



# THE FIELD ACADEMY

MAKING LEARNING AND  
LIFE INDISTINGUISHABLE

2013-2016

# Our programs over the last three years

In the past three years, we have not only honed the core of our student program but we have also had the chance to experiment with new programs, curricula, and community partnership, in no small part due to your financial support of our work.

Our programs brought in **20 high school students** from diverse experiences of this country. We trained and worked with **10 new faculty members**, 3 of whom were Field Academy alumni. We provided experiential training to **26 educators** seeking to practice field-based education in their schools or organizations. We established relationships with over **30 new community teaching partners** in Central Appalachia, the southwest, and New England who have shared their work and lives with our students on two different trips.



## Away But Home

Writing Intensive in Northeast  
2015



## A Day In The Field

A 24hr Field Academy Experience  
2015



## Intensive on Place-Based Curriculum

Bay Area Educators  
2014



HALLMARK PROGRAM

## Central Appalachia: Climate Change, Economics, & Community Leadership

In the summer of 2016, we revamped our Central Appalachia program to bring together all of the learnings of our past five years. The result was incredible. Students spent more time in each community, community partners focused on hands-on experiences to teach about the effects of climate change in their communities, and teachers were empowered to focus directly on students' questions about leadership and advocacy, and to help students connect their own stories and questions with those of the people they were meeting in Central Appalachia.



### Social Justice Education Retreat

For Field Based Educators  
2015



### Summer Camp for Field Educators

Five day workshop for designing experiential, place-based curriculum  
2014

# Our students

Your support has allowed us to make this education more accessible to passionate, curious, engaged students, regardless of their family's financial circumstance. What is the magic that happens when we bring ten students from diverse experiences of this country together to learn for five weeks out of a fifteen passenger van? Their words describe the impact better than we ever could...

## Kyra Higgins

Redfox, Kentucky

Being a student in the Field Academy has taught me more about the region I live in and ways I can help, than I ever imagined. I will now be going home with clear ideas of what I want to do and not feel overwhelmed. I know people who can lend a helping hand and who I have made an unforgettable connection with. The Field Academy has opened my mind to new ways of learning, interacting with others, and expressing my thoughts which is something I have struggled with since I was a small child. I would get so aggravated when a person either did not understand or misinterpreted what I was telling them. The Field Academy has given me the tools to tell my story and accept the many ways it can be taken, to explore the why's and how's. I can make change and advocate for myself and others!



# Helen Cunningham

Portland, Maine



At this time, I am lucky to find myself in a state of reflection on the last five weeks. And what an incredible five weeks it has been. From engaging deeply with complete strangers on farms, in markets, in little

cafes, to swimming in a frigid mountain stream on a hot afternoon, to riding in the 15 passenger van for HOURS entertained by my amazing friends and peers, this trip has been transformative and empowering. Learning about the stories of Appalachia and its people has allowed me to unpack my own story (a girl from Maine, filled with a lack of direction and a lot of potential). I now know some important things about myself that I think will steer me toward creating change in big ways and small ways and always keep me learning and thinking. Your contribution is a big part of what made it possible for me to learn these things about myself and the world. I couldn't be more grateful.

# Julio Tlachi

New York, New York



These past 5 weeks have been an amazing time for me in my life. I will never forget this experience! Throughout the trip this year, there was a lot of discussions around single stories and the danger they pose when they are perpetuated. I learned that single stories

can become stereotypes that then lead to prejudice, discrimination, oppression, and finally internalized oppression. I learned that this cycle of oppression is very dangerous when it comes to learning and listening to other peoples' stories. This trip has taught me to become a better listener. I have learned to make less assumptions when meeting people and to stand up against people who perpetuate single stories. THANK YOU for making this experience possible because without your contribution I wouldn't have been able to experience the transformative experience that is the Field Academy. I can't thank you enough.

# Alumni & Leadership

A Field Academy student's participation does not stop at the completion of their program. Our alumni community is now made up of 48 students and 12 teachers. It is vibrant and active - over Facebook, at our Field Academy retreats, and across the country as alumni travel to see each other and meet new, incoming students.

Arguably the most important thing we have done over the past three years is make space for our alumni to lead and teach within this organization. We are so proud that our board wrote a policy to ensure that one third of our trustees will always be alumni. It is a dynamic, creative, and diverse community that is supporting and stewarding the future of this organization.



Alumna and Board Member Christine Jaballas speaks at 2016 graduation.

## In the past three years...

**2**

alumni joined our Board of Directors

**3**

taught on a Field Academy trip

**3**

co-facilitated adult and educator training programs

**1/3**

of all alumni donated and fundraised to financially support new students

**80%**

intend to continue participating in the Field Academy community into the future



Alumni Gabrielle Healy and Sophie Leamon teach about lobster ecology and economics during our Day in the Field program.



Alumni Humza Mirza, Matthew Wilson, Gabrielle Healy, and Sam Most visit our 2015 student trip to hear about their experiences and welcome them to the alumni organization

# Laura Nunez

**Alumni Leader**  
Philadelphia, PA

Laura is a member of Field Academy class of '11 and is currently is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a teaching intern on our 2015 writing-intensive expedition in New England where, among myriad other things, she led a weekly class called “Real Talk with Laura” that explored questions of race, culture, immigration, gender, and sexuality.



The Field Academy offers students and teachers an alternative understanding of what is regarded as knowledge, where it can be found, and who is entitled to share it. The Field Academy’s commitment to inquiry and place-based education allows untold stories to be told by those who hold local knowledge and can embed their story in a bigger system. Such as lobstermen and women in Portland, Maine who share with us how they make a living but can simultaneously discuss the political environment of union organizing, as well as an empirical understanding of climate change’s impact on Maine’s fisheries.

The beautiful part is that this type of learning holds truth for teachers and students of The Field Academy. As educators we are invited to show up as whole beings and thus teach English, history, science, and leadership from our lived experiences and commitment to filling in the gaps in the books as best as we can. As students, we are encouraged to share our stories and write about them - to reflect on the intersectionality of our identities, commitments, and our intellectual agendas. We make connections between our homes and the communities we encounter on our trip.

It takes a lot of love to invest in re-contextualizing knowledge into the real world. A love for each other, a love for the land, and a love for humanity. We trust each other with making The Field Academy a safe space to challenge conventional wisdom and we leave The Field Academy with the responsibility of telling the stories of the people we met and the struggles of communities to thrive. The Field Academy offers an unforgettable experience. For me, it became the beginning of a liberating project.

# Financial Information

A financial overview from our last three years as we experimented with a number of different program offerings.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Income	<i>Intensive educator program</i>	<i>Educator program experiments &amp; student program</i>	<i>Strengthening student program focus</i>
Tuition	\$4,059	\$17,995	\$7,472
Grants	\$41,000	\$32,000	\$30,000
Contributions	\$29,511	\$42,331	\$43,880
Other Income	\$525	\$360	\$106
Special Event Income	\$119	\$2,361	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$75,214</b>	<b>\$95,047</b>	<b>\$81,458</b>
Expense			
Branded Gear	\$771		\$209
Activity Fees	\$100	\$2,090	\$2,690
Personnel	\$35,718	\$62,027	\$44,554
Food	\$1,922	\$7,376	\$4,311
Technology Services	\$364	\$906	\$800
Lodging	\$850	\$9,491	\$6,466
Miscellaneous	\$525	\$332	\$213
Printing & Copying	\$155	\$202	\$189
Mailing	\$133	\$377	\$105
Professional Fees	\$3,107	\$7,229	\$1,053
Supplies	\$158	\$2,452	\$966
Insurance	\$1,387	\$3,904	\$5,526
Transportation	\$2,351	\$7,333	\$8,573
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$47,541</b>	<b>\$103,720</b>	<b>\$75,655</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$27,674</b>	<b>(\$8,673)</b>	<b>\$5,803</b>



# Future

At the end of this summer, after five years of running our summer program, we've recognized a series of questions that we need to address as an organization in order to move into our next phase:

- How is what we've been doing on a small scale with 50 youth relevant to the courageous movements for transformative change that we see in our world today? How can it become more relevant?
- How can we sustain ourselves and our organization financially and still maintain our commitment to the values upon which this school was founded?
- What structures will best enable our alumni to lead and guide our community?
- How can this organization even more deeply incorporate what we have learned about power, privilege, and identity into its everyday work and vision at all levels of the organizations?

We feel an imperative that the next horizons of the Field Academy meet this political, economic, and environmental moment in our country's history. In order to do so, we intend to use this upcoming year as a sabbatical for the organization and the founders - a period of rest,

research, and deep reflection on these questions.

In this time, we intend:

- To write and publish with our alumni, trustees, and staff about their experiences and learnings.
- To meet with key stakeholders, community partners, advisors, and supporters regarding these questions.
- To connect with and learn from other organizations doing transformative educational work.
- To pursue professional development and networking opportunities for founders, staff, and alumni to capacitate our wider community in answering these questions.
- To engage our alumni in conversation regarding their visions for the organization, as well as their capacity and desire for leadership within it.

We are excited for this visioning work and for what is next to come. We cannot wait to talk with you more about it.

For now, to read more about the questions we hope to tackle and our hopes and dreams for this upcoming year, please visit: [fieldacademy.org/sabbaticalyear](https://fieldacademy.org/sabbaticalyear)

A workshop with the Beehive Design Collective, exploring their poster “The True Cost of Coal.”



A simulation about income inequality and wealth distribution at a Field Academy alumni retreat.



On a tour of the Albuquerque wastewater treatment plant.





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A School to Make Learning & Life Indistinguishable