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**“COOL was the answer to my prayers.**  
 – Zach Mosley  
 AISD graduate and student at Angelo State University



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# LETTER FROM THE COOL TEAM

“I can honestly say I was blessed the moment I stepped into your office and joined COOL. I could not have reached my goal of attending college without all of your help and encouragement. I am grateful and utterly thankful for having someone to instruct me as I ease my way into college life, someone who is willing to set time apart from their day to help me, advise me, but mainly believe in me, believe I am college material.”

– Victoria Garza (AISD Graduate 2014) McMurry University Freshman and member of the McMurry Honors Program. Victoria is the first one in her immediate family to graduate high school and attend college.

Our hearts are full of gratitude as we share this Annual Report for the 2013-2014 school year with you. We wish you could experience the excitement of our students as they receive their acceptance letters. Their faces radiate with pride when they realize their hard work was worth it. Soon they will take their first steps toward their dream of a college education. For our first-generation students, they are the trailblazers, setting a new example for generations to follow. Although there will be inevitable hurdles, if they keep an attitude of determination, they too can reach their goal of a college education. We have seen this happen time after time and hope you enjoy reading our update on previous COOL graduates.



**The COOL Program Team**

**Jean McMillon**  
 Executive Director

**Christine Curtis-Carr**  
 COOL Program Coordinator  
 College Advisor

**William Medina**  
 ATEMS & WCE College Advisor  
 IT Coordinator

**LaQuiera Gantt**  
 Cooper High School  
 College Advisor

**Amanda Hothan**  
 Abilene High School  
 College Advisor

Since 2007, the COOL Program has proudly worked with both Abilene High and Cooper High school students with financial aid assistance, college applications and providing college tours. In 2012, the COOL Program expanded its services by hiring two additional college advisors, included ATEMS and Woodson Center for Excellence (WCE), added educational outreach and college choice workshops to elementary and middle school students.

There are many changes coming next year to college admissions and as always we look forward to meeting these new challenges head on. One big change for COOL is the departure of William Medina, who began as a college advisor in the inaugural year. He has helped change the lives of countless numbers of students at CHS, ATEMS and WCE. Please read his good bye letter at [www.aefcool.org](http://www.aefcool.org).

Thank you for giving us, the COOL team, an opportunity to open our doors and hearts so students, like Victoria Garza, can walk through them and change the course of their lives.

It is truly a privilege to walk alongside our students on their pathway to college. YOU, our donors and supporters, amaze us with your generosity. YOU make this program possible.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2013-2014

- Provided services to over 750 middle school, 1,500 elementary school and 2,500 high school students in the pre-college or college admission process through classroom presentations, one-on-one mentoring and summer workshops.

- Coordinated tours of McMurry University with the AHS and CHS PALS (Peer Assistance & Leadership) classes along with an elementary counterpart (little) from Austin, Ortiz, Martinez, Ward and Johnston elementary schools. This was the first time for many of the elementary students to be on a college campus.

- Established COOL on Social Media this year on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts with the help of our intern from McMurry University. These are great ways to keep in touch with our current and former students, as well as provide important information to a large number of students at once. Follow us at aefcool2.

- Assisted 524 2013-2014 COOL senior participants in making the transition from high school to college. 2013-2014 COOL senior participants were accepted into a variety of colleges and universities.

- Helped coordinate "ATEMS Goes to College Day" where the entire student body went to one of the local universities for the day to learn about college life, admissions and scholarship opportunities.

- Held the 6th Annual AEF-AISD College Fair at the Abilene Civic Center with over 50 universities represented and 800 students attending Abilene and the surrounding area.

- Started a weekly "COOL Counselor Commercial" at AHS during the announcements on Thursday to inform the student body of important college deadlines, events and information.

- Held elementary Pep Rallies for 5th graders at Dyess, Bonham and Austin elementary schools. During the pep rally the importance of thinking about college at a young age, as well as reading, having fun learning and doing their best in school was explained.

- Led presentations in over 60 high school classrooms during the 2013-2014 school year. They ranged from 9th to 12th grade and included tips for preparing for college as well as more detailed information about scholarships, applying to college and financial aid.

- Toured the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) in Lubbock with the Holland Medical High School students who were enrolled in COOL.

“

As parents we appreciate the opportunities you are giving to our children. Programs and foundations such as AEF/COOL are vital to our children's success. Thank you for going above and beyond.

– The Hurick Family, Parents of an AISD Student

- Hosted the first Speed Mentoring event at Cooper High School with students who will be first in their families to attend college. Speed Mentoring is a formalized process with the purpose of encouraging students to meet a large number of mentors. Community leaders of all career types volunteered to share their career and personal leadership journey.

- Invited Zach Mosely, a 2011 COOL graduate, to speak at the Community Foundation of Abilene's Annual Luncheon. Zach eloquently spoke about the impact the COOL program had on his decision to further his education. Zach is a junior at Angelo State University and is majoring in Business Management.

- Created a Character Building Leadership Program for the Cooper football team. Men from the community spoke to the seniors about possessing high character on and off of the football field. This two week program including motivational speakers, interactive games, educational movies and student participation encouraged the seniors to pursue a college education.

- Collaborated with McMurry University and Abilene Christian University to double the number of FAFSA Workshops offered after school hours. We assisted students and parents who needed help with completing the FAFSA application. Several FAFSA workshops were also hosted at ATEMS through the spring.

- Implemented the COOL Horns Headed to College Council. The program consisted of nine 4th and 5th grade students at Jane Long Elementary.

- Took 21 incoming sophomores on an extended summer tour (Camp COOL Hits the Road) of four major universities.

Provided services to over:  
750 middle school  
1,500 elementary school  
2,500 high school students



## COLLEGE TOURS

2013-2014



My college advisor always helps her students with anything they needed from SAT registration to answering questions about college life. She was patient (even when I asked the same question twice) and knowledgeable when it came to the college admissions process and financial aid. Thank you COOL for helping me every step of the way!

– Julian Gonzalez, AISD graduate and student at Angelo State University



Picking the right college is more than just academics. In college, every decision from the courses they take to the food they eat is up to the student. That is why college tours are an essential part of the COOL program. A key part of deciding which college to go to is finding a good fit. And a great way to get more information is to visit the colleges in person.

It's important for our students to be sure that their university of choice has everything they need to learn and survive, from stimulating coursework to proper housing. A typical tour includes admissions and financial aid presentations, a tour of the campus and dorms, lunch in a campus dining facility and a stop at the bookstore for students to purchase college memorabilia.

One of the highlights of our tours is seeing former COOL students who are now attending the college we are touring. We contact these students in advance and invite them to join us and talk with the COOL students we bring on the tour. This gives our current students a chance to ask "real college students" questions.

This year we were able to take an in-depth tour of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock. We were able to tour the simulation lab that demonstrated real life patient situations as well as to hear presentations from the School of Nursing, the School of Allied Health Sciences and the West Texas Area Health Education Center.

During the 2013-2014 school year, we took hundreds of students on 28 college tours, a few to the same school with different participants.



## CAMPUSES VISITED

2013-2014

- Tarleton State University
- Texas Tech University
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Texas A&M University
- Baylor University
- McMurry University
- Hardin-Simmons University
- Angelo State University
- Texas State University
- Abilene Christian University
- Texas State Technical College
- University of North Texas
- Texas Woman's University
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Texas Southern University
- Sam Houston State University
- Texas A&M Galveston
- University of Houston



Even though I'd thought about college, I assumed I'd probably work first, but my college advisor just kept telling me I was college material.

– Joselin Alfaro, AISD graduate and student at Sam Houston State University



## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

2013-2014

The primary goal of COOL is to encourage and assist students (especially seniors in high school) who will be the first in their families successfully transition into post-secondary education. COOL also offers several interactive college choice workshops for middle school, 9th, 10th and 11th grade classrooms as well as a few select projects for elementary age students.



### Elementary School

#### COOL College Pep Rallies

For the first time ever, COOL hosted "College Pep Rallies" for 5th grade students at select elementary schools. The rallies provided a fun environment for 5th grade students to learn key college terminology and post-secondary education concepts needed to achieve their personal best and to become excited about college! Students played a variety of games, earned prize bags, listened to guest speakers from ACU and McMurry Universities and incorporated their college spirit alongside the Abilene High School and Cooper High School cheerleaders and mascots. The college pep rallies focused on the importance of reading, scholarships, grade point average, class rank, ACT, SAT and challenging themselves academically throughout elementary, middle and high school. The COOL mascot, "Coolie" the penguin, encouraged students to read a lot and have fun learning while emphasizing the decisions made as 5th graders can affect their future.

#### COOL College Dreams

We continued for the second year in a row the classroom presentation "COOL College Dreams," an interactive workshop where students draw a picture of themselves in careers and determine

the type of college education it requires. Many simply draw themselves as college students! We brought this to several campuses and to various age groups including 2nd, 4th and 5th grades.

#### COOL-PALS Partnership

In partnership with the PALS Program (Peer Assisted Leadership), COOL provided college tours to the seniors and 4th and 5th graders to McMurry University. PALS is a mentoring, leadership and community service class where seniors at CHS and AHS serve as one-on-one mentors with elementary age students. The majority of the elementary students had never seen a college campus before and left the experience excited about their futures!

#### COOL Horns Headed to College at Jane Long Elementary

The COOL Horns Headed to College Council (H2C2) program consists of 9 teacher-selected students in 4th and 5th grades at Jane Long Elementary. The year-long after school tutoring program was designed to encourage first-generation students to pursue and complete college. The after-school program was directed by Mrs. Kim Osborne, a teacher at Jane Long Elementary, with support from College Offers Opportunities for Life/AEF.

*By the end of this school year the COOL H2C2 students at Jane Long Elementary:*

- Listed the "7 Habits of Highly Successfully Kids" in a poster type format in the cafeteria.
- Created a sidewalk chalk campaign which promoted the benefit of college around their campus.
- Created age-appropriate posters about why college is cool in the hallways.
- Performed a skit about going to college.

- Hosted an end-of-the-year talent show and facilitated college related games for the entire 5th grade class.
- Made general college lingo announcements over the P.A. on topics such as why grades matter, what college is all about and general positive habits.
- Talked to the Kindergarteners about why college is important and how much fun it is to be life long learners.

The COOL H2C2 student group wrote a blog after a tour to Abilene Christian University. It was the first time any of the students visited a college campus and they were blown away! Check it out at [www.aefcool.org](http://www.aefcool.org) – COOL H2C2 (College Class of 2025/2026)



### Middle School

For the second year in a row, COOL participated in the Business Information Systems classrooms at the middle school campuses using the activity "Create Your College." Eighth grade students created vision boards using construction paper, stickers, magazine cut-outs, markers and crayons to outline their idea of a perfect college. The projects were based on each student's own personal interests. At a couple of the middle schools, we also led a goal-setting workshop titled "My Future Goals" which helped the students outline success steps that will lead towards college admissions and completion.

### High School

The number of classroom presentations and workshops the COOL team presented at CHS, AHS, WCE and ATEMS high schools was numerous and included 9th-12th grades. A few



of the workshops this past year were: College Goal Setting, Financial Aid 101, Rocketing Past College Admissions, Tips and Tricks for First Generation College Students and more. This year we also added a fun board game titled "College Ready the Game." The purpose of the game was to provide a simple and fun way for students to create early awareness of the acronyms and processes that students need in order to apply for college.

#### Speed Mentoring

Similar to Speed Dating where singles are encouraged to meet a large number of other singles in a short amount of time, Speed Mentoring is a way for students to learn about a wide variety of career options, and the required post-secondary education, in a short amount of time from successful professionals. It is also an ideal way for students to practice their communication and networking skills. Speed Mentoring begins with a series of short and focused conversations about specific career and college questions. All of the 22 students (mentees) from CHS met with each mentor in a 4-minute time slot. Mentors included Abilene community leaders from various industries including government, marketing, oil and gas, travel, education and more.



Thank YOU for the 5th grade College Pep Rally! Our principal informed me several elementary students were reading the signs up in the cafeteria before the event and asked him what a GPA was during lunch. The COOL team did an awesome job and the planning was evident.

– Karen Clemmer, AISD Elementary School Counselor

## CAMP COOL HITS THE ROAD

First-generation college students often experience trepidation about college culture asking themselves questions such as "Am I prepared for college?" or "What does it take to be admitted?" An essential component for high school students to stay academically motivated is to show them the end result and to expose them to college culture early to help ease their anxiety so they can choose the university that is the best fit for them.

In the summer of 2013, the COOL college advisors hosted a four-day leadership camp for incoming high school freshman students who were leaders on their middle school campuses and who would be first in their families to attend college. The camp focused on the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens" by Sean Covey in an effort to teach some of the personal skills vital to success at the high school and college level. The goal of the camp was to provide early contact between the freshman students and college advisors and to establish a connection to the COOL program.

Due to additional grants received from the National Association of College Admissions and Counseling IMAGINE FUND and the Citi Foundation, the same select

group of freshman students, now upcoming sophomores, visited four major universities in June 2014 including Baylor, Texas A&M, Texas A&M at Galveston and University of Houston. These freshman students have served as COOL ambassadors to other underclassmen at ATEMS, AHS, and CHS campuses. The excursion titled "Camp COOL Hits the Road" gave these upcoming sophomores the chance to view college campuses, ask questions about the admissions process, learn about a variety of career choices in an hands-on environment, participate in activities outside their own comfort level (such as the Salt Marsh excursion), meet professors and explore the opportunities available to them. We look forward to seeing where the road takes this group of student leaders!



“My advisor was so supportive during my senior year. I had no idea how to apply for a scholarship. She was a mentor, but also a friend. Every time I thought I might be bothering her, she reassured me and encouraged me to keep asking questions. COOL is the reason I did not give up on my dream of a college education.

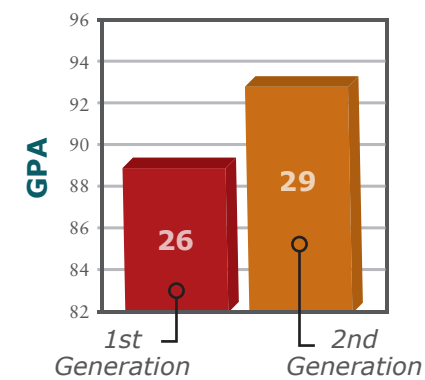
– Ebony Garner, AISD graduate and student at Cisco College

## STATISTICS

2013-2014

### 1st and 2nd Generation GPA

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



### Scholarships

1st Generation=\$133,000  
2nd Generation=\$546,900

# ATEMS

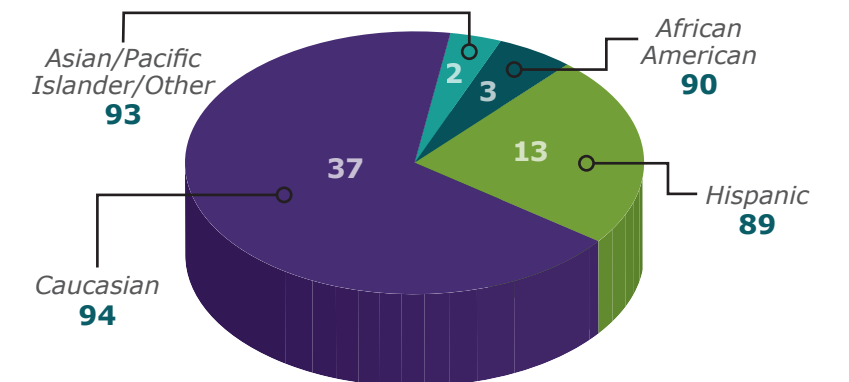
ATEMS STATISTICS

**Total ATEMS COOL Senior Participants: 55**

1st Generation=26 // 2nd Generation=29

### Ethnicity Breakdown/GPA

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



# WOODSON CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

WOODSON CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE STATISTICS

Woodson Center for Excellence (WCE) is an alternative high school for students in Abilene ISD. It is a program of choice offering a self-paced program designed to accelerate a student's education and meet the state and local graduation requirements. Many of the students at WCE campus have the potential to attend college and be just as successful as their counterparts at AHS, CHS and ATEMS. The style of college advising differs at WCE because many of the students have family obligations, extreme financial situations or children of their own. All the students served were first in their families to apply to college and many were the first to graduate high school. Students who attend WCE may not be able to enroll in college right away due to the varied graduation times or other circumstances, so we work with these students to formulate a plan that gets them into college as soon as possible.

Approximately 139 students earned a high school diploma through the program at Woodson Center for Excellence. Although the COOL Program makes an effort to work with as many seniors as possible at WCE, this year we actively worked with 61 seniors who are planning to enroll in a post-secondary education including college, junior college or a certificate program. Some are joining the military and plan to further their education while serving their country.

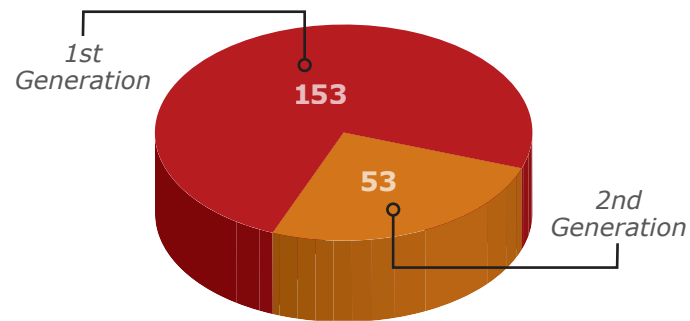
- 61 WCE COOL senior participants
- 100% 1st generation, 100% graduated Texas Recommended Program
- 82% of COOL senior participants submitted at least one post-secondary school application

## 1ST AND 2ND GENERATION PARTICIPANTS

ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

### Abilene High School

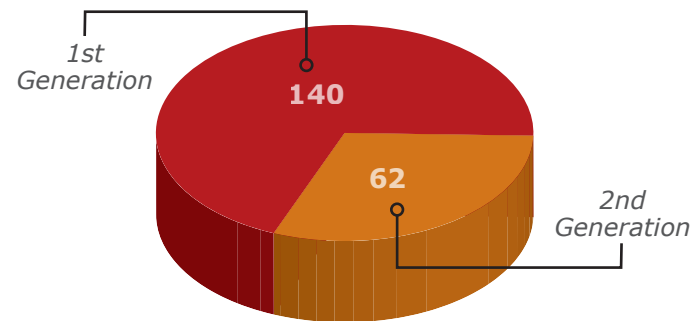
2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants: 206



19 of the 53 (36%) of 2nd generation are either at-risk or economically disadvantaged.

### Cooper High School

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants: 202



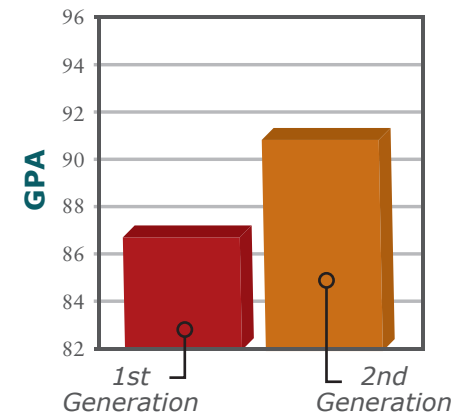
16 out of 62 (26%) of 2nd generation are either at-risk or economically disadvantaged.

## 1ST AND 2ND GENERATION GPA

ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

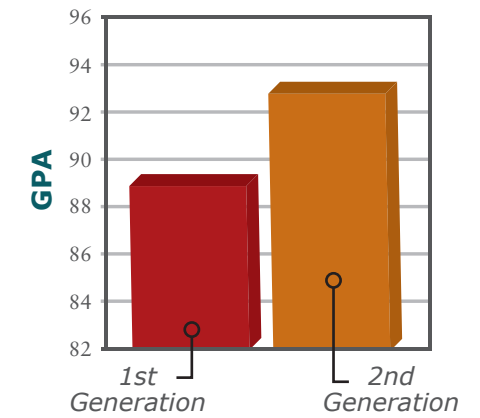
### Abilene High School

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



### Cooper High School

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



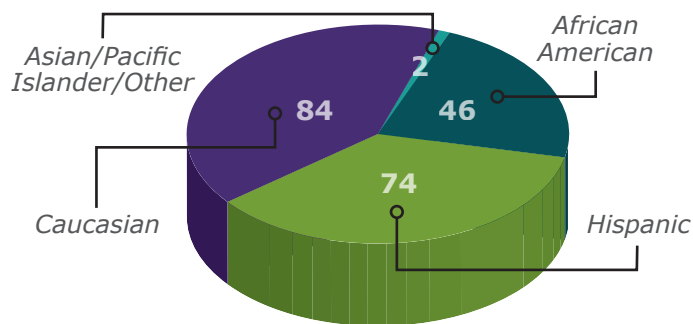
This chart indicates the overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of COOL Program senior participants for the 2013-2014 school year. Our statistics typically indicate that 1st generation students we work with tend to have a lower GPA than 2nd generation students. It is important to note, the majority of 1st generation students in the COOL Program are either classified as at-risk by AISD or are economically disadvantaged.

## ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN

ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

### Abilene High School

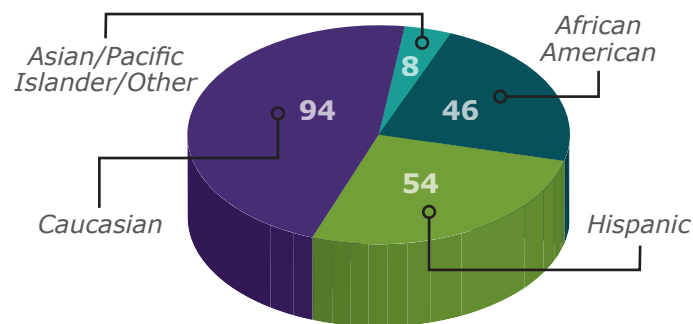
2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



This chart indicates the different ethnicities of the senior participants in the COOL Program for the 2013-2014 school year.

### Cooper High School

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants

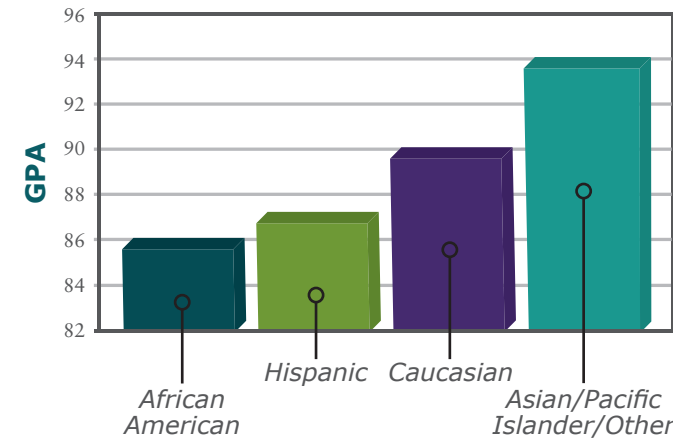


## ETHNICITY GPA

ABILENE HIGH AND COOPER HIGH STATISTICS

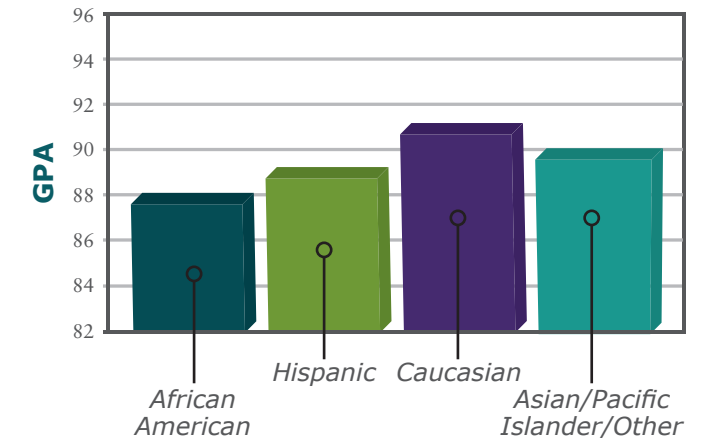
### Abilene High School

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



### Cooper High School

2013-2014 COOL Senior Participants



This chart indicates overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of COOL program seniors for the 2013-2014 school year by ethnicity.

## AEF SCHOLARSHIPS 2013-2014

The Abilene Education Foundation announced the names of the 2014 AEF Scholarship recipients. In conjunction with the Star Family of Dealerships, AEF acknowledged the scholarship winners on Monday, May 20, at the new Star Dodge showroom. Students received a total of \$60,450 in scholarships.

If the AEF scholarship recipient decides to attend a local college or university, he or she also has the opportunity to double their scholarship award. Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, McMurry University and Cisco College have all generously committed to match the AEF scholarship amount, within certain guidelines, in the student's financial aid package with the university or college funded financial aid. AEF is very appreciative of their enthusiastic collaboration.



### Abilene Education Foundation Scholarships

Due to the tremendous generosity of the Abilene community at our past Cajun Fest fundraisers, AEF is pleased to provide additional one-time \$2,000 scholarships for seven deserving students.

- Justin Lambert, ATEMS: Angelo State University and major in Computer Science.
- Hailey Burden, CHS: Abilene Christian University and major in Radiation Therapy.
- Devin Lubin, AHS: Texas A&M University and major in Mechanical Engineering.
- Lacey Morrison, CHS: Texas State University and major in either Biology or Zoology.



- Erika Reese, AHS: Baylor University and major in Health Science.
- Britany Suarez, CHS: Texas Tech University and major in Pre-nursing.
- Victoria Garza, AHS: McMurry University and is undecided on her college major.

### AHS & CHS Alumni Endowed Scholarships

AHS & CHS Alumni Scholarship Funds are endowed monies that provide scholarship opportunities for the graduating seniors of Abilene High School and Cooper High School. The AHS Alumni scholarship fund began in 2008 by the AHS class of 1958 and includes donations from the classes of 1943, 1948, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2001 and 2002. The CHS Alumni scholarship fund includes donations from the classes of 1964, 1967, 1969, 1978 and 1979. Both AHS & CHS Alumni Endowed Scholarships are one-time awards for \$2,000.

- Emily Counts, AHS: Abilene Christian University and major in Communications and Youth Ministry.
- Denver Gravitt, CHS: Abilene Christian University and major in Graphic Design.

### Royce Curtis Excellence in Education Endowed Scholarship (AHS only)

During their 20th class reunion, the Class of 1993 announced, to a very surprised Royce Curtis, a permanent scholarship fund which will help future Eagles reach their goals of a college education. The endowment was established by AHS '93 graduate Bracken Kolle and his wife, Joana. Royce served as the AHS principal for 14 years and as the AISD associate superintendent of personnel for seven years until retiring in

2010. The first Royce Curtis Excellence in Education Endowed Scholarship is a one-time award for \$2,000.

- Vanessa Ellis, AHS: Texas Tech University and major in Business Management.

### Donor-Directed: Individual

Each year we have individual donors from our community who decide to invest in the future of AISD students with scholarships. These one-time awards vary from each year and range from \$500 to \$2,000.

- Kara Lamb, AHS \$500: Texas Tech University and major in Fashion Merchandising.
- Jessica Alcorta, ATEMS \$500: Tarleton State University and major in Pre-nursing.
- Mackenzie Coffey, AHS \$1,000: Dallas Baptist University and major in Sociology.
- Chris Bartlett, ATEMS \$1,000: McMurry University and major in Business.
- Molly Rodgers, AHS \$1,000: Abilene Christian University and major in Nutrition and Dietetics.
- Charles "Chuck" Gillard, CHS \$2,000: Texas Tech University and major in Exercise Sports Science.
- Josh Westman, AHS \$2,000: Hardin-Simmons University and major in Music Education.



### Johnny Ortega Jr. Memorial (AHS only)

The Johnny Ortega Jr. Memorial Scholarship is an amazing opportunity provided by Mary and Johnny Ortega Sr. in memory of their son, Johnny Ortega Jr., who passed away in February 2011. Johnny was a 2006 graduate of Abilene High, an active duty soldier of the U.S. Army from 2007-2011 and an avid runner. While at Abilene High, Johnny participated in cross country. To honor his memory, this scholarship is for an Abilene High male senior who has participated in varsity athletics and is a one-time award for \$1,000.

- Michael Woodard, AHS: Texas Tech University and major in Computer Engineering.

### "My Heroes Have Always Worn Hairnets" Scholarship sponsored by the School Nutrition Association of Abilene

The AISD school nutrition staff raises funds every year to award two deserving seniors with a one-time scholarship to a college of his or her choice. The school nutrition department, which includes the cafeteria servers who feed the students at our schools both breakfast and lunch every day, hold fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for this award including silent auctions, luncheons and bake sales. The two School Nutrition Association of Abilene scholarships are one-time awards for \$600.

- Julia Taylor, AHS: Abilene Christian University and major in Biochemistry.
- Gabriella "Gabby" Limon, CHS: McMurry University and major in Pre-nursing.

### Citizens Bank of Abilene

The Citizens Bank of Abilene scholarship is committed to building strong and enduring relationships with their customers and in the community. This scholarship is split into two \$500 payments throughout the school year for a total one-time award for two students for \$1,000 each.

- Jackson Pybus, AHS: Texas A&M University and major in Nuclear Engineering.
- Dayana Hansley, CHS: Texas A&M University and major in Biomedical Engineering.



### Abernathy Scholarship (CHS only)

Jeff & Shawna Abernathy, owners of Abilene Auto Glass, believe in the power of higher education. Just as someone helped them, they also have a desire to help a rising young Cooper student reach his or her dream of a college education through the gift of a scholarship. This scholarship is one-time \$500 award.

- Lucas Raley, CHS: Cornell University and major in Urban and Regional Planning.



### BreLex Memorial Scholarship

The BreLex Memorial Scholarship is in memory of two young AISD students who passed away in April 2012: Breanna Camacho, who was an ardent softball player, and her cousin and close friend Elexus Flores. The scholarship was established by the girls' father and uncle, Mr. Rocky Flores, for a student at both Cooper and Abilene High who will be first in his or her family to attend college. The two BreLex Memorial Scholarships are one-time awards for \$500.

- Daniel Cooper, CHS: Oklahoma University and major in Biology.
- Skyler Barton, AHS: Cisco College and major in Fine Arts.

### AISD Employee Sponsored Scholarships

Every year employees of AISD are given the opportunity to donate to AEF. Last year, AHS, CHS and ATEMS all began employee sponsored scholarship funds.

### Michele Scott Memorial Scholarship (AHS only)

Michele Scott was a remarkable friend, person, coach and teacher. She had an incredible personality and influenced all she came into contact with; in fact, some of the funds from this scholarship were directly raised by her students. This award celebrates her life by awarding two one-time \$500 scholarships.

- Bethany Westbrook, AHS: Dallas Baptist University and major in Social Work.
- Maddie Stokes, AHS: University of Pennsylvania and major in Biology.

### Cougar Nation Scholarship (CHS only)

"Rise Up" is the official motto of Cooper High School. The Cougar Nation Scholarship is for a student who exemplifies what it means to be a Cooper Cougar, both in school pride and academic excellence. This scholarship is for two students and is a one-time award of \$500.

- Pedro "Peter" Garza, CHS: Ithaca College in New York and study Music.
- Eric Goodheer, CHS: Texas Tech University and major in Physics.

### The Rising Phoenix Scholarship (ATEMS only)

The Rising Phoenix Scholarship is in honor of Zach Church, a young man who graced this world for only a brief nine years. This scholarship was established by his uncle, Will Medina, and recognizes a student who has overcome adversity and shares Zach's love of education. It is a one-time award for \$500.

- Brianna Bond, ATEMS: Tarleton State University and major in Education.



### Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation Scholarship (AHS only)

Meta Alice Keith Bratten graduated with the AHS class of 1943. She was active in Personality Girls, Pep Squad, The Battery, Glee Club and G&G Club which was a club just for senior girls at Abilene High and it meant "The Gang." These awards are for two AHS students and are \$6,000 each. They are granted over a period of four years, pending a minimum college GPA of at least 2.5.

- Jonathan Bryant, AHS: University of Texas Arlington and major in Biochemistry.
- Oriana Flores, AHS: Hardin-Simmons University and study Anatomy/Physiology.

### Young Masters 2014 Juried Art Exhibition

In collaboration with The Grace Museum and Abilene Independent School District, the goals of the Young Masters exhibition are to celebrate young master artists enrolled in Advance Placement art courses and their dedicated teachers for demonstrating excellence in artistic expression and education with a quality museum exhibition. The 2014 Young Masters event was held on April 3rd and the winners were recognized at that time.

- Aimee Lara, CHS, Honorable Mention \$500.
- Luis Carrisalez, AHS, Honorable Mention \$500.
- Alexis Light, AHS, Two Honorable Mentions for a total of \$1000.
- Abby Berry, AHS, Honorable Mention \$500.
- Kaitlyn Poe, CHS, Merit Award \$750.
- Emmanuel Hakizimana, AHS, Merit Award \$750.
- Bailey Patterson, AHS, Merit Award \$750.
- Karissa Dixon, AHS, Third Place \$1,000.
- Mallory Monroy, CHS, Second Place \$1,250.
- Joseline Alexander, CHS, First Place \$1,500.
- Megan Crocker, AHS, Best in Show \$2,500.

## 2013-2014 COOL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

As the cost of education continues to rise, the need for scholarships is greater than ever. As College Advisors, we stress the importance of submitting scholarship applications in anticipation of gaps in financial aid. Thanks to the generosity of donors, our students were able to meet this challenge head-on by receiving scholarships from civic organizations, foundations, individual donors and educational institutions which included athletic and merit-based awards.

This year, Abilene High and Cooper introduced a competition to encourage the students to apply for and report their scholarships. The two schools competed for bragging rights and the "Scholar-Stick." We saw a significant increase in students inquiring about scholarships and, in the end, they were more eager to report their earnings in hopes of winning the competition.

The COOL program is pleased to announce ATEMS, AHS and CHS 2013-2014 senior COOL participants received \$4,440,319 in scholarship money to be used over a four-year period! This amount does not include traditional financial aid opportunities such as federal and state grants.

### AHS & CHS

**1st Generation: \$1,835,755**

**2nd Generation: \$1,924,664**

### ATEMS

**1st Generation: \$133,000**

**2nd Generation: \$546,900**

**TOTAL: \$4,440,319**

## COOL SENIOR PARTICIPANT UPDATE

The COOL Program, using the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) database, has been able to track individual COOL senior participants after high school graduation.

A large majority of COOL senior participants enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high school and all were accepted to at least one college of their choice.

There were a wide variety of reasons why some of our participants chose not to pursue a post-secondary education. There were some students who joined the military or made personal choices which caused them to enter the workforce or postpone enrollment.

Percentages of COOL participants who enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high school graduation has remained steady at around 80% since the program's inception in 2007-2008. Although the percentage has remained fairly consistent, as the COOL program grows the actual number of students who enroll after high school should continue to increase regardless of the percentage. The actual number of COOL senior participants who enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school is listed below. Please note these numbers only include students we could verify through the NSC or personal contact.

### ACTUAL NUMBER OF COOL SENIOR PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION DIRECTLY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

<b>2008-2009:</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>2009-2010:</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>2010-2011:</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>2011-2012:</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>2012-2013:</b>	<b>393*</b>

*\* In the 2012-2013 school year the COOL program added two additional full-time college advisors and added services to ATEMS and Woodson Center for Excellence high schools.*

It has been five years since the 2008-2009 COOL senior class enrolled in college and four years since the 2009-2010 senior class first began their college journey. We are pleased to report the following information on our graduates, our students still enrolled and those who although they did not earn a degree, did earn some college credit. It is our sincere hope for those who have postponed their education that they will one day return to complete their degrees. We seek out these past COOL graduates in an attempt to encourage them to re-enroll by providing assistance and guidance to further their post-secondary education options.

#### COOL Class of 2008-2009

- **220** — Enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school.
- **13** — Enrolled in post-secondary education more than a year after high school.
- **176** — Graduated from college or are still enrolled.
- **33** — Earned some college credit, but not a degree.
- **24** — Earned some college credit, but we are unable to verify their current enrollment status.

#### COOL Class of 2009-2010

- **258** — Enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school.
- **9** — Enrolled in post-secondary education more than a year after high school.
- **197** — Graduated from college or are still enrolled.
- **22** — Earned some college credit, but not a degree.
- **48** — Earned some college credit, but we are unable to verify their current enrollment status.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



The COOL Program would like to thank the following community partners for their support.

- Shelton Family Foundation
- Dian Graves Owen Foundation
- Abilene Independent School District
- Citi Foundation
- First Financial Bank
- National Association of College Admission and Counseling: Imagine Fund
- • •
- Abilene Christian University
- Ads4Next
- Azle Education Foundation
- Carver Youth Council
- Cisco College
- Community Foundation of Abilene
- Communities in Schools
- Dodge Jones Foundation
- Educational Talent Search
- Hardin-Simmons University
- Hispanic Leadership Council
- McMurry University
- P-16 Council
- Texas Association for College Admissions Counseling
- Texas State Technical College: West Texas



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COOL PROGRAM

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