



A-KEEP

ALABAMA-KOREA
EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

A-KEEP

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LEADERSHIP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Eric Mackey
Chairman of the Board
Superintendent of the State of
Alabama



Dr. Charles Ledbetter
Vice Chairman of the Board
Pike Road Schools
Superintendent



Meesoon Han,
Executive Director



Jennie Cochren
CEO of Sims Investments



Dr. Mark Davis
Dean, College of Liberal Arts
& Director, Office of
International Programs at the
University of West Alabama



Dr. Karen Delano
Auburn City Schools
Superintendent



Lance Hunter
CEO Hodges Warehouse +
Logistics



Dr. Aaron Milmer
Saraland City Schools
Superintendent



Nichelle Nix, JD
Director, Governor's Office of
Minority Affairs



Dr. James Purcell
Director, Alabama
Commission on Higher
Education



Dr. Chresal Threadgill
Mobile City Schools
Superintendent



Col. Joe Windle
Tallapoosa County Schools
Superintendent

2018 AT A GLANCE

23

Students enrolled in A-KEEP's first STARTALK summer program

13

Young professionals and post-secondary students enrolled in Community KSL Class

7

Alabama residents employed through cultural workforce development

25

Teen Leaders committed to communication, cooperation and service

4

AmeriCorps members engaged in capacity building to meet community needs

37

After-school KSL students



2018

OUR PROGRAMS

The Alabama-Korea Education & Economic Partnership (AKEEP) is a Montgomery, Alabama-based nonprofit that seeks to bridge the gap between Korean and Southern culture.

A-KEEP's work provides critical knowledge and services to improve the quality of life for students, professionals, and organizations by enabling these groups to take full advantage of the opportunities in the growing economic ties between Alabama and South Korea.

PROGRAMS

STARTALK: Cultural Treasure Hunters

Community Korean as a Second Language Course

Afterschool Korean as a Second Language

Korean Cultural Experience: The Fragrance of Spring

Bridge of Unity in Diversity Club

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

IMPACT OF BUD CLUB

BUD Club saw many changes in 2018 including a transfer of management to Ms. Elisabeth Newell, special education teacher at Wilson Elementary. Ms. Newell was chosen for this position because of her experience in special education and working with families of people who have developmental disabilities directly related to BUD Club's responsibility of community inclusion regardless of learning ability.

2018 highlighted a year of personal and professional development for the high school students with the assistance of A-KEEP's AmeriCorps members who supported members' interests in junior interpretation, social media management and public relations projects. Club members took part in community activities such as the Montgomery Dragon Boat Festival, the Montgomery Zoo's annual ZooBoo and the club's annual presentation on Developmental Disabilities at Troy University Montgomery.

HIGHLIGHTS

Professional Guides in 2017: 1

Professional Guides in 2018: 3

IMPACT OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION

Through A-KEEP's language access programs, we have been able to assist various schools in Korean recruitment by helping Korean-speaking parents not only lessen the language barrier but also navigate educational culture in Alabama. Our interpreters also assist members of the Korean-speaking community in Montgomery and surrounding areas to become acquainted with southern hospitality and adjust to life in Alabama.

IMPACT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

This year, we expanded our workforce development program by assisting business leaders of Alabama and South Korea to recruit and train their employees. We work to alleviate misunderstandings due to cultural differences at work through diversity training and education.

HIGHLIGHTS

Hires in 2017: 0

Hires in 2018: 7

IMPACT OF AMERICORPS VISTA

From our beginnings in 2011, A-KEEP managed to generate interest and uncover new untapped resources for education and economic opportunity based on the relationship between Alabama and South Korea. As the nonprofit grew over the years it became more difficult for our 2 - 3 member team to effectively meet our community's needs. We needed manpower to reach our potential and develop a more sustainable organization.

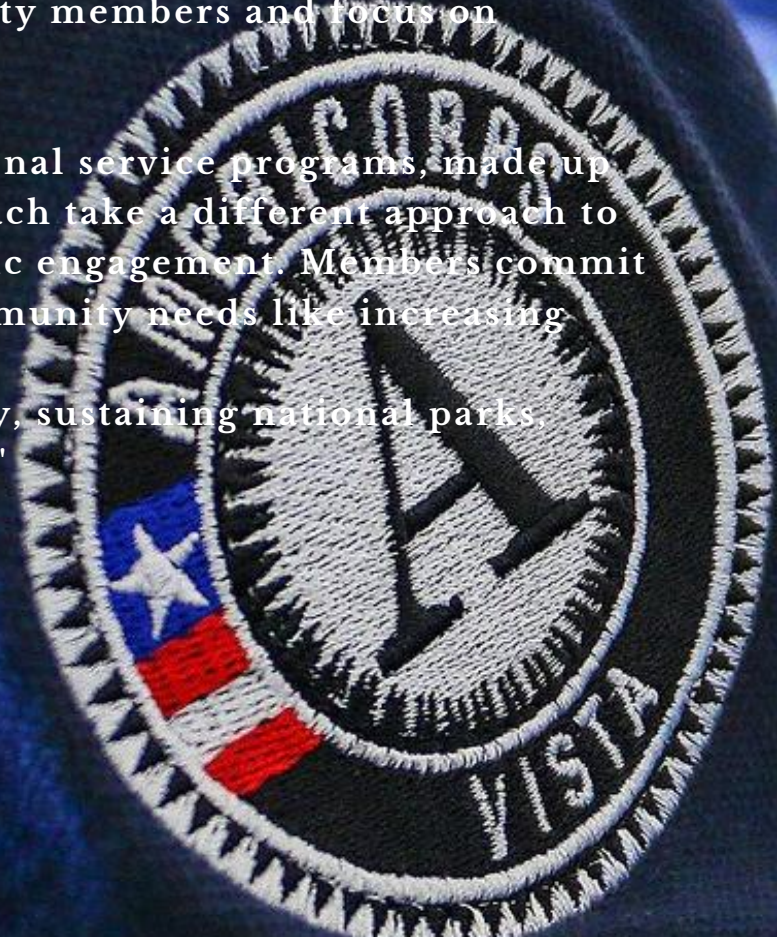
In 2018 we proudly began a partnership with AmeriCorps to build capacity and strengthen our community. During this time we welcomed four AmeriCorps VISTAs or Volunteers In Service to America. These volunteers come from all corners of the U.S. to live in among A-KEEP's community members and focus on solutions at the local level.

"AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs, made up of three primary programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Members commit their time to address critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, preparing for disasters and more,"
NationalService.Gov

HIGHLIGHTS

VISTAs in 2017: 0

VISTAs in 2018: 4



EDUCATION

IMPACT OF ALABAMA ACCESS: WORKING WITH KOREAN

Formally known as “Working in Multicultural Environments: Korean” through the ACCESS program has seen tremendous success in 2018. Students enjoyed creative assignments related to their interests in popular Korean culture to their experiences as Americans living in Alabama.

HIGHLIGHTS

Students enrolled in 2018: 38

IMPACT OF CULTURALLY ACTIVE PROFESSIONALS

A-KEEP’s efforts to maintain an inclusive workforce in Alabama has been extremely successful and well-received by professionals of Korean and Alabamian backgrounds. Each workshop is centered around avoiding cultural misunderstandings for harmonious working environments and local economic prosperity.

HIGHLIGHTS

Successful workshops in 2018: 8

Local Professionals in Attendance: 150

IMPACT OF YOUTH KSL

In 2018 we made the decision to expand our youth (K-12) After School KSL program to Valiant Cross Academy and Pike Road Middle School. Each course followed learning plans taught by native-Korean speaking instructors who introduced students to aspects of Korean culture and language by relating them to things students see and deal with in their everyday lives.

HIGHLIGHTS

Youth KSL Enrollment: 37

IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY KSL CLASS

Our 2018 Fall Community KSL Class saw enrollment for 13 adult non- or beginner Korean speakers to learn a solid foundation of the Korean language in order to continue their learning journey after the 15-week class. Students who enrolled were motivated to learn more about the Korean language and culture from experiences with friends, to improve interactions at their places of work or based on future travel plans. This newly developed course was led by native-Korean teachers and advanced-Korean learners to ensure that students received an authentic education.

The class focused on building fundamental skills and used “formulaic” Korean grammar structures to help students build vocabulary and grammar skills and was designed with students' interests in mind so that lessons were applicable outside of the classroom.

HIGHLIGHTS

Community KSL Students Enrolled: 13

IMPACT OF THE STARTALK SUMMER PROGRAM

Thanks to hard work and diligent effort of our staff, A-KEEP was awarded a \$90,000 STARTALK grant for the summer of 2018 to host a 3-week immersive Korean language course titled Cultural Treasure Hunters. This award realized a high achievement for A-KEEP and our supporters as it marked the first time in the Southeast, a nonprofit organization was awarded the prestigious STARTALK grant in the Korean Category. With Korean language programs in New York and California A-KEEP is only the 5th Korean language recipient to be recognized for the 11-year existence of the program.

Hosted by Troy University Montgomery, Cultural Treasure Hunters recruited 24 elementary and middle school students from Montgomery and Pike Road schools and 6 instructors who sought a pathway for certification. The program aimed to deliver engaging and dynamic language learning experiences for students with a focus on making learning an adventure by allowing students to explore Korean language and culture in a learner-centered environment. K-pop dance class proved a favorite and students enjoyed trying Korean foods, scavenger hunts and practiced presentation skills.

Eligible special needs students were also welcomed to participate as Special Education instructor, Mrs. Elisabeth Newell, facilitated alternative learning classes. Upon completion of the program students received graduation certificates and were recognized by Dr. Jim Purcell of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and Dr. Jeffery Langham of the Alabama State Department of Education. Due to the success of the Cultural Treasure Hunters program and incorporation of special needs learners, A-KEEP was selected to speak at the STARTALK Fall Conference in Houston, TX.

HIGHLIGHTS

Students Recruited: 24

Instructors Recruited: 6

CULTURE

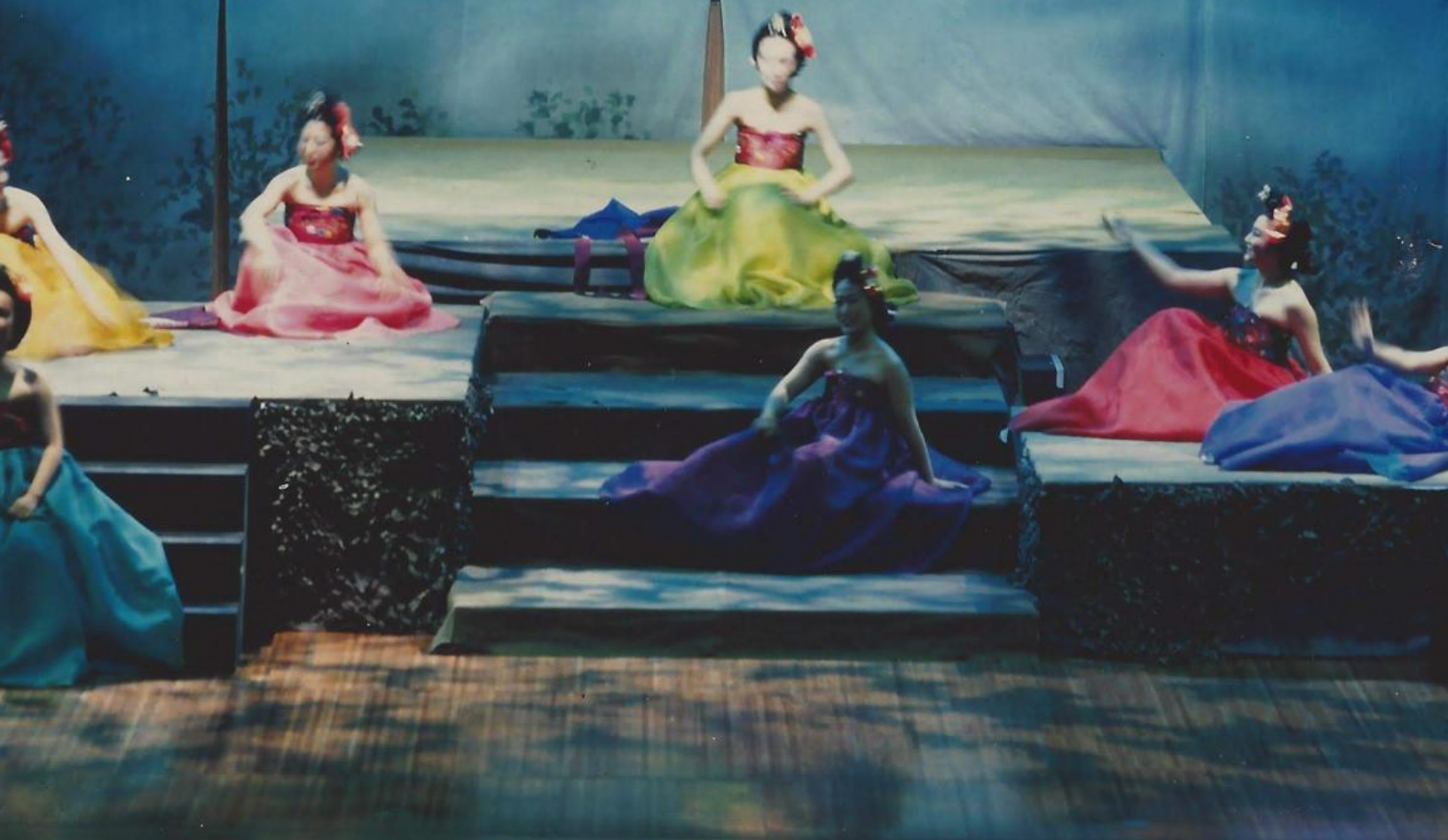
IMPACT OF KCE: THE FRAGRANCE OF SPRING

The Fragrance of Spring was the 3rd installment of A-KEEP's annual Korean Cultural Experience and presented a compilation of Korean traditional and modern artists exhibiting the best of Korean theater and music. In addition to Troy University's generous support offering the Davis Theater, as in previous years, we teamed up with the City of Opelika to add the Opelika Center for Performing Arts as a second venue expanding our reach and audience. In doing so we achieved the goal of merging our increasingly diverse communities through arts education!

HIGHLIGHTS

Venues in 2017: 1

Venues in 2018: 2



FACES OF OUR COMMUNITY

OUR TEAM



Christa Springs
AmeriCorps VISTA
Online Media Coordinator



Soyeon "Sonya" Park
KSL Instruction



Sung Eun "Grace" Shin
Korean Education



Amorree Brackins
AmeriCorps VISTA
PR and Fundraising
Specialist



Andrew Dippel
AmeriCorps VISTA
Finance & Accounting
Specialist



Tiki Armstrong
AmeriCorps VISTA
Grant Writing Specialist



Nam Jung Kim
Korean Outreach Coordinator



Sena Son
Director of Comprehensive
Arts



Elisabeth Newell
BUD Club Manager



Sena Son
Director of Comprehensive
Arts



Hyun Jeong "Erin" Han
KSL Instruction Assistant



Joonha Kim
KSL Instruction Assistant

SUMMER ASSOCIATES



David Koda
STARTALK Operations
Manager



Sara Park
KSL Instructor



Geral Cho
KSL Instructor



Haesoon Ahn
KSL Instructor



Minyeong Kim
Korean Dance Instructor



Kaitlyn Tarver
Production Assistant



Jooyoung Kim
Assistant Dance Instructor



KaCie Woods
Asst. Dance Instructor

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:	2018	2017
CASH	\$ 137,168	\$ 25,746
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 137,168	\$ 25,746
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	-	\$ 878
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$137,168	
\$26,624		

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:	2018	2017
PAYROLL LIABILITY	\$4,051	\$4,845
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$4,051	\$4,845
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$4,051	\$4,845
NET ASSETS:	2018	2017
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$43,589	\$53,011
NET INCOME	\$89,528	\$(31,232)
TOTAL NET ASSETS:	\$133,117	\$21,779
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$137,168	\$26,624

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:	2018	2017
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$184,170	\$58,737
PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 75,606	\$19,112
IN-KIND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE INCOME	\$79,840	\$112,660
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES:	\$339,616	\$190,509

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT EXPENSES

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT EXPENSES:	2018	2017
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	\$220,090	\$210,886
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$8,188	\$10,855
TOTAL PROGRAM AND SUPPORT EXPENSES:	\$228,278	\$221,741

SUPPORT

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PARTNERS



VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America



Ministry of
Education



HODGES
Commercial Real Estate



IMPACT PARTNERS

Country Inn Suites

Pike Road Schools

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Interstate Character Council

Cotton and Pine Print Shop

PARTNERS

Grace Point Behavioral

Mr. Sie Geral Cho

Sims Investments, LLC

FRIENDS

Alabama State Department of Education

Ms. Nichelle Nix, JD.

Auburn City Schools

Dr. James Purcell

Dr. Chuck Ledbetter

Saraland City Schools

Governor's Office of Minority Affairs

Steak-Out Montgomery

Interstate Character Council

Tallapoosa County Schools

Mobile City Public Schools

The University of West Alabama

Montgomery School of Music



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