

# Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School



**“Together,  
we are  
creating our  
future  
Health  
leaders!”**



# A Message from our Head of School

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Dear Friends,

The 2015-2017 school years were an exciting time for the Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School (DRIHSCS). 2017 saw our first graduating class with 100% of our scholars graduating. One graduate is entering the Coast Guard, while the rest have received acceptance letters to college.

The school has been named a "College Now" school, which enabled our scholars to take college classes for credit at both Hostos Community College and Lehman College. The scholars will also have opportunities to intern at Hostos and its partners and will receive career counseling, resume preparation assistance, and financial aid and scholarship guidance.

Additionally, we were the 13th high school in New York City named as a Gateway Pipeline School to partner with City College and the CUNY school of Medicine. This partnership will help us to prepare our scholars for EMT certification and to enter college.

We've developed a full arts and music program to complement our rigorous curriculum, and 50% of our high school scholars take AP, honors, or college courses. Amazing things are happening at DRIHSCS, and I am proud to be a part of our growing success. I hope that as you read on, you will get to know the dedicated, passionate faculty, supportive parents and creative scholars who make our school great.

Together, we are preparing our future health leaders!

Sincerely,



Richard Burke  
Head of School/Principal



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# Letter from the Board Chair

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The years since I have been Chair of the Board have been a period of remarkable growth, not only for our school but also for our entire community. Our test scores and enrollment have increased year after year, and we are so proud of how far we've come. We have met every challenge head on as one community, united by a sense of common purpose and driven by a sense of determination and resilience.

Our purpose is as clear to me as it was when I first joined the Board of Directors: to help our scholars realize and fulfill their dreams and lift up their community in the process.

On any given day at DRIHSCS, you can see that purpose in action. You see it in the teacher that stays late to help a scholar with homework or who shows up on weekends to ensure scholars are ready to earn their next level Tae Kwon Do belt. You see it in the eyes of a student who has a breakthrough and understands something they've been struggling to grasp. You can feel it when you sit in one of our Advanced Placement or honors-level classes and watch our students engage, not only with each other but also with a world of ideas. You hear it when you talk to parents and hear about the pride they have in their children and the hope they have that DRIHSCS has given them for the future.

Each day is a new opportunity to get a little bit better. It's that approach, taken day by day, that has allowed us to make such impressive strides.

This spring, our first graduating class earned their diplomas. They'll enter the world beyond DRIHSCS' walls ready to serve our community – whether by working as EMT's in the medical field or another career in a field of their choosing. No matter where they end up, we know that the values and skills they have developed here at DRIHSCS will serve them and the South Bronx throughout their lives. They will always be a part of the Health and Science family!

We hope our graduates will approach each new day as they learned to here: with an abiding belief in self-reliance, empathy, and healthy communities.

We invite you to visit the School to see our work for yourself. Join us as we continue to educate our community's future health care leaders. Together, we are making a difference!

-Duarna Oller, Board Chairperson



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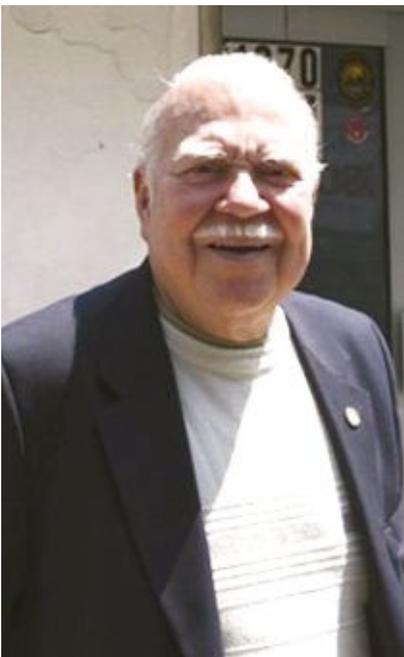
# Mission

Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health & Science Charter School provides our Scholars with a nurturing and challenging educational experience to develop their abilities and address the health and economic disparities in our community. Upon graduation, our Scholars will be prepared for the highest levels of college achievement, for gainful employment as certified health care professionals, and to serve others as they pursue rewarding lives and respected careers for themselves.



# The Dream:

## Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School



Dr. Richard Izquierdo (or “Doc,” as he is affectionately called) has a unique approach to life. In his own words, “I sell dreams and help people accomplish those dreams.” Since founding Urban Health Plan (UHP) in the Bronx in 1974, UHP has since become one of the top community health centers in the Country and the largest community health center in NYC. However, Doc wanted to take a further step in his quest for a healthier, more vibrant community by ensuring that UHP’s staff looked like the community they were serving and understood their culture.

In 2006, he took the first steps to make that a reality. Enlisting his daughter, Paloma Hernandez (UHP’s President & CEO), and Rosa Agosto (UHP’s Chief Talent Officer), Dr. Izquierdo set to work finding a way to increase minority representation in the health care workforce. Driven by that goal, in 2009, they founded a charter school—the Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School (DRIHSCS)—to offer young community members a quality education and path to meaningful employment.

Starting in the 2015–2016 academic year, all 11th graders attending the school have the opportunity to earn certification as first responders. A year later, as they complete their high-school education, the students receive final Career and Technology Education certification as EMTs. Every graduate enters young adulthood ready to either attend college or begin a career in the health field—ready to build a better future for themselves, their families and the entire community, a living realization of Doc’s dream.

Just seven years after the school’s founding, DRIHSCS serves more than 740 students in grades 6–12, providing a vibrant and responsive learning environment where academic rigor is valued, decisions are informed by data, and stakeholders are self-reflective and accountable. With our first class graduated in June, the dream is now a reality. 100% of our seniors applied to college and 100% accepted with one going into the Coast Guard.



# Training Tomorrow's Health Care Workforce



## Curriculum Design

Scholars at DRICHSCS are immersed in a culture of inclusion and support. When nurtured by caring professors and high family involvement, students thrive. Discovery based, student centered learning mixed with career and technical education is relatively unique in U.S., and DRIHSCS is the only charter school in NYC that has a blended model where students receive job training along with a traditional education.

To fulfill Doc's dreams of establishing more health care workers from and working in the South Bronx, all scholars at DRIHSCS enroll in Career and Technology Education (CTE). By graduation, all students will be qualified to take exams to become certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. Across New York City, few students can graduate from high school with the ability to be hired in an esteemed profession at well above the minimum wage. DRIHSCS alumni, by contrast, are equipped to be employed immediately by the City or a private hospital.

Studies have shown that patients respond better when those taking care of them have similar backgrounds and look like them. When DRIHSCS alumni enter the workforce and serve the communities where they grew up, health outcomes in our communities will improve. By creating a pipeline of qualified health care leaders, we will improve the quality of life right here in our own backyard. Our school has attained this through the strong partnerships we have forged. First among them is our Founding Institutional Partner, Urban Health Plan. Our High School scholars partake in rotating internships at UHP, so they experience all aspects of health careers.



## Encouraging STEM Learning

The curriculum at DRICHSCS includes robust science, technology, and math components to ensure its scholars are well prepared to enter STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers. Unlike schools that begin lab work in high school, DRIHSCS scholars start their science and computer labs in middle school.

Ahead of the curve in the use of media and technology, the school installed SMART Boards in every room, and every student has a Chromebook or an iPad.

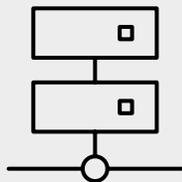
From the moment students enter the nurturing environment of DRIHSCS, all aspects of student life link to health and science education—right down to the food they eat during the school day. Students are encouraged to bring healthy snacks and lunch into school to reinforce nutritional guidelines. Every student emerges from the school with a personal nutrition and health plan, and each family receives nutritional guidance.

In 2014, the school entered into a partnership with Bloomfield College's Teaching Practicum Program to expand its access to high-quality teachers and professional development around STEM preparation for the entire faculty. This partnership has enabled faculty to partner with highly qualified, experienced math and science teachers sponsored by the Korean government.



**“This program has been vital in building a pipeline of health care leaders to serve communities of color.”**

Sophie Davis Dean Erica Friedman



## Building a Pipeline of Health Care Leaders

In New York City, Urban Health Plan (UHP) and Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program/CUNY School of Medicine have partnered to train medical students on how to care for diverse populations and increase opportunities for African American and Latino students to access health careers. Thanks to a grant from the American Medical Association, UHP has teamed up with CUNY to create a curriculum for medical students that will help create practitioners for the 21st century and send medical students to community health centers around the City.

Through the medical school's two-year Pipeline Program, medical students are paired with charter school scholars, from DRIHSCS to acquaint them to medical school training. Between tenth and twelfth grades, scholars spend three weeks of their summer at the CUNY medical school campus, where they attend workshops on health professions, hear professionals speak about their different roles in the medical field and are paired with a mentor. This year, the scholars participated in a photojournalism project on the impact of social determinants of health. After the summer session, students continue to meet with their mentors for a half-day, one day per month. They receive help with schoolwork, college applications and negotiating financial aid.

The CUNY Medical School Pipeline Program was so successful at the charter school that this year, DRIHSCS became one of 13 Gateway Program participants—the only charter school in the group. Through this program, the scholars receive additional tutoring and health coaching from a specialist who works with 13 to 24 year olds. They also have the opportunity to visit public and private colleges, including STEM schools. Scholars who had never dreamed of going to college can now visit multiple schools around the country and see a world of opportunities available to them. This program also provides STEM opportunities within the school and at local colleges.

This program has been vital in maintaining a high level of interest in health careers among the students of DRIHSCS and bringing Doc's dreams to fruition: building a pipeline of health care leaders to serve communities of color.



## Life outside of Class: Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities

DRIHSCS offers scholars opportunities in and out of the classroom to pursue interests and passions to enhance their learning.

Little Kids Rock has provided musical instruments for DRIHSCS, training for music professors, and scholarships for scholars to pursue music over the summer at Berklee College of Music Boston. The partnership with Berklee gives DRIHSCS access to their Modern Band curriculum on the Internet and full scholarships to students in the Modern Band School Programs to study at Berklee during the summer.

Clubs available to scholars include Girls Who Code, Finance Class, Cooking, Chess Club, Peer/Leadership, and Step, among others. Sports available to scholars include Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Cheerleading, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track, and Tae Kwon Do.

Professors have built strong relationships with students, and it's these same professors who meet before and after school to lead these sports and clubs. Many also meet on the weekends as DRIHSCS works to instill a culture of learning that extends beyond the school day and into the lives of their scholars.

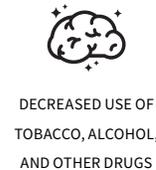


# Promoting a Healthy Community: Involving Families at School

Arizona Sustainability Trip

## Parental involvement

Parental involvement with children and school is key to the success of DRIHSCS. Research shows that increased parent engagement in schools is closely linked to many of DRIHSCS' core values. These include:



In 2013, DRIHSCS created the Family Engagement Center to provide support to the families of scholars by engaging them in school-wide activities, to reinforce our scholars' learning and healthy behavior at home, in school, in out-of-school programs, and in the community. Our Family Engagement Liaison (FEL), a licensed social worker, helps to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue among the students, families, staff, administration, and the greater community. Our FEL works with scholars individually and collaborates with parent leadership to ensure that families' needs are addressed.

Input from parents is gathered through an annual parent survey. In 2013, when the survey program was launched, 79% of the scholars' parents completed the parent survey, compared to 53% citywide. During the following school year, after only one year of participation in the program, parental response to the survey increased to 95% compared to 49% citywide; this year we reached 100%! While parental involvement throughout the city was declining, parents at DRIHSCS were more engaged!

Scholars get in on the fun, too! To keep parents involved and engaged, DRIHSCS scholars create videos about the school and produce an online program, "Health and Science News," for students and parents. These videos are distributed via email and are posted on the school's website.

**Parental involvement with children and school is key to the success of DRIHSCS!**

# Our Mission in Action:

## A Day in the Life of Damien



Damien knows the route to DRIHSCS very well, but he also knows where DRIHSCS is taking him: to a path of service to his community and success. He's been a scholar at the school since it opened its doors in 2010 and has seen the school grow and improve in the years since. Now, as he readies himself for college in just a few months' time, Damien has been a bright spot for students and staff alike. He allowed us to get a peek into a typical day at DRIHSCS for our motivated and successful scholars.

**Early Morning:** Before leaving for school, Damien helps to get his younger siblings ready for the day. Once he arrives at DRIHSCS, he visits the cafeteria to eat breakfast and heads to his homeroom before the morning bell rings.

### 8:20

**Homeroom Starts:** Damien and his homeroom classmates know each other well—they meet every morning throughout the school year, during which they've become active and involved in one another's lives. Those bonds solidified through active involvement from Damien's homeroom teacher, who created interactive activities to help the scholars improve their study skills and teach them how to ace job interviews. Energized and empowered, Damien is ready to head to his first class of the day.

### 8:40-10:40

**He Attends Career and Technical Education (CTE):** CTE is one of DRIHSCS' unique offerings. In 10th grade, scholars learn the basics of first aid and CPR, which is the foundation for CTE classes. Once our scholars reach 11th grade, CTE becomes hands-on. For more than a year, Damien and his peers have learned how to perform CPR on infants, children, and adults, using the school's first-aid mannequins.

Beyond CPR basics, Damien and his classmates practice how to take vital signs, how to treat patients with Type-1 and Type-2 diabetes, and how to respond to different scenarios where oxygen tanks are needed.

Damien, who is now a certified EMT, has put these first-responder skills to practical use. During last Thanksgiving, he gave the Heimlich maneuver to a relative who was choking.

On Fridays, Damien and other select scholars receive guidance on how to build an attractive resume and other skills that will help them to succeed in interviews and negotiate job offers.

**10:40-11:20**

Damien's Favorite Class - Computer Science: Each student at DRIHSCS receives a Chromebook to use, and each classroom is equipped with a SMART Board to enhance learning. They learn the ins and outs of Microsoft Office Suite and how to build websites. In the fall, groups of students were assigned a locally owned neighborhood business and designed a website for it.

**11:20-12:00**

Damien's Most Difficult Class - Algebra II and Trigonometry: Math hasn't always been his strongest subject, but he knows that his teacher is willing to do whatever it takes to help Damien pass the Regents Exam in June. This is one of Damien's favorite aspects of DRIHSCS: Teachers go the extra mile to help students thrive—most even come in on Saturdays to provide additional support for students in need.

**12:00-12:40**

Time for Participation in Government: Here Damien and his fellow scholars improve their communication, critical thinking, and analytical skills while discussing current events. Each week, student groups present projects on different topics. The students who are not presenting are required to read the source materials for the presentation and participate in a class-wide discussion on a broad array of subjects, ranging from the presidential election to college tuition and financial aid to LGBTQAI rights.

As part of the curriculum, DRIHSCS scholars are required to complete at least 100 hours of community service. With several months left in the school year, Damien has almost passed that benchmark—earlier in the year, he helped to acquaint younger students to DRIHSCS, and he regularly mentors new students throughout the year to ensure that they are adjusting well.

**12:45-1:15**

Damien and His Peers Head to Lunch: DRIHSCS staff monitor the cafeteria, nourishing the relationship between themselves and scholars. Since DRIHSCS focused on student well-being, snacks and meals are healthy. Damien would rather have his favorite food, garlic bread, but he knows that the nutritious food is for his well-being.

Since Damien and DRIHSCS students have been together so long, he knows all of the students in the school by name and face. The time in the cafeteria allows students and staff to socialize, catch up on schoolwork and take a brief break to refresh before heading back to class.

**1:15-2:00**

After lunch, Damien goes to his final course of the day - physical education, English, or study hall, depending on the day.

DRIHSCS adds a scholarly component to the traditional gym curriculum. Students take quizzes about the sports they play, in addition to moving their bodies. English class is more traditional in the sense that scholars study the works of Shakespeare and literary classics, like *Of Mice and Men*, and improve their writing skills. After the English Regents Exam, DRIHSCS administrators identified that scholars needed to improve their writing skills, so much of the focus in this class has been to enhance students' critical writing skills and analytical skills. One of Damien's teachers is also a martial artist, specializing in Tae Kwon Do. After school, he gathers a group of students to train in martial arts for up to three hours. Students rise to high standards of discipline both on and off the exercise mats.

**5:00-6:00**

He Heads Home: One of the benefits of senior year has been that his homework load has decreased, and teachers who assign homework allow students to work on it during school hours so that they are available to answer students' questions.

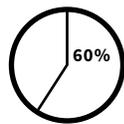
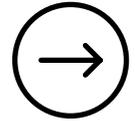
Family Time: He uses the rest of the day to spend time with his family, complete the rest of his homework, eat dinner, and take steps to prepare for his future.

**6:00-10:00**

We asked Damien what he would tell students who are considering going to DRIHSCS. He said that he would let them know about how close the students and staff are. Students are given the opportunity and encouragement needed to reach their full potential.

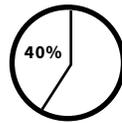
**His personal advice? Look yourself in the mirror every day and say “I’m worth it” to your reflection. Just like Doc’s vision of helping people realize their dreams, Damien has realized his potential and continues to dream.**

# Our Students at a Glance



**60%**

Latino/a



**40%**

African American



**95%**

Free and reduced price lunch



**53%**

Scholars who take advanced placement (AP) classes



**22%**

are special education students



**12%**

are English Language Learners (ELL)



**Yoga Session while on Arizona Sustainability Trip**

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## Board of Trustees

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### **Richard Izquierdo, MD**

Founder, Trustee

### **Duarna Oller**

Board Chairperson

### **Paloma Hernandez**

Co-Founder, Secretary

### **Marshall Kesten**

Treasurer; Chairperson, Finance Committee

### **Rosa Agosto**

Co-Founder, Trustee; Chairperson, Education & Accountability Committee

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Trustee; Chairperson, Human Capital Task Force

### **Rosy Taveras**

Trustee

### **Samuel De Leon, MD**

Trustee

### **Rev. Francisco Lugovino**

Trustee

### **Akin Rawlins**

Trustee



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# School Leadership

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**Richard E. Burke**

Head of School/Principal

**Brian Blough**

Director of Teaching & Learning, Middle School, Director of Student Interventions

**Floriande Buckman**

Director of Teaching & Learning, High School

**Charles Brown**

Director of Operations

**Kate Girerd**

Director of Teaching & Learning, Special Programming

**Miah Groom**

Director of School Culture

**Merrill Kazanjian**

Director of Data & Assessments

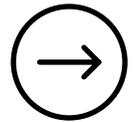
**Sabree Muhammad**

Director of College Transition

**Christopher M. Sharpe**

Director of External Affairs

# Partners and Collaborators



**Creating a pipeline of health care leaders is a difficult task.**

**DRIHSCS could not do it without the help of committed partners.**

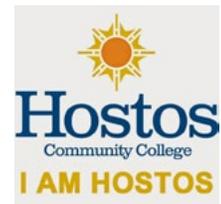
**We thank them for their leadership and support.**

## Institutional Founding Partner

As the school's institutional partner, UHP provides health education programs, mentors, and facilitates collaboration with key health organizations and health care professionals. It also runs the on-site school based Health Care services at DRICHSCS.



## Partners



# Financials

	2016-2017	
	July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	
	Total Budget	
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
State and Local Per Pupil Revenue - Reg. Ed	\$	10,669,266
State and Local Per Pupil Revenue - SPED		2,609,713
State and Local Per Pupil Facilities Revenue		-
Federal Grants		572,921
State and City Grants		58,657
Other Operating Income		
Food Service/Child Nutrition Program		-
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>		<b>13,910,557</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services		
Regular Education	\$	8,372,815
Special Education		4,305,788
Other Programs		
Total Program Services		12,678,603
Management and general		1,111,185
Fundraising		68,560
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>13,858,349</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS</b>		<b>52,208</b>
<b>SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE</b>		
Interest and Other Income	\$	2,500
Contributions and Grants		52,500
Fundraising Support		-
Investments		-
Donated Services		10,000
Other Support and Revenue		8,000
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE</b>		<b>73,000</b>
<b>Net Assets Released from Restrictions / Loss on Disposal of Assets</b>	\$	-
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>		<b>125,208</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$	1,999,440
<b>PRIOR YEAR/PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS</b>		-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$	<b>2,124,648</b>

# The Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School Congratulates its first graduating class

## 100% College Applications

## 100% Acceptance

Tamara Alcantara

■ Alice Alonso

Ronaldo Anziani

Wilfredo Bonilla III

Elijah Brown

● Jinell Buckle

● Alicia Burgos

■ Katarina Castro

Shailoh Cervantes

Isaiah Colon

■ Sylkia Coronado

◇●■ Melody Cristian

Latrell Day

◇★●■ Hamed Diakite

▲◇●■ Anais Diaz

Danyiel Downs

■ Elizabeth Dozier

Aldo Feliz

Craig Fenty

◇■ Arisleidy Fortuna

■ Shaffy Francisco

■ Arshelly Garcia

Harvey Garcia

Jean Garcia

◇ Yuleisy Garcia

Seneca George

●■ Geraldines Gil

Destiny Gonzalez

◇ Samantha Gonzalez

Danielle Graham

◇●■ Kenson Henry

Michelle Hernandez

■ Troi Hill

■ Jasmin Jackson

Isaiah Joseph

Saoudate Kabore

Aminata Kante

▲◇●■ Evelyn Lopez

◇●■ Marilyn Lopez

◇●■ Moranda Lugo

▲ Damian Martir

Gloria Mateo Aquino

Sergio Melendez

Kyrstal Mensah-Stone

■ Amanda Miranda

◇●■ Yonesy Ryan Nuñez

Fidelis Olom

Harrison Owusu

Isaiah Paraison

◇★●■ Luis Ramirez-Escoto

◇●■ Kaylee Ramos

Tisean Rivera

Destiny Rolon

◇●■ Nicaury Roman

■ Angel Romero

Jorsan Rowe

■ Dara Sampedro

Sierra Santiago

Ky Mani Sewer

◇●■ Zareya Singleton

Katelin Sosa

Christopher Soto

■ Frailyn Ureña

■ Amanda Vargas

▲■ Damien Vargas

▲◇●■ Kelvin Vassallo

●■ Juliana Ventura

▲ EMT Certification Obtained

◇ Advanced Regents Diploma

★ Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors

■ University Scholar

● National Honor Society

# FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

## CLASS OF 2017



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