

# 2019-2020



**TULSA HONOR ACADEMY**  
...ACADEMICS • CHARACTER • EXCELLENCE...

# ANNUAL REPORT

**WORK HARD.  
DREAM BIG.  
SHOW HONOR.**





# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Tulsa Honor Academy,

On behalf of the THA Familia - our scholars, families, staff, board members, and volunteers - we are proud to share the results of another academic school year.

The 2019-2020 school year was like no other; it was a year of change for the THA Familia (and not just due to the pandemic). We had the privilege of serving 513 scholars in grades 5-9, once again serving more scholars than ever before.

It was the first year of the THA High School, which meant that the original founding 5th grade class now became the founding 9th grade class. While we worked on securing a permanent facility, the THA High School operated in a portable building this year.

It was also a turning point for the THA Middle School. We no longer were adding grades to the school. For the first time, we could focus not on growing the school but rather solely on strengthening it.

As Spring Break neared, we were on track to reach exceptional academic gains. Staff and scholars were excitedly preparing for state testing and various end of year assessments. Most importantly, they were preparing to celebrate the academic growth seen in the 2019-2020 school year. And then...COVID-19 hit. Like all schools across the world, we were forced to evolve rapidly to meet the safety demands of the evolving pandemic. We had to prioritize shifting our practices to distance learning, and we worked hard to provide the essentials for scholars such as technology and food. Nonetheless, our scholars' learning and growth was still and has always been of utmost importance. Thus, throughout the last quarter of the year, our team worked tirelessly to provide rigorous academic instruction and learning opportunities despite the potential barrier.

As stated, this was a year of change for THA the Familia, and we could not be prouder of the growth we've made and the challenges we've overcome. None of this would be possible without the support of our Familia and our partners. Your unwavering commitment, your generous support, and your belief in us enables us to continue to provide an excellent education and greater life opportunities for hundreds of scholars across Tulsa. On behalf of the entire THA Familia, we would like to say, ¡gracias!

Elsie Urueta Pollock  
Founder and Executive Director

# ONE MISSION ONE VISION



Our mission is to equip all scholars with the academic skills, content knowledge and ethical character required for college graduation and life success.

Our vision at Tulsa Honor Academy is to develop successful college graduates who will become well-rounded, engaged individuals, who will transform their communities. Tulsa Honor Academy ensures that 100% of scholars are on a path to go to and graduate from a college of their choice, beginning in the fifth grade. We believe all scholars, regardless of race, background, income or ability level, can achieve at high levels.

# A TIMELINE OF SUCCESS

## YEAR ONE 2015-2016

THA opens its doors with 92 5th Grade scholars

**Aug. 2015**

Moved into Eastside Academy Building



## YEAR THREE 2017-2018

THA serves 307 scholars in grades 5-7



**Sept. 2014**  
THA Charter approved by TPS Board



## YEAR TWO 2016-2017

THA serves 206 scholars in grades 5-6

**June 2018**

Moved into Burbank Elementary Building



## YEAR FOUR 2018-2019

THA serves 413 scholars in grades 5-8

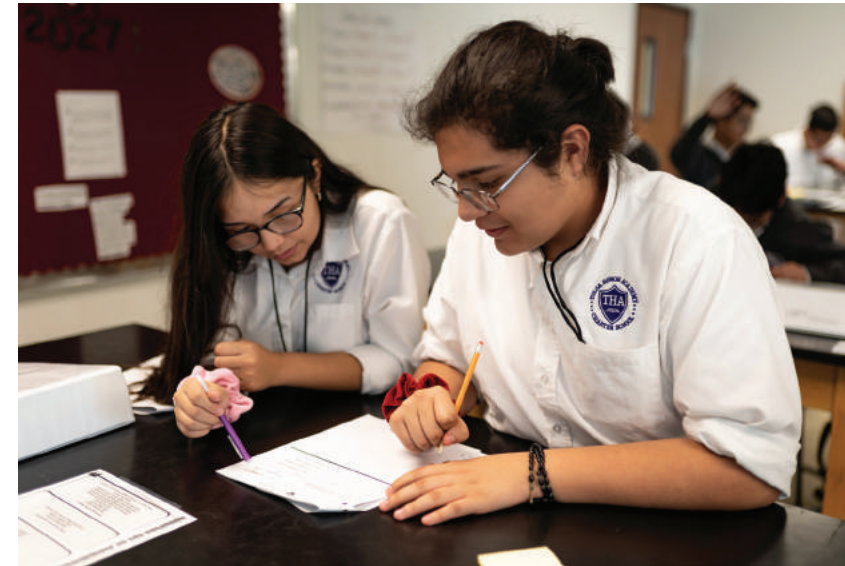
**Dec. 2018**

THA High School Expansion approved by TPS Board

# OUR FUTURE



## YEAR FIVE 2019-2020



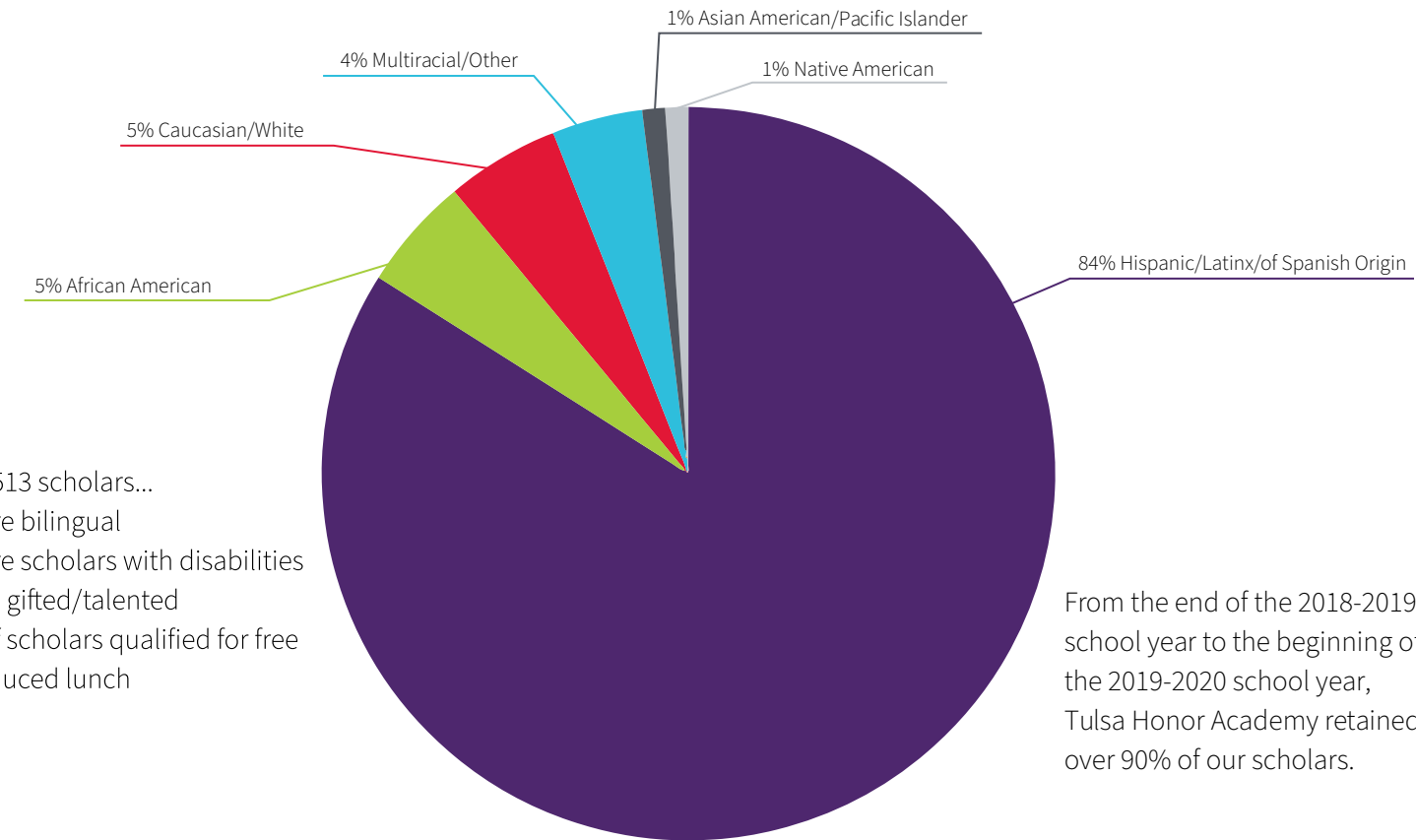
## 513 SCHOLARS IN GRADES 5-9

- Tulsa Honor Academy High School opened its doors and began serving its first class of ninth graders.
- Tulsa Honor Academy launched a capital campaign in March 2020 in order to secure a permanent facility. THA purchased and began Phase I of construction on the former Pennwell Corp. building (located at 15th and Sheridan).
- Two Tulsa Honor Academy scholars were selected as Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars semifinalists. JKCF Young Scholars is a selective, five-year, pre-college scholarship program.
- Tulsa Honor Academy Middle and High School scholars achieved a 97% attendance rate this school year.
- Founder and Executive Director, Elsie Urueta Pollock, was selected as the inaugural winner of Teach For America Greater Tulsa's Lynn Schusterman Award for Excellence in recognition of her vision for equity, investment in relationships and commitment to place.
- THA 9th grader, Nathalia, won first place in the Oklahoma Bar Association Law Day Contest for her essay about the Women's Suffrage movement.

# OUR SCHOLARS



## DEMOGRAPHICS



Of our 513 scholars...

- 75% are bilingual
- 16% are scholars with disabilities
- 8% are gifted/talented
- 95% of scholars qualified for free and reduced lunch

From the end of the 2018-2019 school year to the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, Tulsa Honor Academy retained over 90% of our scholars.

# THE NERDY KNIGHT PERSPECTIVE

“What I like best about THA is the family we have. THA hires teachers and staff members that not only support each scholar academically but also personally. THA teachers make learning fun by connecting material to the real world.”

“I love that the teachers are invested in the scholars and don't see us as a whole group. To every teacher we are an individual with separate needs from our peers. Additionally, I enjoy the atmosphere of the classrooms. Classes have control and an end goal.”

“What I like best about THA is the way they prepare us to become better students everyday. I believe that it is important that we do our best everyday and we show what we know by working hard.”

“The best thing I like about THA is the people in it. Two things that THA does well are help students succeed in school and provide a comfortable environment for their students.”

“What I like most about THA is that teachers and the staff make the environment around us feel safe, and they are always looking out for us and our well being.”



## EXTRACURRICULARS

As Tulsa Honor Academy grows, our extracurricular offerings continue to expand. This year, THA offered:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Spirit Squad
- Student Council
- Board Game Club
- Debate
- Tulsa Changemakers
- Science Club
- GSA
- Newspaper Club
- Cooking Club

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many extracurricular activities were provided virtually, including sports.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

One component of Tulsa Honor Academy's broader vision for scholar success is to graduate scholars who live a life of excellence. We believe that excellence is achieved not only when you help yourself, but also when you serve the greater community.

**1,339.75** COMMUNITY SERVICE  
HOURS COMPLETED

# OUR FAMILIES



## FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

At Tulsa Honor Academy, we deeply believe that parents are our partners. In order to support the success of our scholars, we partner with families in a variety of ways. This year, we hosted monthly Family University Nights, quarterly Report Card Pick Ups, and many Oklahoma's Promise "Knights." Families also support THA through volunteering at extracurriculars, supporting scholar events and even helping us move into our temporary high school building.

**96.7%** OF FAMILIES WOULD RECOMMEND THA TO ANOTHER FAMILY

## OUR STAFF



**56 TEAM MEMBERS**

**35.7% IDENTIFY AS  
PEOPLE OF COLOR**

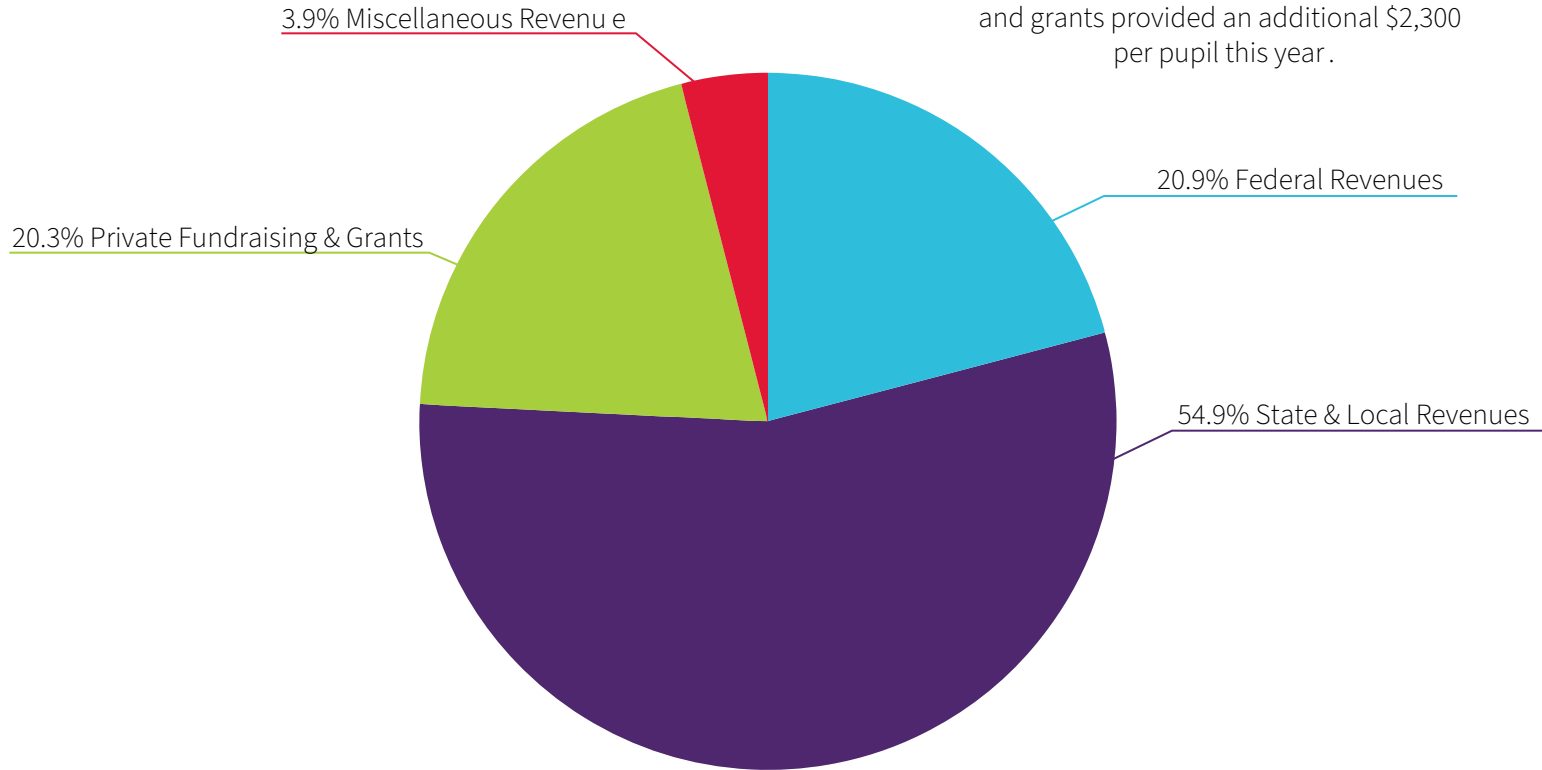
**92.7%**  
AGREE WITH  
“MY SUPERVISOR  
OR SOMEONE AT  
WORK CARES FOR  
ME AS A PERSON.”

**98.5%**  
AGREE WITH  
“THE MISSION OR  
PURPOSE OF THA  
MAKES ME FEEL  
LIKE MY JOB IS  
IMPORTANT”

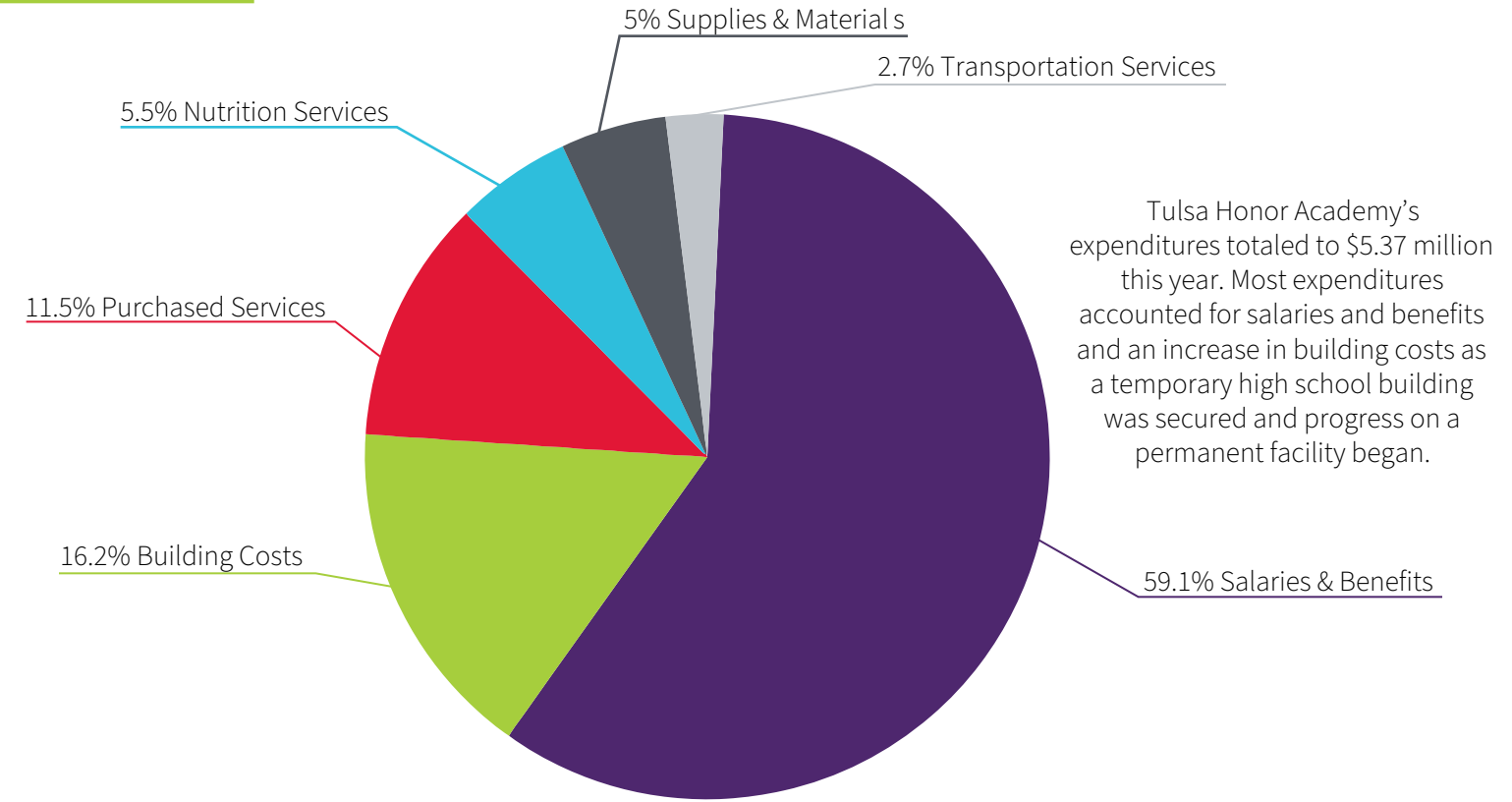
**94.1%**  
AGREE WITH  
“IN THE LAST YEAR,  
I HAVE HAD  
OPPORTUNITIES TO  
LEARN AND GROW.”

The staff agreement data points are an average from Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 staff surveys. Quarter 3 data is unavailable due to COVID-19.

# FINANCIAL REVENUES



# FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES



# OUR RESILIENCE



## PANDEMIC RESPONSE



**CHROMEBOOKS PROVIDED  
TO ALL SCHOLARS**



**HOTSPOTS PROVIDED  
TO ALL SCHOLARS WITH  
HOME INTERNET NEED**




**PROVIDED 7 DAYS OF  
MEALS EACH WEEK TO  
ANY CHILD UNDER 18**

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools across the country in March of 2020, Tulsa Honor Academy quickly adjusted systems and structures to support a virtual learning experience. THA remained committed to keeping the THA Familia and our broader community safe, while providing the supports necessary to continue promoting the academic growth and mental wellbeing of our scholars.

While we were on track to see an average of 2 years of academic growth at our Middle School and many gains on the ACT at our High School, these metrics were eliminated in response to the pandemic.

THA scholars, staff and families displayed great resiliency through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

A photograph of Ms. Bland, a woman with long brown hair, smiling and standing in a classroom. She is wearing a purple cardigan over a white shirt. The classroom has rows of desks and chairs, and a whiteboard is visible in the background.

# 2019-2020 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Ms. Bland, THA's 8th grade science teacher, believes education provides access to opportunity. Ms. Bland says, "Our scholars are complex individuals who want to make an impact on the world around them, and through education, we can not only provide them with foundational knowledge, skills, and tools to access opportunity. We can also connect with them in order to communicate they deserve them and are capable of taking advantage of these opportunities."

## MS. BLAND'S NOMINATION

"This teacher is incredibly dedicated to her scholars. She goes above and beyond for them and her data speaks for itself. She shows so much joy and passion for her subject, and that transfers to her students as well. She is able to support so many different learning styles and creative assignments for her scholars to foster their learning, while also using tools to help her teaching become stronger and more effective."



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*A supporting organization of Tulsa Community Foundation*

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