

# END OF YEAR REPORT

THE HIDDEN GENIUS PROJECT

2022 - 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 - 2023

Over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, the College Adviser Fellow at The Hidden Genius Project had many highlights. One of those highlights includes the implementation of a weekly college advising newsletter to help keep Geniuses and families consistently informed. This newsletter led to an increase in engagement in comparison to the first half of the year. Another highlight for the College Adviser Fellow was the designing, ordering, and delivering of graduation stoles for the Class of 2023 to showcase their participation in The Hidden Genius Project at their graduation ceremonies. The College Adviser has plans to work collaboratively with the Alumni Engagement Team to better increase student engagement and college access for Geniuses throughout the program nationwide.



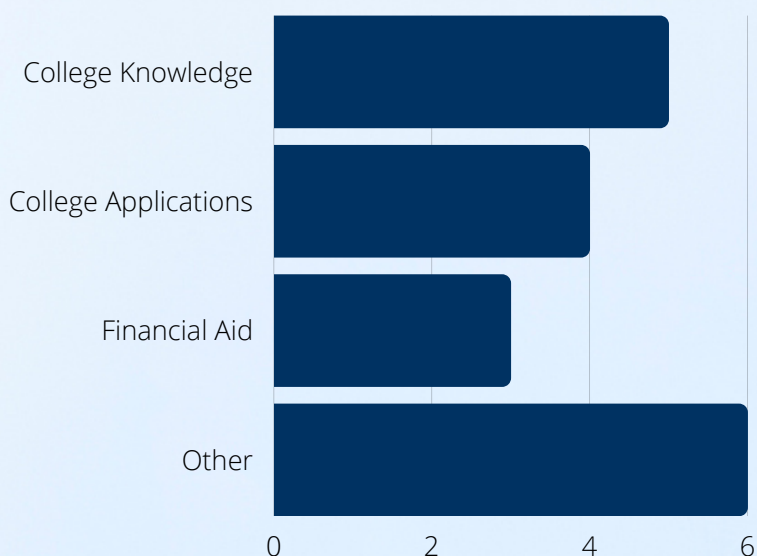
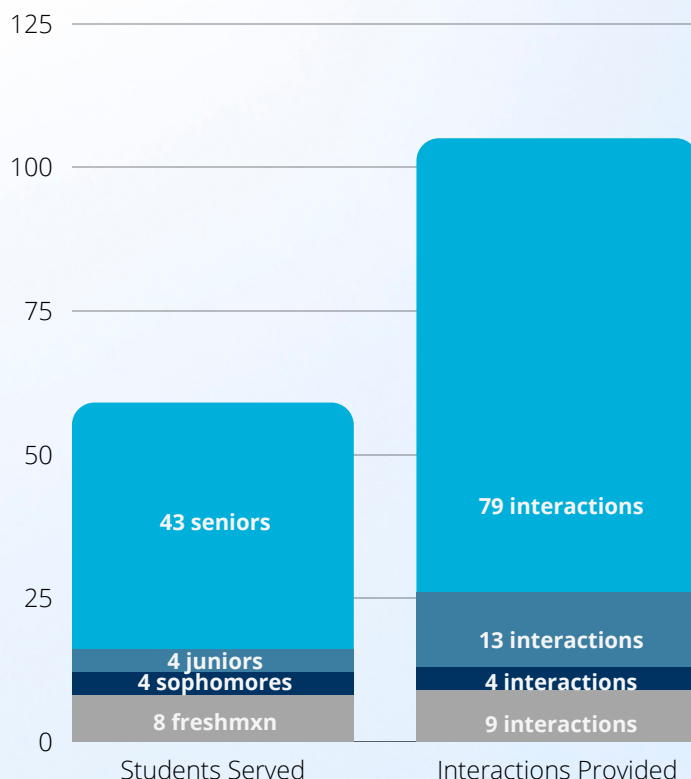
(Left) The College Adviser Fellow giving a recruitment presentation at Hercules High School. (Right) The College Adviser Fellow with a group of Seniors wearing their graduation stoles.



# MEASURING OUR IMPACT THROUGH DATA

## 1:1 SERVICES BY GRADE LEVEL

The College Adviser Fellow served 59 students in a 1:1 setting with a total of 105 interactions over the course of the year, with a majority being with seniors and assisting in their college application and enrollment process. Most of the interactions occurred via Zoom, allowing for convenient and personalized communication regardless of a student's location. During these interactions, the College Adviser Fellow utilized tools such as the A-G Course List to help students visualize their academic requirements and FastWeb to help connect students to scholarship opportunities.



*Through Spring 2023, DCAC was able to provide 18 events through Zoom and in-person. Students and families gain college knowledge in the form of group presentations and organization-wide events*

## EVENTS BY TOPIC

The most popular event topic amongst both Geniuses and parents was College Knowledge with the most attended event hosted by the College Adviser Fellow being the College Info Night. During these events the College Adviser engaged in 1:1 conversations, when in-person, and during virtual events the College Adviser Fellow used polls and Q&A sessions. A lesson learned from events this year is that the varying school hours, extracurricular activities, and time zones make it difficult for Geniuses to consistently attend after-school events.

# MEASURING OUR IMPACT THROUGH DATA

## COLLEGE APP SUBMISSIONS & ADMISSION DECISIONS:

In this application cycle, 43 seniors submitted a total of 260 applications. At this point, Geniuses have received 36 acceptances and 6 denials. The top five universities in terms of Genius SIRs are as follows:

University of California, Merced - 4

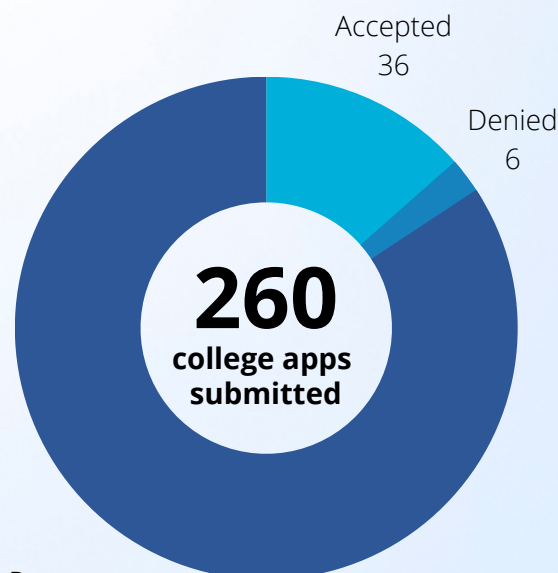
University of California, Berkeley - 2

Morehouse College - 2

California State University, Fresno - 2

California State University, Northridge - 2

The College Adviser Fellow is still in the process of retrieving data on the remaining 225 application decisions



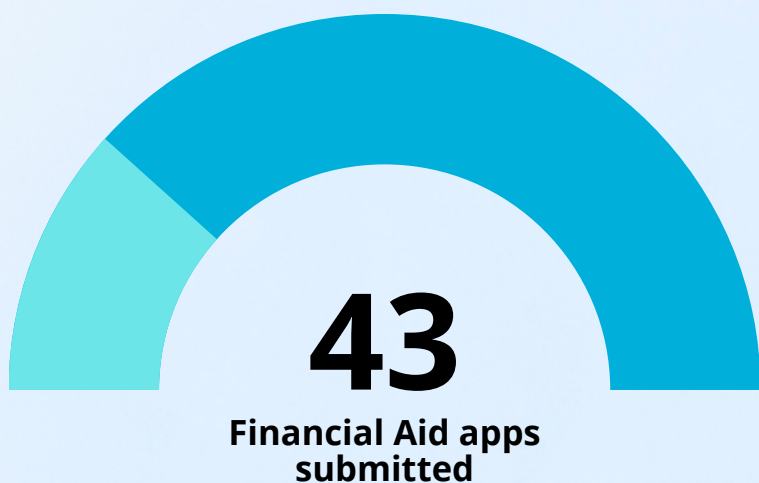
Pending Genius Response  
225

43 seniors collectively submitted 260 applications in total for The Hidden Genius Project. As of May 31, 2023, there were 36 acceptances to 28 colleges/universities.)

*23.3% of financial aid  
applications assisted by  
College Adviser Fellow*

## FINANCIAL AID SUBMISSIONS & ASSISTANCE:

This year, 43 Geniuses submitted a Financial Aid application, with 1 Genius opting out. The College Adviser Fellow assisted 10 Geniuses with their Financial Aid applications, as a majority of Geniuses received assistance via their school or another college access program. The College Adviser Fellow co-hosted a California Student Aid Commission Financial Aid workshop and Financial Aid presentations over the year. The College Adviser Fellow also utilized text and email reminders to support seniors in submitting their financial aid applications.



# MEASURING OUR IMPACT THROUGH DATA

## FAMILY INTERACTIONS

This academic year, the College Adviser Fellow served 51 families with 75 total family interactions. The most common topics discussed during these meetings were College and Financial Aid applications and A-G requirements. The most frequent medium used by the College Adviser Fellow for family interactions was phone calls. Successful outreach strategies employed by the College Adviser Fellow were a weekly newsletter and cold calls.

51

families served



75

total family interactions

## STAFF SHOUTOUT



Kevin Simpson  
Alumni Engagement Team Intern

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Kevin has been a major help to the College Adviser Fellow this year. As the Alumni Engagement Team Intern, Kevin has assisted in updating the contact information and other data on older cohorts. He also was a key factor in the graduation stole delivery process. Lastly, as alumni of the program himself, Kevin has also been very helpful in coming up with new strategies on how to better serve Geniuses as a College Adviser Fellow. All in all, he has been vital to the College Adviser Fellow and the services provided to Geniuses this academic year.

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## STUDENT/PARENT TESTIMONY

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When you were my college adviser I felt a great sense of support as an advisor. You always emailed me in regards to helping me in my academic pathway. You've set up Zoom meetings where you forwarded information about college and branched me to college advisers to find more information about colleges. Your services helped me seek new opportunities to find colleges and become successful in finding the ideal environment post-high school. Lastly, I have much gratitude for the latest opportunity of an internship because I would have had a harder time joining the Berkeley M.E.T program without you connecting me to the program leaders.

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[Kemo Smith]  
11th Grade (Participating in Berkeley  
M.E.T. Summer Program)

## ADVISER'S MESSAGE



Andrew Pope  
DCAC College Adviser Fellow

My year at The Hidden Genius Project was an eye-opening experience. It was great to be working with Geniuses, who reminded me of myself when I was their age. I also benefitted from working with Geniuses not just at one school or in one community but with Geniuses throughout the Bay Area and Los Angeles. This unique experience also brought on its unique challenges, which have helped me grow as a professional in ways that I believe being at one school site could not. Being the College Adviser Fellow at The Hidden Genius Project was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will shape my professional journey.