



Annual Report 2025



Contents

3	Message From Leadership
4	About Fulfillment Fund
6	Who We Serve
7	Our Programs
13	Student Events
22	Student Highlights
25	Sip & Celebrate
26	Financials
27	Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Fulfillment Fund prepares for its 49th year, we reflect on the pivotal year that brought us here—a year of significant challenges and meaningful progress, made possible through the tireless work of our students, staff, board of directors, donors, and partners.

This past year tested Fulfillment Fund’s students in new ways, with rising financial pressures, mounting academic demands, and deep uncertainty about the future. Fulfillment Fund met that moment by adapting its services to meet students exactly where they are.

The organization expanded its reach while deepening support. A significant increase in FAFSA assistance helped students and families navigate the financial aid process, unlocking \$5.3 million in debt-free funding and making college and career pathways more accessible than ever.

Fulfillment Fund also made social-emotional support a permanent pillar of its program model. As student stress, anxiety, and uncertainty rose, our trained staff and trusted community partners delivered the care, encouragement, and resources students needed to move forward with confidence.

As Perika Sampson steps into the role of CEO, we are proud to build on what our students, staff, partners, board, and supporters accomplished together this past year. Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our impact, and ensuring even more students have the support they need to pursue their goals.

Together, we are not just helping students shape their futures — we are building a lasting legacy of opportunity, empowerment, advocacy, and student-centered support.



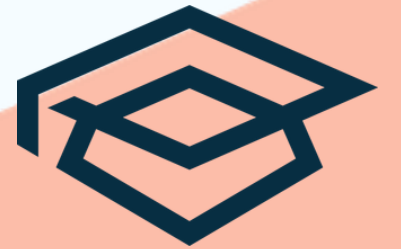
Wendy Spinner

Board Chair, Fulfillment Fund



Perika Sampson

CEO, Fulfillment Fund



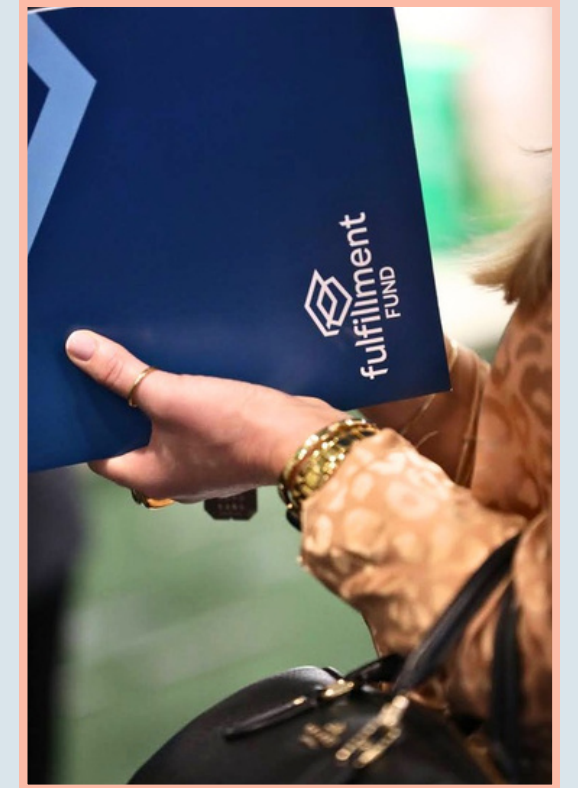
Fulfillment Fund stands as a transformative force, dedicated to realizing the college dreams of first-generation and lower-income students.



ABOUT FULFILLMENT FUND

Since 1977, we have been firm in our commitment to empowering Los Angeles students to access, afford, and complete higher education. Through strategic partnerships with local high schools and community organizations serving educationally and economically disadvantaged communities, we provide comprehensive support to guide our students from college enrollment to college graduation, equipping them with essential life skills for successful transitions into the workforce.

Our programs are meticulously crafted with a holistic approach, delivering tailored, high-quality support to those who need it most. Many of our students embark on their journey with us in high school, remaining under our guidance until they proudly step into their careers post-college. This steadfast commitment ensures that our students receive unparalleled support as they strive to fulfill their dreams and achieve economic mobility.



Who We Serve



STUDENTS

4,514

We served 3,197 unique students across eight* partner high schools and five** community partnerships, and 1,317 college students through our core programs last year.



PEOPLE OF COLOR

98%

Our students identified as Latinx (87%), AANHPI (7%), Black (3%), White (2%), and Other (1%).



LOW-INCOME

95%

Nationally, only 15% of students from the lowest-income families earn a four-year college degree by age 24, compared with 59% of students from the highest-income families.



FIRST-GENERATION

86%

1 in 3 first-gen students drop out of college within the first 3 years, nationally.



ENGLISH LEARNERS

85%

Only 15% of our students speak English at home and the other 85% prefer to speak another language ranging from Spanish and Korean, to Bengali and Tagalog.

*Partner High Schools:
LAHSA, SVAH, ASGL, UCLA Community School, MATRIX, Bernstein, ASE, NOW Academy
**Community Partners:
CareerSpring, Hillcrest Country Club, LA Rams, National Association of Theatre Owners of California/Nevada, Youth Orchestra Los Angeles,

OUR PROGRAMS

College Access

Fulfillment Fund's College Access Program bridges the gap between aspiration and reality for students across eight partner high schools and two community partners. Our comprehensive services, delivered by dedicated College Counselors, empower students from diverse backgrounds to navigate the complexities of college applications and financial aid. Cultural expectations, family responsibilities, and geographic limitations can pose significant barriers to college for low-income and first-generation students. Our program provides inclusive support and addresses obstacles, ensuring all students have equal access to college readiness opportunities.



COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM



63

Financial Aid
Events

355

College Prep
Workshops & Lessons

Our
Support

2,258

1:1 College
Counseling Sessions





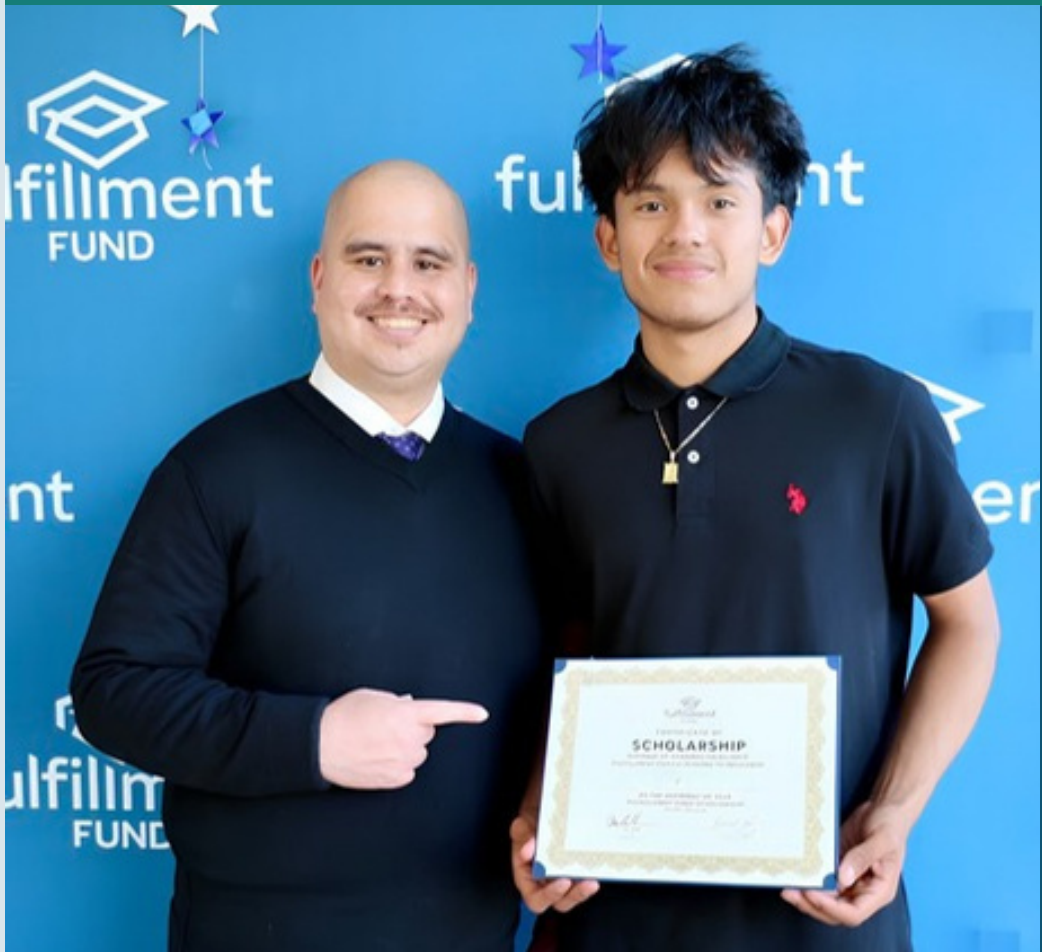
Our Impact

98%

high school graduation compared to **87%** for LAUSD overall.

92%

of our high school graduates enrolled in college compared to less than **70%** of LAUSD graduates in recent years.



\$5.3M

in debt-free financial aid for our outgoing high school senior class of 2024.

OUR PROGRAMS

College Success

Our College Success Program extends our support beyond high school graduation, empowering recent high school graduates to excel in and ultimately graduate from college. Students begin their postsecondary journeys with Fulfillment Fund University, an impactful summer bridge program. Throughout college, they receive one-on-one advisement, access to Fulfillment Fund scholarships, exclusive peer mentorship opportunities, and professional development workshops and webinars designed to prepare them for the transition into post-college life. For upperclassmen and alumni, our program expands to encompass career readiness initiatives. Through these strategic offerings, we equip students with the tools and support they need to thrive academically and professionally, ensuring their continued success beyond college.



COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM



69

Events and
Workshops

1,556

1:1 College Success
Advising Sessions

Our Support





96%

of our college students persisted, whereas nationally, only **74%** of Hispanic students persist.

84%

of Fulfillment Fund college students earn a bachelor's degree within six years or less, compared with just **25%** of LAUSD graduates overall.

\$651K

in Fulfillment Fund Scholarships help **380** students pay for college.

Our Impact



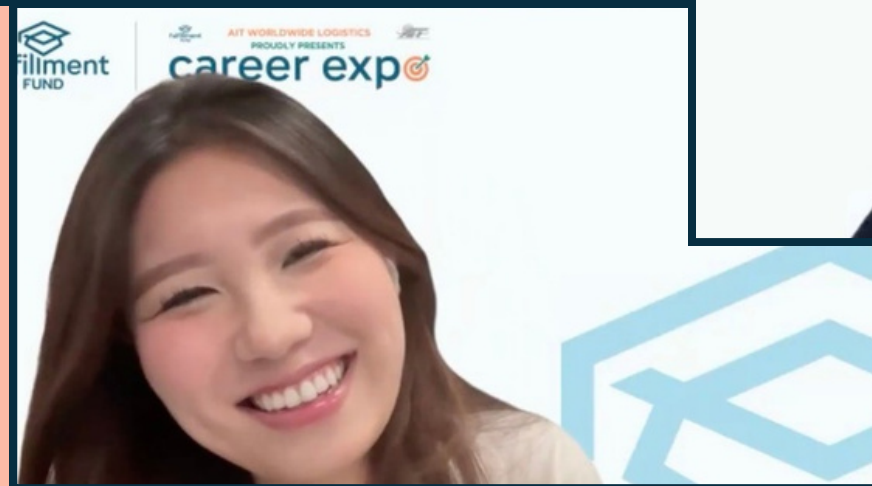
Student Events



STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Sundown Social 2024

On Sunday, September 22nd, our alumni, board members, ScholarBridge, Young Professionals Network, supporters, volunteers, and staff gathered for an afternoon of drinks, bites, and connecting around our shared passion for our mission.



Career Expo 2024

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

At our Career Expo, Unlock Your Future: Opportunities Uncovered, students learned how to recognize their strengths and stand out professionally and explored a range of career paths across different industries. Our partners at CareerSpring also introduced students to their online platform and the career resources, connections, and support available to help them navigate their next steps with confidence.

STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Holiday Homecoming 2024

DECEMBER 18, 2024

We were thrilled to host our annual Holiday Homecoming event for our college students and alumni as they came home for the holidays. Over 100+ guests came out to watch Moana 2 at Regal LA Live. Thank you to our sponsor National Association of Theatre Owners of California/Nevada for hosting us.



STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Financial Aid Workshops

JANUARY 21-24, 2025

We kicked off financial aid season by hosting Financial Aid Workshops at RFK Community Schools and Bernstein High School. Our College Access and College Success teams provided expert guidance and support to 88 students and their families. We supported both high school seniors and continuing college students, helping students across the two workshops successfully submit their FAFSA applications while giving others a strong start on the process. We remained committed to ensuring that 100% of eligible seniors, approximately 700 students, submitted their applications by the state's April 2 priority deadline.



Career Spotlights 2025

MARCH 20

Through Fulfillment Fund's Career Speaker Series, Emilio Alvarado — Associate Director of Acquisitions at DIV Industrial — shared his real estate journey, career lessons, and honest industry insights with our college students. From breaking into the commercial real estate industry to overcoming obstacles and building a career with impact, he provided invaluable advice.



Fulfillment Fund's
Career Speaker Series



STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Picture Your Perfect Career Day 2025

On Saturday, April 5th, students in our College Success Program and recent college grads came to Fulfillment Fund headquarters to attend an event to help launch them into their careers. Our volunteers and staff helped students with their resumes, cover letters, and mock interviews. We also helped them take new headshots for their LinkedIn profiles while seniors joined us with their families for a grad photo.



Career Day at NOW Academy 2025

APRIL 11

Students explored a variety of career paths during an inspiring panel featuring professionals from fields including healthcare, animation, and entertainment. Volunteers also joined students in the classroom to share their experiences, answer questions, and offer a closer look at what their careers are really like.



STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Northern California College Campus Tour

APRIL 14-APRIL 16

Over the course of a three-day bus trip, 45 students visited seven college campuses across Northern California, including UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, Stanford, UC Davis, and UC Merced. For many students, stepping onto a college campus makes higher education feel more tangible and attainable. Through campus tours and firsthand experiences, students explored different academic environments, learned about campus life, and envisioned themselves pursuing their college goals.



STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Scholarship Ceremony 2025

MAY 8

We celebrated the 2025 cohort of Fulfillment Fund Scholars with a special ceremony at Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools. We proudly welcomed these students into our College Success Program during an intimate reception with students and families. Fifty six of our 4-year college scholars, community college, and CTE scholars will continue working closely with Fulfillment Fund as they pursue their college degrees.



STUDENT EVENTS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Fulfillment Fund University 2025

JUNE 17-18

We welcomed over 80 students as we turned the Bernstein High School auditorium and Fulfillment Fund HQ into a camp for our incoming college freshmen, showing them the ropes for what's ahead to ensure they prepare for their first day on campus. Attendees enjoyed community-building activities as they met fellow students in our program, as well as peer mentors they will likely see on campus. Ensuring our students feel a sense of community and the support of a village helps them feel confident as they enter the next chapter in their educational journey.



Student Highlights



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Jessica Hernandez

**Human Services Mental Health Major,
Cal State Fullerton '24**



“As a first-generation student, navigating life after earning a bachelor’s degree can be challenging—but the support I received from Fulfillment Fund made it feel possible. My college advisor, Mauro, connected me with alumni in my fields of interest, which helped me explore my options and clarify a career path aligned with my goals. Meanwhile, Carla, my career advisor, guided me through the essay-writing process with incredible patience and flexibility. Balancing full-time work while meeting application deadlines was intimidating, but her support made it manageable and ultimately successful.”



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Nafew Ahmed

Computer Science + Economics Major,
UC Berkeley '28



“Fulfillment Fund helped me navigate high school, guided me through the college application process, and connected me with my first internship. Along the way, they nurtured my leadership skills and provided the support, resources, and confidence I needed to pursue my dreams and succeed at UC Berkeley.”



Sip & Celebrate

MAY 21

HONORING BRIAN WERDESHEIM

2025

On May 21, Fulfillment Fund hosted its annual Sip & Celebrate gala at NeueHouse Hollywood, bringing together supporters, partners, and community members to celebrate our impact on students and families across Los Angeles.

The evening honored Brian Werdesheim for more than 20 years of dedication to Fulfillment Fund and its mission. Hosted by award-winning broadcast journalist and television personality Michaela Pereira, the event also featured a special performance by world-renowned violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn on the legendary “Red Mendelssohn” Stradivarius, known as “The Red Violin.” The celebration raised vital support to help students overcome barriers to higher education and access the resources, guidance, and opportunities they need to build brighter futures.



Financials

Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2025

Assets

Assets Cash and Investments	5,382,430
Pledges Receivable, net	609,750
Prepaid Expenses, deposits, and other assets	1,948,125
Property and Equipment, net	139,547

Total Assets	8,079,852
---------------------	------------------

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	352,911
Other Liabilities	1,350,541
Net Assets	6,376,400

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	8,079,852
---	------------------

Statement of Activities Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2025

Revenues

Revenues Contributions	2,274,655
Special Events Income, net	1,120,400
Other Revenues	548,235

Total Revenues	3,943,290
-----------------------	------------------

Expenses

Expenses Program Services	2,826,971
Development	537,758
Management and General	555,315

Total Expenses	3,920,044
-----------------------	------------------

Change in Net Assets	23,246
-----------------------------	---------------

Board of Directors

Chair

Wendy Spinner

Executive Committee

David W. Hughes

Charles Kaplan

Eric Krautheimer

Marco Mendoza

Bart Pachino

Cheryl Snow, Esq.

Harlan Spinner

Lindy Werges

Members at Large

Peter Bergren

Henry Brandon

David Casares

Daniel Forkkio

Cherna Gitnick

Mark Gordon

Tracy Gitnick Herriott

Josh Klinefelter

David S. Lee

Madeleine Sherak, Ph.D.

Keith Tholan

Carmen Ward

Jim Ward

Brian K. Werdesheim

Founders Circle

Pamela Buffett

Eric Esrailian, M.D., M.P.H.

Janice Goldman

Robert Goldman

Jana Waring Greer

Chris Meledandri

Chip Rosenbloom

Kathleen Rosenbloom

Mary Ann Todd, Esq.

Founder

Gary Gitnick, M.D., F.A.C.G.

(In Memoriam)





Connect with us.

323-939-9707

fulfillment.org

info@fulfillment.org

1150 S. Olive Street, Suite 2050

Los AngelesCA 90015



