



Colorado Student Leaders Institute

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This program has seriously changed my life so much. I honestly think that the program and the people I've met through COSLI saved me.

-COSLI Alumni

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For programmatic details and information on governance, please visit costudentleaders.org.

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Letter from the Executive Director



Friends,

Despite the continuing impact of COVID, COSLI students have forged forward--continuing to improve our state, one kid at a time. Recently, I gave in to the 10-year challenge and began to peruse my gallery of photos over the past decade. Doing so, I realized the first conversation about Colorado's governor's school was held in the fall of 2012--we are almost at our first ten-year anniversary. My photos are a veritable documentation of these formative--leading into stabilizing--years and it is quite an album to see.

While we are meeting the expectations for percentage of students remaining in-state for college and career, a number of our students are doing amazing things across the globe, from China to Colorado's Eastern Plains. Our first group of students have graduated from post-secondary programs. Some are in graduate schools--becoming doctors, dentists, lawyers, scholars, engineers and so much more. Others are jumping into service--like Austin in the COVID clinic in the San Luis Valley, or Chelsea, a TV news producer in Seattle. Both are first-gen college attendees. This year will be an important data-gathering year and we are excited to document all of these successes.

Summer, 2021 was filled with two summers of accepted students. They were a group that has had so much taken from them, but exhibited the joy, curiosity, and exuberance of elementary students, while asking the hard questions and showing inquisitiveness that rivals their grad school colleagues. These kids have been molded by a constant set of crises--viruses, fires, shootings--but also awesome accomplishments achieved in the most unexpected set of circumstances imaginable.

I received a note from a parent whose child was part of the class of 2019. He wanted me to know how much of a life capstone COSLI was for his daughter. What a compliment for all who are part of our team. The work we do addresses a glaring gap for our best and brightest--filling them with opportunities that go so far beyond what they might experience in traditional schooling, pushing some to do things that they had thought were unattainable before. As I said last year, we are creating important citizens in all fields of study--a tipping point for so many.

As always, we ask for your advocacy and contributions, whether time, treasure, or talent. This year, I began a 3-year term as President of the National Conference of Governor's Schools. Part of what I hope to do during my tenure is advocate for all states to have a governor's school--it is hard but worthy work.

Thank you for continuing to be one of our friends.
Happy New Year!
Celeste

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2021 Year in Review

2021 and the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic continued to present a myriad of challenges. But, COSLI found innovative ways to deal with them. Because no program was held in the summer of 2020, COSLI hosted two hybrid, 3-week sessions during summer 2021 to serve the COSLI 2020 and 2021 cohorts.

The first two weeks of each session took place virtually, with a slate of distinguished experts speaking on student-selected topics from immigration and gentrification, to gun control and freedom of speech. In the final week of each session, students arrived on campus for seven days full of experiential learning, including our annual outdoor ropes course outing and the famous kickball competition. The students stepped up and produced exemplary projects, spearheaded deep and analytical discussions, and forged once-in-a-lifetime friendships.

October saw the return of our annual Student Advisory Board Retreat. Members discussed analyzing perspectives, projects for the coming year, and even topped off the weekend with a Halloween costume party.

COSLI looks forward to welcoming students to the University of Colorado Denver campus in-person for a full-month this coming summer.

Our students continue to demonstrate that they are exemplary, resilient, and determined. We look forward to watching them continue to change the world.



***Statistics regarding urban, suburban, and rural designations are determined according to U.S. Census guidelines. According to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, 14% of the total population in Colorado is rural, while 86% is urban/suburban.*

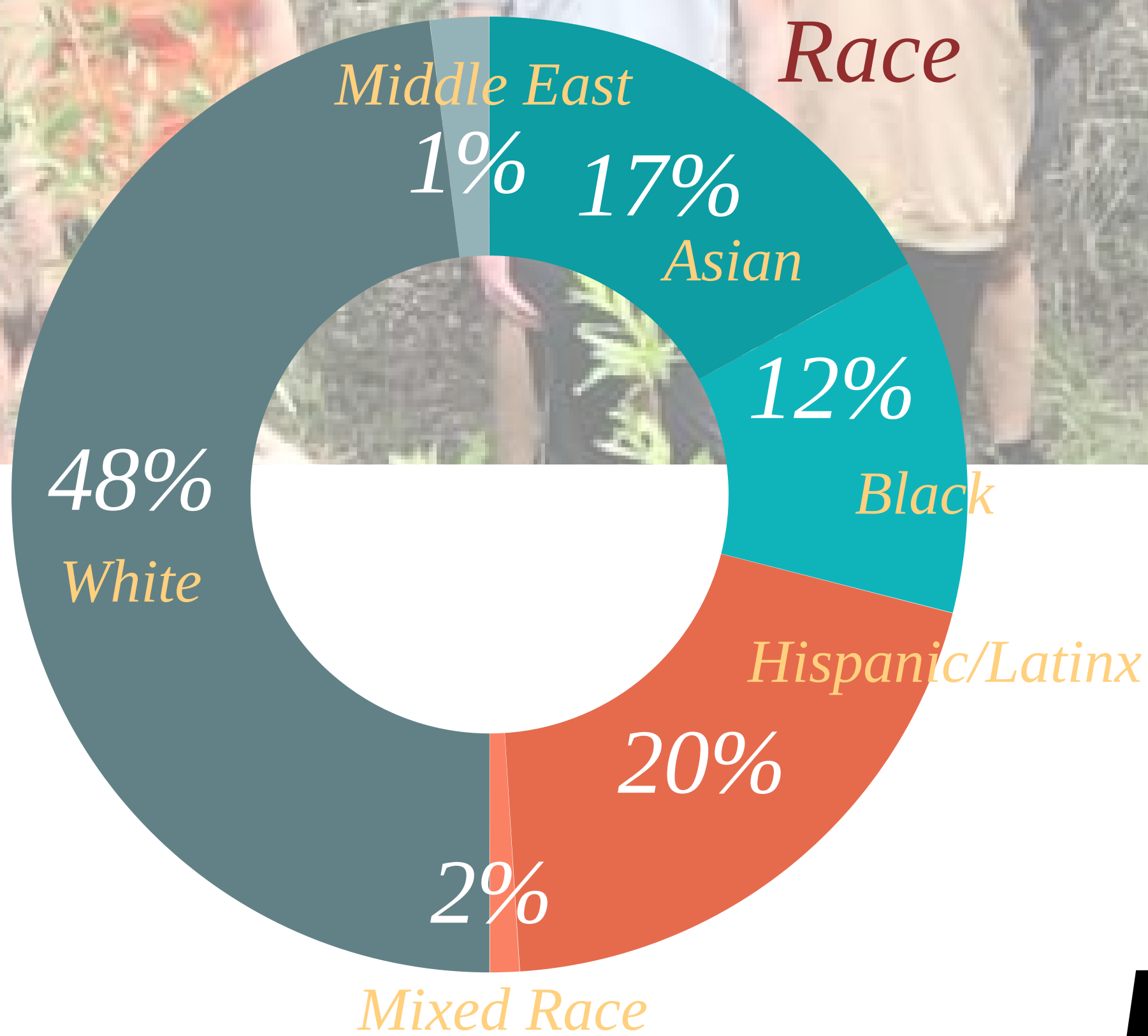
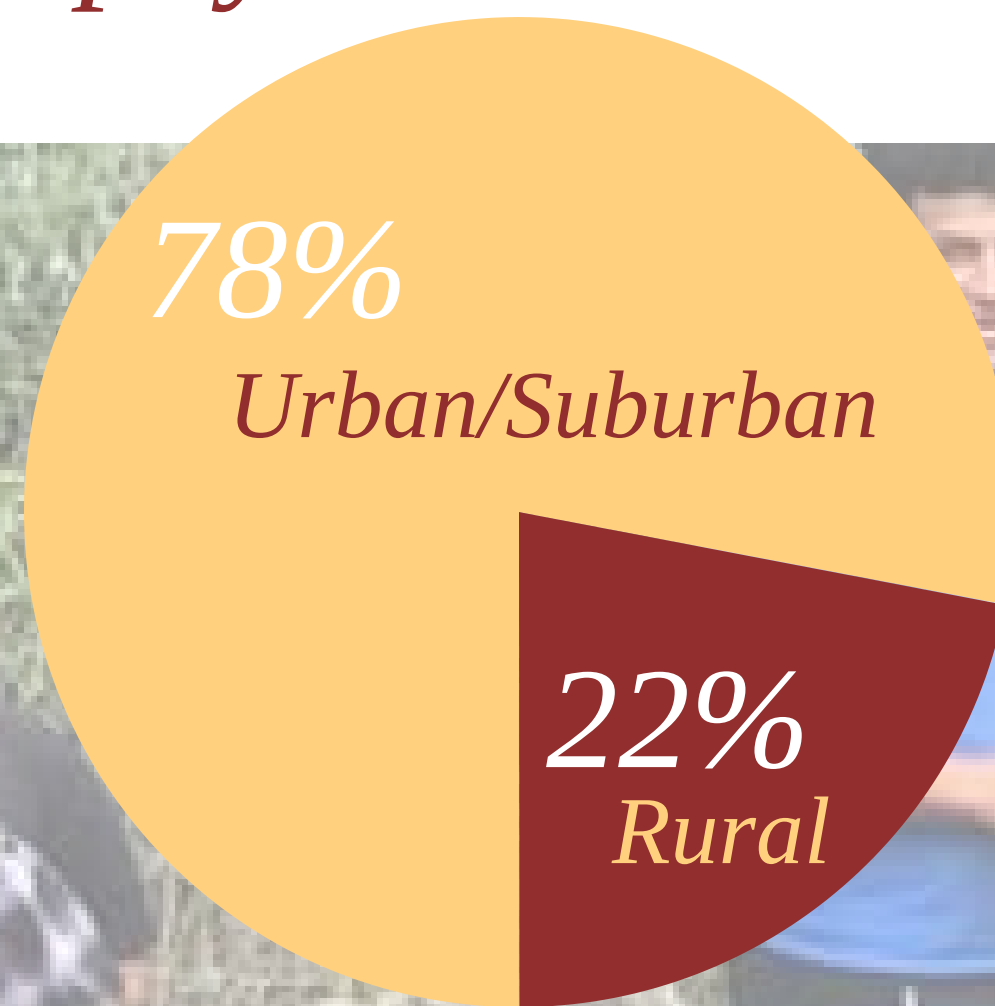
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2021 By the Numbers

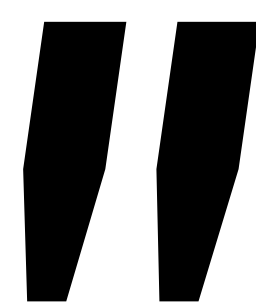
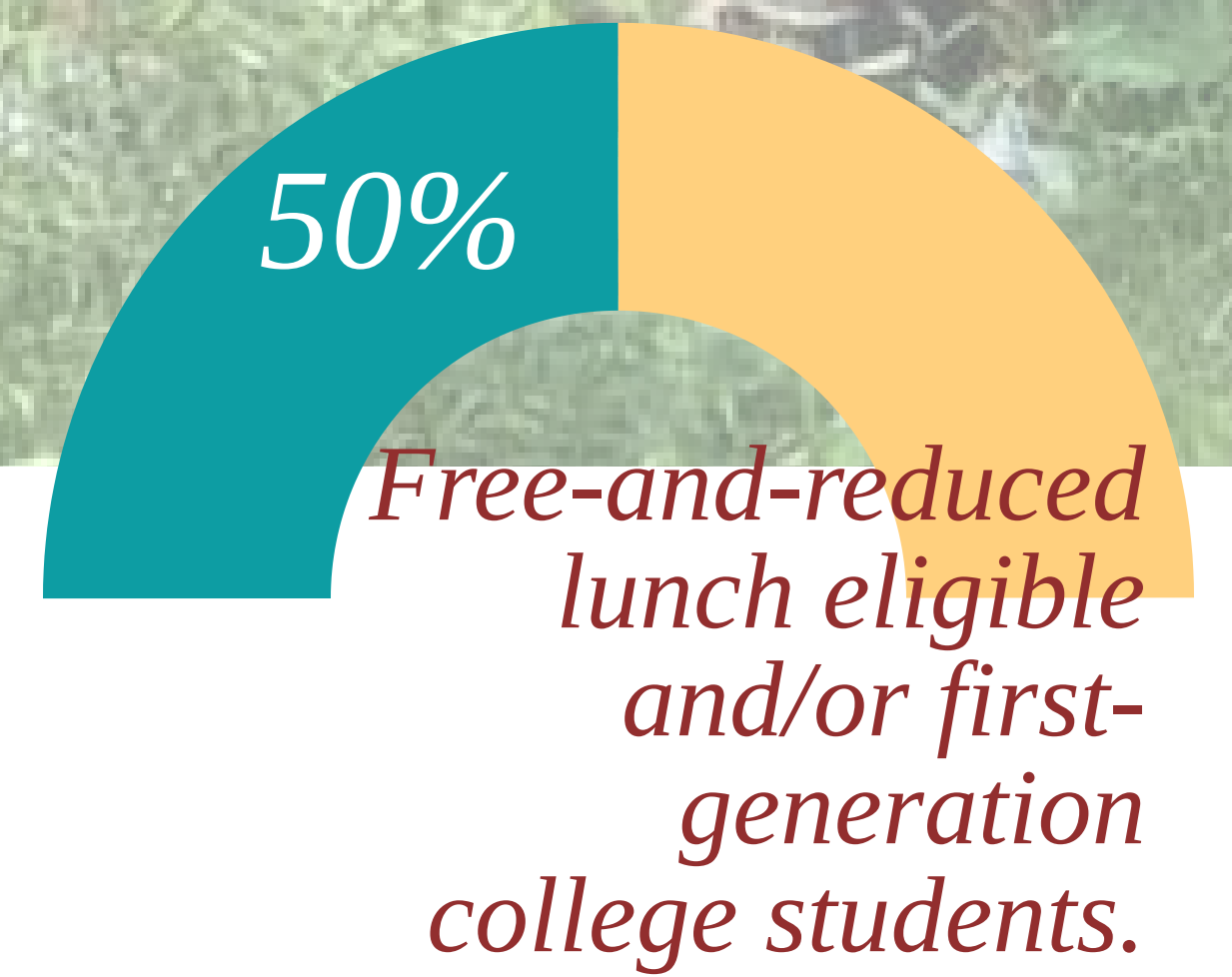
Geography



100%
four-year college acceptance rate.



Eligibility



As parents of a HS student, we endeavored to provide [our student] with the broadest of experiences. She had many wonderful experiences through the years, but one of the capstone experiences for her was COSLI. It is a thorough, well-thought out, deeply experiential program that is both age appropriate and challenging,

-COSLI Parent



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Thank You to Our Sponsors



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In Other News...



Izzy Brophy (Fruita, 2019) was named a **Presidential Academic Scholar with admission to George Washington University**. This includes a four-year renewable merit scholarship. In her first year, she has been elected to serve as a representative for the George Washington University Student Senate.



Mohamed Ibrahim (Wiggins, 2019) was selected as one of the **United States Senate Youth Program's** two delegates from Colorado. He is also a 2022 Boettcher Scholarship semi-finalist.



Fared Ahamad (Lafayette, 2019) was a recipient of the **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Scholarship**, which awarded a \$20,000 scholarship. He is a Freshman at Emory in Atlanta.



Leticia Madrigal (Denver, 2019) and **Marisol Rodriguez (Denver, 2019)** were awarded **Daniels Fund Scholarships**.



Mana Setayesh (Lafayette, 2018), now a freshman at Cornell, was featured in the **Christian Science Monitor** about her resilience during the COVID pandemic. See the story bit.ly/manacornell.

Tye Brown-Wolf (Silverthorne, 2016) was named a **Schwarzman Scholar**, one of the world's most prestigious graduate fellowships. Tye enrolled at Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University in Beijing in August of 2021.



Amiah Hanson (Durango, 2021) was interviewed by **Colorado Politics**, to highlight her exceptional insight as a Colorado teen. See the interview at bit.ly/amiahcosli.

