

OLIVER SCHOLARS

OLIVER NEWS - 2020 - SPECIAL EDITION

Oliver on the Front Line: Mission Driven

In the time of COVID-19

Around this time last year, homes, schools and communities across the country were abuzz with excitement. You may have heard it in a laugh, scream, cry or cheer - acceptance season tends to have that effect on people. Celebrations were televised nationwide and on social media, as students opened letters from colleges and universities saying, "Welcome to your future here with us. Your hard work has paid off," giving way for many students to boisterously declare, "We Accept!"



This year is different. As our nation contends with a pandemic of epic proportions, our scholars' traditional celebratory cheers are muffled by anxiety, and the uncertainty of what the future will bring. Instead of planning Oliver Scholars' traditional Recognition Ceremony, our team is focused on helping our students adjust to online learning platforms and working to help them stay encouraged about high school and college admissions in the face of a great deal of ambiguity. COVID-19 has drastically changed the landscape of life for scholars. Many of our families are facing economic challenges due to illness and layoffs, and instead of shopping for prom attire, playing their final games as recruiters visit schools, or taking graduation pictures, scholars and families are now in a holding pattern wondering what's next.



Since 1984, Oliver Scholars has taken pride in preparing students for academic success and unlocking opportunities, and having a dedicated team focused on helping scholars maintain a high level of social and emotional stability. Our team is, and has always been, on the frontline of working toward a more equitable society. Oliver counselors are essential workers, committed to the mission and its scholars.

As we continue pushing through, our staff is polling families to see what their needs are while continuing to engage with our Oliver Scholars Alumni community and continuing to deliver SIP content online, executing a holistic Interview Weekend experience, helping students access online tutoring, and continuing college preparation and decisions for students in the upper grades. The work continues - because that's what Oliver Scholars deserve from us.





Randy Frazier

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE BOUND INITIATIVES

"I am tremendously proud of our Oliver senior class who has worked diligently this year to stay academically successful. I've watched them face and overcome various obstacles that only made them stronger as they get closer to their college aspirations."

Sustaining the Oliver legacy

SUSTAINING OLIVER

It often takes moments of crisis for us to be reminded of just how critical our communities are. As we face an uncertain future, all of us at Oliver are all the more grateful to our supporters, friends, advocates, and ambassadors whose generosity and good will that Oliver is resourced to deliver unparalleled programming and services to our amazing young Scholars and their families.

These moments also bring into sharp relief the critical need for financial sustainability. Perhaps the biggest challenge in navigating this crisis is the degree of uncertainty that accompanies it. Yet, we know that the needs of our Scholars will not diminish and that we must be optimally resourced to respond and support them.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

The long term impact of this crisis remains to be seen. Your early commitment and repeat contributions will allow Oliver to plan responsibly so that we may deliver services with as few interruptions for scholars and families as possible.

Make a One-Time Gift: From Recruitment and placement, to academic preparation to social-emotional support: a contribution of any size will help us continue Oliver's important work.

Make a Recurring Gift: A monthly contribution is a great way to make a larger investment by spreading payments over a year. Your recurring gift also helps Oliver comfortably project our future spending.

Program and Event Underwriting: Oliver's programs and event platforms provide unique recognition opportunities for individuals or companies while offsetting costs to Oliver. Please contact Gabrielle Gilliam for more information.

For questions or more information, please contact [Gabrielle Gilliam](#), Chief Development Officer via email or at 646-761-1654.

The CEO Corner

Dear Oliver Scholars Family,

I hope that you're all doing well and staying safe as our nation continues to battle this COVID-19 public health crisis. As I've shared previously, our Scholars and families are weathering a lot of challenges as a result of this crisis. But, as you also know, our Scholars are courageous, resilient, and single-minded in their commitment to using education as a transformational vehicle for their lives.

I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge how exceptional the Oliver Scholars staff has been throughout this pandemic. From the operations team that made sure we had the technological capacity to take the work offsite, to the educators who took SIP online with deft seamlessness, to the program teams that expanded their outreach to Scholars and families and made sure that incoming candidates had a rich Interview Week experience, our Oliver Scholars team members have shown up and showed out! It gives me such great hope to know that, at the end of the day, whatever comes our way, the work - and, the mission that shapes that work - always comes first. We are the embodiment of Leadership, Scholarship, and Service.



Dr. Danielle R. Moss

Oliver Scholars CEO

If you have a moment, please let our team and students know that you've got our backs. Send a direct message, an email, or like and engage with us on social media so we know we're not alone in this. I know this too shall pass. And, I am convinced that Oliver Scholars will come out stronger on the other side.

Sincerely,
Dr. Danielle R. Moss

Dr. Danielle R. Moss

Stay Connected

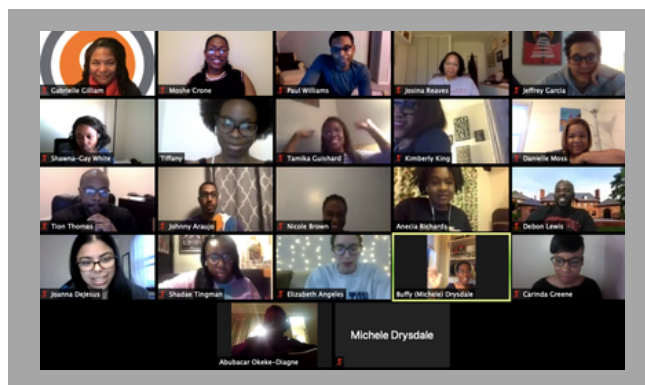
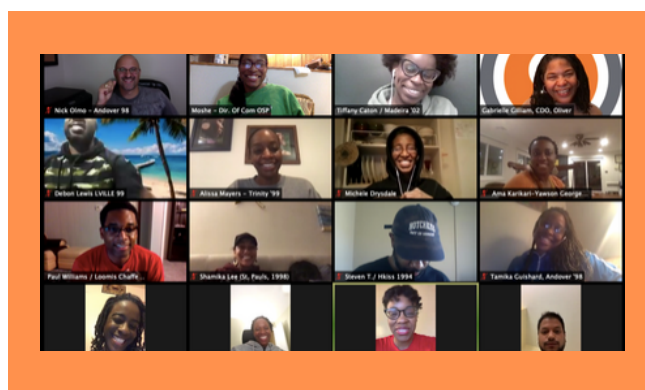
Oliver Scholars and the Alumni Council has launched a new way to reconnect with Oliver scholars and stay connected. Using the COVID-19 quarantine as a platform for virtually connecting, two Alumni Mixers - online "meet & greets" have happened thus far.

Designed to reconnect alumni to Oliver and to each other, these past two Fridays, the hour-long Zoom events saw alumni joining from classes as far back as '89 to as recent as '16. Participants shared their favorite Oliver memories and spoke about why they continue to be actively engaged.

The group also brainstormed ideas on how we can continue to build community, and how Oliver can best serve our alumni now and when we've reached the other side of this current crisis.

Oliver looks forward to hosting the next alumni reunion mixer- join us if you can!

#ComeHome2Oliver #OliverStrong



For questions or more information, please contact [Gabrielle Gilliam](#), Chief Development Officer via email or at 646-761-1654.