



From the Director

"WE'RE BACK!" IS THE EXCITED SENTIMENT I KEPT HEARING REPEATED by scholars, families and staff throughout our 2022 summer residential program. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, Elon Academy returned to hosting a multi-week residential summer experience and it felt great! For the past two years, just like most nonprofits and educational entities, the Elon Academy has faced unprecedented challenge. However, it feels like we are finally coming out on the other side. The grins of excitement, echoing laughter and happy faces during our summer program were a welcome sight and a sign of Elon Academy rising again like the Phoenix.

In May 2022 we accepted our 16th cohort, the Rho Class. Made up of 27 students, this ties as the largest cohort ever accepted into the Elon Academy. Given our track record of college admission and graduation, we are confident that these students are well on their way to realizing their dreams of earning a college degree.

In June 2022, I was honored to be named the new director of the Elon Academy. For the past 11 years, I have served as an assistant director and then associate director of the Elon Academy. I owe an immense thanks to our previous director, Terry Tomasek, and our founding director, Deborah Long. The leadership they provided has allowed Elon Academy to be known as a national model of a highly impactful college access and success program for local low-income and/or first-generation high school students. As someone born and raised in Alamance County and as a former classroom teacher in Alamance County's public schools, I care deeply about educational access and the future of our community. I look forward to serving our community as the third director of the Elon Academy.

In this report, you will see impressive statistics and read stories of success from the scholars in our program. The Elon Academy relies on the generosity of our donors. We thank you for your continued support. Together, we will continue to raise funds and work toward a full endowment to support deserving and hard-working youth in Alamance County who aspire toward a college degree.

With deep gratitude,

John Pickett

DIRECTOR OF THE ELON ACADEMY

Our Mission

Alamance County high school students toward achieving a college degree. All Elon Academy scholars face a significant financial barrier to accessing college and/or will be the first in their family to earn a four-year college degree. The majority of Elon Academy scholars fit both descriptors. Elon Academy provides opportunities, support, guidance and information for scholars and families starting in ninth grade and continuing through college degree attainment, or as we like to say, "To and Through College!"



Together, we are changing these statistics ...

18%

of children in Alamance County live below the poverty line (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2020) 13%

of Alamance County adults have less than a high school degree (U.S. Census Bureau) 1 in 4

adults in Alamance County have earned a bachelor's degree (U.S. Census Bureau) 90%

of low-income, firstgeneration students will not graduate college within six years (Education Advisory Board, 2019)

Phase 1 by the numbers

65

high school students from Alamance County high schools

60%

of families served fall below the median income for Alamance County

97%

will be the first in their family to graduate with a four-year college degree

100%

of scholars enroll in honors, advanced placement and/or dual enrollment courses

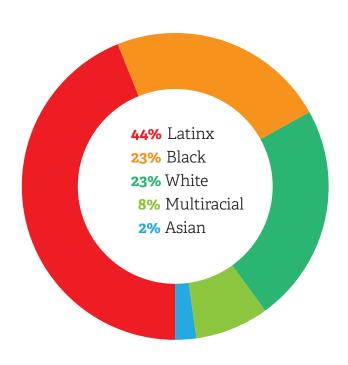
The Three Phases of the Elon Academy

The Elon Academy is a seven-year (or more) partnership between scholars, families and Elon Academy staff.

Phase 1: College Access (9th-12th grade)

Phase 2: Transitions to College (summer after high school)

Phase 3: College Success (undergraduate and graduate years)





Class of 2022 Snapshot: Xi Scholars

i scholars received a total of \$1,498,995 in scholarships and grants from their prospective institutions. They earned 106 college acceptances from 37 schools. Two scholars will be attending historically Black colleges and two scholars were accepted into the honors program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We are also delighted to share that four scholars will be attending Elon as Odyssey Program scholars.

Elon Academy has now been in existence for 16 years and 100% of our scholars who complete the program's high school phase have been accepted to college!



100%

of Elon Academy's current college-aged scholars are on track to graduate

Elon Academy College Graduates (cumulative)

Prior to 2019 **88**

2019-2020: **99**

2020-2021: **112**

Elon Academy & The Ivy League

Since our last annual report, two scholars have graduated high school and gained admission to Ivy League schools. Amber Zettle graduated from Southern Alamance High School in 2021 and is in year two at Yale University. Rebekah Choi graduated from the North Carolina School of Science & Math in 2022 and is now attending Princeton University. Prior to attending NCSSM, Rebekah attended Williams High School for two years.

Lives Transformed



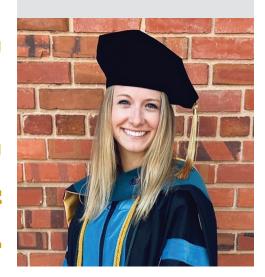
BRADLEY LAUCK Kappa Scholar

In May, Bradley Lauck graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in exercise science with minors in chemistry and military science and leadership. While there, Bradley joined the Army ROTC as a sophomore and is now accepting a commission as a second lieutenant in the North Carolina National Guard. Bradley was also awarded a competitive research fellowship, completed an undergraduate honors thesis and was nominated as one of the top seniors in his department.

"I cannot express the deep appreciation

I have for the Elon Academy staff, summer faculty and donors who have made all this possible," Bradley says. "Elon Academy helped me become the first individual in my family to graduate high school, and then college. I owe an immense portion of my success to the Elon Academy."

Bradley is now in the process of applying to medical school. During the Elon Academy 2022 Summer Residential Program, Bradley led a Q&A session with scholars about what being a pre-med student entails and the steps to apply for medical school.



JESSICA JUDY Eta Scholar

- 2015 Graduate of River Mill Academy
- 2019 Graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2022 Graduate of Wingate University
 Jessica Judy graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in 2019 with a bachelor's
 degree in psychology and human
 development and family studies. In
 May 2022 she earned a doctorate degree
 in occupational therapy from Wingate
 University.

"As an Elon Academy Scholar, I was provided with a constant support system to offer me encouragement and guidance," Jessica says. "I will always be thankful for the Elon Academy in playing a part in my successes and giving me so many memorable experiences."

Jessica is starting her first job as a pediatric occupational therapist at Kid Sense Therapy in Raleigh. She is excited to enter into this profession to help make a difference in the lives of children each day.

ANGEL SCALES Epsilon Scholar

- 2014 Graduate of Southern Alamance High School
- 2017 Graduate of Wake Forest University
- 2022 Graduate of Georgetown University

In May, Angel Scales graduated from Georgetown Law School. She spent the summer of 2022 studying for the Washington, D.C. bar exam and then began practicing immigration law as an associate attorney with Ogletree Deakins.

"Elon Academy provided me with the information I needed to make the best decision about where to go to college as well as how to afford it," Angel says. "Through summer classes and activities with my cohort, Elon Academy also helped me develop the skills I needed to be successful in college. Looking back, Elon Academy truly laid the foundation for my future, and I have since been able to graduate college as the first in my family, get my law degree from a top university and secure a professional position in the legal field."





Full Circle Mentor

N FALL 2021, AN ELON ACADEMY SCHOLAR was able to return to the program in a new and unprecedented way. Martha Lopez Lavias graduated from Graham High School in 2017 and later graduated from Georgetown University in 2021. That fall, she began the Master of Arts in Higher Education program at Elon University. This allowed Martha to return to the Elon Academy in a new role — that of a mentor and instructor to our high school juniors.

Martha planned Saturday Program workshops and taught our college planning course in the 2022 Summer Program. Our scholars have benefited tremendously from having the guidance of Martha, someone who has epitomized what it means to be

an Elon Academy scholar. We look forward to future opportunities for Elon Academy college graduates to have such "full circle" moments!

"The experience of working with the Elon Academy team over the past year was transformative," Martha says. "I had the opportunity to work with bright, talented students and learned how the program operated behind the scenes. I not only grew as a professional but also strengthened my relationships with EA staff — all of whom greatly contributed to my college success."

Fiscal Year 2022

DONORS

229

Individual Donors

160

Households

CASH GIFTS

\$165,885.85

DONOR MAKEUP

40%

Undergraduate and Graduate Alumni

29.5%

Faculty and Staff

16%

Parents and Grandparents

12%
Friends

2.5%

Corporations/Foundations

Investing in Future Leaders

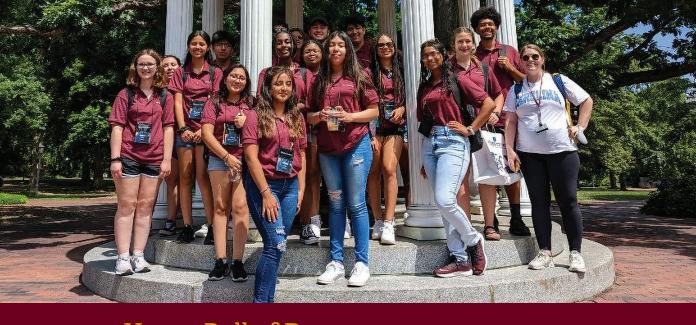
All donors to Elon Academy leave a lasting impact on the lives of its students. Alumni, parents and friends who believe in investing in our community's greatest asset — high-achieving young people dedicated to overcoming hardships to attain an education — are doing so through philanthropy.

Thanks to this generosity, the market value of the Elon Academy Endowment stands at **\$5.6 million.** That support makes this essential program possible. It costs nearly \$500,000 annually to operate the program, and the Elon Academy Endowment supports 20-30% of the operating budget.

Donors make contributions in a variety of ways. Many start their own endowment funds or make provisions in estate plans. Corporations and foundations, such as LabCorp, the Riversville Foundation and ING, have provided annual and endowed gifts. Duke Energy and Gap International offered gifts through matching programs with their employees.

Individuals make an impact through more modest donations via recurring gifts, payroll deduction or outright gifts. We are thankful for each donation that helps continue the mission of Elon Academy to improve the lives of deserving students and to generate leaders for our communities.

TO MAKE A GIFT, PLEASE VISIT elon.edu/makeagift, select "Center for Access and Success" and choose the Elon Academy Annual Fund or Elon Academy Endowment from the designation dropdown list. Thank you!



2021-22 Honor Roll of Donors

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"We have learned we have some awesome people in our community. We are thankful for this opportunity. They say it takes a village — thanks for being a part of ours and allowing us to be a part of yours. Thanks to Elon Academy's staff, donors and the university. I am so blessed to be receiving so much support guiding Laney to college success."

RHO SCHOLAR PARENT

elon.edu/elonacademy

Mailing Address: Campus Box 2108 Elon, NC 27244

Campus location:

The Center for Access and Success Mooney Building Suite 302





