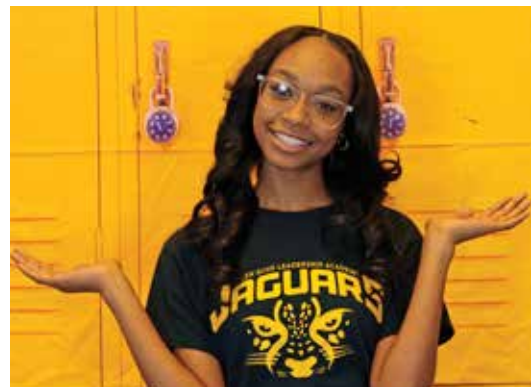


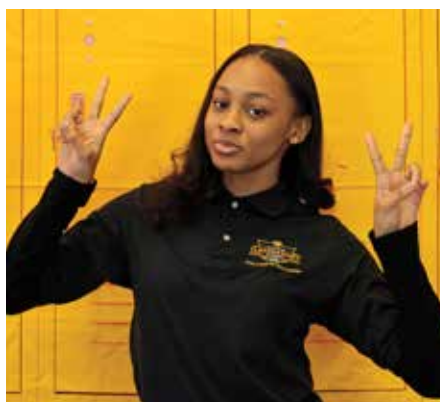
CELEBRATING 14 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE – CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!



JALEN ROSE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT



### OUR MISSION:

Jalen Rose Leadership Academy will empower all scholars to develop the strength of character, skills and knowledge needed to matriculate, be great in, and graduate from college or postsecondary program so that they have opportunities to be successful in the competitive world and to take care of themselves and the people that they love.



# ENTER A LEARNER: EXIT A LEADER.

TUITION-FREE, OPEN ENROLLMENT  
PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

## JRLA CLASS OF 2025

Valedictorian Yasmine Konate  
(University of Michigan)

Salutatorian Tommie Dafney III  
(Central Michigan University)



**W**e are deeply invested in providing opportunities to improve the educational outcomes for our scholars. It truly takes a village to raise a child and we thank those who believed in our vision early on as well as those who continue to push our mission forward.

**MICHAEL A. CARTER, SR.**  
Co – Founder

**W**hat began as a dream for my old neighborhood has become a reality. JRLA has set out to change the course of the lives of Detroit youth and their families through the power of education and that is exactly what we are doing. It's not a matter of if we will achieve our destiny for this Academy, but when.

**JALEN ROSE**  
Founder

*"I find it quite a privilege to be part of the JRLA family and I respect the time, effort, and money that has been donated to give the scholars a good education." - Diamond Oakley, parent*



## JRLA Board of Directors

When Jalen Rose and Michael A. Carter, Sr. founded the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy in 2011, they recruited a group of distinguished community leaders to help them launch and govern the school.

**Dennis Archer, Jr., Secretary**

Founding Principal & President, Archer Corporate Services  
CEO, Ignition Media Group

**Greg Boll, Vice President**

President, Navigant Oak, LLC

**Christopher Brochert, Director**

Co-Founder/Partner, Lormax Stern Development Co.

**Dean Brody, Treasurer**

Founder, Revel Moments

**Leigh Chandler, Director**

CAO, Strike Group LLC

**Shawna Forbes, Director**

Professional and Former Vice Chancellor/School of Continuing Ed & Workforce Dev. Wayne County Community College District

**Wendy L. Jackson, Director**

Managing Director - of Detroit Program, Kresge Foundation

**Burt Jordan, Director**

President at Atlantic Coastal Acquisitions

**Jalen Rose, President**

JRLA Founder

**Past Board Members:** Tonya Allen, Rumia Ambrose Burbank, Honorable Mayor Dave Bing, Tim Gale, John James, Ron Klein, Mick Koster, Jason Langwell, Diane Manica, Kim Mattes, David Schostak & Neil Weissman



**Back Row (L/R):** Dean Brody, Shawna Forbes, Dennis Archer, Jr., Chris Brochert, Leigh Chandler, Burt Jordan, Wendy L. Jackson, Greg Boll

**Front Row (L/R):** Michael Carter, Sr. and Jalen Rose

## JRLA Founding Team

**Michael A. Carter, Sr., Co-Founder**

Owner, Pinnacle Construction Partners, LLC

**Mick Koster**

Assistant Vice President of Development  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Diane Manica**

Former Director, University of Detroit Mercy  
College of Liberal Arts & Education

**Jalen Rose, Founder**

Basketball Legend & Multimedia Mogul

**Michelle Ruscitti-Miller**

Chief Executive Officer, Operation Graduation

**Dr. Barbara Smith**

Education Consultant/Curriculum Design

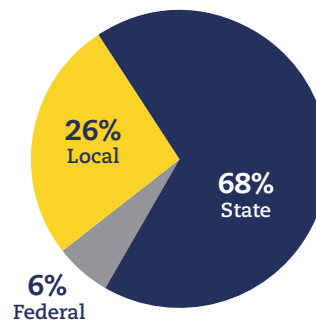
**N. Kendall Walton**

Principal Owner, Walton Business  
Management Solutions

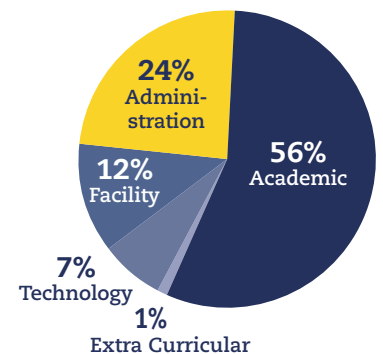
Charter Authorizer: John Engler Center for Charter  
Schools at Central Michigan University



### FY25 Revenue



### FY25 Expenditures



"I keep telling the world how much I love JRLA, and Lord willing, ALL of my daughters will be attending there once they become high school students." – LaTonya Burkette, parent



## Graduating Students and Preparing Them for Their Postsecondary Pursuits

By every metric, the highest-performing high schools in Detroit are all charter schools (schools that don't require high test scores for admittance). Considered the gold standard of school rankings, the U.S. News and World Report rankings of the Best High Schools in America have been announced for 2025 and **JRLA ranks No. 2 in the city** for open enrollment schools. JRLA also ranks No. 6 among all high schools in Detroit, including the selective enrollment schools. JRLA is also a leader in Detroit for college matriculation and although we are proud of our accomplishments, we know we must continuously strive for improvement.

**100%**

Minority Enrollment

**95%**

cumulative graduation rate, equal to rates of suburban high schools (percent of students who began their 12th-grade year enrolled at JRLA and successfully graduated at the end of the school year)

**80%**

participation in advanced programming (AP, Dual Enrollment & CTE)

**90%**

Average Daily Attendance

**100%**

of JRLA graduates have been accepted to college or technical school

**92%**

Free/Reduced Lunch

**A**ll students do not have equal access to a quality education. Despite major strides toward educational equity, our country still faces an opportunity gap. An education should not be defined by socioeconomic background, abilities, or zip code! That is why Jalen Rose and Michael A. Carter, Sr. founded JRLA — an open enrollment, tuition free, public charter high school in their hometown of Detroit.

### 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates

\*students who graduated after beginning ninth grade at JRLA (2015-2024)

Birmingham Public Schools **97%**


Grosse Pointe Public Schools **95%**

JRLA **94%**

State of Michigan **81%**

DPSCD **74%**





In partnership with NAF, JRLA now offers a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program with pathways in Health Sciences, Education and Business. The program provides scholars with the skills and knowledge they need to enter the work force with a certification or pursue further education in a specific career field.



# What MAKES JRLA UNIQUE?

- ★ Safe Nurturing Environment with a Family Atmosphere
- ★ 20+ Athletic & Enrichment Opportunities
- ★ Mentorship Programs, Corporate Partnerships & Foundation Support
- ★ Expectation that all will graduate and enroll in a postsecondary pathway
- ★ A Summer Learning Adventure with real world exposure including programs on college campuses and internships with local businesses to prepare for a global economy
- ★ College Prep academic offerings including Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment & CTE courses
- ★ A robust college counseling system that requires every scholar to apply to multiple colleges, pursue available financial aid, and helps scholars and their families select the best postsecondary fit
- ★ Full-time Alumni Success Counselors to work with scholars once they embark on their postsecondary pursuits to provide the support they need to persist through degree or certification completion

Beyond academics, JRLA is also committed to serving the broader community through a partnership with Forgotten Harvest. Staff, scholars and local volunteers were able to come together to fight hunger and food insecurity by distributing fresh and nutritious food free of charge to our community every Wednesday.



*"My son transferred to JRLA and he has had more experiences and opportunities in the two months that he has been there, as opposed to the two years at his prior school." – Koron Dorsett, parent*





## Next Big Challenge

According to the 2024 Michigan School Data (MISD) College Dashboard, the average 6-year college completion rate for all Michigan students is **57.7%**. This rate is lower than the 2023 national average of **62.3%**.



Founded on a 9-16 model (to and through college), we are on a mission to not only graduate our scholars from high school, but get them to graduate from college or a postsecondary program as well – outcomes that are real game changers in urban public education.

**W**ith the support of corporate and individual donors, JRLA distributed \$142K in 2025 for scholarships bringing the cumulative total to \$1.916 Million in private scholarship dollars for our scholars and alumni. These funds help decrease the gap of the full cost of college after financial aid, grants and loans. Every scholar who applied for an in-house scholarship received funding for college to assist them on their path to greatness.

JRLA is one of the few high schools in the state that employs full-time staff to work with the school's alumni. Scholars receive the support they need during their postsecondary pursuits with the hope they will earn a college degree or trade certification. The school is committed to going above and beyond what a traditional public school would provide so its scholars can compete in a global economy.





## JRLA LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

**2018**  
FATE  
Mentoring Program

**2019**  
JRLA Staff

**2020**  
JEEP

**2021**  
Davis Elkins Foundation;  
Tom & Holly Gores/  
Platinum Equity  
& Stephen Ross

**2022**  
Detroit  
Childrens' Fund

**2023**  
Ballmer Group

**2024**  
Teach for  
America Detroit/  
Teach Michigan

**2025**  
Henry Ford Health

The **15th Annual JRLA Celebrity Golf Classic** Presented by Tom Gores & Platinum Equity is the school's largest fundraiser of the year. This year's event was in May and was a success **raising over \$150,000** for the school. Other presenting partners included MGM Grand Detroit, Puma and Jeep. Since 2018, JRLA has distributed a leadership award in conjunction with this celebratory weekend. **The award recognizes those who are truly dedicated to the mission of uplifting the JRLA scholars.**



## OUR VALUES

### The power of respect

*I find success through  
empathy and integrity.*

### The power of determination

*I have the will to succeed.*

### The power of excellence

*I must take ownership in  
my learning to succeed.*

### The power of family

*I succeed when we  
all succeed.*

**Our generous donors are making this work possible and we truly appreciate the support!**

Jalen Rose Leadership Academy 15000 Trojan Street, Detroit, MI 48235 • JRLADetroit.com • 313-397-3333

X f @ /jrladetroit

# Opportunities to Invest in the Scholars of JRLA



**F**unding a public charter high school is not an easy task, especially in Detroit. Per pupil spending varies significantly across the United States. For example, this upcoming school year, JRLA will receive roughly \$10,000 per pupil in state aid, significantly less than our suburban counterparts and well below the national average of over \$16,645. In addition, states like New York are allocating over \$35,000 for each pupil.

Michigan charter schools do not receive funding to purchase, lease, or improve their facilities. This causes financial challenges that can limit our ability to reach our ambitious educational goals and provide appropriate accommodations. To fully prepare our students for their postsecondary pursuits, we need to raise significant funds from private sources (individuals, corporations and foundations) to bridge the gap. We are seeking contributions to support areas such as...



School sponsored college visits and campus tours to increase college enrollment and persistence



Technology including additional laptops, tablets and smart boards for access to interactive learning software



Summer Learning Adventure which includes placement of students in business and professional internships - you can't dream about what you've never seen



Benefits for our staff that go above and beyond including higher starting salaries, merit increases, performance bonuses, longevity bonuses and PTO payout



Extra-curricular activities that improve college acceptance and support college success as well as athletic programs that instill teamwork, leadership and hard work



Scholarship funds to close the gap between the rising costs of college and available financial aid so all students can attend the schools that accept them



In May of this year, Henry Ford Health donated their Kingswood facility to JRLA for our expansion efforts. The high school plans to transition to this location for the 2027-28 school year and convert the current campus into a middle school. We are embarking on a \$25 Million capital campaign to support the retrofit and renovations, which will include more classroom space, a weight room, a full size gymnasium and other offerings. Naming rights available.



*Tax-deductible contributions can be made to:*

**Jalena Rose Leadership Academy**

15000 Trojan Street • Detroit, MI 48235

Questions on ways to support? Contact Michelle at [jrla@jalena-rose.com](mailto:jrla@jalena-rose.com)

*"We are a family. When someone is in need, there is always someone from the school there to help." – Erica Coleman, student*