

2018 Impact Report





Dear Friends,

As I've visited with alumnae this past year, I've been blown away by the power of their stories and accomplishments. Whether one, six or 16 semesters later, I found a common thread of gratitude for their Traveling School semester and its impact.

Our alumnae community, 371 strong, is an impressive crew of young women – nonprofit leaders, artists and Peace Corps volunteers. They are first-generation college graduates, attend our nation's best universities and they are all lifelong learners. They are mothers, artists, business owners, filmmakers and activists. And for so many of our alumnae, The Traveling School was pivotal in their journeys.

Don't take it from me, take it from Jane, Chloe and Ceely, whose stories are shared in the pages to follow. The Traveling School's approach to experiential education and leadership development is proven, and their stories are shining examples of this.

Moreover, their inspiring accomplishments are a tribute to each and every one of YOU, our community. Thank you for continuing to support The Traveling School. It is important work!

When we help girls find confidence as teenagers, they will be able to speak up throughout their lives. If we help young women build leadership skills, they will run our non-profits, businesses and political systems. If our youth learn about important global issues, they will forever be more effective agents of change and will solve the problems that ache our world.

This is what The Traveling School does for young women. And we couldn't do it without YOU!

Here's to the next generation of stronger, fuller, fiercer women,

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JENNIFER ROYALL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & HEAD OF SCHOOL jroyall@travelingschool.com



The Traveling School is:



An Intellectual Journey

that challenges young women to think critically about important global issues



A Community of Women

built overseas through profound shared experiences



A Transformative Opportunity

for young women to take risks and push their comfort zones



A Supportive Environment

that empowers teenage girls to find confidence and speak their minds

A Lasting Impact









Exploring the globe 16 years | 32 semesters 480 weeks | 3,360 days



Leadership in action Speaking up right away

JANE BELCASTER ALUMNA, SPRING 2018 SOUTH AMERICA

At 18 years old, Jane is already leaning in and making an impact through her high school newspaper, the *Trapeze*.

Inspired by a journalism course her sophomore year, Jane is now the managing editor as a senior. **"The Traveling School gave me a new sense of confidence,"** Jane says, which has allowed her to speak up.

Since returning from her Traveling school semester, Jane reflects, "I wrote a story criticizing how my school complies with Title IX because they weren't doing as much as I think they could around this issue. I wouldn't have had the guts to do that – putting my high school athletics on blast - before The Traveling School."

The very next issue, Jane wrote a front page article highlighting her in-person interview with Ruth Bader Ginsburg. After requesting a 15-minute interview in a handwritten letter, Jane spent a full hour with the Supreme Court Justice and women's rights champion.

She started her letter to Justice Ginsburg with "... five months ago, I might not have had the courage to send a letter like this to someone like you..." because, Jane asserts, it was the confidence she gained on her Traveling School semester that moved her to reach out to her shero.

"The Traveling School is important for gaining that sense of confidence as a girl, and speaking up in a way that women and girls aren't conditioned to do," Jane explains.

After her Traveling School semester and learning in an all-female environment, Jane beams, "I no longer have this feeling of not wanting to raise my hand for fear of being too outspoken, being bossy. I no longer have this feeling that I need to tame my voice." *



Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks with Trapeze Inte Belcaster which received an astounding 94 percent on



Belcaster poses with RBG before the interview

Five years short of her 90th birthday, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, became a national pop icon. Visit Amazon, type her name, and watch merchandise - T-shirts, iPhone cases, coffee mugs, socks -- pop up for sale. As if that weren't confirmation enough of her cultural status, Justice Ginsburg may be the only member of the Supreme Court in our nation's history to have attained a starring role in a big screen film. This summer, filmmakers Julie Cohen and Betsy West released the critically acclaimed documentary, "RBG," which chronicles the Justice's life. The film sold out screenings nationwide, including multiple sell-outs at the Lake Theatre here in Oak Park. The film,

which received an astounding 94 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, provides viewers a glimps into why Justice Ginsburg is beloved by so many.

Justice Ginsburg, the second female justice appointed to The Supreme Court, enjoyed a path-breaking legal career prior to serving in the federal judiciary. Her most important contributions to American law arguably preceded her time on the bench. She litigated six cases before the Supreme Court, all touching, in some manner, the 14th Amendment's equal protection guarantee, and each based upon the principle, as she argued in one of the cases,"men and women are persons of equal dignity and they should count equally before the law." As NPR legal correspondent Nina Totenberg stated in "RBG," "Ruth Bader Ginsburg changed the way the world is for American women."

While preparing for a summer internship in Washington, D.C., I decided to write a letter. A letter I thought would never receive a response. Six days later, an envelope from the the Supreme Court sat on my kitchen counter. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg accepted my request to interview her. At 4 pm on a Wednesday, I walked from the Russell Senate Office Building to The United States Supreme Court. These edited excerpts from my conversation are based upon five questions (none of which could touch upon former, current, or future Supreme Court cases) that were pre-approved by the Court's Public Information Office:

Q & A on page 3

Leadership in action Building community 3 years out

CHLOE LOEFFELHOLZ ALUMNA, FALL 2015 SOUTHERN AFRICA

This fall, Chloe Loeffelholz silenced the rowdy crowd at The Traveling School's annual Passport Party fundraiser. A current student of communications at The University of Montana, Chloe shared, **"Those four months three years ago impact me every day."**

"The Traveling School made me into a creative and critical thinker," she confidently spoke into the microphone. "I could not have earned the Presidential Leadership Scholarship without the skills I gained on my semester."

"I thought I was not a leader, yet at The Traveling School I served as leader of the day and was elected class representative. I thought I was not physically strong, but I kayaked rapids and rock climbed. I thought I was quiet and invisible, but I started to feel seen and heard."

Today, Chloe demonstrates these leadership skills to make a difference in her newest community, at her college campus in Missoula. She is a Neighborhood Ambassador, the Social Media Officer for the Honors Student Association and a dedicated volunteer with the Girls Using Their Strengths (GUTS) program at a local elementary school.

Chloe is politically engaged and also an advocate for young women to become confident leaders. **"I want any girl who feels like four walls isn't enough to hold her curious mind to be on a Traveling School semester,"** she affirmed while peering into the crowd, "Because three years out, I am still learning how a semester with The Traveling School changed who I am." *****





Leadership in action Engaging in Global Leadership 8 years later

CEELY HECK ALUMNA, FALL 2010 SOUTHERN AFRICA

Ceely Heck recently completed her Peace Corps service in rural Cameroon as a Maternal and Child Health Volunteer.

Setting off on an international semester in Africa as a teenager takes strength and courage and, as Ceely reflects, "I was unprepared for the discomforts of living abroad." Yet with the support of her Traveling School community, she was able embrace and grow from the challenges.

"It was with the lessons I learned from my Traveling School semester, that I was able to spend the last two years in the jungles of west Africa."

And because of her ability to conquer challenges and embrace the uncomfortable, Ceely has made a profound impact in the Peace Corps. "I worked in the small village of Ngoap, Cameroon to start a mobile health clinic, arranged needed surgeries that were previously unavailable in my rural village, addressed malnutrition in young children and pregnant women, built latrines and helped to address the effects of HIV in our community."

Like so many of her fellow alumnae, Ceely's Traveling School semester rooted in her a sense of confidence, strength and a deep desire to be a global leader.

"If there is one piece of advice I have for future generations of aspiring female changemakers, it would be just this: **lean into the discomfort, because you are stronger and braver than anyone, even you yourself, could imagine."** *



I realized the importance of small moments and of thinking big. All you need are some traveling sisters with you in spirit, a good sturdy duffle bag, a place to call home even if just for a few days and the dizzying freedom that you get from reading the world.

" — ALUMNA, FALL 2017

The Traveling School provides students with an openness to experience new things, flexibility of an always changing schedule, empathy for the world and empowerment to make change.

") — ALUMNA, SPRING 2018

PORT

The numbers

\$931,074.00

TOTAL REVENUE

\$833,740.00 89.5% Tuition & Fees

\$97,334.00 10.5% Individual Donations & Foundation Grants

\$961,406.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$634,431.00 66% Program

\$130,500.00 13.6% Financial Aid

\$102,318.00 10.6% Development

\$94,157.00 9.8% Operations

operations

Data reflects figures from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

We are committed to financial transparency. Full financial statements are available at travelingschool.com

Giving girls a chance

BECAUSE OF YOU

252 Total donors

48 Alumnae Gifts

100% of gifts directly support financial aid



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ALSO YOU



My teachers were more than just teachers. They were mentors, role models and trusted friends.

(") — ALUMNA, FALL 2017

Board of Directors

Nancy Lykkehoy - President Emily Mallory - Vice President Daniel Center - Treasurer Laura Hannah - Secretary Stephanie Miskell Elizabeth Martin Ian Godwin Lynn Kelting Gibson John Shea* Molly Berndt**

*As of summer 2018

**Served on Board of Directors until 2018. Thank you for your dedication and service to The Traveling School and our students.

Faculty

Fall 2017, TTS30

Danika Robinson - Program Coordinator Abigail Hunter - Logistical Coordinator Ali Brooks - Academic Teacher Savannah Johnson - Academic Teacher

Spring 2018, TTS31

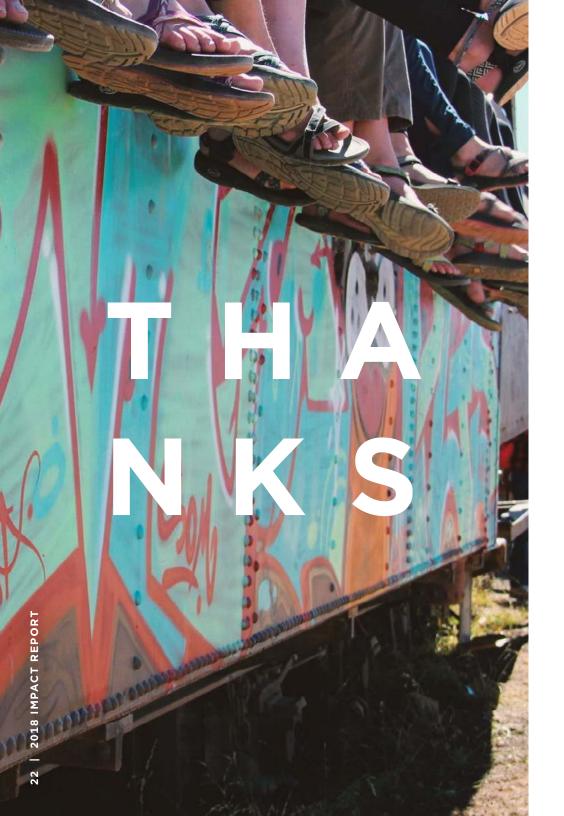
Caroline Goodman - Program Coordinator Tory Smith - Logistical Coordinator Julia Reich - Academic Teacher Gaby Stablein - Academic Teacher Elsie Thomson - Academic Teacher Melissa Seehausen - Academic Teacher

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Royall - Executive Director & Head of School Aunge Thomas - Academic Dean & Program Director Leah Knickerbocker - Academic Dean & Program Director Laura Brin - Development Director Elsie Thomson - Office Manager Dalton McCurdy - Admissions Manager

Alumnae Council

Anna Thompson - Spring 2011, Central America Alexa Wagner - Fall 2009, Southwest Africa Grace Stopher - Spring 2008, South America & Fall 2008, SW Africa Helen Wilson - Spring 2012, South America Cyprien Pearson - Fall, 2010 Southeast Africa Kaitlyn Hepburn - Spring 2015, Central America Natalie Trono - Fall 2013, Southwest Africa Ariela Martin - Fall 2013, Southwest Africa



For being the caring, philanthropic community that makes it possible for Traveling School students to push their comfort zones, experience the world and gain the skills and confidence to become global leaders.

Together, we can change the narrative that sustains gender inequality in our world.

My daughter gained a clear understanding that young women, who overflow with curiosity and passion, and who work together, can move our world to a better place.

(") — PARENT, SPRING 2018



THE TRAVELING SCHOOL EMPOWERS YOUNG WOMEN ACADEMICALLY, PHYSICALLY AND CULTURALLY THROUGH AN EXPERIENTIAL OVERSEAS HIGH SCHOOL SEMESTER.