

*“The future is in the hands of those who can give tomorrow's generations valid reasons to live and hope.”*  
Teilhard de Chardin

## The PEAK Program Overview

### Our Mission

**The Partnership to Educate & Advance Kids (PEAK)** provides opportunities for at-risk youth to achieve academic and personal success through the powerful combination of a quality, values-based education and the ongoing guidance and financial commitment of caring adult mentors.

### Our Program

Since 1997, PEAK has been providing at-risk students with an alternative to the Chicago Public Schools system (CPS). PEAK creates access to a quality education by enabling PEAK students to attend the highly regarded Holy Trinity High School.

**Each PEAK student is paired with a Sponsor who commits to fund their entire high school tuition.** Our Sponsors often also serve as their student's Mentor through these four years. However, should the Sponsor request, PEAK will match the student with another adult for the Mentor relationship – the consistent one-on-one guide throughout the high school years.

**PEAK students, Sponsors and Mentors journey together through high school on the path toward graduation.** The high school diplomas PEAK students earn significantly impact and positively alter their lives. The blend of a dedicated Sponsor & Mentor, a challenging curriculum and a caring, supportive environment that emphasizes personal responsibility dramatically improves PEAK students' prospects for success far beyond high school.

### PEAK Report Card

- **PEAK does not focus on academically gifted students.** Rather, the program focuses on serving the unmet needs of average-to-below-average students. PEAK strives to foster an environment that empowers these students to realize both academic and personal success.
  - **PEAK** is the only high school scholarship program in Chicago whose student Sponsors **pay 100% tuition** and focuses on academically average students.
- **PEAK proudly boasts a 90% graduation rate** as compared to the 50% rate of CPS. Furthermore, nearly all graduates advance to higher education.
- By design, PEAK students are nominated by their grade school principal or after-school program director, ensuring the kids most likely to be left behind in the public school system are afforded this opportunity.
- **PEAK has touched the lives of more than 175 Chicago students.**

*“The dream begins with a person who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called "truth".”*  
Dan Rather

## **Governing Board**

- **Craig S. Dean, Board Chair**  
Principal; AEG Partners, LLC
- **Nancy Bufalino, Treasurer; Finance Committee Chair**  
Vice President of Corporate Finance; CNA Insurance
- **Mary J. Cahillane, Grants Committee Chair**  
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Managing Director; Prairie Capital
- **Norbert B. Knapke, II**  
Attorney at Law; Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- **Kelly Mullaney, Sponsor/Mentor Development Chair**  
Vice President; The Northern Trust Company
- **Loreen Strasser, Events Committee Chair**  
Regional Sales Manager; IAC Advertising Solutions
- **Reverend Tom Walsh, Student Recruitment Chair**  
Faculty member; Holy Trinity High School

## **Advisory Board**

- **Dr. Craig McCall**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

## **Emeritus Board**

- **Eileen Bender, Co-Founder**
- **Ross H. Jannotta**  
William Blair & Company
- **Maria Kelly, Co-Founder**
- **Michael Kelly**  
Founder & President, Kelly Construction & Design
- **Joy Wingren-Duggan**