

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: Kimberly Esparza, Kesparza@uplifteducation.org, 469-358-6924
 Lauren Dugger, ldugger@sunwestpr.com, 214-693-1177

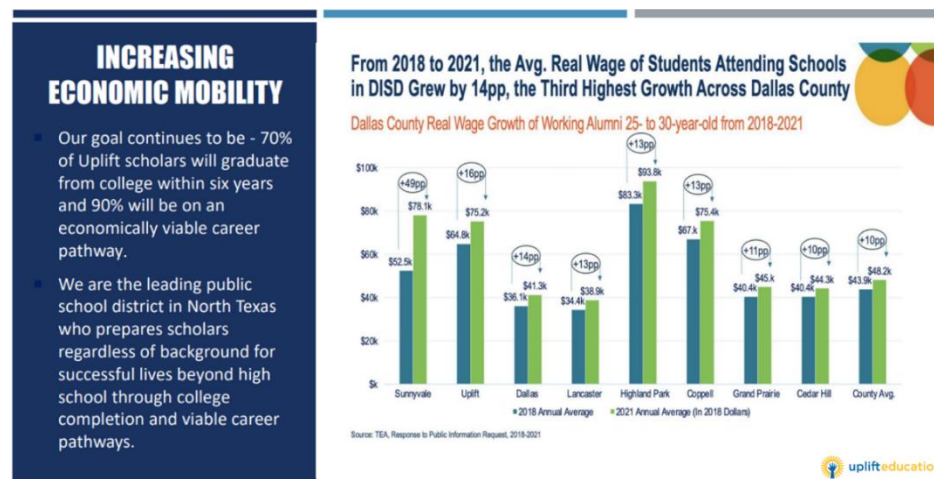
Measuring the True Value of an Education: Dallas County Alumni from Uplift Education Community Charter Schools Earn Average Salary of \$75,200 Per Year

Uplift Education alumni earn at least \$30,000 more each year than peers who graduated from Dallas, Grand Prairie, Lancaster and Cedar Hill independent school districts

DALLAS - Alumni of Uplift Education, the largest community school charter network in North Texas, earn among the highest salaries of public school graduates in Dallas County, based on Texas Education Agency (TEA) statistics.

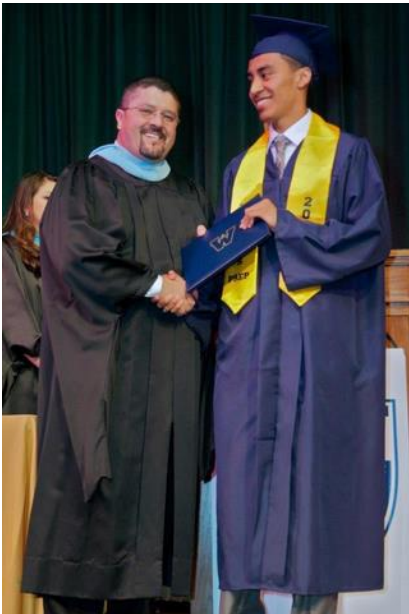
Data shows economic mobility rising across the board among school districts in Dallas County. Uplift graduates ages 25-32 make an average of \$75,200 per year, compared to the Dallas ISD average annual salary of \$41,300. Also, 100% of Uplift graduates are accepted into college.

“At Uplift Education, we are committed to providing our 23,000 scholars with the tools and opportunities they need on their journeys to economic opportunity and future generational wealth,” said Uplift CEO Yasmin Bhatia. “Uplift alumni earn some of the highest salaries of all the county’s public school districts, even with the economic challenges many of our students and families face. The impressive statistics illustrate the true value of an education to an individual and the entire community.”



Uplift’s Road to College and Career program elevates students into careers with competitive compensation to support themselves, their families and their communities as they move forward in their careers.

“The vast majority of Uplift students come from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and this is why Uplift Education takes a comprehensive approach toward educating their students. They form strategic partnerships with other organizations that help expose students to different career fields and their respective career path. Uplift understands that it's not just about producing strong academic results but also about fostering a paradigm shift in the minds of students who oftentimes did not understand the ROI of a college education.” said Uplift Alumni Giovanni Sanchez.



Giovanni Sanchez at St. Mary's University graduation



Giovanni Sanchez, Uplift Williams Graduate 2012



Giovanni Sanchez, Account Executive at Perry Weathers

- Within the Uplift network of 45 schools, 78% of students will be the first to attend college in their family. The “not if, but where” college culture begins in primary school, introducing students to future possibilities they have not seen modeled in their own families. College banners line the halls where elementary school students walk each day. Uplift takes students to visit college campuses in middle and high school. Huge celebrations are hosted for seniors to announce the college they will attend after graduation or which career they will immediately start.
- In their junior year, all students are matched with an Uplift Road to College and Career counselor to provide tools and support. The ratio of these college counselors to junior and senior students is 1 to 50, compared with traditional school districts’ ratios of 1 to 300. With that level of personalization and coaching in the college process, students are supported with introductions to a robust college portfolio and setting big but attainable goals for the future. Counselors walk students and parents through financial aid applications and scholarship opportunities. The median scholarship earned per Uplift senior is \$25,000.

-
- Uplift’s unique approach includes an alumni success team whose jobs are 100% focused on supporting Uplift alumni – after graduation, through college and throughout their career. Advisors serve as thought partners with alumni as they navigate roadblocks that might prevent them from completing college or advancing in their career.

Uplift provides the same level of support for a small percentage of students who choose to start their career immediately upon graduation. Uplift connects students with additional training opportunities and certificate programs to build their experience before they start on the job.

About Uplift Education

[Uplift Education](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing the lives of teachers, families, and, most importantly, students. With a network of 45 college-preparatory, community charter schools in six cities in North Texas, Uplift offers students a safe, supportive place to learn with individualized attention in class and a priority on students’ personal, intellectual and emotional development. A multidisciplinary curriculum instills the value of hard work and prepares scholars for future success in their college and career pathway – all at no cost. Approximately 82% of students receive free or reduced lunch. Incredible, caring educators guide and teach over 23,000 students, with the majority being the first in their family to attend college. In the last 20 years, 100% of Uplift graduates have been accepted to colleges and universities.