

## Thank you for joining ACE as we face new challenges together

Now, more than ever, you play an important role in the lives of young people who benefit from ACE. Thanks to your generosity, our partners and community members are engaged to provide the resources our students need for success in college and beyond.

On June 30, 2023, the US Supreme Court ruled that universities cannot use race as a factor in the admissions process, effectively stalling decades of progress



and educational opportunities for under-represented students.

ACE is meeting this challenge by continuing to create a pathway through education for students from marginalized communities. **Because of your commitment,**

**students in our communities use the knowledge, skills, and character they develop to break down systems that work against them,** and to achieve the desired outcomes they envision for their lives, to become beacons of light for succeeding generations.

The work ahead of us may be daunting, but **we are grateful for your support that builds hope and actions to fight against injustice.** With you, we are not discouraged or deterred from pursuing what is rightfully theirs – equal access to educational opportunities, wealth, and justice for all.

*Thank you.*



*Lorita B. Williams*  
ACE Founder and CEO

## You change the future of our communities

ACE welcomes our first alumni board member, Samantha



Espinosa Bedoya! Samantha is a 2023 graduate of the ACE program, bringing a key perspective to

ACE as the organization grows to serve more students in our communities.

**Her dedication to building her own dreams as well as**

**helping colleagues through the college experience was only made possible because of your support.**

Samantha received a BA from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA in May.

With a double major in Economics and Psychology (cumulative GPA of 3.3), Samantha recently accepted a position with Citizens Bank in their Boston office as an Associate in their Commercial

Banker Development Program. **Thank you for investing in our future leaders like Samantha.**

In addition to her academic and professional achievements, Samantha is bilingual in English and Spanish, enjoys rollerblading by the Charles River, and visiting her family in Colombia. Samantha is also a dedicated mentor for African Community Education, supporting African refugees and immigrants in the Worcester community.

# Legacy gifts enable students to thrive

ACE is proud to offer two scholarships this year to help students with supplemental expenses while attending college.

**The Stephanie Deitzer Memorial Scholarship was established in 2022 by Stephanie's husband James in honor of her service and commitment to youth.**

Stephanie was committed to helping those in our community who are underserved. She volunteered with organizations, including KaBoom!, the United Way, the Boston Living Center, Rosie's Place, and the Goodwill Good Guides program. In 2012 Stephanie became a board member of ACE. Her deep commitment to the advancement of marginalized young



women and men was invaluable.

The first recipients of the \$1,000 Memorial scholarship are Briana Vilme (a student at Bunker Hill Community College) and Marcus Bianca Coutinho (a junior at Suffolk University majoring in Finance and Management).

For many of our students, staying in college is a tightrope walk of balancing scholastic work and working two to three part-time jobs.

Stephanie's memorial scholarship fund will allow them to purchase books, take an extra course, or go toward living expenses to help them stay in school.

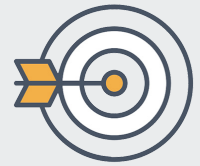
**We miss Stephanie and are deeply honored to be a part of her legacy.**

To learn more about continuing your support of student college success with a gift in your will, or establishing a scholarship, email Lorita Williams: [lorita@acecoaches.org](mailto:lorita@acecoaches.org)

## Coffee builds confidence!

You love coffee and ACE! Many of you participated in our 90-day Coffee Challenge to become monthly donors for the amount you would spend on a cup of coffee. THANK YOU! The donor-inspired challenge provided \$5,500 toward our summer program that now includes both Junior and Senior High School students who are seeking important tools to realize their dreams.

## By the numbers



# 82.3%

of ACE students graduate from college with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above

# 29

# of new high-school juniors and seniors welcomed into the program in 2023



Of the

## 23 ACE students

who graduated in 2022:

1 graduated in 3 years

17 graduated in 4 years

5 graduated in 5 years

