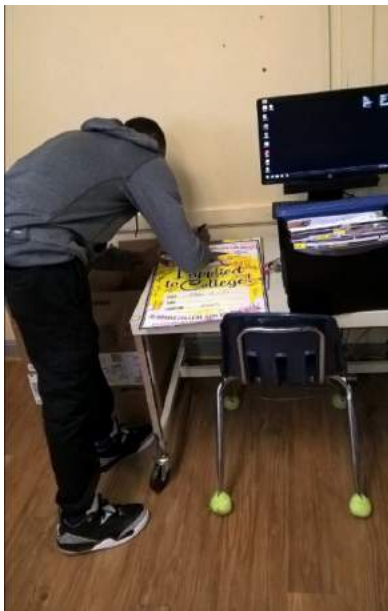


Alabama Possible removes barriers to prosperity, promotes college access and success.

Alabama Possible creates educational equity for low income, minority, and first-generation college-going students across Alabama. Thanks to your investment, we can:

- Team more than 1,000 students with 225 near-peer mentors to complete milestones focused on the social, emotional, and financial aspects of college access and success through the **Blueprints College Access Initiative**;
- Boost FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion across the state by combining direct services and cross-sector partnerships with school systems, higher education institutions, and community organizations through **Cash for College**; and
- Develop college success resources for Birmingham students as part of our **Lumina Foundation Community Partnership for Attainment** goal to boost college success from 23 percent for the Class of 2007 to 65 percent for the Class of 2025. ▶

“College” is the attainment of valuable postsecondary credentials beyond high school, including professional/technical certificates and academic degrees.”



Left: A Montevallo High School senior signs his name to a College Application Week poster after applying to college in November 2015. Top right: Blueprints worked with a cohort at Phil Campbell High School beginning shortly after the 2011 tornadoes until their May 2015 graduation. Bottom right: The entire Ramsay High School freshman class visited Birmingham-Southern College in Spring 2015.



“Financial aid can really motivate you.”

Angelica Gant
Huffman High School Class of 2015
Berea College Freshman



“Blueprints taught me that education beyond high school gives me options of what I want to be.”

Meghan Thomas
Montevallo High School Junior



“Blueprints makes learning about college fun and exciting.”

Bethany Sparks
Phil Campbell High School Class of 2015
University of North Alabama Freshman

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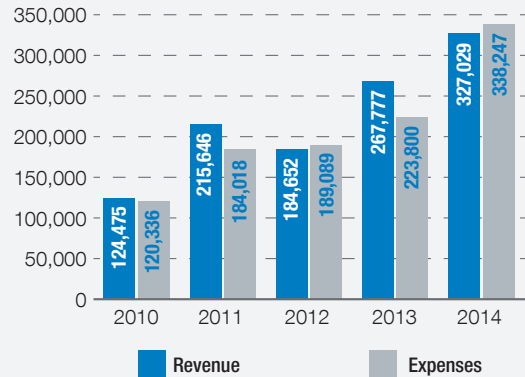
2014 STUDENT FELLOWS

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Lee Gilmer, The University of Alabama School of Law	Lilly Lanter, University of Montevallo
Reeve Jacobus, Birmingham-Southern College	Jasmine McKinney, The University of Alabama
Trevor Jones, University of Montevallo	Chamblee Shufflebarger, Bowdoin College

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Growing investments to remove barriers to prosperity, 2009-2014



Many thanks to the foundations, higher education institutions, faith communities, business and community organizations, and individuals who supported our events and made financial contributions.

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Inaugural Hungry for Justice Conference Connects Student Service and Advocacy

Alabama Possible partnered with **Troy University** for the First Annual **Hungry for Justice Summit** on Friday, April 10.

The morning combined keynotes talks and panel conversations featuring public policy professionals and university faculty and staff.

The afternoon session featured lightning talks by students about their advocacy projects. Students could share ideas and think about different approaches to similar projects, such as those taken by the Auburn and Troy Campus Kitchens groups.

Throughout the day, students expressed a strong desire to connect with like-minded advocates across different campuses.

“Charitable efforts tend to run on limited capacity and funding,” said **University of Montevallo** Student Trevor Jones, a senior social work major. “By sharing the obstacles we face and the solutions we have found with one another regularly, we can reduce the amount of time and energy dedicated to problem solving.” ▶



Lifetime of Learning conference explores engaged learning as justice learning

Marion’s rich higher education and civil rights history made it a natural venue for this year’s **Lifetime of Learning Conference**, which was held at **Judson College** on Friday, September 18.

Dr. Jennifer Stollman, academic director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi, delivered the morning keynote.

“We are empowered by our abilities to make change immediately and not waiting for others. We must have the bravery of a warrior, the intelligence of a sage, and the compassion of a mother,” said Stollman.

The University of Alabama Honors College’s 57 Miles Initiative led a walking tour of downtown Marion and a tour of Francis Marion High School, which gave attendees to connect with each other and learn about this Perry County community.

Other speakers included Billie Jean Young, Judson’s artist-in-residence, and Michele Forman, director of UAB’s media studies program. ▶

Poverty simulations give participants an opportunity to walk in their neighbors’ shoes

Poverty simulations increase participants’ understanding of the hardships and emotional toll experienced by low-income families. During a simulation, participants are placed into teams of families, and they experience challenges such as maintaining employment, caring for children or elderly family members, seeking public assistance, and dealing with transportation issues.

Alabama Possible facilitated 18 poverty simulations attended by more than 1200 Alabamians during 2015. After the simulation, participants said they have a new perspective and respect for those facing poverty. ▶



Poverty simulations participants said:

“As a result of this experience, I will advocate and explain why combating poverty is so important.”

“It’s a real struggle for some families. They don’t get to choose their life.”

“People living in poverty don’t have access to the resources we assume are available to everyone.”

“People try really hard to get out of poverty, but bad circumstances happen to them and make it impossible to make their lives better.”

“I will share the pervasive stress of poverty.”

“I will be empathetic because you never know people’s situation.”

“I will remember how I felt in a desperate situation and the mutual frustration.”



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DECEMBER 2015 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
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What does it mean to be an Alabamian?

Bill Jones and Shelley Stewart honored by Alabama Possible and share their stories

On Tuesday, October 27, retired **O’Neal Industries Vice Chair Bill Jones** and **Shelley “The Playboy” Stewart** joined with 140 attendees at Birmingham’s Florentine Building in a conversation about what it means to be an Alabamian.

Alabama is a “state full of opportunity,” said Bill Jones, who currently leads the Bold Goals Education Coalition. However, in order for the state to meet its potential, “we need to focus on those areas that truly are scars and truly are problems in our state, like poverty.”

Shelley Stewart recounted his life story, which included being homeless as a child. He focused on hope and said that “if there’s no power in the present, there’s no hope for the future. It’s about the power of education. The power now. That’s what hope is.”

Thanks to you, our annual fundraising dinner and conversation raised more than \$50,000. We are putting that investment to work educating, collaborating, and advocating to break down the barriers to prosperity in Alabama.

Special thanks to Co-Chairs Renee Blalock and Robert Holmes and Keystone Sponsors Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama; Bradley, Arant, Boulton & Cummings, LLP; Honda Manufacturing of Alabama; O’Neal Industries; Protective Life; Tacala, LLC; Bill & Becky Smith; Scott & Cameron Vowell; and Vulcan Materials Company.

You can watch video at youtube.com/alabamapossible



Shelley Stewart and Bill Jones discussed education, race, and relationships during their conversation.



Craft O’Neal and Miller and Frances Gorrie help honor Bill Jones and Shelley Stewart.