



# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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**College prepared. Work ready.**

## 40 YEARS OF INSPIRING, EDUCATING, CONNECTING

For four decades, BestPrep has connected the business and education communities of Minnesota, bringing necessary real-world skills to over 1.6 million students.

Our 40th anniversary grants us the opportunity to look back at our roots as an organization. Starting from a pilot project launched by Bob Kaitz, an economics teacher at Breck School, the organization we know today was born from an entrepreneurial idea and advanced through a unique ability to adapt quickly to meet the changing needs of education in our state. The growth and expansion of programs and special events are a testament to BestPrep's entrepreneurial philosophy.

At our 40th Annual Luncheon in May, we heard Chairman and CEO of Cargill, David MacLennan, discuss how future leaders will need to adapt to a world filled with continual and rapid change. As BestPrep moves forward, our core focus of preparing students with business, career, and financial literacy skills will dig deeper into lessons of setting goals, motivation, and persistence; seeing the big picture and not just the task at hand.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished in 40 years with the help of countless companies, foundations, and individuals including volunteers, teachers, students and board members. We look forward to a future of new opportunities and remain committed to adapting and discovering new ways to ensure that students are prepared for the challenges of tomorrow and beyond.

**Todd Schnobrich**



**Cargill  
BestPrep Board Chair**



**Career bound.**



# Real World Skills



**BestPrep’s programs bring the business world to the classroom. Complementing curriculum with real world skills, students learn about potential careers, entrepreneurship, and life skills like renting an apartment, budgeting, or buying a car.**

BestPrep students are curious and driven. They want to learn about the world outside the walls of their school. The goal of BestPrep programs is to spark an interest within each student that empowers them to identify and accomplish their goals and develop new skills beyond their classroom curriculum.

BestPrep programs are available to students in grades 4 - 12 of all backgrounds and income levels. Through strong partnerships with organizations like College Possible, AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), TORCH (Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes), and TriO Upward Bound, BestPrep works with students who are highly motivated but need extra guidance and attention to reach their potential.

Programs focus on career and life skills, and we often hear from students about how they are utilizing the skills and knowledge they’ve gained from our programs in their daily lives. Here we’ll share a few examples from some of our student alumni.

## **ANGAD JASPAL MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY**

*“Through BestPrep, I was able to learn about business in a broader sense by developing relationships and connections. At Minnesota Business Venture I met so many students from a variety of different backgrounds and diverse perspectives. This made it really hard at first to figure out how to work as a group, but over time I learned that everybody can bring something to the table. The main thing you need to do is communicate, and I’ve taken that back to school when I complete group projects. You have to make your team feel involved.*”

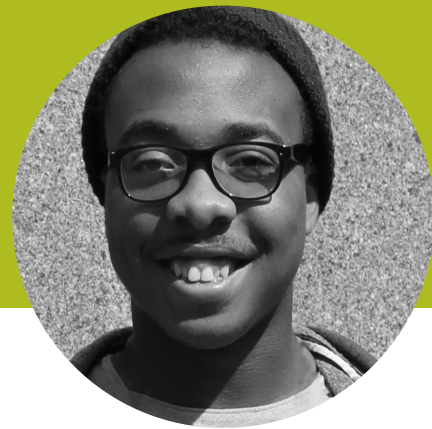
*Hearing from the volunteer speakers, I learned so much about finance and financial security. Right now I work at the YMCA and I used to always spend my paychecks as soon as I got them. Now I think about where my money is going and how I am going to spend it in advance. There are little things that the average student doesn’t think about but I now feel like I have that knowledge to set myself up for success.”*





**UBAH SIYAD, EASTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL**

*“BestPrep’s classroom presenters taught me about money management and future responsibilities such as owning a car, renting an apartment, and building credit. All of these presentations have made me aware of how I can best plan for my future.”*



**CLEVELAND MILLER, SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL**

*“BestPrep’s programs allowed me to work on my leadership skills and creativity. I continue to develop these skills in my current job as an after-school teacher at the Science Museum of Minnesota. BestPrep gave me the confidence and the understanding that I control my future.”*



**ZAYNAB MOHAMED  
ST. LOUIS PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

*“BestPrep’s program opened me up to so many possibilities that I never knew existed. Because of my experience, I am now starting my own business and I am so excited! The program helped me learn so many aspects of business – finance, operations, and marketing. Without this it would have been hard for me to know how to start a business coming from a minority family where no one has gone to college. The program also taught me the importance of networking and finding a mentor.”*



**JESSICA RANNO  
BLOOMINGTON KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL**

*“I use my collaboration skills the most now when I am working with others and learning other points of view to come up with a compromise. BestPrep programs taught me how important it is to communication with others, how to convey your goals, and how you want to reach them. I am now able to speak up when at work or school in a group discussion, which has given me the incentive to work harder.”*

# Corporate Connection to the Classroom

**BestPrep students are introduced to corporate volunteers who teach them real-world skills for college, career, and beyond.**

BestPrep is focused on providing college and career readiness for students across Minnesota to prepare for life after high school. The organization has established a very effective partnership with AVID, reaching 47% of their 74 high school and 24% of their 70 middle school programs.

AVID students are typically first generation college students from low income backgrounds or unique circumstances. They must apply and interview to participate in the program and demonstrate the drive to be successful, but need the extra support of the AVID elective to guide them to college and career success. The partnership is a great success for both BestPrep and the participating AVID programs because the experiential learning opportunities give students the chance to hear from speakers outside their classroom.

Amanda Lieser teaches AVID at Robbinsdale Cooper High School and coordinates the school's AVID partnership with BestPrep. From her AVID teacher training, she brings research-based strategies and curriculum to develop students' critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all subject areas, while finding ways to introduce students to potential careers and workplace skills.



**Robbinsdale Cooper High School teacher Amanda Lieser shares why the BestPrep-AVID partnership is so rewarding for her students:**

*Bringing in speakers to AVID classrooms helps expose our students to more career and financial literacy information. Along with Career Days and eMentors, these experiences allow students to learn and grow in ways that aren't easy for us educators to give them in the classroom. As educators, we do not bring the same expertise in the breadth of career fields that guest speakers bring to students. We love the variety of backgrounds BestPrep speakers have, exposing our students to careers beyond just lawyers, teachers and doctors. Students need to meet people who majored in a variety of fields and now have great jobs that they enjoy to truly know the opportunities that are out there.*

*In AVID, we are trying to expose students to anything and everything that will help them be the most prepared for life after high school and BestPrep has allowed us to do that even better. Teaching students financial literacy through guest speakers and hands-on projects has been amazing. Topics like budgeting, paying for college, and renting an apartment are all topics or areas that not many students learn about in their other classes, but are essential to know about as they are approaching graduation and being out of high school. Our students need to be as knowledgeable about real-life topics such as managing money as they are with math and English by the time they enter the real world. The speakers bring so much useful and practical information to our students; even as an educator I often learn something new from the speakers.*



*I have also witnessed that it is more accessible for students to learn from guest speakers from the business and corporate community because they feel like they can ask very specific questions and receive direct answers from a professional. The presenters have such great experience and information to share and the kids really appreciate them sharing their time. Students enjoy the opportunity to meet new people and the exposure to new knowledge, people, and careers through BestPrep's programs.*

*Our students especially love BestPrep's Minnesota Business Venture (MBV). The camp gets students out of their comfort zone in a way that is super fun and educational. I've had a few students tell me they decided to attend St. Cloud State University partially due to their MBV experience. Many students seem nervous and unsure about working with other students they do not know, but I hear that the camp does a great job of ensuring teams have a positive group dynamic and students come back with a lot of new friends.*

*This year through BestPrep's Classroom Plus and Financial Matters programs we were able to bring in classroom speakers to reach beyond AVID to all 1,600 students in our school at each grade level. Our 10 - 12th grade AVID students also had the opportunity to*

*participate in mock interviews. BestPrep brought in 15 volunteers who spent two hours interviewing 108 students. Many students told me they were nervous to go and talk to someone they didn't know, but when the interviews were over, many had huge smiles on their faces, feeling proud of the job they did.*

*BestPrep goes above and beyond to find qualified guest speakers, large volunteer groups, and is up for the challenge of coordinating group engagements that reach out entire grade level. With BestPrep I know that our students, especially in our AVID program, learn skills that they will take with them after high school into college, work, and future careers. ●*

***“Many students told me they were nervous to go and talk to someone they didn't know, but when the interviews were over, many had huge smiles on their faces, feeling proud of the job they did.”***

# COOPER HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Hawks



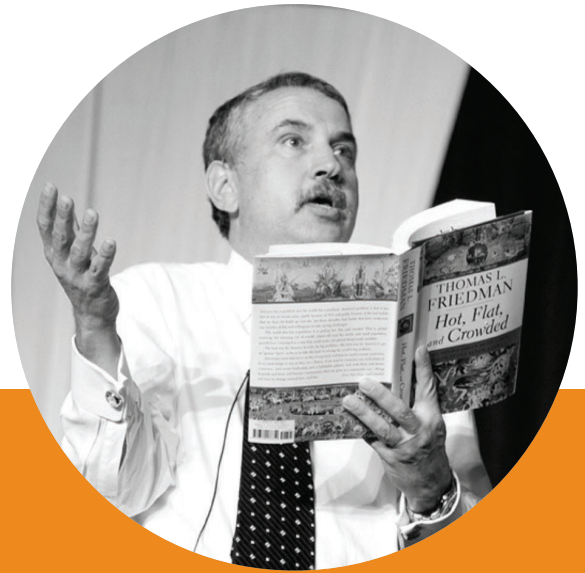
# Prominent Talent on Stage

From Best-selling Authors to Grammy Award winners, BestPrep has hosted talented individuals on stage for special events and educational programs, influencing thousands of individuals throughout their 40 years. The organization has the unique ability to attract both globally recognized figures and local leaders from Minnesota companies and organizations to highlight the connections between business and education through a variety of speaking topics.





**Angelique Kidjo**  
Educational Activist, Grammy Award Winner, Author  
*“Education is the Key to Economic Empowerment”*



**Thomas Friedman**  
Author and Journalist  
*“The Global Future of America”*



**Bill Bradley**  
Author, Former U.S. Senator, NBA Hall of Famer  
*“We Can All Do Better”*



**Dr. Fareed Zakaria**  
Author and Host of CNN’s Fareed Zakaria GPS  
*“Restoring the American Dream”*

## EDUCATIONAL FORUM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The biennial Educational Forum features national-level speakers who align with BestPrep’s mission and heighten awareness of critical business and economic issues. The event also features a statewide essay competition for high school students based on the keynote speaker’s message, encouraging students to think critically about national and global issues.



**Scott Morris**  
International Sales Development Manager, 3M  
*“Making It Count”*



**Daniel Shannon**  
Motivational Speaker, Daniel Shannon Speaks  
*“Vision Speaks Louder than Words”*



**Michael Keller**  
CEO and President, Pearson’s Candy Company  
*“The Anatomy of a Brand”*



**Erik Saltvold**  
Founder and Owner, Erik’s Bike Shop  
*“Starting Your Own Business”*

## MINNESOTA BUSINESS VENTURE SHAREHOLDER ADDRESS

Hundreds of students gather each morning at Minnesota Business Venture to kick off their day with a Shareholder Address. The Shareholder Address speakers cover a wide variety of topics related to success in careers and life such as motivation, perseverance, personal branding, and entrepreneurship.





**David MacLennan**  
Chairman and CEO, Cargill  
*“The Constants of Leadership in an Ever-Changing World”*



**Dave Anderson**  
CEO, Famous Daves  
*“Reach for the Stars”*



**Kim Nelson**  
Senior Vice President, General Mills Foundation  
*“Future Forward: Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders”*



**Jim Owens**  
President and CEO, H.B. Fuller  
*“Connecting the World’s Great Ideas”*

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

This annual event celebrates the end of the school year and honors the outstanding efforts of BestPrep’s volunteers, students, and teachers. Highlighting the event is a keynote address from a prominent local business leader. Speakers discuss big picture topics to inspire the audience of business professionals, educators, and students.



# A Local Entrepreneurial Success

**An original idea that grew from a pilot project into a successful nonprofit, BestPrep was born of an entrepreneurial spirit and nurtured by a generous community.**

## **THE START OF SOMETHING BIG**

For 40 years, BestPrep has provided unique educational opportunities for youth across Minnesota. For a nonprofit to enjoy this kind of success requires that many people believe that the mission is worth the investment. Today, having reached 1.6 million students with business, career, and financial literacy skills, the long-term investment in BestPrep has paid large dividends. The origins of

BestPrep can be traced back to a 1973 pilot project conducted at Breck School. Bob Kaitz, then an economics teacher, was selected by the school's headmaster to lead the project, which compared a traditional lecture-style class to an experiential format that connected students to the corporate environment. The results were clear – the students in the experiential class tested two grade levels higher than their counterparts in the traditional classroom.

Following the success of the pilot project, BestPrep was founded in 1976 as the Business Economics Education Foundation with Bob Kaitz becoming the organization's Executive Director.

## **FOUNDING PARTNERS**

Securing financial and volunteer support was critical to bringing BestPrep's vision to life. Bob met with 3M's Vice President of Consumer

Affairs, Fred Metcalfe, whose vision closely aligned with Bob's belief that classroom subjects needed to be experiential to make a lasting impact. They agreed that tapping into the resources of the local business community would have tremendous potential. Metcalfe then introduced Bob to General Mills' VP of Industrial Relations, Don Friborg, who was eager for his company to get involved. In fact, BestPrep's very first volunteer speaker was the VP of Consumer Affairs at General Mills, who made a presentation on marketing during a school assembly at South St. Paul High School.

An airplane ride shared by the Breck School Headmaster and Cargill's CEO Whitney MacMillan proved serendipitous, bringing a third key partner on board. The Headmaster was intrigued by the possibility of utilizing the knowledge and experience of Cargill employees to educate students, and MacMillan was interested in exploring the opportunity to mobilize corporate volunteers. Bob found a mentor in Cargill's VP of Transportation, Jim *Continued >*







1985

Springrose, who provided guidance with project development. Another mentor was found in Ecolab's Senior VP Bill Podas. When Bill was introduced to BestPrep, he was immediately enthusiastic about the mission and secured Ecolab's Chairman and President, Fred Lanners, as the keynote speaker at the inaugural BestPrep Annual Luncheon in 1979.

These founding organizations - 3M, General Mills, Cargill, and Ecolab - provided the expertise, funding, and volunteers necessary to get BestPrep off the ground. For 40 consecutive years, these companies have remained leading partners for the organization.

## YEARS OF GROWTH

Classroom Plus is BestPrep's flagship program, bringing knowledgeable speakers from the professional world into classrooms, which helped counteract the sentiment of distrust of business that was prevalent in the 1970s. Four decades later, the program remains in high demand from educators, reaching more than 16,000 students per year.

As the 1980's ushered in a renewed interest in entrepreneurship and business, BestPrep launched Minnesota Business Venture, a summer business and career camp for high school students. The program filled a void in summertime

youth educational programming in Minnesota at the time.

In 1991, BestPrep was approached by The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association to become the Minnesota provider of The Stock Market Game. During the program's first year of operation, BestPrep grew student participation from 800 to 10,000 students. Today, more than 350,000 students have participated.

As we entered the digital age, BestPrep introduced eMentors, utilizing technology to connect youth to the business world. The Technology Integration Workshop was also added to help teachers stay informed of the skills needed in today's workforce. More recently, when the economic downturn ushered in a revived focus on financial literacy, Financial Matters was developed to bring money management skills to students in the classroom.

Today, BestPrep continues to bridge the business and education communities, always adapting to best meet the needs of Minnesota students. As our programs continue to grow in demand, we've been able to meet and exceed our goals year after year.

With the help of our partners, we are committed to exploring new ways to empower youth to develop education and career vision that will lead to success. [Continued >](#)

## BESTPREP'S FOUNDING PARTNERS





## INTERVIEW WITH THE CEO



**Q: BestPrep is celebrating 40 years! Did you ever imagine you would be part of the organization for that length of time?**

*A: To be honest, I never really gave it much thought. I loved the mission and what I was doing every day, and the board was always so encouraging that being anywhere else never made any sense to me. The interesting thing is that you wake up one day and you wonder how it went by so fast.*

**Q. You've seen a lot of changes over the course of the past four decades, both internally within BestPrep as well as across the country. What are you most proud of?**

*A. Without a doubt, it's our ability to create a new program or event and watch it grow to become a success. It always starts with*

*a single idea that may not always be embraced by others. I have found that by seeking feedback from others, an idea can be shaped and develop into something even better than the original concept. Building consensus isn't always easy, but in the long run is critically important. When I think back on some of our programs and events like the Stock Market Game, eMentors, Technology Integration Workshop, Birdies for BestPrep, the Educational Forum, and Financial Matters, the formula for success was consistent: a few people believing in the goal, tweaking the execution, and then ensuring the quality of implementation. And finally, a determination that failure is not an option.*

**Q. There has been a fair amount of conversation around the size of BestPrep's board. You have been a proponent for a large board. On the surface, it would seem unmanageable. Why does this work for BestPrep?**

*A. It's really all about the engagement of the each of our board members. One of my greatest pleasures is having the opportunity to work with so many experienced and accomplished individuals who truly lay the groundwork for what we are able to accomplish. Our board members are intimately involved as advocates within their*

*companies, generating volunteer and financial resources, as well as in the greater community. They can tell you the names of our staff and actually work very closely with all of them.*

**Q. You have been a strong proponent of partnering with other organizations. Where's the value there?**

*A. There is nothing stronger than two nonprofits working together to accomplish both missions. There are a lot of commonalities between the nonprofits in the Twin Cities area and around the state. The students benefit when we share resources and work together.*

**Q. What would you say has been the key to BestPrep's success?**

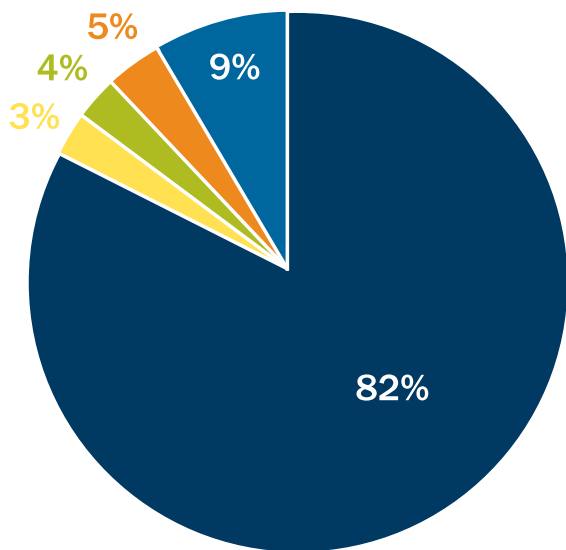
*A. Building strong and long-lasting relationships. It started with leaders from 3M, Cargill, Ecolab and General Mills acting as mentors to me and opening new doors for BestPrep. Those individuals laid the groundwork for 40 years of relationships that continue to flourish today. Our staff and board work extremely hard to make sure every student, teacher, and volunteer feel the value of working with BestPrep. ●*



# Financials: Year End 2015

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE\*

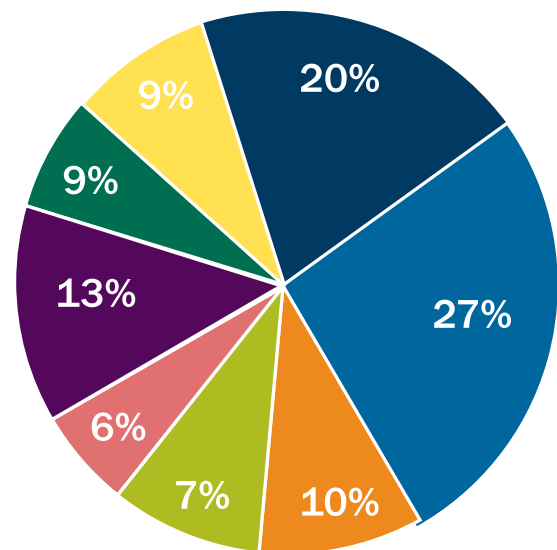
**\$1,403,196**



- Contributions
- Teacher/Student Fees
- Special Events
- Inkind & Interest
- Sponsorships, workshops & other revenue

## EXPENDITURES\*

**\$1,375,976**



- Classroom Plus
- eMentors
- Financial Matters
- Minnesota Business Venture
- Stock Market Game
- Technology Integration Workshop
- Management & General
- Fundraising

**SURPLUS/DEFICIT \$27,220**

\*Reporting on unrestricted funds only. Full audit available upon request.



## Annual Numbers

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**66,227 Students**

—————→ Served

**638 Teachers**

—————→ Participating

**421 Schools**

Involved ←————

**4,360 Volunteers**

Engaged ←————

**6,487 Volunteer**

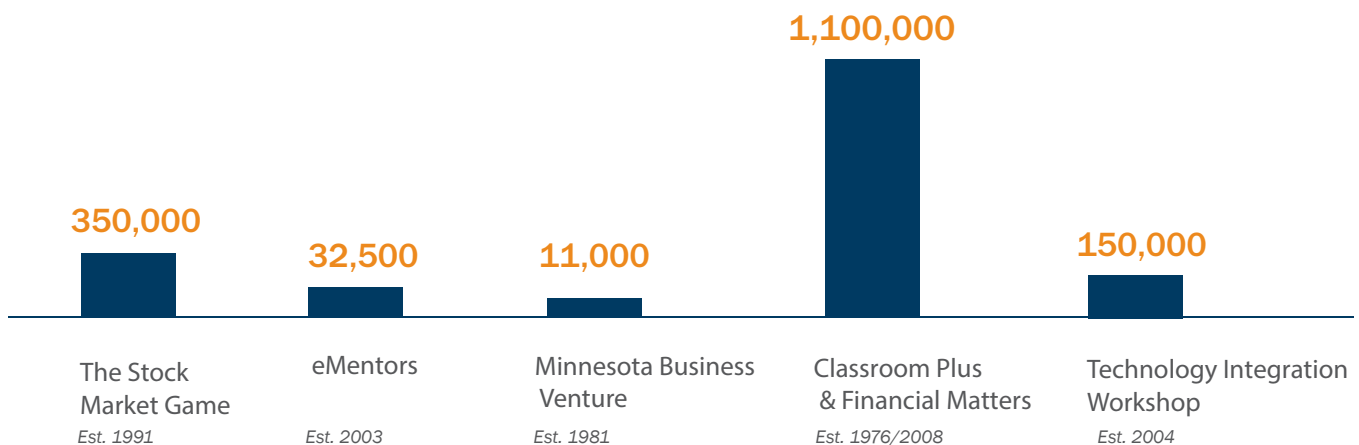
—————→ Engagements

**35,264 Hours**

—————→ Contributed

## BestPrep's 40 Year Impact

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**1.6 Million**

**Students Reached  
Over 40 Years**

# Your Stories

As part of BestPrep's 40th anniversary, we wanted to turn the spotlight to friends and supporters who have helped us get to this momentous occasion! From student alumni, to long-time volunteers, board members, educators and donors—we wanted to hear the value they see in BestPrep and why they continue to participate, donate and volunteer. The selections here highlight the outcomes and impact that BestPrep programs have had and will continue to provide. Please visit our website to read the full stories from these folks and more: [bestprep.org/tag/bestprep40](https://bestprep.org/tag/bestprep40)

*“Like 3M, BestPrep is mission-driven, ensuring that our students receive their best and that the companies do too. Every service leader that goes out to volunteer for BestPrep comes back more engaged and more committed to our vision of improving every life. We know that the investment we make in BestPrep today will reap rewards for all communities.”*

***Learn more at [bestprep.org/story01](https://bestprep.org/story01)***

***Kim Price  
President, 3M Foundation***





“ Starting as a student at Minnesota Business Venture, I have continued to stay connected and deeply engaged with BestPrep whenever possible, including now serving on the Board of Directors. I think it’s no accident that I now work at a company that encourages volunteering and I have introduced BestPrep volunteer opportunities to my colleagues. UnitedHealth Group began participating in eMentors in 2007 with a group of 30 students. We have now built up our volunteer base to mentor 800 students during the 2015-16 school year!

**Learn more at [bestprep.org/story14](http://bestprep.org/story14)**

**Gretchen Korf**  
**Vice President of Operations, UnitedHealth Group**




*“eMentors is an easy and quick way to help out and give back, and there is so much value in the program for students! It helps high school kids start to think and ask questions about college and their careers; it also helps them to learn how to develop stronger communication skills and write professional emails, which is a skill that will always be valuable for them throughout their lives. It gives the kids great perspective – some of my previous mentees never had a family member go to college so to hear them setting that goal for themselves and getting advice from someone who has gone to college is extremely valuable for them.”*

**Learn more at [bestprep.org/story07](http://bestprep.org/story07)**

**Erin Lauterbach**  
**Technology Consultant, Accenture**





*“My colleagues and I support BestPrep because we believe in the organization, but BestPrep has given me so much more. Through their entrepreneurial drive and willingness to always listen and engage with me, they’ve consistently shown me what happens when you put the power of possible to work.”*

**Learn more at [bestprep.org/story11](https://bestprep.org/story11)**

**Tony Neuman**  
**Marketing Communications Manager, Cargill**

*“As a recent college graduate I was new to the business world and was recruited to volunteer as a Resident Business Leader in the very early years of Minnesota Business Venture (MBV). It turned out to be such a great experience for me personally, so I convinced my company to let me come back multiple times throughout the early 1980s. I’m thankful to those who dreamt up the idea to bring education and business together to create a foundation for students to see the opportunities that are possible in the world of business.”*

**Learn more at [bestprep.org/story09](https://bestprep.org/story09)**

**Gary Perkins**  
**Commercial Banker & Business Advisor**  
**U.S. Bank**

*“The training I received through BestPrep’s Technology Integration Workshop gave me the confidence and enthusiasm I needed to tackle new technology applications and software in my classes. I created my websites for each of my classes so students can review vocabulary, test grammar knowledge, and improve listening, reading, and writing skills outside of the classroom. It’s been a win-win experience that has made me more confident about expanding my own technology skills and finding ways to integrate technology very authentically in class.”*

**Learn more at [bestprep.org/story13](https://bestprep.org/story13)**

**Allison Shank**  
**English Language Teacher**  
**Hubbs Center**



# The Impact of a Mentor

**Through BestPrep's dedication to address the achievement gap in Minnesota, the organization is expanding eMentors in a big way.**

Minnesota is a generous community of businesses, foundations, and individuals who have been partnering with BestPrep to provide financial and volunteer support. Year after year, BestPrep has seen growth in demand for its programs as well as growth in participation from those who want to help prepare our future workforce, share their knowledge and expertise, and give back to a community they are connected to.

As the organization continues to grow, there are challenges that must be addressed as we move forward. Issues such as the achievement gap and expected workforce disparities and

shortages are challenges that communities across Minnesota are currently contending with. As BestPrep drives its mission forward, the organization must work to contribute to solutions that address these major challenges facing the Minnesota business community and future workforce.

According to the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, BestPrep has the largest email mentoring program in the United States, reaching more than 90 schools representing 4,400 students annually. As a leader in this field, BestPrep knows how essential it is for students to have a caring adult in their lives that can help them see the value of having career aspiration.

As we think about how to address the challenges we face as a community, BestPrep wants to aim higher and further its reach. The organization launched a pilot during the 2015-16 school year entitled eMentors 2.0 to focus on strengthening student motivation in school and beyond. BestPrep enlisted the support of





Search Institute, a nationally recognized leader in discovering what kids need to succeed. Search Institute thoroughly reviewed the BestPrep's eMentors program and developed a new system of guiding question prompts called Gateways. They addressed character skill sets students need to develop to thrive; key areas highlighted included sparks, aspirations, effort, self management. and perseverance.

The pilot was conducted in the spring of 2016 with Thomson Reuters and the entire sophomore class at Como Park Senior High School. Utilizing the REACH Framework, each weekly email focused on topics addressing Relationship, Effort, Aspirations, Cognition, and Heart. Each of these factors have been shown to influence a teenager's motivation to succeed in powerful ways. Midway through the program, all 320 students traveled to Thomson Reuters to meet their mentors over lunch and tour the company. [Continued >](#)



*“The email mentorships were tremendous for students. They opened their eyes to so many possibilities that they never realized existed. With the mentors focusing on motivation and perseverance, our students learned first-hand that these are key traits to help them achieve success.”*

**MPRnews** | Sections ▾ Members ▾ More ▾

**Worker shortage worries drive Twin Cities recruitment push**

 Martin Moylan · Oct 13, 2015 Business

Concerned about a worker shortage that could top 100,000 in five years, Twin Cities business leaders on Tuesday launched a new effort to bring top talent to the region and keep it here.

**FINANCE & COMMERCE**

**State launches hunt for talent**

By: James Warden | April 25, 2014 1:46

Ecolab CEO Doug Baker and Pohlads Cos. CEO Albert Colianni Jr. will head a "talent task force" that aims to shore up Minnesota's workforce with young professionals in advance of what Greater MSP and the Urban Land Institute Minnesota see as an impending labor shortage, the groups announced Friday.

As the school year came to a close, it was clear that the pilot was successful. Como Park Senior High School Principal Theresa Neal said, "The email mentorships were tremendous for students. They opened their eyes to so many possibilities that they never realized existed. With the mentors focusing on motivation and perseverance, our students learned first-hand that these are key traits to help them achieve success."

Thomson Reuters Community Relations Manager Nicole Hansen shared, "We were delighted to partner with Como Park Senior High School.

# TwinCities BUSINESS

by Sven Wehrwein

## 2020 Foresight

State Demographer Tom Gillaspay says Minnesota will have a major labor shortage 10 years from now.

# eMentors: Addressing Workplace Disparity and Shortages

Our employees lined up to participate in the experience. We see the importance of being proactive in introducing the future workforce to Thomson Reuters.”

“Because of BestPrep’s 13 year success in providing eMentors to Minnesota schools and the results of the eMentors 2.0 pilot project, we believe that every student should feel the positive impact of having a mentor during their high school career,” says Program Manager Bonnie Vagasky.

Developing a Program Assessment and Expansion Fund is essential for us to continue to modify and improve existing programs while also making program expansion a reality. With the tremendous potential of eMentors 2.0, we need the business and education community to come together once again to provide the resources for success. In the coming months and years, we will be working to raise the money to build a fund that will allow BestPrep to reach a greater number of students in a more impacting way.

We hope you will join us. ●





# 40 Years & Beyond



Let's keep  
the momentum  
going!

BestPrep is celebrating 40 years of serving Minnesota students and we're not slowing down. Your gift to the *40th Anniversary Program Assessment and Expansion Fund* will empower us to do big things in the years ahead:

**ASSESS:** Partner with research organizations to assess program results and further align with Minnesota educational standards.

**GROW:** Expand the reach of our programs to impact more low-income youth across Twin Cities schools and throughout greater Minnesota.

**PREPARE:** Use our resources to target the issue of statewide workforce disparities.

## BESTPREP DONORS

### CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

#### **3M Foundation\***

Accenture  
Accredited Investors  
AdvisorNet Financial  
Affiance Financial  
Affinity Plus Foundation  
Alliance Bank

#### **Allianz Life\***

Allina Health

#### **Allstate Insurance Company\***

Amazon Smile  
American Family Insurance  
Ameriprise Financial\*  
Anchor Bank  
Anchor Bank Apple Valley  
Anchor Bank Arden Hills  
Anchor Bank Blaine  
Anchor Bank Farmington  
Anchor Bank Lakeville  
Anchor Bank Wayzata  
Anchor Bank West St. Paul  
Apex Systems  
Assurant\*  
Bann Business Solutions  
Beacon Bank  
Bernick's  
Best Buy  
Best Buy Foundation  
Birchwood Financial Partners  
Blanski Peter Kronlage & Zoch, P.A.  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota  
BMO Harris Bank  
Boston Scientific  
Bremer Bank  
C.H. Robinson Worldwide

#### **Cargill\***

Cargill - Corn Milling Division  
Cargill Salt, Inc.  
Carlson & The Carlson Family Foundation  
Castle Rock Bank  
CBS Radio  
Charles P. & Mary E. Belgarde Foundation  
CHS Foundation  
Citizens Bank Minnesota  
Citizens Independent Bank  
Citizens Independent Bank Community Foundation\*  
Crown Bank  
Culligan Water Conditioning Company  
Cunningham Group

Dacota Bank  
Deerwood Bank  
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