In 1989, I was inspired to help the motivated, talented youth of Richmond gain the high-quality education and comprehensive support they needed to enter into and succeed in college. A college degree remains one of the most significant enabling events that allows young men and women to participate in the American dream.

Almost thirty years later, about 250 Making Waves youth have graduated from college, with 50 of those earning master’s degrees—a tremendous testament to their determination against the odds.

Seeing the powerful impact of our work, in 2007 we began serving more children in Richmond by opening a public charter school. That year, we welcomed 100 5th graders to the new Making Waves Academy Middle School. Marco was one of those 5th graders. He is now entering his senior year at Macalester College in Minnesota while his younger brother Miguel is beginning his senior year at Making Waves Academy. In 2019, Marco’s parents will attend both high school and college graduation ceremonies for their sons. I am thrilled to see these dreams become realities for Richmond families.

Given our success in college matriculation and graduation, we are significantly expanding our impact in Richmond while exploring the creation of new campuses within Contra Costa County. By 2031, we hope to be serving more than 6,000 students across multiple K-12 campuses while also supporting our graduates through the completion of their college degrees through our college success program, CAP. The opportunity to be a part of a child’s entire educational experience from kindergarten through college is truly a dream come true.

I look forward to the not-so-distant future when I will be sharing a story with you about the college graduation of one of our kindergarteners. Until then, we can delight in the successes of each of our graduates, knowing that with each year, the number of graduates will accelerate. As our students enter the world and share their talents, the impact of Making Waves’ work magnifies and grows at a prodigious rate. Together, let’s continue to help them realize their dreams!

Thank you for being a part of this remarkable work and joining in this national imperative for our most underserved children.

Sincerely,

John H. Scully
Chair and Co-Founder
"I go out into my Latino community and talk to people about the importance of voting. To me, voting is the number one thing that can help us as a community take the first step from being underrepresented," Marco says. "Through doing this work, people have started to see me as a leader, and now I'm starting to see myself as a leader."

Thanks to CAP’s scholarship and financial literacy training, Marco will graduate from college with zero student loan debt. "I don't have to think about getting two jobs after college to pay back loans, instead I have a strong foundation for starting my adult life," he says. Much like his college life, Marco plans to devote his career to nurturing his community and connecting people to the democratic process.

For Marco's parents, they never imagined their eldest son would be so far away, but his dad says that he will be the happiest man on Earth at Marco's college graduation. His parents will also be celebrating Marco’s younger brother’s high school graduation from Making Waves Academy next June.

"I'm so grateful that Making Waves taught me how to be independent and encouraged me to learn about myself. Thanks to my mentors at Making Waves Academy and CAP, I’m ready to go out into the world and make it a better place," Marco says.

"Through doing this work, people have started to see me as a leader, and now I'm starting to see myself as a leader."
Q&A with John Scully and Alicia Malet Klein

A conversation with Making Waves Foundation Chair and Co-Founder, John Scully, and Making Waves Academy Board President, Alicia Malet Klein, about the exciting growth at the Foundation.

Tell us about your commitment to serving the children of Richmond. It’s been almost 30 years!

Alicia: When Making Waves began, Richmond was really a forgotten place—so many children and families were struggling with the obstacles poverty creates. John thought it was unconscionable that suburban students had such rich educational opportunities while students here in Richmond did not. He committed to serving this community, and when John commits, he really commits!

John: There was and continues to be a real need here. By transitioning from an after-school program to a charter school, we have been able to serve many more students. For 11 years, Making Waves Academy has provided an alternative for the beautiful children of Richmond. I am proud of the fact that nearly all of our students commit to college.

We are growing in multiple ways—what is the rationale behind our plans?

Alicia: Every year, many more families enter our lottery than we can serve, so it made sense to grow here in Richmond. Growing will also allow our high school to have a broader array of course offerings, and economies of scale will make us more fiscally sustainable. We then want to replicate our model in another community of need.

John: For many years, we’ve wanted to provide opportunities to more children in Contra Costa County. We saw that families were moving to Pittsburg in search of affordable housing, but the schools there are crowded and there are no charter school options. We aspire to serve those families and provide a brand-new campus with state-of-the-art buildings and academic programs.

Alicia: After that, we’ll expand MWA down to kindergarten in both Richmond and Pittsburg. We’ve been able to achieve incredible outcomes beginning in 5th grade, but we believe that immersing students in our unique culture and supporting their academic and social-emotional development from kindergarten onward will yield even greater results.

John: The national data is clear—a quality school that begins with kindergarten is the best preparation for students to have a strong academic performance that leads to college graduation.

How much greater will our impact be once the full expansion is complete in 2031?

Alicia: We have always talked about being a model to show that the achievement gap can be closed because what it really is is an opportunity gap. Underserved students can do just as well as their counterparts if they have access to a quality education, and MWA’s college matriculation rate has shown this year after year.

John: That’s exactly right. We and others have clearly demonstrated that historically underrepresented children absolutely can excel when they are served by high-quality schools throughout their K-12 experience. It is our privilege to strive to provide precisely that to these remarkable children.

Heather: After that, we’ll expand MWA down to kindergarten in both Richmond and Pittsburg. We’ve been able to achieve incredible outcomes beginning in 5th grade, but we believe that immersing students in our unique culture and supporting their academic and social-emotional development from kindergarten onward will yield even greater results.

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Phase 1 of Construction

Richmond Campus Expansion
Established in 2007, Making Waves Academy (MWA) is a public charter school in Richmond, CA serving 5th-12th graders. MWA rigorously and holistically prepares students to gain acceptance to and graduate from college to ultimately become valuable contributors to the workforce and their communities.

Making Waves Academy students continue to outperform their peers at other public schools across the state of California (CA) as well as the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD).

Making Waves Academy by the Numbers

2017-18 SBAC Scores
11th Grade - English

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2017-18 SBAC Scores
11th Grade - Math

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<td>WCCUSD</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

About 70% of MWA graduates are enrolled in 4-year colleges and universities and about 25% in 2-year colleges.

Senior graduation rate for the 2017-18 school year was 96%.

Approximately 95% of MWA graduates are enrolled in post-secondary schools.

In the 2017-18 school year, 82% of MWA students qualified for free or reduced-priced meals, which is a proxy for low-income status.

Teacher Residency Program

In order to recruit and retain effective teachers to work in MWA classrooms, in the fall of 2017, MWA launched its new Teacher Residency Program. The year-long program follows a gradual release model where teacher residents work in the classroom alongside a mentor teacher while also engaging in robust professional development and receiving financial support to earn their credential. The first resident to complete the program is now teaching 8th grade history at MWA!

“The Teacher Residency Program allows MWA to build our bench of effective teachers.”

Ruth Negash, Director of Teacher Residency Program
Alton B. Nelson, Jr., Ed.M.,
Making Waves Academy CEO

Making Waves Academy has been a huge part of my family’s life. My two older sons graduated from MWA, my daughter is a freshman at MWA, and our youngest son will join next year in 5th grade. I can say with full confidence that MWA is the best school for my family. The teachers are very respectful and challenge the students to be more successful—they don’t let them fall behind, they see their potential and help them reach it.”

Gonzalo, father of four Wave-Makers

What distinguishes MWA is our holistic approach and our focus on college completion. To that end, we provide rigorous academic preparation, social-emotional education, and psychological support. We help students identify their life dream for themselves and support them in making decisions aligned with achieving that dream. Our goal is to develop thoughtful, responsible, and independent thinkers.

Our growing school, our strong community, and our continued success are proof points for what accessible, public education can look like. We look forward to empowering a growing number of students to learn at the highest levels, gain admission to college, graduate, and contribute to society.”

Alton B. Nelson, Jr., Ed.M.
Making Waves Academy CEO

As a parent, I’ve been involved with MWA since my daughter started in the 5th grade and am now serving my second term on the MWA Board of Directors. It is an honor to represent the parents, because for us, MWA gives us the peace of mind knowing that our children are getting a good education and will go to college. I feel like my daughter is learning the tools to succeed in education, to become a good citizen, and to give back to her community.”

Maricela, mother of student in 18th Wave and MWA Board Secretary

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CAP picks up where Making Waves Academy leaves off by supporting each high school graduating class through the successful completion of their college degrees, as quickly and with as little debt as possible. In addition to MWA graduates, CAP works with up to 100 additional graduates each year from high schools across the Bay Area’s nine counties.

This year, CAP is supporting nearly 600 college students from predominately low-income households with one-on-one coaching, financial literacy training, professional development, and need-based scholarships.

90% of CAP college students are on track to graduate within six years. This compares with the national average of just 11% of students from low-income households graduating within six years.

84% of CAP students come from low-income households.

78% of CAP students are the first in their family to attend college.

On average, CAP students needed to borrow no more than $473 in student loans for the 2017-18 academic year, which is 93% less than the national average of $7,270.

“Coaching is not about fixing people. It’s about putting a mirror up to students and letting them see their own greatness.”

Ryan Grady, CAP Senior College Coach
CAP helped me not be afraid to pursue my dreams. As a first-generation college student, in the back of my mind has always been the dreams that my parents had for me. Ultimately, they never had the experience of going to college and graduating with a diploma. Everything I do, I do for them—but CAP reminds me to also pursue my dreams and aspirations—for me.”

Lupita, 2018 graduate of the University of San Francisco, 11th Wave

Lupita is a young woman who has always known what she wants and has pursued that with passion. CAP meets students where they are at while also helping them access their full potential. Our students already have the answers inside of them. As coaches, we are here to facilitate the process of discovering those answers.”

May Melehan, CAP Director of Coaching Services

“Some of our students are the first in their family to have arrived in this country and experienced an educational journey here. Some of our families live in neighborhoods that are extremely challenging in terms of the crime rate and the lack of success that the students are able to see on a daily basis. For our students to enter a college campus and then leave with a college degree, is a game changer—not only for them but for their entire family. It’s a moment of great pride and a change in a family that cannot be measured merely by the paper that their diploma is printed on.”

Melissa Fries
Executive Director, CAP
Fiscal Year 2017-18 Financials

Financial Summary

In Fiscal Year 2018, Making Waves Foundation continued to receive generous donations from a longtime champion of equitable opportunity in education. These seed contributions were put toward the further acquisition of real estate and development of the new Richmond campus with the goal of enabling Making Waves Academy to increase its current capacity and to provide space for new, innovative education programs. While we embark on a multi-million fundraising campaign to complete the build out of the expanded Richmond campus, Making Waves Foundation continues to work towards our ultimate vision of educating over 6,000 historically underserved and underrepresented students through three campuses across Contra Costa County. No public funds have been used to finance MWA’s expansion.

Making Waves Foundation

Board of Directors
Chair & Co-Founder
John H. Scully

Board Members
Ronald A. Cohan
Phil Gordon
Debra Gore-Mann
Dr. Ajani Jackson
Alicia Malet Klein
Ian McGuire
Regina K. Scully
Jonathan Stern
Eli Weinberg
Michael B. Yuen

MWF Senior Leadership Team
Heather N. Davis - Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Fries - Executive Director, CAP
Darcy Heppenstall - Chief Advancement Officer
Steven J. Roth - Chief Operating Officer

CAP
A program of Making Waves Foundation

Executive Director
Melissa Fries

CAP Senior Leadership Team
Ivette Chavez - Director of Financial Services
Ann Helfman - Director of Operations
May Melehan - Director of Coaching Services

Advisory Board
Ronald A. Cohan
Susanne Duca
Dr. Esther Hugo
Ron Nahas
Cindi Nicolas

Making Waves Academy

Board of Directors
Alicia Malet Klein

Board Secretary
Maricela Navarro

Board Members
Chad Eaton
Burak Gursel
Dr. Esther Hugo
Daryle Morgan
Jessica Wind

MWA Senior Leadership Team
Alton B. Nelson, Jr. - Chief Executive Officer
Libby Cole - Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Evangelia Ward-Jackson - Middle School Director
Kimberly Carr - Upper School Director

Revenue & Support

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*Estimated and pending final numbers from FY18 Audit
**MWA expenses are inclusive of Making Waves Academy Schools expenditures
Wave-Maker

Spotlight: Calista

CAP Bay Area, Cohort 2
Sophomore at the University of California at Merced

As the daughter of a farmer in Suisun Valley, Calista grew up in a home heated by a wood-burning fireplace and a TV with two channels. As a result, Calista spent 95% of her time outside. “My siblings and I loved to venture outside and, in light of our family’s financial insecurity, found ways to imagine sticks into swords and cardboard boxes into forts,” she says.

Her time building things outdoors as a child informed her career dream. Supported by CAP, Calista is now in her second year of studying physics at the University of California at Merced. Calista started exploring robotics when she was in high school.

“‘I want to be able to get girls excited about STEM and robotics and to show them that they can succeed in the field.’”

Now, her family has become known as the “robotics family” in her community. “We’ve all gotten involved in robotics, but in different aspects of it. My brother, who is super mechanically-minded, loves doing the design and building projects. My sister doesn’t like the building projects as much—she likes the programming. And then me, I like teaching it,” she says.

Outside of her college studies, Calista volunteers by mentoring robotics students and by teaching a robotics class at her local high school. From early on, she noticed a need for more gender equality in the field. “Even in my high school engineering classes, there were a handful of girls who would slowly trickle out throughout the year—from 15 girls in the beginning to three girls by the end of the year,” she says. “I want to be able to get girls excited about STEM and robotics and to show them that they can succeed in the field.”

As a CAP Bay Area student, Calista has appreciated the support provided by her CAP coach during her transition to UC Merced. “College was something I knew I wanted to do, but I didn’t know if I would be able to afford it, or if I would be able to succeed,” says Calista. “For other students who read this, I want them to know that it doesn’t matter where you come from. If you work hard and are determined, you can succeed.”

Poem excerpt by Ciera-Jevae, 9th Wave