Bloomberg began work with PENCIL in 2012, motivated by a shared commitment to measurable impact. Bloomberg’s School Partnership with University Heights High School is one of PENCIL’s “Deep Dive” Partnerships. These partnerships are designed to keep the ratio of volunteers to students small to provide New York City high school students with much needed personalized college and career mentoring through their critical junior and senior years.

The Partnership: Last year, 25 students participated in partnership activities. This September, these students will resume work with their mentors, as a new cohort of juniors begins the program. The Bloomberg partnership has been expertly led by two Bloomberg employee “team leads,” supported by the Bloomberg CSR team and working closely with a School Liaison. To date, over 30 Bloomberg staff have participated in PENCIL programming.

Bloomberg volunteers have engaged in monthly mentoring sessions at Bloomberg’s offices. PENCIL designed these sessions to align with research-based college- and career-readiness learning objectives. PENCIL then worked with the Bloomberg team leads to infuse the sessions with Bloomberg-specific methodology and culture. Over the course of the year, students learned about professional communication, and began work to map out their college and career goals. In their second year of the program, these students will receive individualized guidance from their Bloomberg mentors to choose colleges, write compelling essays, and complete the necessary application forms.

Further, PENCIL has worked with Bloomberg on its Bloomberg StartUp program, which provides additional opportunities to support college and career readiness, and is available to all University Heights students.

Fellows: All students within the cohort were encouraged to apply for the PENCIL Fellows Program. This competitive career readiness program provides New York City high school juniors and seniors with over 30 hours of career readiness training and culminates in a six-week, paid summer internship at a successful business in New York. In 2015, 18 students from the Bloomberg partnership were accepted into and completed the PENCIL Fellows Program.

Bloomberg LP also hosted three PENCIL Fellows in 2015. These students worked side-by-side with Bloomberg employees and were integrated into Bloomberg’s larger internship program.

The Outcomes: At the end of their first year of partnership:

- 91% of students were comfortable discussing their strengths and skills with professionals.
- 80% of students were confident in their ability to prepare a good resume.
- 96% of students are on track to graduate college ready.