With our help, kids succeed.❤

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
The Pando Initiative connects with students to help them engage and thrive in education, our community and their future!

In 2018-2019, we impacted over 20,000 students through our programs, and we continue to grow annually. We proudly served 22 Wichita, Derby and Haysville, Kansas schools. When students are connected through relationships, they build strength, vitality and the courage to take the initiative to succeed.

At The Pando Initiative, we’re helping students thrive!
Thank you for making 2018/19 a remarkable year for The Pando Initiative. It was my first year, the organization's twenty-ninth and 2020 will mark thirty years of Pando serving students in our community! Our dedicated staff has done an incredible job serving over 20,000 students this year while strengthening our programs and services.

We launched a new website, created an endowment for the future of Pando, increased our community outreach with a robust social media presence, enjoyed a record setting and sold out 100 Men Who Cook, and expanded Reality U schools by 57%.

Our community partners were so generous, starting off the new school year with a school supply drive, assembling snack packs and hygiene kits. Last Fall, volunteers met to begin a new community garden at West High. Throughout the holiday season, the outreach continued with PandoKids receiving bikes as incentives and transportation, as well as holiday meals for their families. Groups also worked to hold incentive drives for our students to celebrate triumphs in behavior, attendance and grades. This along with the hours of volunteerism, guidance at Reality U, and job shadowing helps to inspire PandoKids to THRIVE in school and in life.

Our goal this year is to increase the number of students served, recruit and retain more lunch-time mentors and strengthen our brand awareness throughout the community.

Thank you for being a part of The Pando Initiative and for your past, current and future support. We are looking forward to an incredible school year!

Sincerely,
Penny Olsen
Executive Director
From “Underdogs” to Leaders

From Truesdell

Both of these girls were considered the “underdog.” They had great personalities, but struggled inside the classroom. They were new to Truesdell and were in the process of figuring out who they wanted to be. Teachers cared, but they weren’t sure how to handle their demanding personalities with so many other students in class. So they were referred to Pando.

We were able to set individual plans, make smart goals, and do some tutoring. They were also a part of our girl empowerment groups. After some time, they showed tremendous improvement. Teachers contacted the SSA with excitement about the changes they had seen. They were both stepping up as leaders, being helpful to those around them and being very pro-active with school work.

Both are amazing young women, and we’re proud to have them as PandoKids!
The CORE Program is at the heart of The Pando Initiative, placing Student Support Advocates (SSAs) in 17 Wichita, Derby and Haysville schools to work with students who are disengaged from school due to economic, social and environmental factors.

These Pando staff members partner with the school to develop student plans, build community through health and human service professionals, community groups and business partners to connect kids to services that will keep them in school. These connections build relationships to improve social and emotional skills and ensure basic needs are met.

**CORE PROGRAM**

Over 1,300 students served and another 10,000 helped

- 79% of K-8 students improved in language arts
- 80% of K-8 students improved in math and reading skills
- 100% of students in grades 9-12 remained in school

- 94% of K-5 students attended school regularly
- 89% of 6-12 grade students attended school regularly
- 96% of high school students eligible to graduate; graduated on time
The Check & Connect program is designed to improve attendance in six Wichita elementary schools that feed into West High School. Funded by the United Way of the Plains, and in partnership with USD 259 and the community, Check & Connect specifically addresses the issues of chronic absenteeism.

By connecting students with mentors, conducting home visits and monitoring attendance, we are able to help students and their families break down the barriers keeping the student out of school.

**Check & Connect Outcomes**

- Served 367 students
- 77% of K-5 students did not have chronic absenteeism
- 75% of students in grades 1-5 improved in language arts
- 77% of 4th & 5th grade students improved in math skills
- 93% of K-5 students did not have out-of-school suspensions
We love to see these SHOCKERS volunteering in the community!

The Wichita State University tennis team regularly spends time at Cloud Elementary mentoring PandoKids! Alexandra, began mentoring a 5th grader at Cloud last year, in the beginning she struggled with attendance issues as well as a negative attitude towards school.

As this team began their journey, they set goals to promote self-worth, and empower her to improve attendance. Developing healthy ways to cope with peer conflict helped this PandoKid THRIVE in school and in life! We are so proud of her continued progress!

Believe in Yourself

From Cloud

We love to see these SHOCKERS volunteering in the community!
Reality U brings a bit of “reality” to students through a 75-minute interactive and engaging personal finance simulation. Students imagine their life as a 26-year-old and complete an online lifestyle survey that is entered into our trademarked software, along with their current GPA, to create a unique and individualized future scenario.

The Reality U program actively engages students to help them understand the importance of how their performance in school today impacts their future. It also provides the community an opportunity to share in local students’ learning and developing an understanding of the world of work.

REALITY U OUTCOMES

- Approximately 10,000 student participants
- Schools served in 2018/2019
  - Grades 8th and 10th
  - 32 Sedgwick & Butler County Schools
  - 45 Kansas Area Schools

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- 94% of students were exposed to the salary of and prerequisites needed to obtain their desired career
- 80% of students understand basic monthly costs to run a household
- 85% of students understand the correlation between their current classwork and their future financial well-being
Mel is a fixture at the Reality U Chance Booth. This is the table where students roll three dice to determine what random act of life occurs to them. Each number, 1-18, causes either an increase or, more likely, a decrease in cash such as visiting the hospital for a broken arm or getting in a car accident. Students learn that life has many curve balls outside the normal budget.

Mel has volunteered with Reality U since retiring from teaching for 20 years. He has amazing energy and connects extremely well with the students. Out in the schools, teachers and volunteers often talk about Mel’s passion for working with students.

Susan often joins Mel as a Reality U volunteer. Susan taught for 18 years, was a principal for 12 years, and served on the Pando Board.

**Take a Chance**

*Mel & Susan Hussey*

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Susan often joins Mel as a Reality U volunteer. Susan taught for 18 years, was a principal for 12 years, and served on the Pando Board.
**Because of You!**

"I have been involved with the Pando Initiative since its early beginnings as Cities in Schools. I’m amazed at the organization’s unwavering dedication to the students they serve. Kids are our future and Pando realizes that many of them need help with life roadblocks that keep them from thriving in school."

- Tim Norton, Executive Director of the Kansas Aviation Museum and Board Member of The Pando Initiative

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2019 - 2020**

Janet Sprecker, Chair  
Community Volunteer

Chris Addington, Vice Chair  
Community Volunteer

Michael Andrusak  
Adams Jones Law Firm

Nate Birkhofer  
Cargill

Margaret Dechant  
6 Meridian

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Tim Link  
Link Resource Group, Inc.

Sheril Logan  
USD 259 BOE

Jennifer Morales  
Celebrity Cruises

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Laura Oblinger  
Sedgwick County Sheriff Office

Tina Prunier  
USD 260 BOE

Bonnie Ryland  
Ernst & Young

Susan Walston  
USD 261 BOE

Kristin Webb  
Koch Industries, Inc.

**NUMBERS TO THRIVE**

**TOTAL REVENUE**

$1,656,491

8% increase OVER Goal!

- 43% : United Way of the Plains
- 23% : School Districts
- 13% : Foundations / Grants
- 11% : Special Events
- 10% : Individuals

**REVENUE DISTRIBUTION**

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- 23% : School Districts
- 13% : Foundations / Grants
- 11% : Special Events
- 10% : Individuals

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THE PANDO INITIATIVE STAFF

Leadership & Administration

Penny Olsen - Executive Director

Karen Blucher
Senior Director of Programs & Operations

Kenya McConico
Program Director

Shannon Shields
Controller

Patrick Sehl, Jr.
Reality U Director

Stephanie Hislop
Marketing & Special Events Manager

CORE PROGRAM SITES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS / Student Support Advocates

CLOUD / David Larson
COOPER / Stacy Betzen
JACKSON / Sarah Edwards

JEFFERSON / Abby Martinez
OAKLAWN / Bev Zuba
PLEASANTVIEW / Stacy Betzen

PRAIRIE / Janelle Durham
WOODMAN / Erica Rinke

MIDDLE SCHOOLS / Student Support Advocates

CURTIS / Cassie Rice
DERBY / Miranda Miller

DERBY NORTH / Jane Gaulding
HAMILTON / Ginger Pollock

PLEASANT VALLEY / Jess Ciriaci
TRUESDELL / Phyllicia Thompson

HIGH SCHOOLS / Student Support Advocates

DERBY / Gary Meitler
NORTH / Sandra Sanchez

WEST / Morgan Palace & Jake Smith

CHECK & CONNECT PROGRAM SITES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS / Team Leads

FRANKLIN / Jessica Smith
HARRY STREET / Crystal Botts

LAWRENCE / Mark Harmon
PARK / Miranda Orlowski

PAYNE / Janessa Crittenden
STANLEY / Lori Wright-Shinsato
DEAR PANDO INITIATIVE SUPPORTERS,

As we look back on the 2018-19 school year, this is a time to reflect on the tremendous community support that the Pando Initiative has received. On behalf of the Pando Initiative board of directors, I would like to thank all of the donors, volunteers and supporters who have stepped up to help our Pandokids.

Our PandoKids are special children who have a tremendous amount of potential but are in need of some extra support in order to overcome barriers that may stand in the way of them achieving success in school. With your help, the Pando Initiative staff work with these students to overcome these barriers. Your involvement in our Pandokid's education helps them to achieve in school and prepare them for life.

Also, thank you to the countless number of volunteers who have helped out at Pando’s Reality U events over the past year. You have helped over 10,000 students learn important life lessons about financial literacy in a fun hands-on environment. You have helped prepare them for their future after high school.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2019-20 school year as we continue to expand both the core Pando programs as well as the Reality U program. Thank you for your continued support. It truly does make a difference in the lives of thousands of students in the Sedgwick County area.

Sincerely,
Janet Sprecker
Pando Initiative Board of Directors, Chair