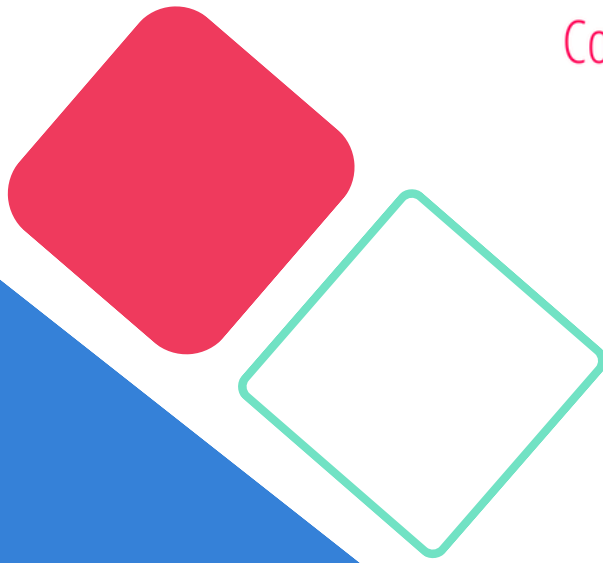




College & Career Services



# IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2023-JUNE 2024  
Year 2

Your wings already exist, all  
you have to do is fly!



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As we reflect on this past year, I am filled with pride for the resilience and accomplishments of our students.

**The new FAFSA brought significant hurdles for our families, especially our mixed status families.**

Navigating this new financial aid system highlighted the critical need for our ongoing support. By April, and what seemed like my 100th FAFSA, I too faced burnout. Leading this organization while being a stay at home mom to a newborn and a toddler was nothing short of demanding. But I am driven by the belief in the work we do.

**When we opened our new student application for Year 3, we reached full capacity in just 12 hours—a clear testament to the increasing demand for services like Volar. As we enter year three of our journey, we are starting with renewed energy and support from four new interns. However, to meet the growing demand for our services and ensure we can continue driving our mission forward, we need your help. We need resources to create a staffing model, finalize our curriculum, and to continue community programming.**

We have exciting things in the works and we know we can accomplish even more with your support. Together, we can help more students realize their dreams and provide them with the guidance they need to thrive and achieve economic mobility.

**Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing alongside us as we continue to grow.**

With gratitude,

*Cynthia Gudiel*

**CYNTHIA M. GUDIEL**

**FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
PRIMARY ADVISOR, MOM**



# About Us

Volar provides free individualized college and career advising to first-generation students in the Dallas area. We are an additional layer of support outside of school. Our goal is to increase degree attainment for this group of students. In addition, we support college completion for students choosing this path through best fit advising, family engagement, and scholarship opportunities.

As an organization, we understand the value of a diverse workforce and value ALL career pathways.

## Our Mission

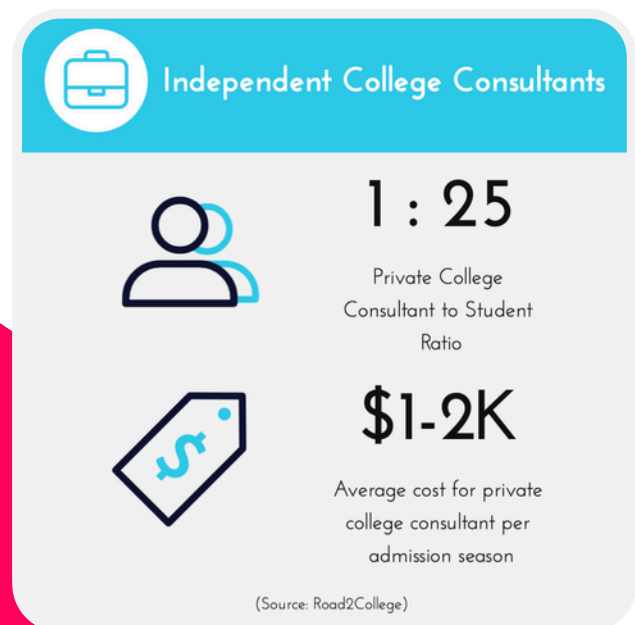
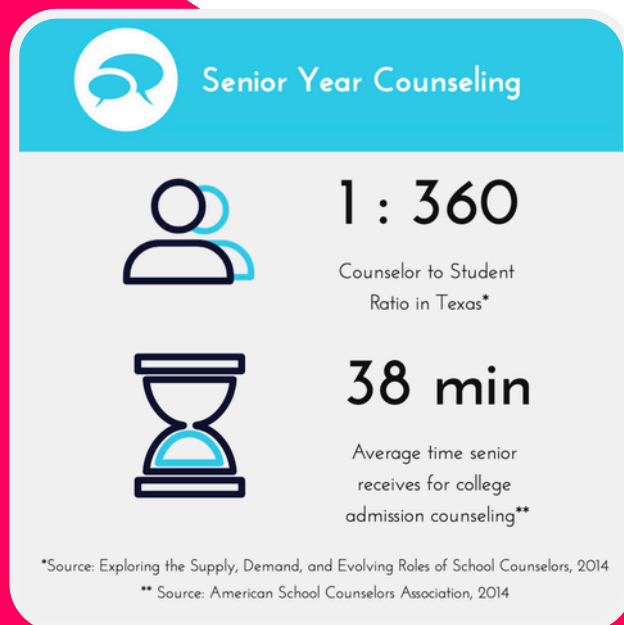
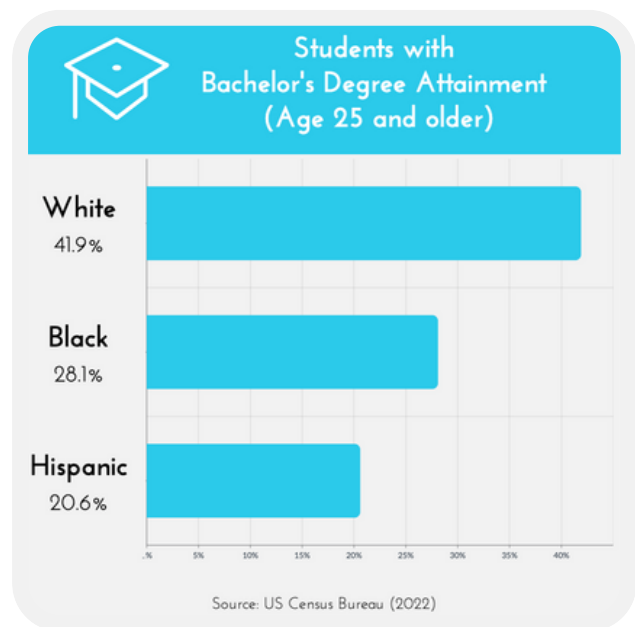
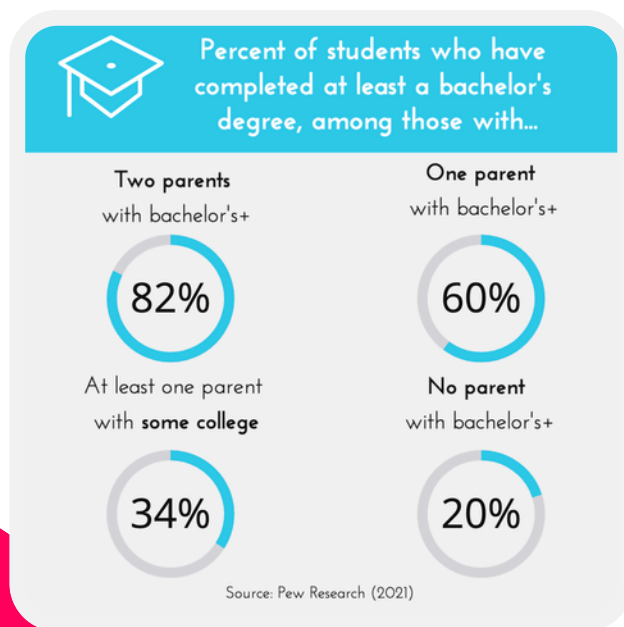
Volar empowers and educates students about their higher education and career options.

Together with their families, we help students find the path that most aligns with their values and strengths.

# Our Why

Data shows that underserved and marginalized individuals (first-generation, low-income, students of color) graduate college at lower rates and receive lower lifetime earnings than their white counterparts.

We want to ensure that the next generation of our workforce is strong and empowered, and that EVERY student is empowered to take charge of their destiny. Volar works to address the degree attainment and college advising gaps illustrated in the graphics below.





# Our How



## INDIVIDUALIZED ADVISING

Provide comprehensive college and career advising to high school seniors as they navigate their post high school goals. By recognizing each student's distinct values, strengths, and potential avenues, the advisory process can be finely tuned to support their triumphant journey toward post-secondary attainment.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Empower Volar to achieve more significant and sustainable outcomes by leveraging shared resources, expertise, and support networks. Partnerships foster a sense of unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility for student success, ultimately driving positive change and improving the well-being of first-generation college students.



## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Play a critical role in empowering students and their families by providing invaluable guidance on the higher education application process, from navigating financial aid options to selecting the right institutions. Our workshops are open to ALL students and their families in the Dallas-Ft.Worth area.



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Enhance access to higher education, alleviate financial stress, and encourage the pursuit of higher education. By reducing the financial barriers to higher education, we are creating opportunities for social mobility and contributing to a more diverse, skilled, and engaged workforce.

# Year 2 Impact

## INDIVIDUALIZED ADVISING

**15** Cohort of high school seniors who received personalized advising and are now on their selected pathway

**10** First Year Students receiving continued support

**6675** Total minutes dedicated to student 1:1 advising

**128** College Acceptances **2** Questbridge Scholars

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**4** Community Events

**100+** Attendees

**5** New community partnerships

**46** Volunteers

## SCHOLARSHIPS



**\$10,000** Awarded in scholarships

**100%** Volar Class of 2024 students attending college debt free

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**100%**

Students of Color

**100%**

First Generation

**100%**

Pell Grant Eligible Students

# Our Impact

*At Volar, we prioritize first-generation students of color within Dallas County. We do not select our students based on GPA, test scores, or class rank. We believe that academic metrics alone do not define a student's potential or future success. We serve on a first come, first served basis until our cap is reached.*

## FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION SUBMISSION

**57.8%**

Texas average according to National FAFSA Tracker

**100%**

Volar Average

## FULL-TIME RETENTION RATE IN POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

**76.5%**

National average according to National Center for Education Statistics (2022)

**90%**

Volar Average (1/10 students transferred to cosmetology school)

## IMMEDIATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE

**62%**

National average according to the National Center for Education Statistics (2022)

**93%**

Volar Average (1/15 students enrolled in a Real Estate School)

**100%**

**of Volar students are enrolled in a college or career school**

*Our comparisons are based on the most recent national averages available. While Class of 2024 data hasn't been released yet, we hope this provides a useful reference against typical national figures.*

# Acceptances

Volar students received acceptances to 128 schools across the country. Below is just a sample of those schools..



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



ST. EDWARD'S  
UNIVERSITY



Texas Wesleyan  
UNIVERSITY



UNT  
DALLAS

UTA  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AT ARLINGTON



TEXAS WOMAN'S  
UNIVERSITY



UT Tyler  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER



AUSTIN  
COLLEGE



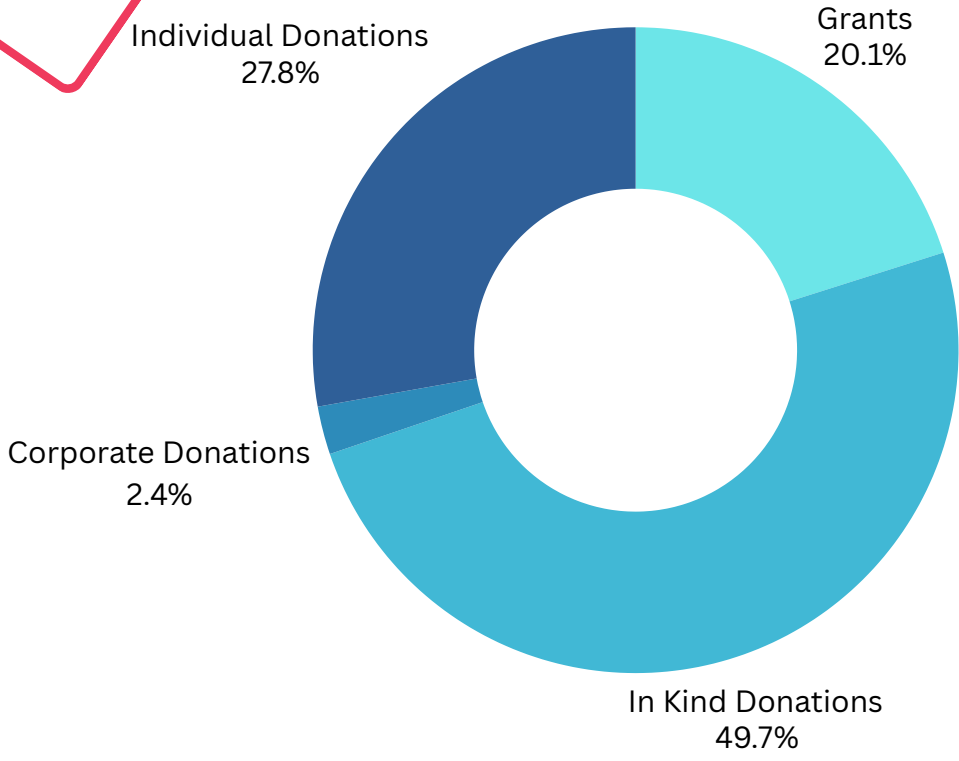
UNIVERSITY OF  
MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR



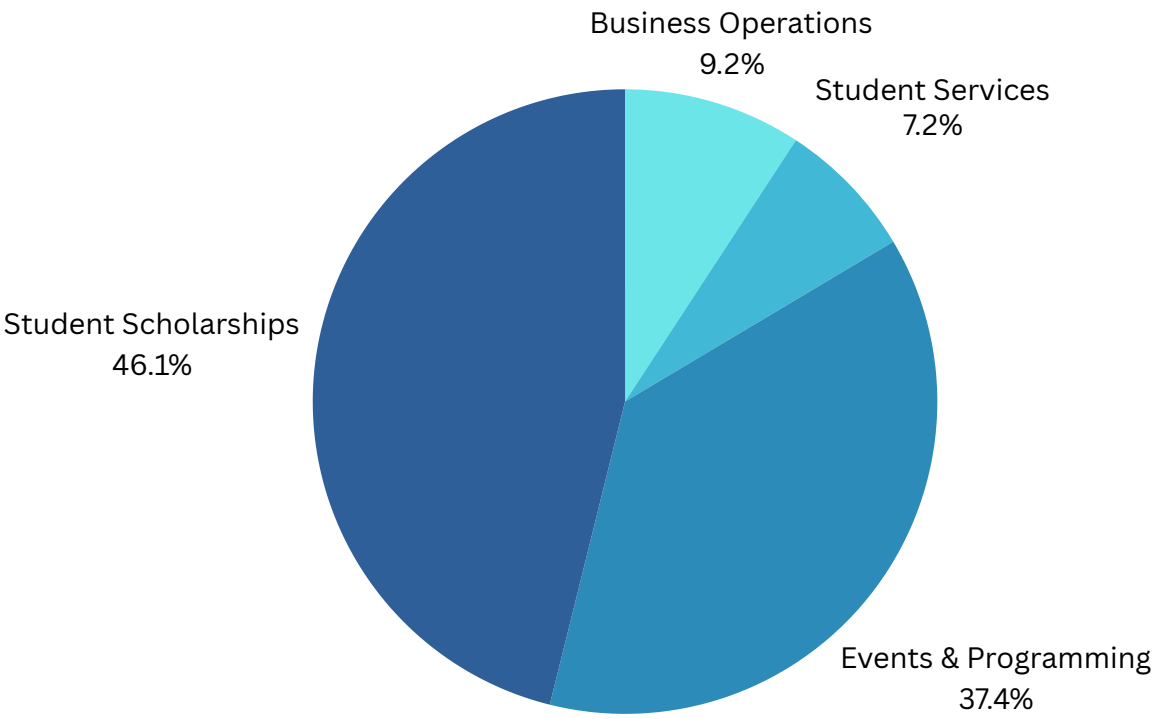


# Financials

**Revenue**  
**\$24,866**



**Expenses**  
**\$22,225**



# Testimonials



*The Volar program had such a great impact on my college application! Mrs. Gudiel kept me motivated and on track of applications. Our meetings helped me understand how to apply to college, and the workshops are so helpful for future use!*

**Natalie A.**

*University of Texas at Dallas*



*Amazing organization that has provided one on one college guidance to many first generation college students. Without [a] doubt Mrs. Gudiel and Volar work hard to provide the support needed whether it's revising college essays or learning about your future college career.*

**Maria Belen R.**

*Marquette University*



*Mrs. Gudiel always made sure to check up on me and my college journey. Even when I was busy, she never gave up and continued to support me throughout the whole year! She always found workarounds for any problems i came across especially with FAFSA!*

**Jasmine F.**

*The University of Texas at Dallas*

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# Thank You

to our Founding Donors who make  
this work possible!

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[@volar.ccs](https://www.instagram.com/volar.ccs)

“Vuela Alto”  
Matthew 6:25-26