



135 students in programs. 230 served.

100% high school graduation. 85% college persistence.

STEER
FOR STUDENT ATHLETES



2025 Annual Report



A Note from Our Leadership

As we reflect on the year at STEER, we are deeply grateful for the partners and supporters who make our work possible. The belief in our mission continues to create opportunities for student-athletes to thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and athletically.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share a planned leadership transition approved unanimously by our Board of Directors. Effective January 1st, 2026, Joe will transition from Chief Executive Officer to Founding Partner, focusing on advancement, strategic partnerships, and Board leadership support, while Chris Borsari will become Chief Executive Officer. This thoughtful succession strengthens our leadership while preserving the continuity that has guided STEER's growth.

Together, with the Board's full support, we are energized by what lies ahead and confident in STEER's ability to deepen its impact for students and families.

With appreciation,
Dr. Joe Durney, Founding Partner
Chris Borsari, Chief Executive Officer



Our Mission

STEER provides individualized mentorship, services, and financial support to ensure students thrive academically, develop socially and emotionally, and excel athletically. STEER removes obstacles that inhibit holistic student development and provides alternative positive support; this support allows program participants to develop college and career readiness skills and personal competencies that will empower them to become positive contributors in a global society while improving family and community outcomes.

Our Services

STEER provides support services that include social, academic and athletic assistance to individual student athletes. This enables them to graduate high school, prepare for further education and/or entry into the workforce. The organization achieves these objectives by employing "STEER Advisors" who are responsible for tracking and assessing the needs of the selected student athletes.



Our Impact

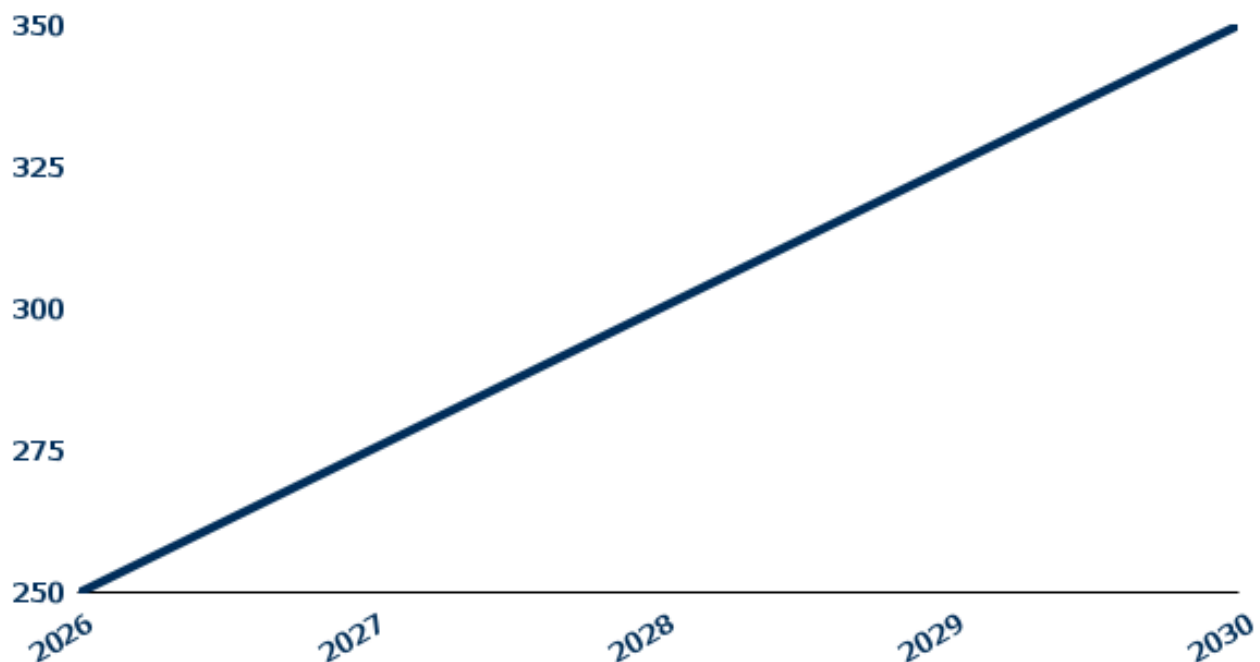
This year, we successfully scaled our support to over 225 students, achieving our goal established nearly 5 years ago. Over the past 5 years, we've expanded from three schools to five and reached more youth in more communities. This growth was made possible by a team of over 30 dedicated part-time advisors providing personalized one-on-one mentorship to every student. Despite rapid expansion, we sustained a 100% high school graduation rate and college acceptance rate. We also extended support to students in higher education, where they are persisting at a rate of 85%, outperforming similar peers by eight times. Through strategic scaling, strong mentorship, and continuous support, we have demonstrated the power of holistic youth development in preparing students to succeed academically, socially, and personally.



Our Next Chapter

Looking ahead to 2030, we aim to **extend and expand our support to students more than ever before**, unlocking their full potential while amplifying our impact. **By 2030, we plan to serve over 350 students across high school, college, and beyond.** We will scale up our college and career services, **ensuring students have the guidance and resources** they need to succeed in higher education and future careers. At the same time, we will **identify and expand into new communities and markets**, reaching **more youth** and **creating lasting opportunities** for success. Our growth journey continues, and we are ready to make **the next chapter our most impactful yet.**

STUDENTS SERVED PER YEAR





STEER
FOR STUDENT ATHLETES



High School Program Overview



High School Program Overview

Our High School Program provides **individualized mentorship, comprehensive services**, and financial support to underserved, at-risk student-athletes from grades 7 through 12. The program **fosters holistic youth development** through tailored academic assistance, athletic training, health and wellness education, and career readiness. **Students work with experienced advisors to create Individual Support Plans (ISPs)**, which address specific goals, ensuring that they stay on track academically, emotionally, and socially. The program boasts a **100% high school graduation and college-acceptance rate, with 95% college enrollment.**





High School Programs

Bruce Beck Sports Broadcasting Camp

Two Yonkers students, Pierre Tervil and Jayden Camacho, expanded their horizons this summer by attending the Bruce Beck Sports Broadcasting Camp. Through **hands on training with professional broadcasters**, they strengthened their communication skills and **explored career pathways** in sports media, reflecting their commitment to **leadership, confidence**, and growth beyond athletics.

Academies by Harvard Student Agencies

This summer, four students from Port Chester High School and two students from the Charter School of Educational Excellence engaged in the Academies by Harvard Student Agencies, which **connected them to Harvard-quality exploratory courses**, building collaboration with peers worldwide, and **enhancing their confidence** in navigating future pathways.





High School Programs

Peak Mental Game

In 2025, STEER's Peak Mental Game (PMG) program served 90+ students, helping them build critical mental skills such as **resilience, composure, concentration, confidence**, and delayed gratification. Dr. Hector Morales-Negron hosted in-person events which deepened student engagement and elevated the focus on mental performance across all STEER sites. **Advisors reported notable improvements in students' focus and confidence**, reinforcing PMG's impact as a cornerstone of STEER's holistic student development model.





High School Programs

Project Based Learning Program

Led by Alison Fasano, the Project Based Learning program engaged STEER students in a collaborative initiative **addressing food insecurity**. Through **real-world projects** and **peer mentorship**, students **built leadership skills**, **completed community** service hours, and demonstrated **civic engagement**. College-bound leaders and underclassmen received scholarships in recognition of their contributions.

Work Based Learning Program

Led by Chaquon Jones, STEER's Work Based Learning Program provides students with hands-on experiences through **internships, job shadowing, and mentorship opportunities**. By partnering with local businesses and organizations, students **develop professional skills, explore diverse career paths**, and build **confidence** as they prepare to transition from school to the workforce.





High School Success Stories:

Sports Highlight Reel

STEER student **Brayden Richardson** has committed to the **University of Rhode Island**, capping a standout high school career in which he rushed for **2,418 yards and scored 42 total touchdowns**. A powerful downhill runner and consistent offensive force, Brayden played a **key role in leading Sleepy Hollow to a Class B Championship** and a state final appearance. His commitment to URI marks an exciting next step.



STEER student **Ray Jones** made history as the first **1,000 point scorer** at the **Charter School of Educational Excellence** in Yonkers. A 4-year captain and leader of the boys varsity basketball team, **Ray demonstrated dedication, leadership, and consistency** on and off the court. His milestone achievement reflects years of **hard work** and sets a new **standard for excellence**, embodying the values STEER seeks to develop in students.



High School Success Stories:

Collective Impact in Yonkers

Through a collaboration with Eastern FC and U.S. Soccer, STEER provided CSEE high school students with the opportunity to take on **leadership roles** within their community. They **completed coaching certification programs** and gained valuable, hands-on experience by guiding, refereeing, and supporting younger athletes. These experiences not only **helped students discover new interests and potential career paths** in sports leadership and youth development, but also enabled them to **make a lasting impact** showing younger players what it means to lead.





High School Success Stories:

Class B Champions in Sleepy Hollow

Six STEER student athletes Brandoll Almonte, Jeremiah Bowen, Brayden Richardson, Thomas Hudson, Abel Perez Rosario, and Gilbert Onwe **played a central role** in the Sleepy Hollow Horsemen's historic Section 1 Class B Championship run this fall. After decades without a sectional title, the **Horsemen delivered a season defined by toughness, discipline, and heart**, energizing the entire community and marking one of the most memorable championship runs in program history. **Through their leadership, focus, and commitment** on and off the field, these six student athletes **helped build the championship culture** that drove the Horsemen to success.





STEER
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College & Career Pathways Program Overview



College & Career Pathways Program Overview

The College & Career Pathways Program is STEER's comprehensive postsecondary success initiative designed to **elevate at-promise, first-generation students** as they transition from high school into college, careers, military service, or vocational training—and persist through young adulthood.

The program fosters **personal growth, academic success, and professional development** through a highly **individualized approach** that recognizes and responds to the unique strengths, needs, and aspirations of each student. By prioritizing both **college persistence** and **career readiness**, the program ensures students are supported not only in accessing opportunities, but in sustaining success over time.

To get involved, please contact Astrid Vargas, Director of College & Alumni Engagement, avargas@steerforstudentathletes.org, who can connect you directly with students eager to learn from professionals like you.



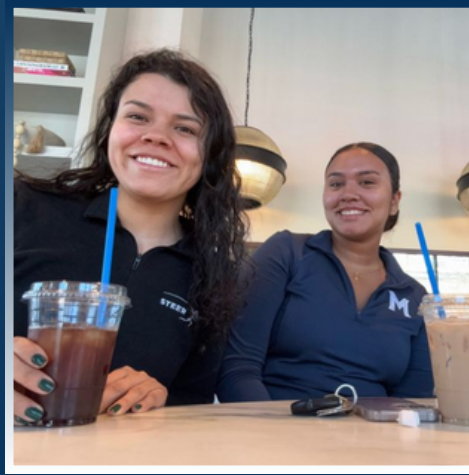
College Programs

College Transition Program

The College Transition Program helps first-year students **successfully navigate the transition to college** through **peer-led sessions on time management, study skills, and campus networking**. The program also featured STEER's first Career Networking Fair, **connecting students to alumni and professionals** and reinforcing a strong, **supportive community** during this critical transition.

Near Peer Mentoring

The Near Peer Mentoring Program connects STEER students across college years through regular, informal meet-ups at their respective campuses. These **near-peer "pods" foster mentorship, belonging, and mutual support**, with the largest group at Mercy University and additional pods at Syracuse University at Albany, Sacred Heart University, and Iona University.





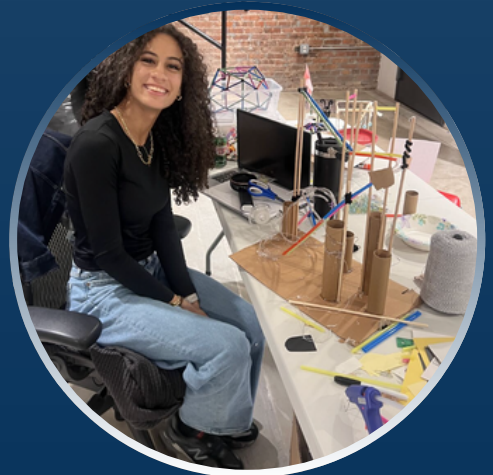
College Programs

Summer Internship Program

The Summer Internship Program connects students to meaningful, **career-building summer internships** through STEER's professional network. The program **prioritizes paid opportunities** and **provides financial scholarships** when internships are unpaid, ensuring all students can **gain valuable professional experience** regardless of financial barriers.

Wellness Support Program

The Wellness Support Program **promotes college student well-being** through **positive psychology-based coaching** that builds **mindfulness, resilience,** and effective **copng skills**. The program supports students' **personal growth and mental wellness** as they navigate academic and life challenges, with financial scholarships available to reduce participation barriers.



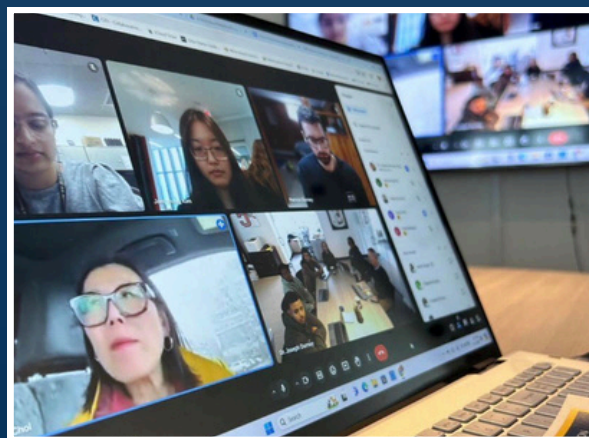


College Success Stories: University of Michigan Partnership

In 2025, STEER partnered with the University of Michigan on a collegiate wellness research initiative that **combined technology, coaching, and positive psychology**. Thirty STEER students participated in a study examining the **relationship between sleep, physical activity, and mood** using Fitbit data alongside a digital positive psychology app and human coaching.

This collaboration reflects STEER's commitment to **evidence-informed, student-centered programming**. By involving students in a randomized controlled trial, STEER **enhanced wellness supports while contributing to research advancing mental health interventions for college students**. Findings will be presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting 2026, under the abstract "Meeting Exploratory Analysis of Sleep, Steps, and Mood in College Students Using Fitbit Data Across a Positive Psychology Digital App plus Human Coaching Randomized Controlled Trial."

This partnership highlights STEER's **creativity and responsiveness** in leveraging external **collaborations to strengthen student outcomes** and support collegiate mental health.





Career Support Programs

Networking Events

STEER's Networking Events **connect students and alumni** with professionals across **diverse fields**, including **finance, healthcare, business, and public service**. Through structured events and one-on-one networking opportunities, students build social capital, **expand career connections**, and gain insight into potential professional pathways.

Vocational Education Support

The Vocational Education Support program **guides students pursuing trade careers**, including carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and HVAC. STEER provides **mentorship, hands-on guidance, and connections to industry professionals**, helping students gain the skills, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in technical and vocational careers.





Career Support Programs

Employment Support

STEER's Employment Support Program helps students entering the workforce after high school **navigate career pathways in various industries**, from customer service to hospitality and beyond. Through **individualized coaching, mentorship**, and access to **job placements**, students gain professional skills, work experience, and the guidance needed to launch sustainable careers.

Military Pathways

STEER supports students pursuing service in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force. STEER **provides personalized mentorship**, one-on-one coaching, and **connections** to military professionals, helping students explore **opportunities**, prepare for enlistment, and navigate career pathways within the armed services.





Get Involved

There are many ways you can join us to empower youth to change the world. Click links below to learn more about how to get involved!

1. Donate to the [350 by 2030 Campaign](#)
2. [Sponsor a program or event](#)
3. Become a [STEER Ambassador](#)
4. Donate to the [Byron Womack Scholarship Fund](#) or the [Jane A. Eck Scholarship Fund](#)
5. Donate your time or expertise by contacting Chris Borsari, at cborsari@steerforstudentathletes.org.

Donate today by scanning below!

