

# Students who serve, stand out and succeed

**Student engagement in the community is on the rise.** Service is becoming part of the holistic expectation to gain skills and career experiences throughout high school. Across the US, schools and districts are implementing service goals and challenges while students are exceeding expectations. x2VOL and Naviance are contributing to those successes.

One school in particular makes a commitment to service every single day in honor of their school's namesake.



Former Governor Ann Richards had a vision for her eponymous school: providing economically disadvantaged women with the

confidence and tools to pursue college and promising careers.

The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders (ARS) has been successful; 100 the 2013 and 2014 classes have a 100 percent college attendance rate. The school is propelling students toward success.

## ARS manages community service with x2VOL

ARS uses x2VOL from IntelliVOL, to streamline the tracking and reporting of students' service hours so that the focus remains on service, not paperwork.

With x2VOL, students log into their account and submit entries for completing community service hours. It's a secure online platform that keeps track of the hours submitted and generates an automated message to the non-profits students volunteer with, requesting verification of the students volunteer work.

**“x2VOL provides a connection to the community as well as a way for the school**

**administrators to track the hours that the students are serving. Overall, x2VOL provides the authentication and verification students need for graduation.” Michele Pitman says, CEO and Founder of IntelliVOL.**

## The way to college preparedness is paved with community service

Over 60% of the graduating students at ARS are first generation college students. Each girl realizes how critical it is to have support from the community and mentors open to donors they had never thought were open to them. In turn, these students know that they have the ability to help others because so much has been given to them.

In the last 2 years, ARS students have logged close to 50,000 hours of community service. And each student will graduate from ARS with 100 or more hours of community service completed. It is a lot to manage but x2VOL has simplified the process to keep it manageable and successful.

Naviance is the world's leading college and career readiness platform.

Add x2VOL to your Naviance account today!

Here's how:

1. Simply contact your Hobsons Account Manager to subscribe to x2VOL.

2. Once your subscription is processed, x2VOL will contact you to set-up your school.

3. Start tracking service hours with x2VOL!

## STARS curriculum

All ARS students are required to be enrolled in a STARS class (Success Through Academics, Resiliency, and Service) where students experience a wide-array of learning and growth opportunities extending beyond academics into the community to build relationships.

Service is part of the formation of the student's character, school's culture and expectation. Each STARS student is required to participate in community service and complete a certain number of hours depending on their grade level. Seniors work in interdisciplinary groups on a Capstone Project addressing a specific community need. It takes extensive planning to make sure each student's project is aligned with her academic and growth goals.

"It's a mindset focused on the goal," said Doy Roberts a teacher who leads the STARS special curriculum. She says students go above the expectation and even volunteer more than 300 hours when they find a service fitting their personal goals or tugging at their heart. Students often connect strongly with the organization's mission and start to really care about the people they are helping. Students begin to recognize that they are a vital link in system and greatly value their work.

But, they must also take care of business. Students are

responsible for tracking their own hours and are accountable for the outcome. ARS students appreciate that x2VOL equips them with a tool for success.

## Standing out on college applications

Through Naviance's Family Connection, students have a quick link to x2VOL where they track hours and write reflections about their service.

**"The reflection feature in x2VOL is a great tool...having everything in one place is beneficial." Roberts says.**

Eric Heineman, College Counselor at ARS, sees the benefit of writing reflections for service beginning in sixth grade. He calls it, "The art of writing a reflection." Continually writing reflections of service is a unique experience preparing students for writing college and essays that are posted in Naviance's journal feature.

Heineman says x2VOL service transcripts illustrate a student's most meaningful service experiences, which demonstrates maturity. A student without service on their application can't compete with those that do, adds Eric. He emphasized that colleges notice the absence of service.

**"Students who show they were involved with service demonstrate maturity." Heineman shares.**



Pictured: Doy Roberts, Michele Pitman and Eric Heineman

## ARS alums know service makes a difference

ARS staff stay in touch with alumni to see if school's mission is being met. Is the message and mindset living in the student beyond graduation? Is the program working? Are the graduate's leaders? Are they serving and engaging with the community?

ARS graduates have learned how to manage their lives, community service and education with a digital system, much like life in the working world. These women know that with the right tools, they can balance personal, work, academic and service commitments. Years of writing reflections have taught them to be self-reflective, able to recognize and set priorities how to select from competing pressures. They are leaders equipped with courage and compassion and supporting their community by continuously being involved with service.

## Key Points

- The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders in Austin, TX has seen a positive impact in the students who participate in community service and benefits of capturing their service reflections.
- With x2VOL, students have an easy way to report their service hours and to find and sign-up for volunteer opportunities.
- Students log into their x2VOL account through their Family Connection account in Naviance. No additional logins or passwords needed!
- ARS students participate in community service opportunities supporting their goals for academic and personal growth.
- College Counselor, Eric Heineman, says continuous reflection writing through service as a unique experience prepares students for writing college visit reflections college essays and scholarship essays.
- School administrators are able to pull real-time reports progress toward service hour requirements at any time.

More success stories: [intellivol.com](http://intellivol.com)

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