



**Together, we soar.**

Dear NLCP community,

It's with great sadness that I share last month's passing of Phoenix family member Mr. Irv Lewis. As one of NLCP's "founding fathers," Mr. Lewis generously providing initial funding to get our school off the ground, and both he and his wife Roberta remained strong supporters of NLCP's work over the years. When Roberta passed away, Mr. Lewis established the Roberta Bachmann Lewis scholarship fund (RBL) in her memory, laying the foundation for The Phoenix Pact, a program that awards qualifying NLCP alumni last dollar scholarships to partner colleges and universities. Over 550 NLCP alumni have received financial support through The Phoenix Pact, and his legacy will continue to impact students as we honor his memory by uplifting our scholars, school and community.

In that spirit, please read on for spotlights on programs and initiatives making a lasting difference at NLCP and throughout our community.

In partnership,  
Garland Thomas-McDavid  
*President*  
*North Lawndale College Prep*

## **Together, we are making a difference.**

In the spirit of gratitude and giving, NLCP scholars and staff rallied together to donate toys to those in need this holiday season through WGN's Annual Toy Drive. Organized by NLCP Student Council members, the school community collected and delivered over 200 toys to WGN's studio, contributing to the station's biggest Toy Drive to date!

NLCP scholars also collected gently used clothing and blankets from the community to donate to a local homeless shelter. At NLCP, we are instilling in our students the importance of servant leadership and supporting them in their journeys to becoming transformational leaders. Our students lead by example by giving back to their community and being a part of the change they want to see in the world. We are proud of and inspired by the generosity our scholars demonstrate throughout the year and during the holiday season!



Check out coverage of [WGN's Annual Toy Drive](#) featuring the energy and excitement of NLCP students!

### **[INCLUDE THUMBNAIL OF WGN VIDEO IN MAILCHIMP](#)**

## **Together, we rise.**

When Arriel Azadi Williams graduated from NLCP in 2008, she never imagined she would be where she is today. Azadi has served the NLCP community for the last 11 years, transitioning from an operations assistant to a theatre teacher helping students process trauma in her drama therapy class before becoming principal of our Christiana campus, where she continues to transform the lives of scholars.

While growing up in North Lawndale, Azadi frequently witnessed violence and illegal activity, creating a turbulent environment where she felt incomplete and unsure of her path forward. Encouraged by her parents and NLCP staff members, Azadi was determined to overcome the challenges she faced in her environment and find success in college. She credits NLCP teachers and counselors with instilling in her belief that there was more out there for her in life and helping her grow as a young leader.

Now leading the campus where she was once a student, Azadi is fostering a college-going culture for her students so they can reach their full potential. By working with scholars and families to identify college opportunities and emphasizing the long-term impact of higher education, Azadi helps students whose experiences mirror her own achieve more.

“I see myself in them, and I want them to see themselves in me.”

Learn more about Principal Williams and her journey from NLCP graduate to school leader in her interview with [ABC 7](#).

### **[INCLUDE THUMBNAIL OF ABC 7 INTERVIEW IN MAILCHIMP](#)**

**Together, we are going places.**



Since our founding, NLCP has helped Chicago students find success in college and life, impacting the lives of over 2,000 graduates since 1997. During that time, we've maintained a 100% college acceptance rate and awarded \$4.2 million in full-tuition scholarships through our Phoenix Pact program to make higher education a reality for our scholars. By providing rigorous academic coursework and a web of supports, we help NLCP students get to and through college.

From our inspiring student Peace Warriors to the college preparation programs that set our scholars up for success, our work wouldn't be possible without the generous contributions of our supporters. Each year, 14% of our funding is provided through philanthropic donations, and every dollar supports students in their educational journeys. Your investment in NLCP this holiday season will transform the lives of our scholars, their families and our community. Your support helps our students soar. Please consider an end of year gift today.

Visit our [donation page](#) to make a contribution to NLCP online or make checks payable to:

North Lawndale College Prep  
P.O. Box 23400, Chicago, IL 60623