

RISE REPORT 2020-2021



THE NUMBERS



224

TOTAL
TUTORS

177

TOTAL
STUDENTS

6716

TOTAL
TUTORING
HOURS

Tutors typically volunteer 1 day per week, while Rise students attend tutoring at least 2 days per week.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS



>2X
INCREASE

40% → 86%

If I don't know how to solve a problem, I know where to go to figure it out.

KNOWING HOW TO FIND ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

>2X
INCREASE

28% → 65%

I am confident in my math ability.

CONFIDENCE IN MATH

~3X
INCREASE

30% → 82%

I have a good understanding of my math course material.

UNDERSTANDING OF COURSE MATERIAL

>6X
INCREASE

11% → 67%

I receive good grades on math/science tests/quizzes.

GOOD GRADES ON TEST AND QUIZZES

TUTOR SURVEY RESULTS

Percentage of tutors who reported that the Rise Program contributed to their knowledge, skill, and personal development in the following areas:



NEW IN 2020-21

MATH
FOUNDATIONS
SUMMER
COURSE

ART +
MINDFULNESS

Promoting mindfulness
and student mental
health

HERITAGE
MONTHS

Highlighting diverse
representation in math
and science

SOCIAL
ACTIVITIES

Rise Social Week and
Rise Book Month to
increase positive
interactions online

AAPC
SCHOLARSHIPS

PUSD's African American
Parent Council offered
scholarships to Black
students participating in the
Rise Program

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

A special congratulations to the Class of 2021!
Although this past year looked different, the Rise
Program family is so proud of students' resilient
spirit, and we look forward to seeing what they
achieve next.

Rise students are headed to UC Irvine, UC
Riverside, Cal State LA, Cal State Northridge,
Cal Poly Pomona, Pasadena City College, and
more. Keep making us proud, Class of 2021.
Congratulations!



Y-TUTOR PROGRAM PARTNERS

75

STUDENTS
SERVED IN
Y-TUTOR

The Rise Program continued its response to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering remote tutoring to local public school students in grades 6-12 and Pasadena City College students pursuing a STEM degree.

In addition to serving 102 Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) students in the Rise Program, the Y-Tutor Program served 75 students by offering online, drop-in tutoring sessions. To expand services in the community, the program partnered with several community organizations serving primarily first-generation low-income students.

Flintridge Center (YOP)

Youth of Promise (YOP) is a youth development program serving youth in the Northwest Pasadena and West Altadena communities who have been impacted by poverty, community violence, gangs, and incarceration. Caltech Y tutors provided online tutoring to support YOP students' goal of finishing high school and starting college.

Upward Bound

Upward Bound supports high school students from first generation and low income backgrounds complete high school, graduate from college, and obtain a career in their chosen field. Caltech Y tutors provided vital support in challenging math and science classes.

Pasadena City College

MESA at PCC serves over 300 students pursuing a major in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The program provides educationally and economically disadvantaged students with the skills and resources to be successful in school and career in science, technology, engineering and math. Caltech Y tutors assisted in a variety of college-level STEM courses.

Y-Tutor is a drop-in tutoring program created to expand services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RISE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



VLADIMIR LOPEZ
UC RIVERSIDE



COLIN MONTOYA
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE



KAMERON POU
CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE



AUSTIN ALCARAZ
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE

The Rise Program is excited to announce our 2021 college scholarship recipients, funded by the Tom Apostol Endowment Fund for Math & Science Outreach.

Vladimir Lopez | Award Amount: \$1000 Attending UC Riverside

“Before I joined Rise I did not care about math. I would look at it and give up because I was just bad at it. However, when I joined Rise the tutors showed me that I was actually really good at math, but I was disorganized. They helped me organize myself and helped me realize how good I can be at something when I am organized. Rise had always pushed me to be the better version of myself and to always push for the best. Rise not only helped me with math, but they also went as far as to help with my college applications.”

Colin Montoya | Award Amount: \$1000 Attending Pasadena City College

“The college atmosphere at Caltech has always been welcoming and has impacted me positively to want to go to college in the future. The Rise Program has helped me develop healthy study habits, strengthened my knowledge of mathematics, and improved and given me a better understanding of the importance of time management.”

Kameron Pou | Award Amount: \$500 Attending Cal State Northridge

“My tutor has helped me in so many ways, whether it’s getting me to take each problem step by step or reminding me to not forget a step. They know how the problem works and how to help us figure it out ourselves.”

Austin Alcaraz | Award Amount: \$500 Attending Pasadena City College

“My tutor has made a huge difference in my life. He has worked one on one with me to help me understand math equations, whereas the teachers at school are too overwhelmed to help. I would always fall behind when I’d be hospitalized for days or even months, and keeping up my grades was always very challenging. The Rise program was always understanding of my absences due to my health and I always felt that my tutor really cared about me as a person.”

Rise had always pushed me to be the better version of myself and to always push for the best.

-Vladimir Lopez, Rise graduate

Thank You from a Rise Tutor



I am writing on behalf of the many tutors and tutees involved with the Rise Program to thank you for your generous support of our program. My name is Ryan Ward, and I am a second year graduate student in Environmental Science & Engineering. I have been involved with the Rise Program since I arrived at Caltech, and I have nothing but wonderful things to say and am extremely grateful to both the Caltech Y and to our donors for allowing me to participate (and I'm sure I can speak in accordance for the many tutors).

I have worked as a professional tutor in the past and have been involved in many outreach programs throughout high school and undergrad, but I had not previously been involved in a program as well-run and impactful as Rise. By working with the same students week-to-week, we are, as tutors, able to develop meaningful relationships with our students. This breaks down many of the awkward barriers that you may run into when working with someone you hardly know. I have worked with one individual who has quite a bit of trouble focusing and is perhaps shy to those he does not know; I can say confidently that we are able to accomplish a lot more together now that I know him personally as a peer, in addition to formally as his tutor. While some days may not be as productive as others, I believe that the ability to talk with a mentor every week who can relate to you interpersonally is extremely helpful to the students, and it is one of the strengths of the Rise Program.

In earnest, I believe the program's true strength is its aspects of mentorship; in a community as rich in intelligence as Pasadena, tutors are a dime a dozen. Rise is more than that; it gives young students the opportunity to see individuals not too much older than themselves and perhaps similar in characteristic (e.g. gender, race, or ethnicity) succeeding. I did not have such an opportunity as a high school student, and it is always amazing when you look around the Rise sessions (when in person) to see the amount of excitement on students' faces. Surely, it cannot be working on homework that generates such a fervor; rather it is the relationships kindled and the mentorship built that generates this excitement. And it is this mentorship that makes the program so successful.

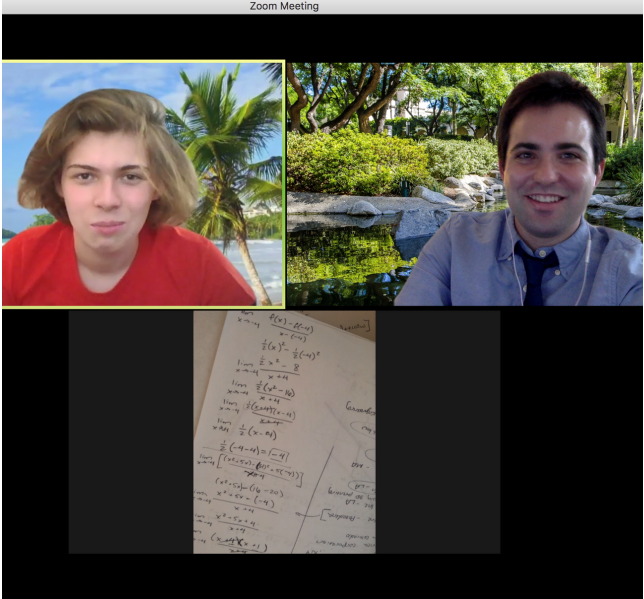
The Rise Program is in great hands and adapted to the virtual environment with ease and grace, allowing the program to flourish despite the many challenges the world is facing right now. I am extremely indebted to those who support Rise, and I am looking forward to many more years of participation and success in the program. Again, I am confident that I speak for all of the tutors, the tutees, and Y staff in saying that we are extremely grateful for your support, without which the Pasadena & Caltech communities would be much worse off.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ward

THANK YOU

to all of the amazing
tutors, students, and
donors who make the
Rise Program possible!



The Rise Program is supported by the Roethke Funds, East West Bank, the Tom Apostol Endowment Fund for Math & Science Outreach, PUSD's African American Parent Council, and the Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union.