2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

WHO WE SERVE: Over the last 25 years, PENCIL has connected more than 33,000 students to success by building partnerships that bring together business professionals and students across New York City. Through increasing access to internships, mentorships, and school partnership programs, PENCIL has opened eyes, minds and doors for public school students in NYC. In the second year of PENCIL’s strategic growth plan, during the 2019-20 school year and summer, over 1,892 volunteers from 142 businesses served 4,121 students.

Starting in April, all programs were conducted virtually due to the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. PENCIL quickly adapted to the remote environment by offering innovative virtual program models to schools and corporate partners for the remainder of the program year. Over 900 volunteers from 140 businesses served over 1,750 students through 161 virtual sessions.

Student Demographics

- Asian: 23%
- Hispanic: 28%
- Black: 34%
- White: 11%
- Other: 6%

- Male: 36%
- Female: 64%

An estimated 74% of participating students belong to low-income families.

School Year Programs

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: PENCIL-facilitated workshops and experiences create and support ongoing relationships between business partners, school staff, and students to prepare students for college and career success. During the 2019-20 school year, PENCIL conducted 210 partnership program sessions. These sessions included PENCIL’s signature workshops on topics such as networking, interview skills, personal branding, and resumes as well as career panels, sessions led by volunteers to introduce technical skills related to an industry, and special office visits giving students exposure to a professional environment.

1,609 Students

43 Schools

34 Businesses

597 Volunteers

“PENCIL POINTS OF ENGAGEMENT: single day events where volunteers work with students through one or more of PENCIL’s college and career readiness workshops, tailored to highlight unique elements of a company and/or industry. During the 2019-20 school year, PENCIL conducted 17 Points of Engagement connecting 898 students with 257 volunteers.

92% of students agreed that PENCIL helped them develop the skills essential for their growth and success

89% of students agreed that PENCIL connected them to opportunities and experiences they didn’t know about before

82% of students agreed that PENCIL connected them with professionals whom they would not have met otherwise

OPEN SOURCE PROGRAMMING: Open to all students from our partner schools, these virtual sessions filled a gap in instruction during New York City’s transition to distance learning and provided access to corporate volunteers that teachers could not achieve alone. Over 198 volunteers from 32 businesses served 534 students through engaging in 28 open source sessions.

97% of students agreed that the session helped them think about future aspirations

95% of students agreed that the session provided them with a sense of belonging
PENCIL placed 342 students in paid work based experiences and internships. An additional 738 students also received college and career training through PENCIL’s programs. Overall, 620 volunteers from 140 companies participated in 95 virtual events to connect students to success.

82% of students saw improvement in one or more of PENCIL’s indicators of success

97% of students agreed that they have at least one adult in their lives that they can confide in

100% of students agreed that they appreciate when people give them ideas about ways they can improve

97% of students agreed that they see many successful people of different races, ethnicity and cultures

95% of students agreed that the programs achieved all of their objectives

“I am super duper excited that I received an internship because I felt like it was a Godsend. It feels great to be employed, have some sort of income, and gain more professional experience.”

Paola Hernandez, Iona College

Remote Internships

85 INTERNS
16 EVENTS
80 BUSINESSES
356 VOLUNTEERS

Remote interns were placed in positions at companies like DTCC, Bloomberg, Bank Street College and Teach For America. Each intern completed at least 100 hours of remote work and provided employers with support for critical functions such as marketing, program development, content creation, and financial management.

98% of students agreed that they will remain connected to individuals from their organization

97% of students agreed that they believe people really care about them

97% of students agreed that when a task is challenging, they do not give up

Career Explorers

46 EXPLORERS
10 EVENTS
16 BUSINESSES
99 VOLUNTEERS

Our Career Explorers program engaged high school and college participants in a paid work-based learning experience that included mentoring by business volunteers from around the city. Students worked on capstone projects that focused on industries like Real Estate, Law, Community Service, Finance and more.

100% of students agreed that adults introduce them to people who can help them grow

97% of students agreed that someone always stands up for them when they need it

96% of students agreed that they would ask their mentor for a reference

New Visions Summer Career Exploration

85 STUDENTS
15 EVENTS
15 BUSINESSES
78 VOLUNTEERS

Developed in close collaboration with New Visions for Public Schools, the program enabled students to attend career panels and workshops designed to introduce new career paths and build career readiness skills. Over the course of the four-week program, students earned hours and completed tasks that could be applied to graduation requirements.

100% of students agreed that they learned skills that will help them in future employment opportunities

97% of students agreed that they have everything they need to live up to their full potential

96% of students agreed that they feel comfortable speaking to corporate professionals

SYEP Summer Bridge

126 STUDENTS
54 EVENTS
54 BUSINESSES
124 VOLUNTEERS

PENCIL also served students through the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development’s Summer Bridge program, a work-based learning experience designed to provide youth with career development opportunities.

97% of students agreed that they learned about a skill they will use in the future

90% of students agreed that today’s session provided them with a sense of belonging

89% of students agreed that today’s session helped them think about their future aspirations