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## The English-Speaking Union Annual Report | 2019





### The English-Speaking Union

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On the cover 2019 ESU National Shakespeare Competition Winners from left: First Place Maria Guardino Schreiner, Cleveland, Second Place Max Yillah, Philadelphia, and Third Place Kelly Bouslaiby, Los Angeles.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

144 East 39th St. | New York | NY 10016 | www.esuus.org | info@esuus.org



### The English-Speaking Union

The English-Speaking Union of the United States completed an exciting year in 2018-2019, one that marked a turning point for the ESU as it reaffirmed itself as a national organization that draws strength and purpose from its membership. An invigorated national Board of Directors and new executive leadership have led a major restructuring of our operations. This has encouraged a refocusing of our programs to support the Branches and position the ESU, on the eve of its Centennial in 2020, as a dynamic and growing national membership and educational organization.

This annual report reflects the ESU's renewed emphasis on Branch engagement and membership growth. Unquestionably one of last year's highlights was the spectacular "Rach and Bach" Gala concert on Saturday evening, November 17, at the Orpheum Theater presented by the ESU New Orleans Branch, which served as a benefit for the Branch. It was part of the 2018 Annual Conference on November 17-19, 2018 in New Orleans, LA, during which the ESU National Board reaffirmed its appreciation of our roots and history, making Branch support and membership growth a priority.

Throughout the year, a series of special committees with strong Branch participation worked to ensure strong governance and exciting programming to prepare the ESU for our second century. And a Centennial Branch Working Group has been drawing up plans for engaging all members in celebrating the ESU's 100th birthday.

This year, we also built on the ESU's traditions to strengthen our educational programs, activities that change lives through the power of the English language. We have further developed programs such as the ESU National Shakespeare Competition, Teachers Learning Abroad (TLab) Scholarships, Luard Morse Scholarships, ESU Middle School Debate, Secondary School Exchange, English in Action Conversations and the Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center. All of these programs have made our mission both timeless and timely.

I urge you to continue your membership, and if you are not a member yet, to join the English-Speaking Union. Come to our events, at your local Branch or at national headquarters, volunteer to tutor English language learners, donate to our programs, and be part of a vibrant and exciting community that has its eyes firmly set on its second century.



**Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill CBE, KSt.J**Chairman, The English-Speaking Union of the United States

More than 44,000 served in 2018-2019

35,000 secondary school students

**2,100** teachers

950
English learners

2,000 volunteers

**4,000** members

80

# **SOLUTION**ESU Mission

The English-Speaking Union employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural programs for students, educators, immigrants, lifelong learners and members.

### **ESU Today**

We work to inspire common bonds – person to person, one conversation, one presentation and one exchange at a time. By promoting civil discourse we empower participants to rise to their potential as individuals, thrive as global citizens and join in pursuing prosperity and peace.

The ESU's educational activities focus on immigrant employment readiness and integration, teacher enrichment and support, youth speaking programs and scholarships. Our programs meet critical needs brought about by increased migration and integration challenges and drastic cuts in education funding, teacher demoralization and burnout.

Founded in 1920 and headquartered in New York City, the ESU is a national nonprofit educational charity and membership organization with 65 branches across the country. The ESU is supported by corporate and foundation grants, the generosity of its members and individual donors and funds from its unrestricted endowment.









## Ranch Activities





**55**Branch Scholarships

18

Branches Offering Scholarships

**54** 

Branches participated in the National Shakespeare Competition

**24,000**Students impacted





















Headquartered in New York City and incorporated in the State of Delaware, The English-Speaking Union of the United States is an independent national membership organization with more than 4,000 members organized in 65 Branches across the country. Committed ESU members and volunteers are the pillars of our educational and cultural programs as they enthusiastically work in their local communities to carry the ESU mission forward.

The ESU Branches operate as limited liability companies (LLCs) formed in the State of Delaware with The English-Speaking Union of the United States as the sole member. This legal structure ensures the non-profit 501(c)(3) standing of all Branches and allows for branch management by a local Board of Directors or direct management by the National Board of Directors to deliver the ESU charitable programs.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States shares fellowship with more than 50 independent ESUs around the world, including the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth in London.

#### **ALABAMA**

Birmingham

### **ARIZONA**

Phoenix Tucson

#### **CALIFORNIA**

Desert (Palm Springs) Los Angeles San Diego San Francisco

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Denver

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Memphis Nashville

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Charlottesville Lexington Richmond Southwest Virginia

#### WASHINGTON

Seattle

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**ESU Annual Conference** 

New Orleans, Louisiana November 17-19, 2018

The 2018 English-Speaking Union Annual Conference, hosted by the ESU New Orleans Branch, drew members from all over the country to the Wyndham Garden Baronne Plaza Hotel for an enjoyable and productive meeting. The conference focused on plans for the upcoming centennial of the organization in 2020 and continued to refine the strategies to take the ESU into its second century of excellence promoting the English language as a catalyst for global understanding and good will.

Among the issues discussed during the National Board and Branch Officers' conclave was a new emphasis on Branch engagement and membership growth. The ESU National Board reaffirmed its appreciation of the ESU's roots and history and the important role Branches play in the English-Speaking Union. It made Branch support and membership growth a priority.

The guest speaker was Peter Gilliver, a lexicographer and Associate Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). On Sunday morning, November 17, during the brunch preceding the Annual General Meeting, Gilliver regaled the conference delegates with fascinating stories about OED's creation in the pre-computer age. Having authored a book on the subject, Mr. Gilliver is one of the lecturers on the ESU Travel and Learn Abroad program for ESU members and lifelong learners that takes place each summer at the University of Oxford.

Also during the Annual General Meeting, the membership unanimously voted to elect to the Board of Directors, as recommended by the Nominating Committee, Janet Vanderpool Haedicke, Monroe, LA. The membership also voted to re-elect to a second or third term Cheryl Albuquerque, Palo Alto, CA; Jacques Brunswick, New York, NY; Duncan Karcher, New York, NY; Bettie Miller, Chapman, AL; Julia Van de Water, Lexington, VA; James W. Kerr Jr., Dallas, TX; Donald Best, Los Angeles, CA; Karen Blair-Brand, State College, PA; William B. Maschmeier, Seattle, WA; and Jeffrey L. Schnabel, Kansas City, MO.

The conference weekend offered a series of wonderful social events that brought our members closer together and reinforced the ESU's goal to foster relationships and inspire common bonds — person to person. Unquestionably the highlight of the weekend was the spectacular Gala "Rach and Bach" concert on Saturday evening, November 17, at the Orpheum Theater, which served as a benefit for the ESU New Orleans Branch. The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Ryan McAdams, provided the backdrop for the Gala. It starred world-renowned opera soloist sopranos Irini Kyriakidou Hymel and Christina Vial Comer, and guest pianists Michael D. Harold and ESU Board President E. Quinn Peeper, MD, who performed Bach Piano Concerto No. 5 and Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 (hence "Rach and Bach").

The conference weekend concluded with a day-long coach excursion up the Mississippi River. The Monday tour included visits to two historic antebellum plantations—San Francisco and Oak Alley—offering participants a look into a past when cotton was "King" and New Orleans was the largest city in the American South, a view at the current landscape along the river, as well as different approaches to historic and heritage preservation.





## Since 1976

### **English in Action** (EiA)













English in Action (EIA) helps newcomers to the United States to master conversational English and learn about life in the US. In addition to giving students the gift of fluency in English, the program fosters cross-cultural exchange by pairing English language learners with volunteer tutors—native English speakers—for one-to-one conversation sessions. A hallmark of the program is its comprehensive tutor training using best practices in cross-cultural learning and leadership development. The tutor training emphasizes work with culturally diverse populations.

Our EiA volunteer tutors find the experience intellectually enriching and personally rewarding. Their loyalty to the program is due in great part to the extensive support and recognition they receive throughout their work as volunteers in English in Action. This past year we offered more than 80 hours of orientation and professional development coaching. We also provided inspiring teaching aids, including word games, exercises and quizzes which were themed to the season, current events and upcoming holidays. We keep in touch with our volunteers through the monthly *Tutor News* that features updates on new initiatives and events and recognizes a tutor in its *Tutor Spotlight*.

92%

of volunteers report that EiA makes them feel engaged and useful 98%

of volunteers report that EiA allowed them to learn more about other cultures **684** 

from more than

65

**38,000** student hours

**404** 

120

**145**have volunteered more than

5 years

97

nave volunteered more than

10

44

have volunteered more than

25 vears

Watch EiA videos at youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion



## **Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center** (ARNIC)

The Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center equips recent immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the New York metropolitan area with the skills, resources and support they need to integrate fully into American society and economic life. This free, year-long program offers English language classes, one-to-one conversation sessions with native speakers, workshops on various aspects of life in the U.S. and cultural activities to facilitate the success and integration of recent immigrants.

Our center provides a welcoming and inclusive environment where immigrants of all faiths and backgrounds can overcome barriers and achieve their potential. We offer a lending library and student lounge where members can practice English together while building community across cultures.

Some of the highlights of this year included the sixth annual Thanksgiving celebration, our third annual career day with mock interview and job search strategies. We launched We Speak NYC, an interactive ESL curriculum sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. In addition, we hosted networking events to increase our students' knowledge of U.S. professional culture. Throughout the year we continued to expand our community partnerships and grow the ARNIC program.

Since ARNIC opened its doors, it has served more than 1,500 immigrants from over 90 countries. It is the only program of its kind in New York City.

### 2018 - 2019 ARNIC Success Stories:

A member from Iran used his improved English skills to start an online business selling organic wellness products.

A member from Italy used the skills she gained in the ARNIC writing class to win a prestigious journalism fellowship.

A member from Guatemala found the confidence to pursue his dream career and start an apprenticeship in the culinary arts.





**270** immigrants from

60 countries.

1,220 language instruction hours

45 workshops

94%
of members report that ARNIC increased their confidence

**96%** of members report that they improved their English skills

Watch ARNIC videos at www.stories-esuus.org

## Since 1983

## The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition



The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition is a performance-based educational program that engages with students and teachers across the country. High school students read, analyze and perform Shakespeare's monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages — at the school, branch and national levels. The competition has been recognized by the Globe Center, the Children's Theatre Foundation of America and the American Academy of Achievement.

Through the competition, students acquire essential skills such as critical thinking, close reading and public speaking. They develop self-confidence and an appreciation for the beauty of Shakespeare's language and the power of words.

For 36 years, English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition has been the only nation-wide Shakespeare competition exclusively for high school students. 2019 saw the introduction of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online platform for the competition. Intended to extend the reach of ESU branches to areas previously beyond their reach, the NSC: Online competition used technology to bring the competition to every state. Students from locations as diverse as Utah, Nevada and Northern Florida competed at their schools, then submitted a video in an online semifinals round. The winners of this round were then invited to participate in the finals via a streaming platform where they competed live and in front of a panel of judges. The winner of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online, Kip Conger of Ogden Utah, then joined the branch champions in New York City where he acquitted himself beautifully, placing 11th.

The finals of the 36th English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition were held on Monday, April 29, 2018 at the Lincoln Center Theater in New York and drew 52 nation-wide winners.

Maria Guardino Schreiner won the first prize—a full scholarship to attend the Midsummer Conservatory at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford. A student of Julia A. Griffin at the Hawken Upper School, Maria ably represented the ESU Cleveland Branch. Maria performed

### "I am always amazed by the delight and focus these students bring to their investigation of the text. They often bring surprises in interpretation that are entertaining and enlightening."

Dana Ivey | Acclaimed actor and veteran judge of the ESU NSC



as Rosalind from Shakespeare's As You like It and recited Sonnet 29 in the final round of the competition. Runner-up Max Yillah from the Academy at Palumbo proudly represented the Philadelphia Branch. He received a scholarship to attend the American Shakespeare Center Theater Camp in Staunton, Virginia. Kelly Bouslaiby from Henry J. Kaiser High School in Fontana, California and the Los Angeles Branch placed third in the competition and received a cash prize of \$500.

The ESU provides extensive support to the teachers who include the Competition in their curriculum. In addition to offering training materials such as lesson plans, monologue and sonnet selection packets and publicity materials, in 2019 a series of professional development workshops for middle and high school teachers were offered and led by certified practitioners from Shakespeare's Globe and Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust covering diverse topics such as "Shakespeare's Rhetoric of Power and Persuasion" and "Shakespeare the Family Man."

Watch Shakespeare Competition videos at youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion

360,000 + high school students participated

since its inception

**20,000** students

**2,000** teachers

1,000 competitions

**54** branch communities



### **Middle School Debate**



In partnership with Claremont McKenna University and launched with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the English-Speaking Union Middle School Debate program teaches adolescents the fundamentals of argumentation while developing their abstract reasoning, language arts and practical life skills. This enriching experience in civil discourse runs during the academic year and engages nearly 2,300 students in grades 5 to 8 in weekly debate activities and Saturday tournaments. Serving the New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC greater metropolitan areas, the ESU Middle School Debate program is unique in that it maximizes the learning and skill-building outcomes through extensive coach and judge training. It is an adaptation of the parliamentary model of debate for middle-school children that is specifically leveled for their development.

In 2018-2019, the program organized 22 day-long tournaments. Teacher debate-coach training is a critical aspect of the program and in 2018-19 more than 500 volunteers and judges were trained and engaged.

MSPDP accelerates The standards-based through debate instruction and empowers students to develop and practice excellence in critical thinking and public communication. It provides curricular information and other resources to integrate public speaking, reading comprehension, argumentation, critical listening, note taking, issue analysis, evidence evaluation, refutation methods, media literacy, and interdisciplinary thinking. Rigorous and relevant topic selection provides the opportunity for integration of debate training and skills in historical, economic, scientific, political, social, and current event studies. Former MS debaters have gone on to lead school community service projects and other clubs and programs, present to their local school boards and other organizations, and enter HS with a better understanding of national and local issues and potential solutions than their peers who did not debate.

Watch Middle School Debate videos at youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion

### **Teachers Learning Abroad (TLab)**

Now in its 61st year, the TLab summer study program offers educators extraordinary professional development opportunities in the most prestigious centers of higher learning in the UK. Scholarships enable teachers from across the US to experience authentic student life in the august universities of Oxford and Edinburgh while delving deep into a range of topics from English literature to history. politics and society; from creative writing to international politics. Shakespeare's Globe in London offers ESU TLab

scholars an exclusive course in how to teach middle and high school students to engage fully with Shakespeare's language and plays.

Hosted by our exclusive partners Shakespeare's Globe, University of Oxford and University of Edinburgh, teachers return to their classrooms refreshed and reinvigorated with new insights to share with their students.

► Watch TLab videos at youtube.com/EnglishSpeakingUnion

"It's one of those experiences that can't be duplicated, you have to be here to really understand how special it really is."

Ruth-Terry Walden | Teacher, TLab alum | Stamford, CT











### **Teachers Learning Abroad courses:**



### **UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

- Text and Context: Modernism, Scottish Literature and Contemporary Literature
- Creative Writing
- Contemporary British and Irish Theater and Performance



### **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

- English Literature
- History, Politics and Society
- Creative Writing
- International Politics

### SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Teaching Shakespeare through Performance

ESU 2019 Annual Report\_Single Pgs.indd 13



## **Travel and Learn Abroad** (TLab for Lifelong Learners)

An offshoot of our venerable Teachers Learning Abroad (TLab) program, TLab for Lifelong Learners opens up the exclusive educational opportunities previously available only to educators. These one-week educational trips offer ESU members and others interested in the English language and culture the unforgettable adventure of living and learning on the centuries-old Oxford campus or experiencing Shakespeare by following his footsteps in his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon. Lectures by renowned scholars, behind-the-scenes tours, access to archives not open to

the public and the company of intellectually curious, worldly, and adventurous fellow travelers power the meaningful enrichment and insider perspectives offered by the ESU Travel and Learn Abroad program.

What is more, participants are doing good while having fun because the proceeds from TLab for Lifelong Learners help to fund scholarships for the ESU Teachers Learning Abroad program for educators.

### "I am already dreaming of returning to Stratford in the future for another full-immersion in the Bard."

**Deirdre Donovan** | Retired New York City Teacher | Two time visitor to Stratford-Upon-Avon with the ESU











### **Travel and Learn Abroad Courses for Lifelong Learners:**

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST/STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

• From Page to Stage: Text and Theater

## Since 1969

### **Luard Morse Scholarships**

The English Speaking Union Luard Morse Scholarship is a merit scholarship program that provides up to \$25,000 toward a semester of study at an elite British university. The Luard Morse scholarship is available only to American students attending historically black colleges and universities in the United States. The scholarship is open to sophomore students in all disciplines and has been awarded to students majoring in economics, philosophy, finance, mathematics, liberal arts and the sciences.

Since the inaugural 1969-1970 academic year and 2018, 80 exceptional students were awarded this distinction through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process. 2019 saw a remarkable response to the program with a record number of applications from a diverse group of schools. In response to this groundswell of enthusiasm, three Luard Morse Scholarships were awarded to excellent candidates, instead of the usual one.

"During the six months I was overseas
I've learned so much about myself and my position in the world."

Kyana Washington | 2018 LM Scholar | Oxford University



Since **1928** 

### **Secondary School Exchange (SSE)**

The ESU Secondary School Exchange program is a merit-based scholarship that provides tuition, room and board for students to spend a semester or year (gap year) abroad between high school and college. Since its inception in 1928, the SSE program has allowed thousands of students to expand their horizons academically and culturally by studying at schools in the UK. The oldest of all our educational programs, the SSE is at the heart of the ESU mission to use the English language to foster global understanding and good will through cultural and educational exchanges.

Through this experience, students gain maturity, independence and global perspectives that benefit them in college and in early professional life.



## Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center Class of 2019 Graduation



For the newest Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) graduates, June 13 was an especially memorable occasion as they attended a graduation ceremony at the Harvard Club of New York. The ARNIC Class of 2019 was exceptionally diverse and included nearly 120 graduates from more than 40 countries.

The ceremony was a lively event that brought together the graduates, their families, program alumni, teachers, staff and members of the ESU board. Three ARNIC graduates spoke on behalf of the 2019 class: Roberto Rocael Baten Ramirez from Guatemala, Maddalena Maltese from Italy and Tuiana Mitakhniova from Russia.

Chef Fabian von Hauske Valtierra delivered the commencement address. Chef Fabian had previously been awarded the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Culinary Arts by the Vilcek Foundation in recognition of his outstanding achievements as an immigrant chef. Speaking directly to the 2019 graduates, Chef Fabian noted the many ups and downs of his own immigration journey. He urged graduates to stay optimistic despite the many challenges they face and noted that New York City remains a city built by and for immigrants.

After the speeches, ESU Chairman of the Board, Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, CBE, KSt.J, dressed in full academic regalia, presented each graduate with a certificate of completion. To close the evening, everyone gathered for a reception that reflected the welcoming and inclusive spirit of the ARNIC community.









During a gala dinner following the graduation ceremony, the English-Speaking Union bestowed posthumously the ESU Founder's Award on Robert P. Morse, Founder, Executive Chairman, Principal and Senior Portfolio Manager of Morse Asset Management, for his commitment to the Anglophile community and the dialogue for peace and understanding and for his decades-long involvement in the ESU as a loyal and generous patron, member of the Board of Directors, and champion for the organization. The dinner celebrated Mr. Morse's legacy and raised funds for ARNIC and ESU's other education programs.

The English-Speaking Union Founder's Award was created in 1991 by an action of the ESU National Board to honor prominent individuals who exemplify the primary interests of the organization's founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, namely to foster US-British relations, cultivate international understanding and good will and promote the mastery and extended use of the English language.



### **Previous Award Recipients:**

The Right Honorable **Margaret Thatcher**, OM, FRS, MP.

Former ESU Chairman William R. Miller CBE, KStJ

Artist **Edwina Sandys**, granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, CBE, KStJ

ESU benefactor

**Andrew Romay** (posthumously)

Long-term ESU President and President Emerita, the late **Doe Thornburg** 

### **With Thanks to Our Donors**

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

- \* Individuals who generously participated in the English-Speaking Union National Patron Program providing unrestricted operating support to the ESU and its Branches.
- ± Deceased

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Marietta and Andrew Romay Foundation Foundation to Promote Open Society

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Mr. William R. Miller CBE, KSt.J \*
Dr. E. Quinn Peeper & Mr. Michael D. Harold \*

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**HNTB** 

Hot Bread Kitchen

International Rescue Committee

JCC Manhattan Kent School Lawrenceville School Lincoln Center Theater Marble Collegiate Church Gregory Meredith

The Morgan Library & Museum

NEST+m

New Women New Yorkers New York Junior League New York Police Department New York University

NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

NYS Office of New Americans NYU Sliver School of Social Work Oxford English Dictionary

Per Scholas Person Place Thing Public Theater

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RIF

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### **Financial Report**

Condensed Statement of Activities July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Unaudited and exclusive of Branch activities

OPERATING REVENUES	
Private Support	605,831
Earned Revenue	914,727
Investment Return for Operations_	682,888
Contributed Goods and Services_	289,000
TOTAL	¢ 2 402 446 00
IUIAL	_み
TOTAL	_\$ 2,492,440.00
OPERATING EXPENSES	_\$ 2,492,446.00
	_\$ 2,492,440.00
OPERATING EXPENSES	
OPERATING EXPENSES Program Services	288,258
OPERATING EXPENSES  Program Services  Membership and Branch Services	288,258 451,569
OPERATING EXPENSES  Program Services  Membership and Branch Services  Immigrant Support Programs	288,258 451,569 522,015
OPERATING EXPENSES  Program Services  Membership and Branch Services  Immigrant Support Programs  Student Teacher Programs	

Special Event/ Fundraising

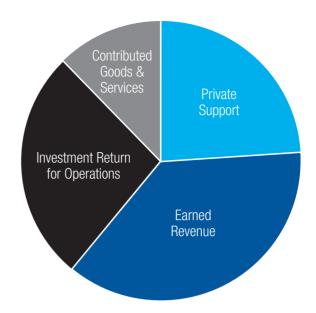
**Total Supporting Services** 

Operating Gain (Loss) for FY 2018-2019

**TOTAL** 

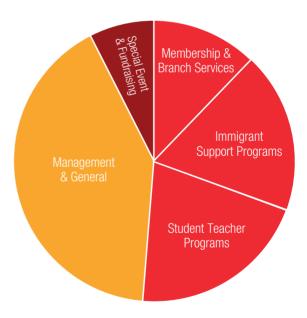
ASSETS as of 07.01.2018	\$ 18,433,573
Endowment Investment Capital	13,161,912
Cash as of 06.30.19	171,545
Property as of 06.30.19	3,783,512
ASSETS as of 06.30.2019	\$ 17,116,969
Gain (Loss) on assets	\$ 1,316,604

Complete financial statements are available on our website: www.esuus.org/about/financial\_statements



### **Operating Revenues**

Private Support	24%
Earned Revenue	<b>37</b> %
Investment Return for Operations	27%
Contributed Goods & Services	12%



### **Operating Expenses**

Program Services	<b>52</b> %
Immigrant Support Programs	19%
Membership & Branch Services	12%
Student Teacher Programs	21%
Management & General	41.5%
Special Event/ Fundraising	7.5%

186,606

\$53,614

\$1,176,990

\$ 2,438,832

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### **Annual Report 2019**

