



NEWFUTURES 

2021

**IMPACT
REPORT**

The year 2021 saw New Futures take important steps forward in our effort to create more equitable access to academic and career opportunities for systemically excluded young people in the Washington, DC, area.

Even as community college enrollment declines, peripheral education expenses become even more burdensome, and inequity further encroaches on the most vulnerable in our communities, New Futures remains steadfast in our commitment to helping Scholars achieve their dreams. Our advising approach helps Scholars cultivate support systems they can leverage as they continue their journeys toward success.

New Futures is uniquely positioned to meet the evolving interests of college-aged adults, who are eager for quicker credentials and clearer job pathways.

But we're not offering a shortcut to work. Rather, we are providing a suite of customized experiences that position our Scholars to pursue their academic and career aspirations—regardless of their starting point.

In 2021, we continued to lay the groundwork for the planned scaling of our programs' impact. We leaned into the year's challenges, facing them head-on with patience, optimism, and determination. We further solidified our organizational infrastructure to improve our offerings to Scholars—evolving our programming, increasing our staff capacity, and further investing in a culture of equity—as we carry out our strategic growth plan. By 2025, New Futures will double the number of Scholars we serve each year.

Just as our Scholars and alumni have come to know that they can always count on us, so too we recognize that **you** have been there for New Futures, volunteering at our skill-building workshops, attending our virtual events, donating generously, and believing in our mission. **Thank you!**

New Futures is stronger than ever before because of our community—that includes you! Together, we're helping to launch bright futures, and creating a more equitable, connected Washington, DC, region.



Our Unique APPROACH

We partner with young people to design an individualized suite of resources and experiences that they can leverage in pursuit of their academic and career aspirations. Our unique approach combines flexible scholarships, expert advising, skill-building workshops, and career exposure opportunities aligned with our region's high-growth industries.

Career Pathways

- ◆ IT/Cybersecurity
- ◆ Health Sciences
- ◆ Public Service
- ◆ Construction and Trades
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Hospitality and Culinary Arts



"New Futures makes sure I have opportunity and access, they connect me with resources, they help me build practical skills, and they're a constant source of support."

– GLORIA, New Futures Scholar

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

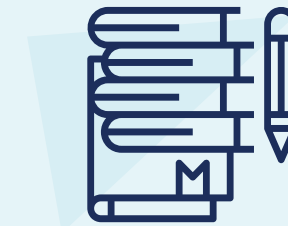
Bigger team, bigger impact, all in support of our Scholars' biggest dreams.



246
Scholars served



41
Scholars graduated from their programs



331
Alumni



62
New Scholars selected



16
Scholar workshops



88
Scholars receiving emergency funds



\$530,997
Awarded in scholarships



215
Volunteers engaged



\$44,190
Total Emergency Funds disbursed (2021)

At New Futures, we envision a vibrant and equitable Washington, DC, region where every person has access to a valued path through higher education, opportunity to thrive in a fulfilling career, choice of where and how to live, and voice in our communities.

Read on to learn how New Futures is positioning Scholars to pursue their goals on their own terms.



Opportunity,
CHOICE, VOICE



“

[Growing up in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo] there weren't a lot of women in politics—not because they weren't capable, but because society was not structured to encourage or support women to get into the field.”

– GLORIA NZITA



GLORIA

University of Virginia | Northern Virginia Community College '19

Ever since she was a child, Gloria has dreamed of a career in politics. Growing up in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gloria says, "there weren't a lot of women in politics—not because they weren't capable, but because society was not structured to encourage or support women to get into the field."

She had to resist the voices of people around her who said of her dream, "That's not a job for a girl." Gloria's parents were always supportive and encouraging, countering her self-doubt with their conviction that she "could be the first to do it."

But when Gloria began her college career in the United States, she faced a dilemma: what major should she choose? "I was confused as to what I wanted to study," she recalls; she was unsure how to combine politics, law, and nonprofit work. Gloria decided to pursue business and international relations, but she soon began to second-guess her decision.

Fortunately, Gloria had her New Futures advisor, Silvana, to help her think about her next step. "New Futures met me where I was at, and through conversations with my advisor, I came to understand that I could pursue my dream job more directly" by

switching majors to political science. "My advisor helped me see that I had a way forward," she says.

Beyond thought partnership, Gloria says that New Futures' skill-building workshops were of great value to her growth. **"New Futures gives Scholars lots of opportunity to practice these very important professional skills," she says.** She even used the résumé she built with volunteers at our Career Launch skill-building workshop to land her first job.

Outside the classroom, "New Futures is part of my support system," Gloria says. When she lost her job during the pandemic, she was able to access much-needed financial assistance through New Futures' Emergency Fund. "I know I can count on them for anything," Gloria says.

Most importantly, Gloria notes that her belief in herself now outweighs her self-doubt. "I feel more confident in my own skin" she says, because New Futures "makes sure we know we have a voice, and how to use it."

So when she had the chance to use her voice in service to her community while also gaining valuable experience, she seized it. Gloria began volunteering

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with an immigrants rights organization, lobbying the Virginia legislature to pass a law granting driver's licenses to undocumented community members. The state enacted the law in 2021.

As she pursues her second degree with New Futures, Gloria has her eyes set on her next goals: a law degree, a family-run non-profit benefiting school-aged girls in Congo, and a career in politics.

Listing her aspirations, she laughs confidently: "I told you, I can do it all."

Opportunity,
CHOICE, VOICE



**New Futures helps me
to feel confident about
myself and what I can do."**

– CESAR MENJIVAR





CESAR

Prince George's Community College

As the first in his family to attend college, "I didn't have that much information about college, especially as a recent immigrant. I didn't know what to do," Cesar says. He craved additional guidance and a thought partner to aid him on his postsecondary journey, but "I didn't have a very close relationship with my college advisor."

So when he learned about the opportunities and support available to New Futures Scholars, he immediately took action, applying to the program in order to jumpstart his future.

As a New Futures Scholar, "I'm better able to take advantage of the school's resources because I trust Allie [his New Futures advisor]—she understands the higher ed system better than me," Cesar says.

The authentic, supportive partnership that Cesar and Allie have built over more than two years has inspired him to pay it forward. **"I'm grateful for New Futures' help, so I'd like to do the same thing for someone in the future," Cesar says.**

He hopes to launch his career in education and social work, guiding others on their own paths to success.

Cesar believes his optimistic nature can be an inspiration to other young people like him who face challenges while pursuing their academic and career goals. "When there's adversity, or negative things happening around me, I try to keep myself focused on the good things, on the things I have, on the opportunities I have, so I'm always thinking about how fortunate I am," he says.

Cesar's unshakable positivity and drive, combined with the holistic support offered by New Futures, have positioned him to make his dream of earning a college credential a reality. "Since my first day with the program, I've just felt even more motivated to succeed," he says.

"New Futures has helped me to feel confident about myself and what I can do. They're helping me get a college education and fulfill my career aspiration to help others."



"I'm grateful for New Futures' help, so I'd like to do the same thing for someone in the future."



Featured: Freddy

New Futures Alumni Monitoring Survey Respondents since 2019:

98% are
"satisfied or very
satisfied with
their New Futures
experience"

100% Agree
or Strongly Agree that
"New Futures helped
prepare me to enter
the workforce."

Opportunity,
CHOICE, VOICE



I'm excelling in my college education now, and I'm not sure that would happen without the support of New Futures."

– ALYSON JONES





ALYSON

Prince George's Community College

As Alyson neared high school graduation and began to consider her options, she felt anxious. "I was really worried about how I was going to pay for college. Not just that, but how would I balance going to class, paying for college, and having a job all at the same time?" she says.

For Alyson, earning a scholarship with New Futures was a relief. **"New Futures has really alleviated that stress from my life. I've been terrified of the cycle of college debt, and I have not fallen into that, thanks in large part to New Futures."**

"Rather than focusing on a job, New Futures has given me a lot more time to dedicate myself to improving my math skills," a critical part of the computer science degree she's pursuing.

"I struggled with algebra in high school, and now I'm in Calc 2 getting 110 percent. I'm just so grateful to New Futures for giving me that support and opportunity. I never thought I would be doing this well."

The ability to focus only on her studies has given Alyson more opportunity to deepen her passion for climate activism. Support from New Futures has helped her move closer to her dream of developing technologies to fight climate change.

"I'm volunteering for more green movements so I can understand both the climate and technical aspects of climate change," she says. In fact, it was Alyson's New Futures advisor, Jamila, who introduced her to an opportunity that landed Alyson a leadership role in a local climate advocacy group.

The experience of building a professional network while she is still in school has helped Alyson feel more confident about her career path.

New Futures "can help me get to the position of following my passion," Alyson says. "I definitely feel closer to my goals."



I was really worried about how I was going to pay for college. Not just that, but how would I balance going to class, paying for college, and having a job all at the same time?" she says.

Opportunity,
CHOICE, VOICE



I've found a community among the Scholars because many of them have been through the same things as me. Sometimes you just need someone to talk to, and I've found a safe space at New Futures."

— LITZY KOGA



Montgomery College

If she had to choose three words to describe herself, Litzy says she would pick “resilient, self-reliant, and tenacious.” She “had to become an adult at a young age,” she says, so she’s used to doing things on her own. But she admits that **“if it weren’t for New Futures, I’d probably still be finding my way.”**

Like many New Futures Scholars, Litzy was prevented by her mixed immigration status from accessing student aid programs like FAFSA at the time she graduated from high school.

“I was worried about paying for college as an 18-year-old immigrant woman with no family in the United States,” she said, “so it was the happiest moment when I received my scholarship from New Futures.”

Litzy soon discovered that New Futures offered something else she craved: a community.

“It’s more than just a scholarship, it feels like you’re part of something—you’re part of a bigger change.”

She credits New Futures for its intentional focus on cultivating mutually supportive relationships within the program. “I’ve found a community among the

Scholars because many of them have been through the same things as me,” Litzy says. “Sometimes you just need someone to talk to, and I’ve found a safe space at New Futures.”

She remembers being encouraged by some Scholars while waiting nervously to interview for the program at New Futures’ office. “I liked their energy, I loved their hype—they told me I was going to do great.”

Equipped with a caring circle of peers “who have different stories but have fought for the same reasons as you—to overcome and succeed,” Litzy says that New Futures has given her “more confidence and more voice” in her future.

“Who you become depends on who you surround yourself with, so I’m grateful for the New Futures family,” Litzy says. “They encourage you to follow your dreams, no matter what they are. They don’t diminish your enthusiasm.”

Looking to the future, Litzy envisions herself making an impact as a member of a marketing team at a top tech company, and she hopes for “an opportunity to inspire others by sharing my story and my path to success.”

“I’ve found a community among the Scholars because many of them have been through the same things as me,” Litzy says. “Sometimes you just need someone to talk to, and I’ve found a safe space at New Futures.”

Lighting A PATH

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a sharp decline in community college enrollment and student persistence, particularly among lower-income students of color.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 65% of part-time community college students “stop out” (that is, leave their degree programs before earning a credential) within six years of enrollment. Meanwhile, community college enrollment has declined by 13% since 2020.

But this downturn hasn’t taken hold at New Futures. In fact, our approach is defying national trends, even as we serve more Scholars.

What makes our approach so successful?

1. Research shows that college persistence and graduation rates rise with increased academic advising, and that advising is more successful with consistent relationships and more touchpoints between advisor and student.
2. Consistent, holistic advising relationships are overwhelmingly named the most beneficial component of the New Futures program by our Scholars and alumni.

94.2%

of all Scholars served in 2021 are persisting in their programs

89%

of all Scholars selected in the last five years are persisting in their programs

100%

of recently surveyed Scholars agree or strongly agree that having a New Futures advisor has improved their college experience.

55% more

scholars selected in 2021 (vs. 2020)

Launching BRIGHT FUTURES



80%
of 2021 graduates
are either employed
or enrolled in a
subsequent
education program

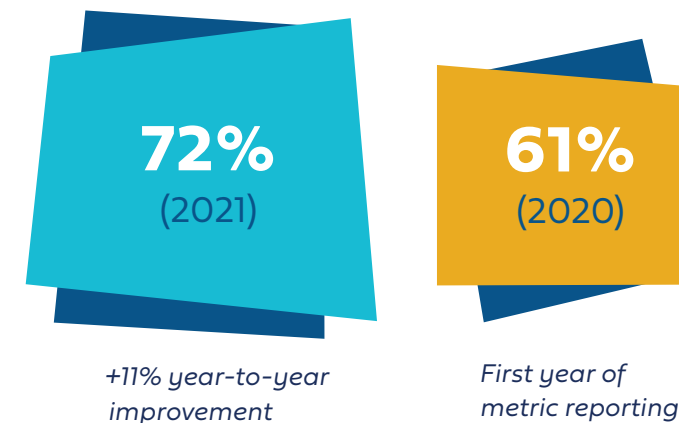
70%
of alumni are satisfied
or very satisfied with
their current job

63%
of alumni are
employed in their
desired career field

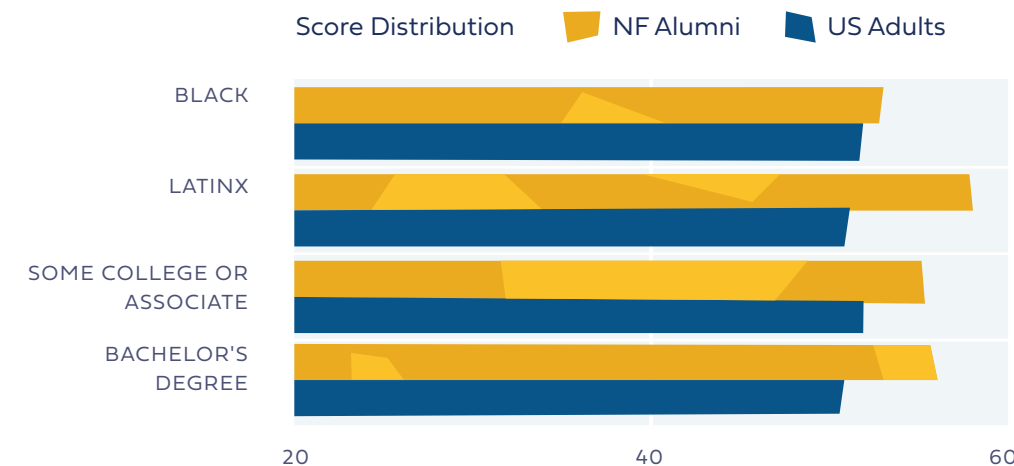
Featured: Najmah
+ Julie

New Futures' partnership with Scholars doesn't end when they earn their first college credential, though. Our alumni benefit from our continuum of support, reporting increased financial stability and career satisfaction compared to national averages.

Percentage of Alumni Scoring At or Above Medium-High Level of Financial Well-Being Scale



New Futures alumni exceed the national average for financial well-being across various demographic groups:



*Financial well-being: a state wherein a person can fully meet current and ongoing financial obligations, can feel secure in their financial future, and is able to make choices that allow them to enjoy life. Source: CFPB

Audited FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2021 and 2020

Assets	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$858,589	\$704,928
Accounts receivable	\$583,057	\$527,118
Prepaid expenses	\$9413	\$3,103
Due from employee	\$886	\$82
Total Current Assets	\$1,451,945	\$1,235,231
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Computer equipment and software	\$20,276	\$14,774
Less: accumulated depreciation	(\$16,401)	(\$14,145)
Total Property and Equipment	\$3,875	\$599
OTHER ASSETS		
Accounts receivable, net of discount	\$465,734	\$853,769
Investments	\$1,417,280	\$1,256,680
Security deposit	\$14,167	\$0
Total Other Assets	\$1,897,181	\$2,110,449
Total Assets	\$3,353,001	\$3,346,279

Liabilities and Net Assets	2021	2020
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$113,934	\$61,026
Scholarships payable	\$343,680	\$446,236
Due to employee	\$0	\$82
Total Current Liabilities	\$457,614	507,344
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Scholarships payable	\$515,519	\$297,491
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$973,133	\$804,835
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$1,087,198	\$1,053,474
With donor restrictions	\$1,292,670	\$1,487,970
Total Net Assets	\$2,379,868	\$2,541,444
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,353,001	\$3,346,279

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

2021

Support and Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions and grants	\$798,995	\$412,670	\$1,211,665
Special event, net of direct expenses (\$27,201 and \$24,126 respectively)	\$240,302	N/A	\$240,302
Investment income, net	\$159,715	N/A	\$159,715
Paycheck protection program funds utilized	\$113,600	N/A	\$113,600
Other income	\$9,932	N/A	\$9,932
Net assets released from restrictions	\$607,970	(\$607,970)	N/A
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,930,514	(\$195,300)	\$1,735,214
Expenses			
Program services	\$1,344,726	N/A	\$1,344,726
Management and general	\$248,295	N/A	\$248,295
Fundraising	\$303,769	N/A	\$303,769
Total Expenses	\$1,896,790	N/A	\$1,896,790
Change in Net Assets	\$33,724	(\$195,300)	(\$161,576)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$1,053,474	\$1,487,970	\$2,541,444
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,087,198	\$1,292,670	\$2,379,868

2020

2020 Support and Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions and grants	\$1,202,462	\$1,487,970	\$2,690,432
Special event, net of direct expenses (\$27,201 and \$24,126 respectively)	\$244,025	N/A	\$244,025
Investment income, net	\$121,381	N/A	\$121,381
Paycheck protection program funds utilized	\$113,600	N/A	\$113,600
Other income	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net assets released from restrictions	\$235,000	(\$235,000)	N/A
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,916,468	\$1,252,970	\$3,169,438
2020 Expenses			
Student programs and education	\$1,031,731	N/A	\$1,031,731
Management and general	\$186,252	N/A	\$186,252
Fundraising	\$290,175	N/A	\$290,175
Total Expenses	\$1,508,158	N/A	\$1,508,158
Change in Net Assets	\$408,310	\$1,252,970	\$1,661,280
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$645,164	\$235,000	\$880,164
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,053,474	\$1,487,970	\$2,541,444

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We have made every effort to recognize all gifts received from January 1 to December 31, 2021. Please inform New Futures of any errors or inaccuracies at info@newfuturesdc.org so we may correct the record and appropriately express our gratitude.

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