



<https://rise4realchange.org/>

Leadership Team:

RT Co-Directors

Industry: Educational/Mentorship

Organization Members: 100 mentors and 250 K-12 students

Date of Incorporation: 07/2017

Advisors: RT Board of Directors, UVA Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Curry School of Education, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, Office of the Dean of Students

Organizational Status: 501(c)(3)

Primary Financing to Date:

Parents Fund: \$10,000

Student Activities Fee: \$480

Jefferson Trust (HFL): \$10,479

CACF Grants: \$10,000

The Seven Society (HFL): \$1,777.77

Fundraisers: \$500

Donations and Sponsorships: \$7,000

Financing Sought: \$5,000.00

Use of Funds:

Support for RT MOCHA program, including mentoring session supplies, food/snacks, mental health kits, and 2 full-day student-led service projects

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Vision Statement: Rise Together (RT) envisions a society where all first-generation (first-gen) and/or low-income students have the resources, opportunities and guidance needed to fulfill their postsecondary potential.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to ensure that all young adults have access to personalized support that will enable them to determine their own path in life. RT strives to lessen barriers first-gen college-bound high and middle school Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students face to postsecondary attainment by equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in college. We provide targeted, culturally responsive, and adaptive mentoring, tutoring, and immersive college experiences that promote postsecondary readiness.

The Problem: AVID, a nationwide elective, offers college guidance and academic support to middle-range, first-gen, low-income students. Yet, of the 93% of AVID students interested in attending college, only 42% feel prepared to do so. *Our cohort is 90% first-gen, 63% low-income, and 93% people of color, resulting in limited access to college guidance and mentorship.* In turn, nationally only $\frac{1}{4}$ first-generation students attend 4-year colleges and $\frac{1}{3}$ drop out after 3 years. RT supports teachers in empowering motivated and diverse AVID cohorts to break through these barriers and thrive.

Four Pillars of Comprehensive Programming:

I. Mentoring Sessions (3x/Month): Teams of 10-12 trained UVA mentors, who are predominately first-gen, low-income students, implement mentoring sessions for AVID cohorts. Mentoring sessions offer peer-to-peer and culturally responsive social-emotional learning and college/career readiness.

II. Student-Led Service Projects (2x/year): Students design and implement full-day service learning projects that promote civic engagement and build soft skills (i.e. public speaking, leadership, collaboration, compromise and communication).

III. Immersive UVA Visits (1x/year): RT's leverage partner, Hoos First Look (HFL), implements a 3-day immersive UVA visit for our 9-11th grade students.

IV. Mentor Training (1x/month): Mentors participate in hour-long training sessions on Grounds under the guidance of RT's licensed school counselor to critically evaluate performance during mentoring sessions, participate in skill development training, and design culturally responsive mentoring session agendas.

Partnerships:

- HFL: Provides immersive college visits.
- School partners: we serve AVID cohorts at Charlottesville High School and Walton Middle School (200+ students), giving 20+ educators the responsive support needed to exceed AVID, national, and state education mandates.
- UVA: This year, we provided professional development, leadership opportunities, and training for nearly 150 student mentors.

Distinguishing Features:

- Serves two key stakeholders (public schools and universities), diversifying potential sources of funding.
- Team mentoring program that operates during AVID class time and offers continuous training and support for UVA mentors.
- Provides UVA with a pipeline of first-gen, low-income students.
- Multifaceted, adaptive and targeted programming that includes experiential learning and immersive college experiences.
- Peer-to-peer mentoring and culturally responsive lessons.
- Ability to scale using virtual training and affiliation fees to access out curriculum to drive down costs.

As a result of being exposed to only half a year of our program due to COVID-19, AVID students we serve are 13% more likely to feel confident in their ability to attend a four-year college than similar AVID students RT does not serve.