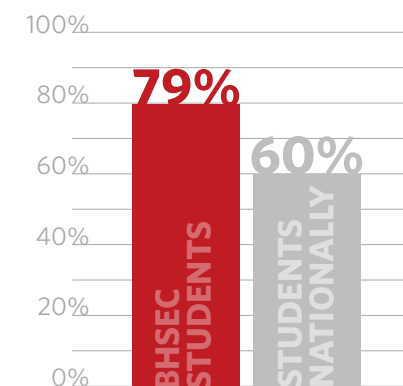
Lasting Results in Higher Education

The Bard Early Colleges equip students who are under-represented in higher education to enroll in college after high school and earn 4-year degrees at higher rates than national comparison groups.

Immediate Enrollment in College (6 Months)



Bachelors Degree Completion Within 6 Years





SUPPORT THE BARD EARLY COLLEGES

Gifts to the Bard Early Colleges Fund allow us to sustain small seminar classes and essential collegiate resources and student supports. Every \$3,000 of philanthropic support provides one year of tuition-free early college for a Bard Early College student.

Ways to Give

Gifts can be made via check, credit card, wire transfer, securities, or real estate. Contributions to Bard College, a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization, are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please check with your financial adviser for specific information regarding the deductibility of your gift.

By Credit Card: Bard College accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Card. To make a contribution by credit card over the telephone, please contact the Gift Recorder at 845-758-7861.

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