



Annual Report | FY 2014

MISSION STATEMENT



X-Cel aims to make high school completion and college-level study more accessible to low income adults by providing flexible, customized instruction at no cost in convenient community locations.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- 2 • Mission Statement
- 3 • Table of Contents
- 4 • Director's Message
- 5 • X-Cel History

X-CEL

- 6 • Innovative Approach
- 7 • Programs Offered
- 11 • By The Numbers
- 12 • Program Locations
- 13 • Alumni Spotlights
- 15 • Financial Overview
- 16 • Executive Leadership
- 17 • Ways to Support X-Cel
- 18 • Supporters/Funders

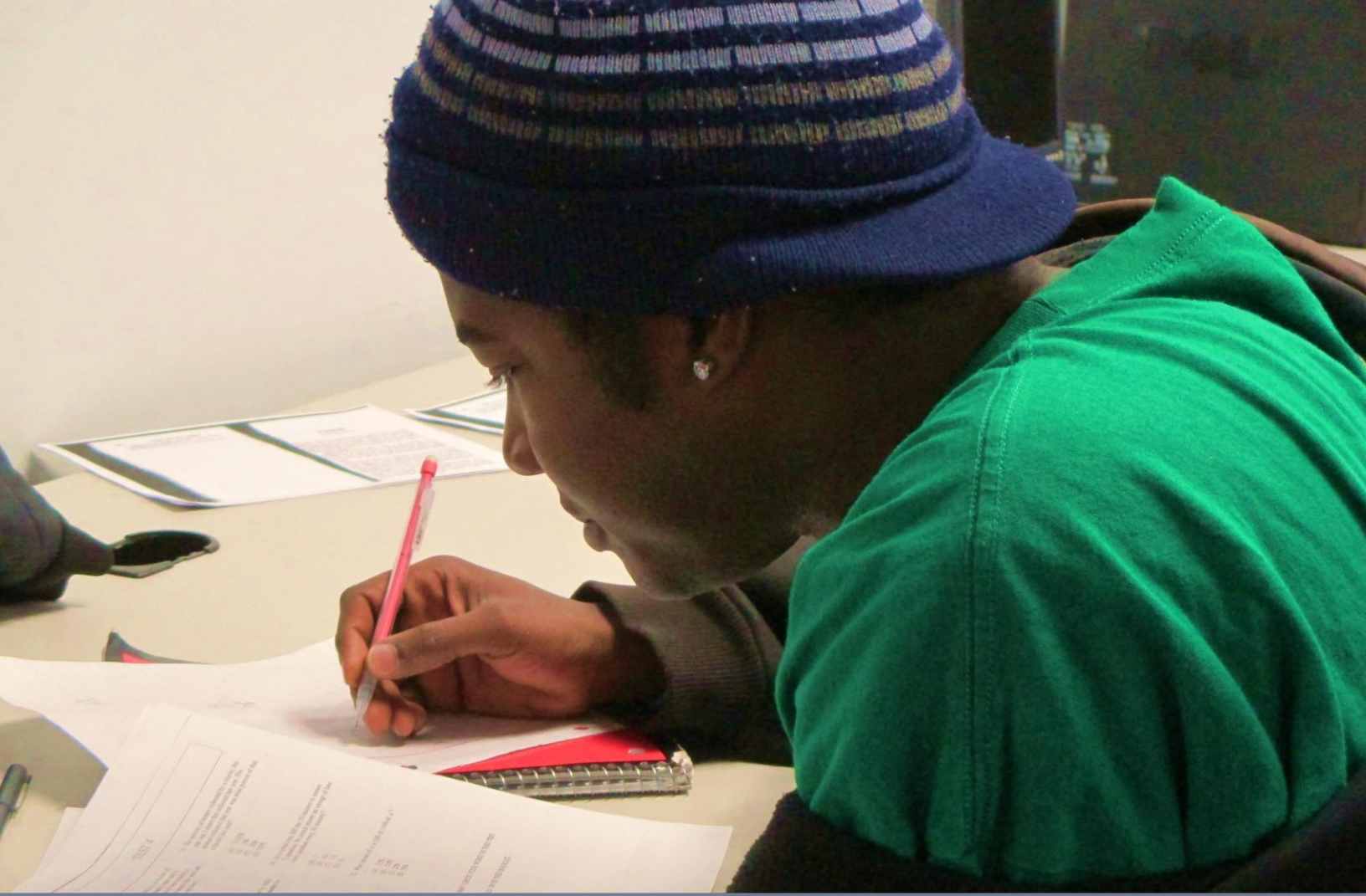


DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

FY 2014 was another banner year for X-Cel Education with 75 X-Cel high school equivalency graduates--a new record for our organization. This impressive number was the most of any High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation program in Boston. Our high numbers were accomplished amid the switch to a new computerized HSE exam, which replaced the paper-based GED exam. Simultaneously, X-Cel has continued to evolve and innovate in order to better prepare our students for the 21st century economy and job market. With the implementation of the new HSE exam, X-Cel integrated a "college-going culture" into all aspects of our programming and began prioritizing the development of college and career-readiness skills in our HSE instruction. Another success of FY 2014 was the 47 X-Cel students who enrolled in post-secondary education, among the highest of any youth or adult education program in Boston. However, my proudest moments were when several X-Cel students graduated from college certificate or Associate degree programs and landed jobs in their field of study, immediately doubling or even tripling their income and starting careers with opportunities for advancement. At the same time, these X-Cel graduates are filling workforce needs of some of Boston's largest employers. This is the ultimate goal of our work at X-Cel. I am very excited to be a part of it.

Over the past year, X-Cel continued to play an important role in connecting volunteers with our students. For the first time, X-Cel recruited two AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers who greatly contributed to our mission by building X-Cel's capacity in post-secondary support and by marketing our brand. During this past year, through our partnership with Boston Cares, an average of 45 volunteers a week supported X-Cel students in their college studies and taught math, writing, and reading skills in preparation for the HSE exam. Not only does this allow the organization to serve many more students for each dollar donated to X-Cel, but it also provides an opportunity for individuals from very different backgrounds to interact, learn about each other, and work toward a common goal.

Don Sands
X-Cel Founder & Executive Director



History of X-Cel

X-Cel Education was founded in 2000 by two adult educators with a combined twenty years of experience in adult education. Their vision of accessible, customizable instruction led to the creation of an organization that would provide quality adult education services to residents of Greater Boston.

X-Cel Education began with one volunteer and a small GED preparation class located in Roxbury. X-Cel has since grown into a non-profit organization with 11 employees and 45 weekly volunteers providing Pre-HSE, HSE Prep, and college prep classes at five locations throughout Boston. Over the course of one year, we work with more than 300 adult students.



OUR INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Partners with organizations to minimize overhead costs

| Rather than offer classes at one centralized location, X-Cel partners with non-profit community-based organizations. X-Cel provides the expertise in adult education services while the partner agency provides the physical space, which in turn allows X-Cel the flexibility to provide services in the neighborhoods with the greatest educational needs while lowering the program's overhead costs so that a greater percentage of X-Cel's funds can go directly to carrying out our mission.

Convenient and flexible schedule to serve students

| All of X-Cel's Pre-HSE and HSE Prep classes have a rolling admissions policy. There are no waiting lists and new students do not have to standby for several months for the next start date for any class. We register and assess new students every week. This practice maximizes students' motivation.

Targets specific needs of students to help them efficiently achieve HSE credentials

| In all of our classes, instruction occurs in small groups and each student advances through skill levels at his or her own pace. Individualized instruction builds upon student motivation and allows every student to make the most progress in the shortest amount of time. X-Cel also partners with Bunker Hill Community College and Roxbury Community College to support students as they transition to a college campus.

Leverages volunteers as a delivery mechanism

| Through our partnership with Boston Cares, X-Cel employs widespread use of volunteers to assist our instructors in math, reading, and writing classes. Each week an average of 45 volunteers donate more than 100 service hours to our adult students. This consistent donation of time and effort enables X-Cel to provide both individualized and small group instruction in our classes. Our dedicated volunteers maximize the services we can provide with the funds that are donated to X-Cel.

A close-up photograph of a young woman with dark skin, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a light purple knit beanie, pink-rimmed glasses, and a bright blue zip-up jacket. Her hand is resting near her chin.

PROGRAMS

- Pre-HSE
- HSE Prep
- College Prep

*Requirements: For Pre-HSE and HSE Prep, students must be at least 18 years of age and have a 4th grade reading level. For College Prep, students must have passed their HSE or have a high school diploma.

Pre HSE

This program is for adults who are preparing for their HSE exam, but may require additional support



Since 2000

Students who increased reading/math
by at least one grade level

982

HSE Prep

Our HSE Prep program supports students studying for their high-school equivalency tests, in math, reading and writing instruction.



Since 2000
X-Cel HSE Graduates

562

College Prep

A program for college-bound adults who have passed their HSE exam or who have a high school diploma, but would like to refresh their academic skills before taking the college placement test.



Since 2000

X-Cel graduates who entered
post-secondary education

318



BY THE NUMBERS: FY 2014

75

**X-Cel HSE
Graduates**

July 2013 - June 2014

47

**X-Cel HSE Graduates to
Post-Secondary Education**

July 2013 - June 2014

Program Locations





“Working with people who have the drive that X-Cel students have keeps me coming back every week. **Our students want to better themselves**, getting their High School Equivalency is **just the beginning.**”

- Ashley Mattison, X-Cel Volunteer

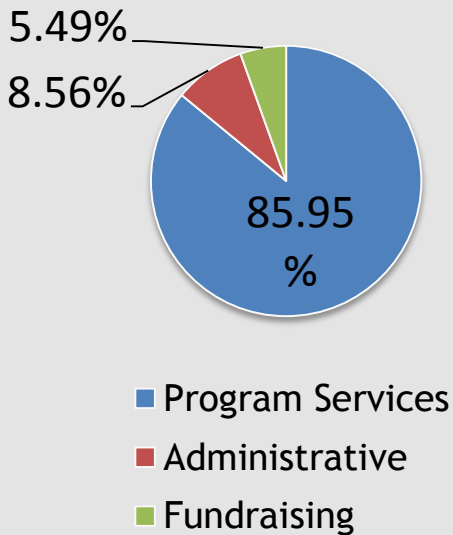


**“X-Cel gave me
the support system,
the training, and the knowledge
I needed *for college and for my career.*”**

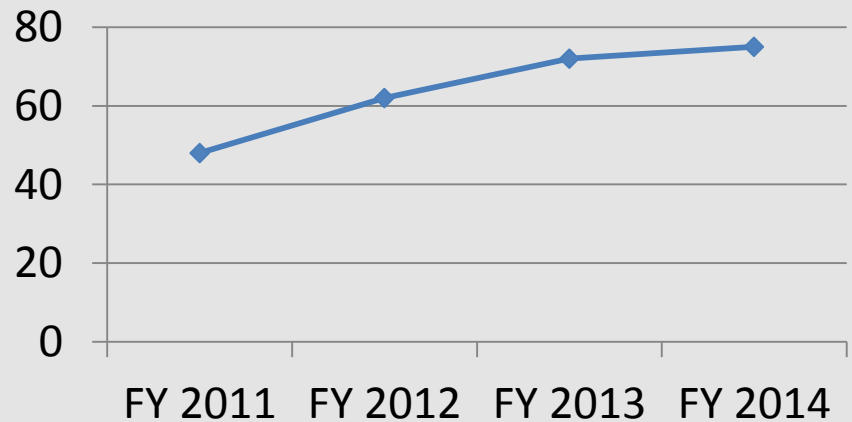
- Edell Howard, X-Cel Graduate

Selected Financial and Program Data

Expense Breakdown



Number of HSE Graduates



<i>Year Ended 6/30</i>	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues & Gains	\$291,334	\$336,773	\$261,483	\$288,888
Expenses & Losses	\$304,201	\$318,075	\$257,524	\$264,272
Revenues Less Expenses	(\$12,867)	\$18,698	\$3,959	\$24,616
Net Assets End of Year	\$48,820	\$67,518	\$71,477	\$96,093

Executive Board

Brian Barnes

Board President

Technical Product Manager,
Constant Contact

Robin Finnegan

Board Vice President

Retired, Executive Director,
MissionWorks

Mamadou Ndiaye

Co-Founder/Board Clerk

Senior Project Manager,
Jobs for the Future

Sean Ebanks

Board Treasurer

Director, Leaders in Technology,
Audit & Risk Management

Edward Donahue

Director of Mergers & Acquisitions,
The MENTOR Network

Jennifer Kirby

Attorney, Foley Hoag LLP

Richard Huttner

Owner, Huttner Leadership Training

Rita Lara

Development Consultant

Tulasi Pemmasani

Senior Business Analyst, MFS Investment
Management

Don Sands

Executive Director/Co-Founder



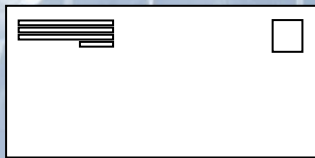
WAYS TO SUPPORT X-CEL

Donate

We continue to seek funding to maintain and expand our HSE Prep and college prep classes to serve more low-income, out-of-school youth and adults who lack a high school credential. Please consider supporting our program by making a financial contribution.

\$100 covers the cost for one student to take the test

\$100 covers the cost for one student for one month



Mail a check to us at:
X-Cel, Inc.,
7 Glenvale Terrace,
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130



PayPal - The safer
easier way to
pay online!

Volunteer

We have many opportunities to volunteer with our students, and we always appreciate additional support. No previous tutoring experience is required. Pencils and scratch paper are provided, so just bring yourself!



Volunteering for a Greater Boston TM

If you are a Boston Cares member you may join via one of our volunteer opportunities listed on the website. However, signing up is not required, and walk-in volunteers are always welcomed.

Please contact us at:
x-cel@x-celeducation.org
or 617-522-2590

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

THE CARL AND RUTH
S H A P I R O
FAMILY FOUNDATION

tBf The Boston
Foundation
INNOVATION. INFORMATION. IMPACT.

 The Clowes Fund
A Family Foundation

 **CEO 4 TEENS**
WWW.CEO4TEENS.COM

first literacy
read between the lives

tpi
the philanthropic initiative

 **AllianceData.**

STATE STREET
FOUNDATION

 Massachusetts Department of
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION

**RICHARD AND SUSAN
SMITH FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

United Way 

United Way
of Massachusetts Bay
and Merrimack Valley

 **CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**
A NETWORK FOR CHANGE • A FOUNDATION OF STRENGTH

STRIVE

**HOSPITALITY
TRAINING
CENTER** 
Training Provider: BEST Corp.

 **yearup**