Academy for Urban Scholars
High School Columbus

Annual Report

2025-2026



Directors Notes

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 school year, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together. This year, our scholars demonstrated resilience, embraced new opportunities, and continued to grow both academically and personally.

From earning industry-recognized credentials through NCUS Tec and participating in hands-on career experiences to celebrating growth on state and benchmark assessments, our scholars continued to prove what is possible. These successes are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the partnership of our families, and the strength of our community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding opportunities, fostering innovation, and preparing every scholar to graduate with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in college, careers, and life.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our mission. Together, we will continue empowering scholars and building an even brighter future.

With gratitude,
Dr. Sherrell Davis
Director of Innovative Academics



Dr. Sherrell Davis



Derek Lee, M. Ed.

Looking back on the 2025–2026 school year, I am filled with tremendous pride and gratitude for the remarkable progress, determination, and achievement demonstrated throughout Career Academy Columbus. This year has been a powerful reminder that when education, opportunity, and community come together, lives are transformed.

Our scholars continued to rise to the challenge, demonstrating resilience, perseverance, and a commitment to building brighter futures. Through our expanding Career Technical Education programs, scholars earned over 120 industry-recognized credentials, gaining valuable, workforce-aligned skills that position them for success in high-demand careers. These accomplishments represent more than certifications. They represent confidence, opportunity, and pathways to economic mobility.

One of the highlights of this year was the continued growth of our Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which provided scholars with hands-on learning experiences, exposure to industry professionals, and direct connections to career pathways within the skilled trades. Through real-world training and meaningful work-based learning opportunities, our scholars developed the knowledge and practical skills necessary to take the next step toward rewarding careers.

Our success would not be possible without the strong partnerships we have built with community organizations, employers, higher education institutions, and workforce development agencies. These collaborations have expanded opportunities for our scholars through internships, credentialing programs, mentorship, supportive services, and career exploration experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom walls.

While we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain focused on the future. Our commitment to innovation, workforce readiness, academic excellence, and scholar success continues to drive our work. Together, we are creating pathways that empower scholars to graduate not only with a diploma, but with the skills, credentials, and confidence needed to thrive in college, careers, military service, and life.

Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and belief in our mission. The achievements highlighted throughout this report reflect what is possible when a community comes together on behalf of its scholars. The future is bright, and Career Academy Columbus is proud to be helping lead the way.

Enroll. Engage. Elevate. This is AUS!
Derek Lee, M. Ed.
Interim Director of Education and Workforce
Career Academy Columbus

AUSC Board Members

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Pamela Shields
Sandra Moody-Gresham
Jody Korte
Margaret Hightower
James Willis Jr.

Career Academy **Staff**

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President of Education
Corey Yoakam
Superintendent
Danielle Noble
Director of Operations
Derek Lee
Interim Director of Workforce and Education
Charles Jefferson
Director of Student Engagement and Outreach
Jerrica Manley
Director of School Counseling
Charity Martin-King
Director of Career Tech Education
Eugene Padgett
Dean of Culture
Pamela Duncan
Academic Advisor
Kimberly Allen
Office Manager/Food Service Manager
Emma Rowsey
Enrollment Specialist
Paul Brooks
General Education Facilitator
Kanai Brown
Success Coach
Lionel Henderson
Success Coach
Jaden Manley
Senior Advisor
Jordan Harrison
Help Desk Technician
Derrel Ramsey
AMP Business Developer
Jaden Manley
Senior Advisor
Anne Hatter
Title I

Prep Academy **Staff**

Sabrina Jones
President of Education
Corey Yoakam
Superintendent
Danielle Noble
Director of Operations
Sherrell Davis
Director of Innovative Academics
Charles Jefferson
Director of Student Engagement & Outreach
Jerrica Manley
Director of School Counseling
Charity Martin-King
Director of Career Tech Education
Pamela Duncan
Academic Advisor
Kimberly Allen
Office Manager/Food Service Manager
Andrew Clarke
Lead Instructor/Math Instructor
Maniki Prysock
Science/Social Studies Instructor
Tynesha Jamison
Engagement Coach/Female Mentor
Myonne Turner
Engagement Coach/Male Mentor
Jordan Harrison
IT Help Desk Technician
Anne Hatter
Title I



How We Measure Success
AUSC is committed to assisting our students to obtain jobs, get to and through college and the workforce. Guiding students to achieve their dreams is only possible if we monitor our progress. Data helps us understand our impact, what is working and what needs to be enhanced.

Our data team meets frequently to examine our program. The school's leadership team meets often to examine the data. We use seven essential questions to provide a measure for our progress, keep us focused as we have grown, and most importantly, help us keep the promise we make to your students, their families, and our community.

Essential Measurements

of students over the age of 18: **189**

# of students who are parents: **40**

# of enrolled students: **418**

Prep Academy: **100**

Work Academy: **318**

# of students who returned for the 2025-2026 school year: **216**

Reading increase from fall to spring: **56.7%**

Math increases from fall to spring: **60.5%**

Staff Retention: # of staff who returned for the 2025-2026 school year:

- **Prep Academy: 11**
- **Career Academy: 10**

Graduates in post-secondary:

of graduates: **118**

# of graduates going to college: **10**

# of graduates entering workforce: **108**

# of graduates going to military: **0**

Industry Recognized Credentials:

Manufacturing: **17**

Construction: **11**

Hospitality and Tourism: **121**

Information Technology: **12**

Healthcare: **8**

State Report Card
For the 2025-2026 school year, AUSC earned an overall school rating of "Meets Standards" AUSC earned an "Exceeds Standards" rating in the areas of graduation and closing the gap.



Career Tech Education

PRE APPRENTICESHIP

The Academy for Urban Scholars Pre-Apprenticeship program successfully selected 11 Scholars that completed the program. The Construction Pre-Apprenticeship includes meetings with employer partners, connections to unions, additional support and professional coaching, accelerated credential attainment, and employer visits. Congratulations Scholars!

Michael Turner was placed in Franklinton Rising and received a placement with TP Mechanical as a result of the program. This is one of many success stories.













HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

AUS students, as a component to their pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning standards, participated in assisting with a home build with Habitat for Humanity. Students who are skilled in basic construction, worked to dig trenches, clear gravel, and observe commercial construction. The opportunity included collaboration with NCUS TEC and area business advisors.

OHIO MEANS JOBS

AUS Students attended Job Fairs provided by Ohio Means Jobs. Participants met with employers and were able to have their resumes reviewed for feedback. Ohio Means Jobs graciously allowed students to tour the event, ask questions, and learn about in demand careers.







School Events

TRUNK OR TREAT
A fun, safe, and family-friendly fall event, serving over 300 families, where staff and community partners decorated vehicles and distributed candy to scholars and families. The event promoted school spirit, family engagement, and positive connections with the community.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOX GIVEAWAY
A community outreach event that provided over 300 families with turkeys and Thanksgiving dinner boxes containing items to help prepare a complete holiday meal. The initiative was designed to ensure families throughout the school and local community had the opportunity to gather around the table and enjoy a warm, meaningful Thanksgiving meal together. Through the support of staff, volunteers, and community partners, the event promoted gratitude, service, family togetherness, and stronger connections between the school and the community.

TURNER CONSTRUCTION
Students from AUS attended a site tour and lunch at Turner Construction. Turner Construction serves as a collaborator to provide work-based learning and internship opportunities to students. AUS Career TEC Instructor, Mr. Stephen Robinson attended to assist students with understanding essential skills and to help them establish professional connection.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE
A holiday giving initiative where the school collected and distributed toys and gifts to children, serving over 300 families within the school and local community. Through the support of staff, community partners, donors, and volunteers, families were provided with a welcoming holiday experience and access to age-appropriate gifts for their children. The event reflected the school's commitment to community service, family engagement, and giving back, while helping ensure families experienced additional support and joy during the holiday season

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST
A school community gathering honoring the life, leadership, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event included breakfast, presentations, guest speakers, performances, and reflections centered on service, leadership, equality, and community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION
A school-wide celebration recognizing the history, achievements, culture, and contributions of African Americans. The event featured scholar performances, presentations, exhibits, guest speakers, music, art, and other educational and cultural activities.

MALE & FEMALE LEADERSHIP LUNCHEONS
The Male & Female Leadership Luncheons were leadership-focused events designed to connect scholars with positive professionals, mentors, and community leaders who shared their experiences, career journeys, and lessons in leadership. The luncheons provided scholars with opportunities to participate in meaningful conversations centered on leadership, career readiness, professionalism, effective decision-making, goal setting, self-confidence, and personal growth. Scholars were encouraged to ask questions, build relationships with mentors, explore future career and educational opportunities, and reflect on the skills and choices necessary to become successful leaders in their schools, careers, families, and communities.



LITERACY NIGHT – LITERACY CAFÉ
A welcoming, family-centered literacy event designed around a Literacy Café theme, creating a relaxed and inviting environment for scholars and families to explore reading together. Families browsed a variety of books representing different genres, interests, and reading levels, selected books to enjoy and take home, and discovered new authors and topics while enjoying light refreshments. The event promoted a love of reading, encouraged families to build literacy experiences at home, and strengthened family engagement through a shared celebration of books and learning.





DAY OF THE GIRL

Day of the Girl, is an empowering event designed to celebrate, inspire, and support female scholars through mentorship, leadership development, and meaningful conversations. The event is provided by the Center for Healthy Families and convened at The Ohio State University. Scholars engaged with female professionals and community leaders around topics such as self-confidence, leadership, healthy relationships, career and college readiness, financial literacy, wellness, goal setting, and overcoming challenges. The event encouraged young women to recognize their strengths, develop their voices, and envision themselves as successful leaders in their schools, careers, and communities. Girls also participated in monthly listening sessions at the Academy for Urban Scholars as a component to their continuous enrichment.







KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

The Academy for Urban Scholars honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through a month-long service and wellness initiative that integrated career technical education, creative expression, and community engagement to combat youth depression, isolation, and anxiety during the winter months. Inspired by Dr. King's message that "good ends" must grow from "good means," the project engaged 57 students and in collaborative art-making, mental health activities, and acts of kindness, including painting positivity rocks, decorating wellness pots, and creating affirmations. Students attended the Columbus MLK Breakfast on January 19, 2026, where they distributed kindness rocks as symbols of unity and encouragement. The project was funded from a grant by ServeOhio. The kindness campaign extended throughout the school year.

100 BLACK MEN OF OHIO

LA leadership and mentoring initiative that connected male scholars with members of the 100 Black Men of Ohio for ongoing mentorship, leadership development, and personal growth. Scholars participated in experiences focused on character development, academic success, professionalism, goal setting, leadership, and responsible decision-making. The cohort provided male scholars with access to positive male role models who encouraged them to strengthen their confidence, develop their leadership abilities, establish meaningful goals, and prepare for success beyond high school. At the conclusion of the cohort, each young man who successfully completed the program participated in a formal Pinning Ceremony, where they were recognized and celebrated for their commitment, growth, and accomplishments in the presence of their families, community members, school representatives, and members of the 100 Black Men of Ohio.



HOMECOMING

Scholars participated in spirit week with themed dress-up days, and school-wide activities. The week concluded with a Homecoming Dance, where scholars came together to celebrate, socialize, enjoy music and dancing, and create memorable high school experiences with their peers.





PROM

A memorable end-of-year celebration that gave scholars the opportunity to come together and enjoy one of the traditional milestones of the high school experience. Prom provided an elegant and celebratory atmosphere where scholars enjoyed music, dancing, dinner, photography, and time with their peers. The event allowed scholars to celebrate the school year, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories.

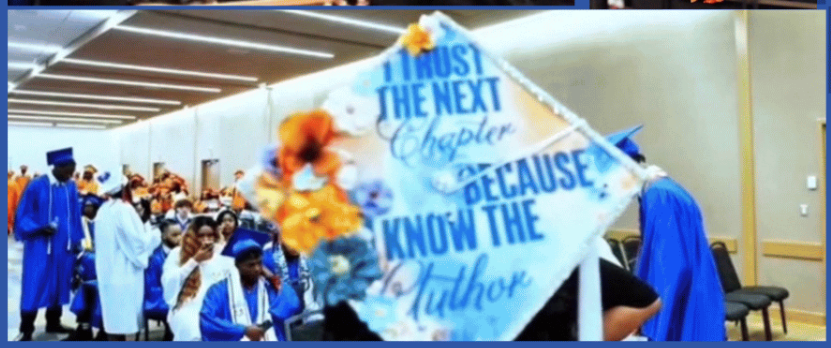












GRADUATION

The 2025–2026 school year was another year of achievement and celebration for the Academy for Urban Scholars Columbus as we proudly recognized 118 graduating scholars. Building upon the success of the previous year's 113 graduates, the Class of 2026 reflects the continued growth of our school community and our commitment to helping scholars reach the finish line.

Each diploma represents a unique journey filled with perseverance, determination, personal growth, and the support of families, staff, and the entire AUS community. Our graduates leave AUS Columbus prepared to take their next steps into higher education, career and workforce opportunities, military service, entrepreneurship, and other pathways toward a successful future.

As we celebrate 118 graduates, we recognize not only what they have accomplished during their time at AUS, but also the possibilities that lie ahead. The Class of 2026 continues the proud legacy of AUS Columbus and serves as a reminder of what scholars can achieve when they are provided with meaningful opportunities, encouragement, and a community committed to their success.







FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the school year, scholars were provided with meaningful opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom through a variety of educational, career-focused, and enrichment experiences. Field trips were intentionally designed to increase exposure, strengthen career and college readiness, build positive relationships, and provide scholars with opportunities to connect academic learning to real-world experiences.

Scholars participated in college and post-secondary visits, career and industry exploration experiences, industry-recognized credential and workforce development opportunities, sporting events, community events, fall festivals, and other educational and recreational activities. These experiences allowed scholars to explore potential career pathways, learn about post-secondary options, engage with professionals and community partners, and participate in positive school culture experiences.

AUS will continue to expand experiential learning opportunities that expose scholars to college, careers, credentialing opportunities, community resources, and culturally enriching experiences. Our goal is to ensure that every scholar has access to experiences that broaden their perspective, strengthen their connection to school, and help them envision meaningful possibilities beyond high school.

SPORTS & ATHLETICS

AUS continued to strengthen its athletics program by providing scholars with opportunities to participate in competitive sports while developing teamwork, discipline, leadership, perseverance, and school pride. Throughout the school year, scholars had the opportunity to participate in volleyball, basketball, tennis, track and field, and girls flag football, creating multiple avenues for scholars to become involved and connected to our 21st Century Afterschool program and the school community.

The athletics program extended beyond competition by reinforcing the importance of academic responsibility, positive behavior, sportsmanship, commitment, and accountability. Scholar-athletes were encouraged to represent AUS with pride both on and off the court or field while building skills that support their success in school and beyond.

The athletic year concluded with participation in the annual Founders Cup in Youngstown, Ohio, bringing scholars together for a culminating experience centered on competition, teamwork, school spirit, and celebration. The Founders Cup provided scholar-athletes with an opportunity to showcase their growth, represent AUS, and build lasting connections with fellow scholars. AUS will continue to strengthen and expand its athletics program as an important component of scholar engagement, attendance, school culture, wellness, and leadership development, while creating meaningful opportunities for scholars to discover their talents and experience success beyond the classroom.











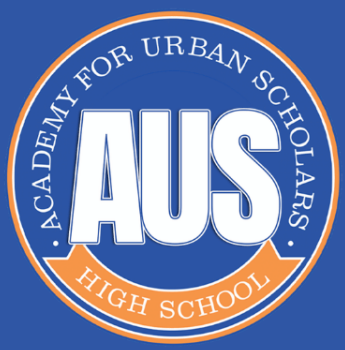
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION







Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) relies on multiple sources of data to evaluate the community school's performance including academic performance on national normed tests and academic scores published by the Department of Education & Workforce on the Local Report Card. In addition, BCHF conducts multiple onsite visits to the school throughout the year to ensure compliance with all Rule and Law, as well as the sponsorship contract. Performance results for the school will be available for the 2025-2026 school year on the BCHF website (www.bchf.org) after November 30, 2026.



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