

OLIVER SCHOLARS

Oliver News - Fall 2019 Edition - Opportunity Unlocked



YOUR SUPPORT MADE

This summer, the generous support and donations from friends of Oliver old and new, resulted in over 140 students from underserved communities attending the summer portion of the Oliver Scholars 14-month Scholar Immersion and Placement Program (SIP). Students engaged in a 5-week rigorous academic and leadership development program at Ramaz School, in New York City; which culminated in a week-long residence for rising 8th and 9th graders at Berkshire Boarding School in Sheffield, MA.

THE DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER

The week at Berkshire was action packed! From academic challenges, leadership training, scavenger hunts, olympic games, team building activities, sports, and a talent showcase, the students left empowered and with unforgettable memories, especially for those students who have never ventured outside of the city. Following the week at Berkshire, scholars and their families celebrated completing SIP and their placements in day and boarding high schools across the country at our Recognition Ceremony held on August 14th in New York City.



FOR 144 STUDENTS!

YOUR SUPPORT MADE THE DIFFERENCE!!!

If you're interested in getting more involved and supporting our work, please visit www.oliverscholars.org or send a note to development@oliverscholars.org.

We are proud of the Oliver Legacy and invite you to join us as we blaze a trail into our future.

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



Bernell Downer (Oliver Class of '96)

Oliver Scholars is pleased to shine our spotlight on an Oliver alum making a difference in his community and our world.

Bernell is an alumnus of the Oliver Scholars Program. He is grateful to Oliver for instilling in him the importance of education to empower imagination and creativity. He was born in Georgetown, Guyana; and grew up in Kingston, Jamaica; and Brooklyn, New York; before graduating from Phillips Academy Andover in 1996. He received his Biology B.A. from Cornell University in 2000 and completed Cornell's Mandarin language program at Peking University in 2012. Prior to joining Oliver Scholars in June 2019, as Director of Academic Affairs, Bernell taught English, Biology, and Math for 10 years at schools in Korea and China. He recently completed his M.S. Private School Leadership at Columbia Teachers College and strives to increase education access for all.

DANIELLE R. MOSS

For 35 years Oliver Scholars has endeavored to fulfil its mission for our youth, to push them to reach their highest potential and support them in making their dreams come to fruition. To challenge them to think beyond what the world deems as sufficient and go further, and more importantly, knock down doors that would otherwise be closed. It takes a village of visionaries who support our efforts as we expand the pipeline of students who are poised to succeed in high school, college and beyond. Thank you to all of us – friends, families, alumni, staff and foundation and corporate partners – for your generous support!

CEO CORNER



OLIVER STRONG!

It has been an exciting time here at Oliver Scholars as we reached out and touched the pulse of our community; spearheading events and outreach to make a difference for those we serve.



In late spring, Oliver's CEO, Dr. Danielle Moss hosted our first-ever "Oliver Scholars Family Café" with parents and scholars, where those attending created a conversation about questions including: What do families, scholars and alumni need from Oliver Scholars? What are our priorities? Attendees proposed a wide-range of suggestions for improving engagement, offered their time and effort to work more closely with families and alums, and continued to build the community that is Oliver Scholars! Stay tuned for more information as we develop opportunities to keep meaningful conversations like this going across our community.



FAMILY CAFE

In September, Oliver launched the **CEO Salon Series** and hit the ground running with a panel discussion in honor of Latinx Heritage month. In October, Oliver began a new round of admissions and held Mock Interviews for candidates to practice their interviewing skills. Oliver also implemented a partnership with SEO to provide internships for scholars and collaborated with the TechRow Fund to provide a Jr. Panel on Climate Change at the Museum of Math. A financial aid workshop for college-bound scholars and a "care package" drive for first year high school and college students sponsored by Oliver's Alumni Council closed out the month.



On November 27th, Oliver hosted its annual **Community Service Day**. Over 100 scholars, staff, and alum joined sites all over New York City to feed the homeless; serve our elderly, sick and shut-in and wrap toys for tots!

Next up: Black History Month Celebrations, Homecoming and The Oliver Scholars Gala!!! Look out for the save-the-dates starting at the top of the new year! We encourage you to stay connected - there is much more to come from the Oliver Scholars' camp!