



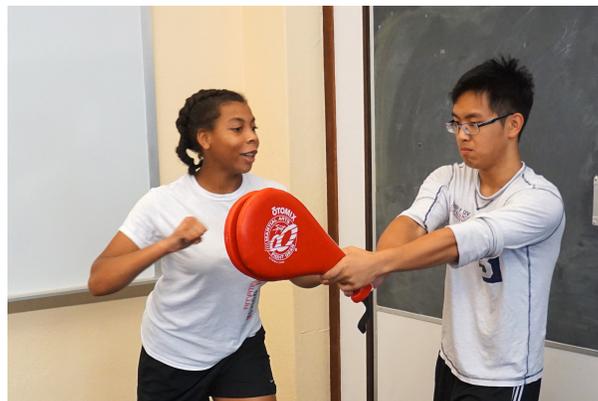
Adrianna Toran, Aim High Achiever and Junior Olympian



Twelve year old Adrianna Toran started running track at three years old. She began training at five. She says her mom signed her up for track as a way to become faster for basketball but Adrianna has hit her stride competing in track and field. Her events are the turbo javelin, discus throw, and shot put. She is inspired by her coaches who are firefighters and police officers who "push her and the other athletes to greatness". Adrianna competed in the Junior Olympics in Houston earlier this month, placing second in shot put, sixth in turbo javelin, and fifteenth in the discus throw.

While Adrianna loves to compete, she has big plans in mind for her future. When asked what she wants to do when she is an adult her eyes light up. She talks about her love of animals and how she hates that some animals are abused. She wants to become a veterinarian to care for animals that have been mistreated. She even has a location in Kansas City picked out near where her grandmother lives where she would like to open a shelter. Much of her inspiration comes from her dog Coda who was rescued by her family from a local shelter.

Adrianna came to Aim High because she wanted to learn more and meet new people. We are so proud of Adrianna for her achievements in athletics and for her admirable goals. Way to aim high Adrianna!



TA Spotlight-Jessica Goldberg Aims High by Creating Performing for Pencils



Jessica Goldberg is a senior at John Burroughs School and has been a TA for the past three years. Along with Ethan Orchard, a former Aim High TA, they founded Performing for Pencils which helps to provide school supplies for students in the St. Louis area who may not be able to afford them. Jessica was named a 2016 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award recipient. Learn more about how Aim High inspired her to co-found Performing for Pencils by clicking the video above.

Why did you decide to become a TA for Aim High?

I decided to become a TA for Aim High because I had heard wonderful things about the program from older participating students. I also love working with kids, and am considering secondary education as my future profession, so I thought this would be a fantastic way to spend my summer. After that first year, I fell in love with the program, and have participated for the past 3 years.

What is your favorite aspect of the program?

My favorite aspect of the program is being able to work with a student and see him/her grow over those 5 weeks. Seeing him/her improve and fill with pride and confidence is so inspiring.

Are there any special memories/moments with a student that stick out in your mind?

My first year of Aim High, there was a 6th grader of mine who was absolutely terrified of water because he didn't know how to swim. However, I coaxed him into the pool and worked with him for the duration of the program until he was comfortable with his abilities. On the last day of swimming, he strode up onto the diving board and jumped into my waiting arms. That was my happiest memory from the year!

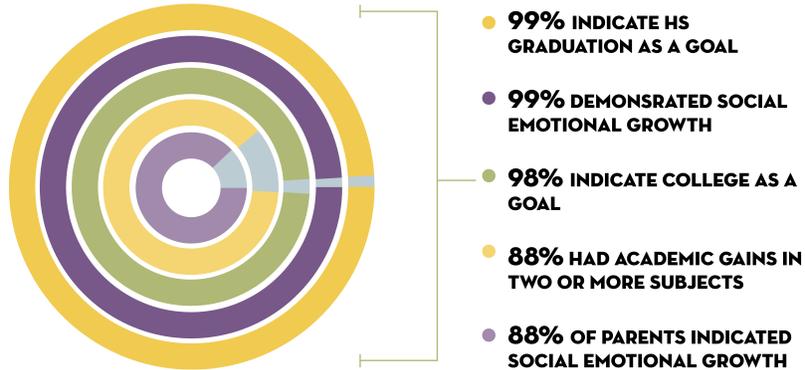
What's next for Performing for Pencils?

We're very busy scouting for talent, soliciting businesses to donate raffle items for our raffle/auction, and putting together our January 7th show! Two younger high school students are currently in training so they can take over Performing for Pencils when Ethan and I go away to college next year. Also, we are attempting to expand Performing for Pencils into the Chicago area.

Anything else you would like to share?

I just want to emphasize how much I love working with the students and the volunteers. It most definitely was what motivated me to co-found Performing for Pencils, and continues to be a source of joy in my life. Thank you Aim High for all that you do!

Aim High Summer 2016 Outcomes



755 South Price Road, St. Louis, MO 63124

To learn why you received this and how to remove yourself from the list, see [Privacy & Permissions Policy](#)

[Review / edit information about you](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Generated by  [Learn more](#)