



# RESULTS FROM THE DUKEENGAGE ALUMNI SURVEY

“My DukeEngage program provided firsthand experiences with social enterprise work, field-based engineering, and sustainable development. I had just finished my first year at Duke and participated in the Engineering Frontiers FOCUS program, which had classes explicitly named after a few of these topics, but being on the ground and actually carrying out the work made this learning much, much more engaging and meaningful. Over the next three years I participated in follow-up classes, at least one of which was sponsored by DukeEngage, and sought to deepen my experiences. I returned to Uganda after my junior year as an NAE Grand Challenges Scholar and applied many of the basic civic engagement principles I had learned at DukeEngage. After I turned in my senior thesis, I remember that at first it all felt serendipitous: how my experiences all fit together. But I realize now that DukeEngage touched off a series of connections and experiences to build on. It was a key life experience.”

-- E.T., Uganda 2008

# WHO WE HEARD FROM

- About 350 alumni dating back to the 2007 pilot summer
- Representing 46 group programs and 36 independent project locations

## 2014 DukeEngage Alumni Survey

Alumni Identified by DAA



Viable Addresses



Invitations Opened



Surveys Started



Surveys Completed



☛ = 100 DukeEngage Alumni



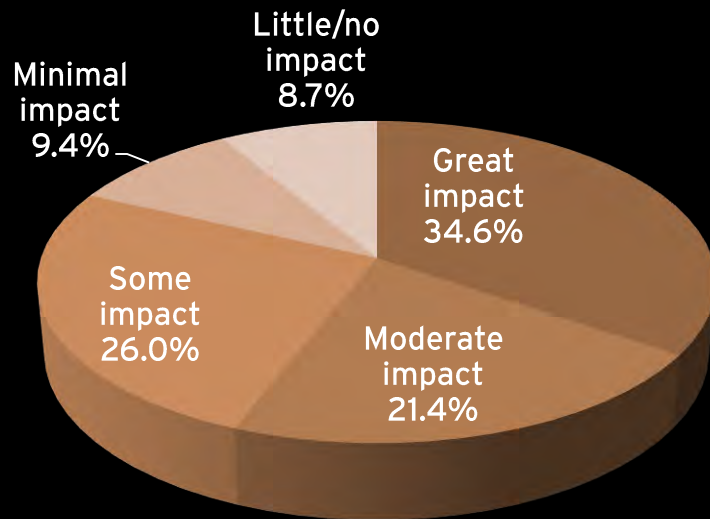


**WHAT WE LEARNED**

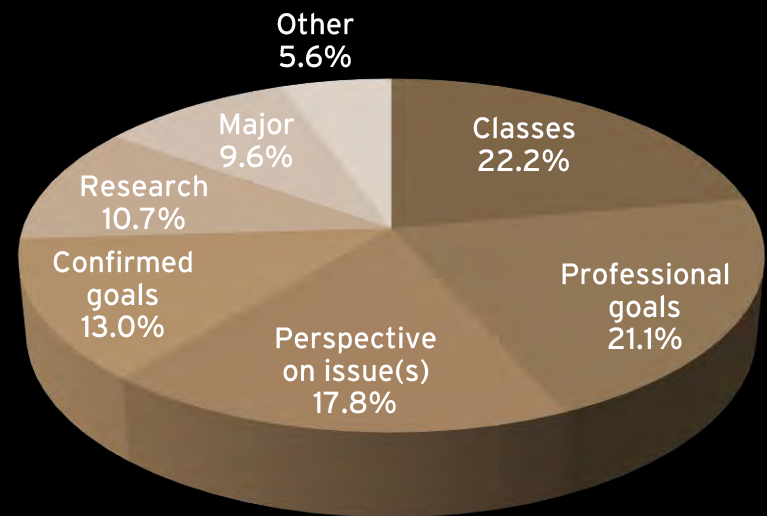


**ALUMNI REPORT THAT DUKEENGAGE SIGNIFICANTLY SHAPED THE REST OF THEIR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION.** Alumni confirmed that they took new or different courses, joined new co-curriculars, and became more mindful and purposeful about their choices.

Impact of DukeEngage on Academic Trajectory



Areas of Academic Impact



# ALUMNI ON THE ACADEMIC INFLUENCE OF DUKEENGAGE

“Teaching through the WISER Bridge program in Muhuru Bay, Kenya was one of the driving forces that put me on the trajectory to my graduate school program. Having first-hand experience in public schools in Kenya sparked my interest in students learning in dominant culture languages that did not match the social languages of various post-colonial countries around the world. It was one of the formative experiences that sharpened my path towards my Masters in International Education Policy from Harvard two years later. It also helped to define my vision for my Public Policy Studies (my major) internship placement following junior year - I independently searched for opportunities in international education policy, and eventually was connected to an opportunity at a project at an international NGO in D.C. because of my experience in Kenya. Three years later, upon graduating from my Masters program, I was also connected to a job because of my experience in Kenya.”

-- M.S., Kenya-WISER, 2009

“I became interested in women's studies, and the experiences I had in my Women as Leaders course and Gender, Ethics, and Social Change courses altered my perspective of the world around me in a more open-minded and positive manner. I believe these courses detailing the history of feminism and social activism complemented my studies of psychology (my major) and gave me a much more well-rounded educational experience and equipped me with the knowledge and curiosity to be more active in my community in advocating for social and gender equality.”

-- E.S., NYC-Moxie Project, 2011

# ALUMNI ON THE INFLUENCE OF DUKEENGAGE ON CO-CURRICULAR TIME

## *On joining new opportunities*

“My DukeEngage experience involved a lot of building. Our team built greenhouses with members of isolated Andean communities, with the ultimate goal of improving the nutrition of these communities. This work was highly physical and highly satisfying. When I returned to Duke for the next academic year, I joined Habitat for Humanity, whose mission is also that of collaborating with motivated individuals to help them build a better life for themselves and their families. DukeEngage also contributed greatly to my interest in joining a club that tutors Latino members of the Durham community to help them learn English. By reintroducing me to my identity, it sparked a growing interest in issues within the Latino community here in the United States and motivated me to work with immigrants.”

-- S.F., Peru 2010

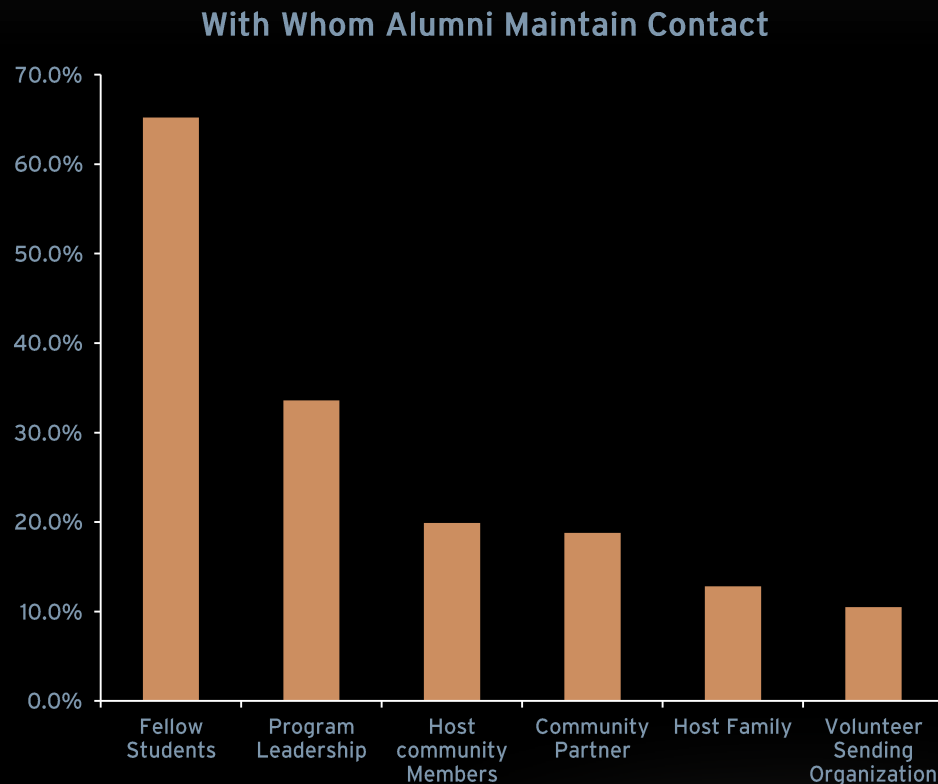
## *On recognizing new priorities*

“I dropped a lot of co-curricular activities after returning from DukeEngage. I was able to figure out which two or three mattered to me most and stick to those. I also learned the value of free time and reflection from my time in Hyderabad. Duke has a culture of constant business (busyness). It is often better or more noble or more in line with success if one does not have free time. But I didn't see it that way anymore after DukeEngage. I saw more value in taking some time to understand why I was doing the things I was doing, and how they affected me.”

-- A.G., India – Hyderabad, 2010

## ALUMNI REPORT THAT THEY REMAIN CONNECTED TO THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY SHARED THEIR DUKEENGAGE EXPERIENCE.

Most alumni maintain contact with group mates and program leaders, and a small percentage stay in contact with members of their host communities and organizations.



“Because of my experiences with DukeEngage, I participated much more actively in social justice and community organizing work on campus. I was able to help the Duke Students for Justice in Palestine with some of their events because of my experience in a post-apartheid society. Most importantly, though, I have been able to keep strong relationships with my District Six museum colleagues, including some in Chicago where I currently reside. Even 4 years after the fact, I am still in touch with the museum staff and working on a project with them to bring a non-profit community hip hop studios to District Six that will be connected to similar studios we are establishing in Bethlehem Palestine and the south side of Chicago.”

-- I.M., South Africa –  
Cape Town, 2010



## FACULTY LEADERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE MENTORSHIP AND ONGOING ENGAGEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS.

“It was my entry point to the Kenan Institute for Ethics, thanks to the mentorship of DukeEngage project director and Kenan Associate Director Suzanne Shanahan. Sophomore year I entered the Ethics Certificate Program. I remained closely connected to Kenan as an undergraduate and then worked at Kenan for two years post-graduation. Another direct impact was my choice of taking a Human Rights Law class at London School of Economics after sophomore year. The DukeEngage experience guided my interest in community development and civic engagement, particularly across points of difference, such as race and ethnicity. I consider it a building block in what has become a vocational path in ministry.”

-- R.R., Ireland 2008

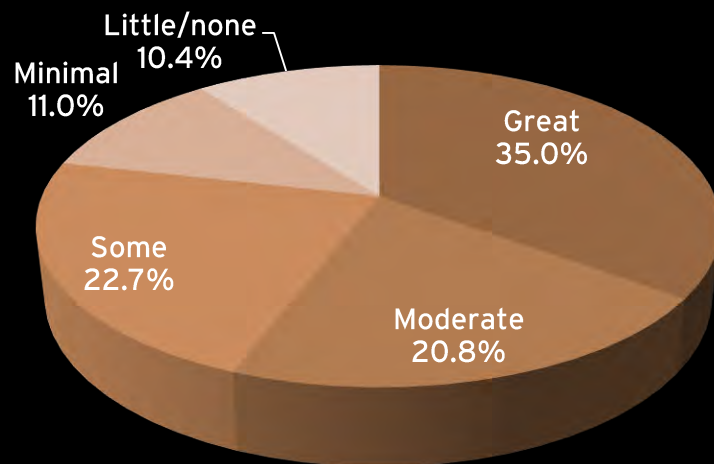
“I spent my DukeEngage experience abroad with a handful of like-minded students and a focal point of the civic engagement community at Duke, Dr. David Schaad. From our shared experiences, we strengthened our community and brought our learning back to Duke, where we expanded and deepened them primarily through Engineers Without Borders (EWB), now known as DEID. I served many roles in this group, from planning and leading projects to leading the entire group in my senior year. I learned a lot from this group and they remain close to me. I expect that we will continue to keep in touch and be sources of inspiration, knowledge, and fun for each other just as we were back in school. For this opportunity to find people like me, who were willing to invest their time and energy to try to make the world a better place, I am very grateful. There are plenty like this outside of DukeEngage, of course, and I may have found them independently, but DukeEngage definitely increased the odds.”

-- E.T., Uganda 2009

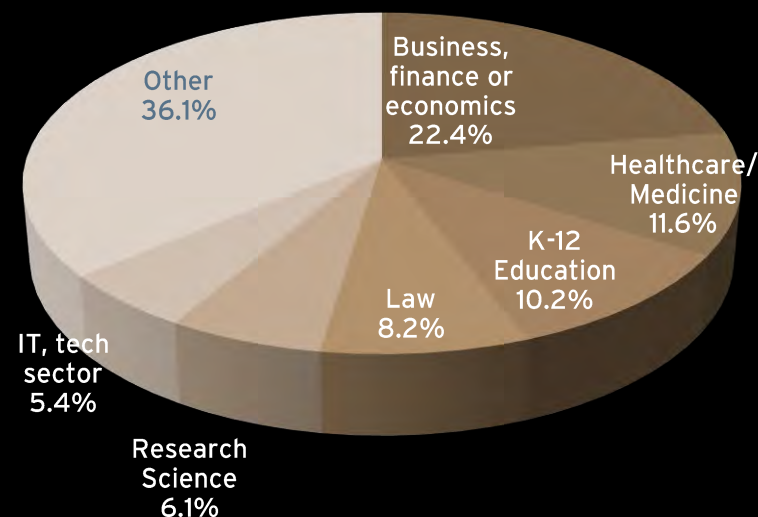
## ALUMNI REPORT USING THE SKILLS GAINED FROM THE DUKEENGAGE EXPERIENCE IN THEIR JOBS AND GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS.

Many alumni see similarities between the type of work they did in their summer of service and the work they do now. More than 35% of alumni work in the non-profit sector.

Impact of DukeEngage on Your Career Trajectory and Current Work



Post-DukeEngage, Post Duke Careers



| Program Location                         | Percent of Work in the US | Percent of Work Abroad |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| All Alumni                               | 88.4%                     | 11.5%                  |
| International program and project alumni | 85.5%                     | 14.5%                  |
| US-based program and project alumni      | 97.3%                     | 2.7%                   |

# ALUMNI ON THE PROFESSIONAL INFLUENCE OF DUKEENGAGE

“After graduating from Duke I served as an AmeriCorps in an individual placement program at a bicycle non-profit in Seattle. My DE experience in Portland gave me past experience working in bicycle advocacy. I worked to promote policy and planning throughout the Puget Sound region to create safe places to ride a bike for people of all ages and abilities. While I still remain interested in urban planning and healthy transportation planning (an interest which started in Portland), I now work in environmental consulting mostly with public-sector clients on a much wider variety of topics than bicycling or transportation. I continue to volunteer to promote bicycling in the Seattle-area. I would place more encouragement on students to speak to people working in the field that they are interning with or doing a DukeEngage experience in to really learn about what the job and career opportunities are.”

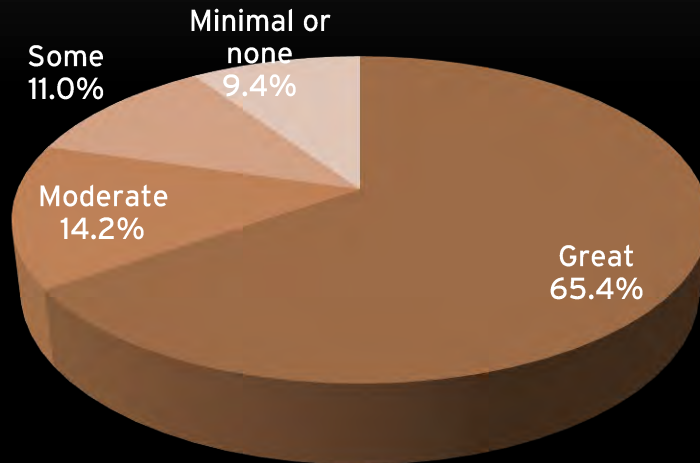
-- R.C., Portland 2010

“As I write this survey, I am staring out at the beautiful desert valley of Somaliland, in Northern Somalia. Here I am a high school English teacher at Abaarso School of Science and Technology. Abaarso is a non-profit school that helps Somali youth continue their education. With a lack of options for higher education, Abaarso has helped students cultivate the skills and gain the resources necessary to attend various universities and boarding schools in countries across the world. This was extremely similar to my work at Dandelion. In Beijing, I was an English teacher and worked together with migrant youth to find access to higher education. Several of my students from Dandelion attended the same type of boarding schools as Abaarso students. My experience with DukeEngage absolutely shaped my career path. While an undergraduate, DukeEngage gave me the opportunity to learn in a non-traditional way. It was the single most important event of my time at Duke.”

-- S.S., China – Beijing, 2009

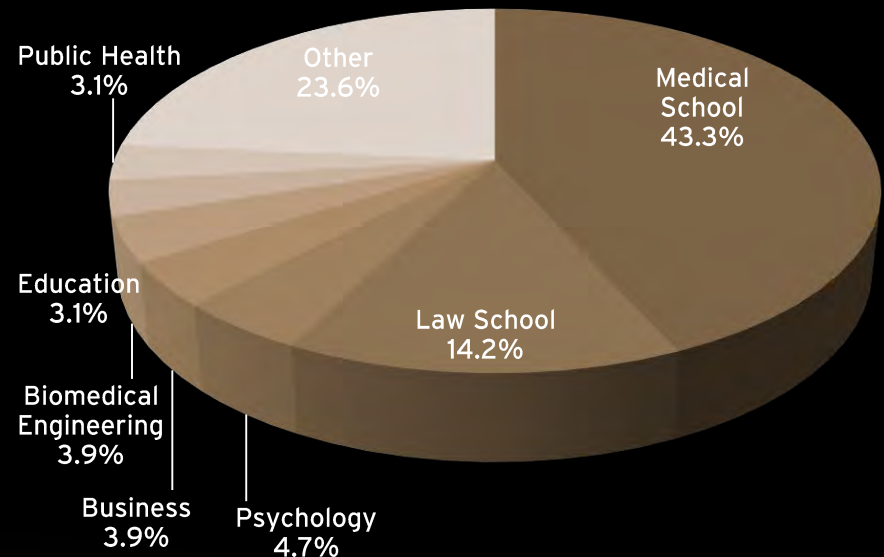
**MANY ALUMNI ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN GRADUATE SCHOOL.** More than two-thirds of alumni indicated they are currently completing graduate studies, with 43% of those alumni attending medical school.

Impact on Graduate School



"I am currently pursuing a Master's in Prosthetics & Orthotics, which is what the clinic I worked at and the organization I partnered with focused on. Providing artificial limbs and supportive/functional braces to those who have impairments. I am excited to pursue this field as a career and the Duke Engage experience solidified that I wanted to spend my life doing this work."

Graduate Program Enrollments

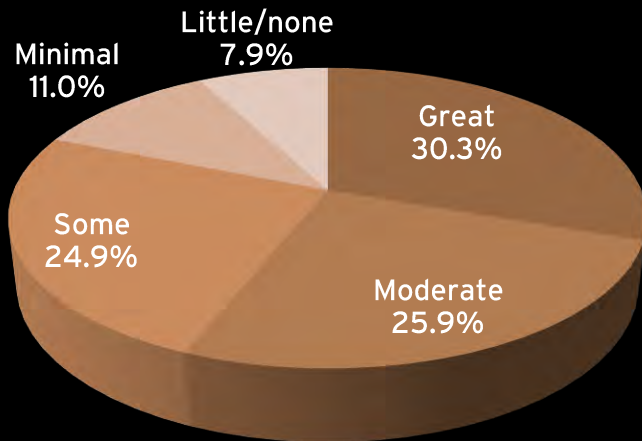


-- N.B., Independent Project Ecuador, 2011

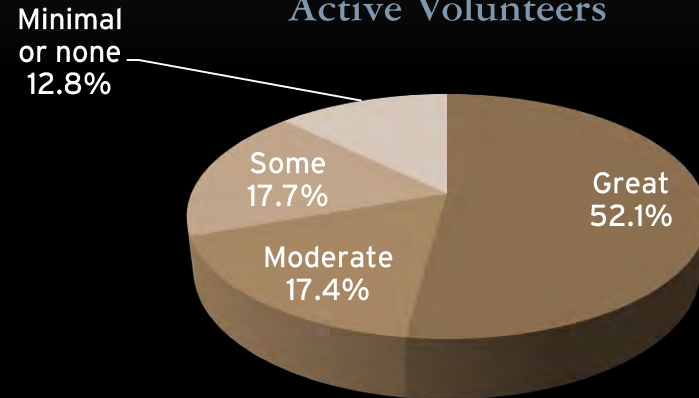
## ALUMNI REPORT THAT DUKEENGAGE CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE HOW THEY THINK ABOUT VOLUNTEERING, PHILANTHROPY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

Many alumni have continued participating in similar volunteer opportunities in their own communities.

Impact of DukeEngage on Alumni Volunteering, Philanthropy and Civic Engagement



Impact on Current Service Among Active Volunteers



"After completing my DukeEngage internship in Salta, Argentina in summer 2012, I realized the importance of civic engagement and became more inspired to volunteer locally in Durham and now in Cincinnati during my gap year. Although I volunteered in an international group program, I realized that local volunteer efforts are often overlooked in favor of international service work due to the appeal of travel and engaging in a new culture. I now appreciate the importance of serving our local communities, and I realize that I better suited to serve those in need in my local community versus residents of other nations."

-- N. R., Argentina – FSD, 2012





**WE HEARD YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS**



## ALUMNI ARE INVESTED IN CONTINUING TO SEE DUKEENGAGE DEVELOP AS A HIGH IMPACT EXPERIENCE AND RECOMMEND:

### Program Structure and Administration

- Encourage intentionality – both in student decision making and program/project development to ensure value is added.
- Insist on opportunities for student reflection and mentorship before, during and after the program.
- Integrate alumni into the preparation and debriefing process.
- Develop avenues to connect program to the curriculum and to professional opportunities.



## Pre-Departure

- Emphasize skill development opportunities to prepare students.
- Expand training in cultural competence and ethical engagement.

## Post Program

- Create ongoing opportunities for service, reflection and re-engagement – both on campus and in communities beyond Duke.
- Develop peer networks and mentorship programs to provide avenues to discuss and process experiences.

**ALUMNI SUGGESTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE DUKEENGAGE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD AND TO THE DUKEENGAGE STAFF FOR REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION.**

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**ALUMNI WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH DUKEENGAGE.** Alumni want to be able to keep in touch with peers and faculty leaders. They want opportunities to support ongoing service opportunities and mentor new cohorts of DukeEngage participants.

### Most Popular Avenues for Continued Engagement

1. Attend Duke Alums Engage events.
2. Mentor current students.
3. Hear about jobs, fellowships, or research opportunities that build on DukeEngage.
4. Participate in summer enrichment opportunities for current students.
5. Receive a bi-annual DukeEngage Alumni Newsletter.

### As we review and consider how best to implement new avenues for alumni engagement:

- Look for communications from the Duke Alumni Association to be informed of events like Duke Alums Engage.
- If you live near a current DukeEngage program and want to be a resource, let us know and we'll share your contact information with the program leadership.
- Check LinkedIn for job and fellowship announcements, as well as news about DukeEngage.

“I realized the benefit of DukeEngage years after the experience. The summer gave me a much more global perspective that I'm sure benefitted me academically and professionally. Looking back, I think the greatest thing I gained from my time in Guatemala was a firsthand awareness of the problems third world countries face and the development of empathy for those populations. It is easy to live your life coming from upper middle class suburbs, spend four years in an insular bubble in Durham, and then go off to a high-paying job in NYC, DC, Atlanta, Chicago, etc. The path followed by many Duke students puts you at a greater distance from the world's troubles with each step. DukeEngage disrupts that trajectory.”

-- J.D., Guatemala 2009

“I give DukeEngage a lot of credit for providing me an opportunity to work in an internship that I otherwise would have been unable to do. As a lower income student at Duke I spent my first few summers working lower paying jobs simply because I had to make money. I didn't have the luxury to take an unpaid internship. The opportunity and funding that DukeEngage provided was instrumental in giving me an experience that greatly impacted my career path. I would also say that I really enjoyed the social entrepreneurship with Chris Gergen that was a part of my Durham program. While I have not used that education and experience as directly in my career path, it has certainly helped frame my approach to business and my professional career. I'm honestly not sure how DukeEngage could change, but I would certainly encourage that it remain as it was for me - a place where lower middle class can have a fully funded educational opportunity.”

-- S.B., Durham – ELI 2008

# THANKS TO ALL THE ALUMNI WHO WEIGHED IN!

We love to hear from our alumni. Stay in touch!

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