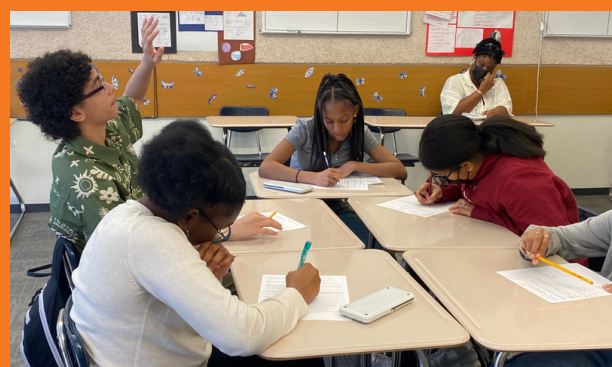


OLIVER NEWS



OLIVER SCHOLARS IS ON THE MOVE THIS SUMMER

Summer is in full swing at Oliver Scholars. From academics, youth conferences, and recreation to end-of-year celebrations. Take a peek inside to see what we are up to.



SCHOLARSHIP

In June, Oliver Scholars celebrated the Class of 2023 at the Annual Senior Tribute. The celebration was held at and generously sponsored by BNY Mellon in NYC and welcomed over 100 guests, including scholar families, staff, alumni, and board members. The keynote speech was given by Jeffrey Garcia '09 and three scholars were recognized for their outstanding work in Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. Scholar Anaku Heru '23 was awarded this year's Excellence Award and was also a featured speaker at this year's gala. Well done Class of 2023!

LEADERSHIP

The Oliver Scholars Summer Open House was held at the Grace Church School on July 19. Guests included parents, students, staff, board members, and partner school representatives. Attendees were able to get a first-hand look at the program through classroom visits and a Q&A session with program directors. Special thanks to Distinguished Lecturer and Board Member Dr. Basil Smikle Jr. who participated in a fireside chat with Oliver Scholars CEO, Dr. Moss Cox on the Supreme Court affirmative action decision and how it will affect our youth.

SERVICE

Oliver Scholars launched the Summer Internship Program this July. Each department has taken 1-2 college students under their wings to guide them in an apprenticeship-like program for 6 weeks. Interns work side by side with Oliver directors to learn valuable skills to help them move further along in their academic journey as well as with their future career choices in the field. Since the program launched in 2021, interns have reported that the experience at Oliver Scholars has been beneficial.

SCHOLAR SUCCESS



In Our Own Voices

On June 15th our scholars held their annual social justice conference in partnership with Prep for Prep which was titled 'Forms of Resistance - In Our Own Voices.' The conference was held at Sacred Heart High School.

The conference served as a platform to shed light on the capacity of BIPOC students enrolled in predominantly white institutions (PWIs) to challenge the prevailing status quo. Through fostering solidarity among fellow BIPOC students, active political engagement, heightened financial literacy, and prioritization of their well-being, they can effectively resist the existing norms and advance towards a more equitable and fulfilling future.

120 students were in attendance, with Oliver junior and senior students serving as panelists and workshop facilitators. Alumna Latoya Massey '98 served as the keynote speaker.



Scholar Immersion Program

The summer portion of the Scholar Immersion Program began on July 5. SIP engages 135 pre-scholars in daily coursework and community-building activities. Grace Church is graciously hosting our students for five weeks in the city for programming, and the Berkshire School will host one week at their boarding school. Team members for Admissions and Placement and Scholar Services support SIP I and SIP II students to create relationships with students and families before working with them in the Fall. This year, Oliver hired seventeen teaching assistants to assist teachers and provide near-peer support critical to our program's success.



Scholar Spotlight:

Isabel Rodriguez, Suffield Academy (Class of 2025): Isabel has been a rockstar academically through her Sophomore year at Suffield Academy with A's across the board. Isabel is also a leader on her campus by being a member of the board for the club "What Would Ruth Bader Ginsburg Do?", which is a club dedicated to students interested in advocacy work, fighting for everyone and their civil liberties. Isabel is also a dedicated member of Suffield's theater department and "Sister Sister", a group dedicated to women of color on campus lifting each other up.



Brand2Business Summer Camp

This summer our high school students joined Oliver's Scholar Success team at Brand2Business camp, to learn how to unleash their unique potential and embark on an exciting journey through Personal Branding & Business Basics workshops.

This immersive program was designed to expose students to the world of business while helping them gain the skills to build their personal brand, as a crucial step toward achieving their dreams and learning how to stand out in today's competitive world.

Students were introduced to the fundamentals of business and received guidance from industry experts from corporations and organizations around NYC. They were able to gain valuable insight into real-world business practices and learn about financial literacy, marketing, and communication.

ALUMNI CORNER



REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD!

Last month, Oliver Scholars alumni and friends gathered at the Midtown White Loft in NYC to celebrate the third Annual Alumni Reunion. The atmosphere overflowed with warmth, nostalgia, and the joy of shared memories. Undoubtedly, a Reunion highlight was witnessing Founder John Hoffman and the first graduate of Oliver Scholars, Richard Ray '85 reunite and reconnect!

The festivities kicked off with music by DJ Big Lex, followed by welcome remarks from Alumni Council President, Josina Reaves '91 and Vice President, Paul Williams '02. CEO, Dr. Danielle R. Moss Cox provided and emphasized the accomplishments of Oliver Scholars and the importance of continuing support for the program.

The afternoon program featured Dr. J. Alexander Martin, Founder of FUBU, and Derrick Webster '93, CEO of Vanguard Consulting for a timely discussion on entrepreneurial leadership. Martin and Webster emphasized the importance of leaders having a clear vision and purpose, as well as a constant desire for growth and innovation. They shared their experiences and the value of perseverance and resilience. Both speakers highlighted the importance of entrepreneurial leadership to create positive change in the world.

The Reunion was a huge success, serving as a reminder of the Oliver Scholars' spirit, legacy, and the program's profound impact on Black and Latinx students since its founding in 1984. We look forward to connecting with and welcoming alumni back for many years to come.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



2023 Gala Awardees

Oliver Scholars Alumni were recognized at the 2023 annual Gala for their outstanding achievements in Scholarship, Leadership, and Service, core pillars of the organization, and for their dedication to giving back.

The 2023 Awardees are Jamillah Hoy-Rosas '94, Head of Population Health & Healthcare Experience for Ronald McDonald House, Chymeka Olfonse '92, Managing Director, Robin Hood, and Paul Williams '02, Associate Director of Compliance at the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation. Megan Alexander of CBS Network's Inside Edition presented the Alumni Awards.



CEO CORNER

Dr. Cox on The Affirmative Action Decision

The Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action is a clear rejection of our country's efforts to disrupt the imbalance and inequity that have resulted from centuries of intentional exclusion and marginalization of Black folks specifically, and people of color more broadly.

Though I have never touted my accomplishments as such, I have no doubt that some of my achievements have been made all the more possible as a result of affirmative action and similar policies aimed to mitigate a long American history of casteism and disenfranchisement of people who look like me. Thankfully that fact has never left me questioning my right to occupy space in any institution. I know that with every educational opportunity I've had, I have brought depth and perspective to my classrooms that was only possible because of who I am and how I show up in the world. And I have no doubt that my classmates of every background were the better for it.

This is the message for our Oliver Scholars. We see your intellect, your contributions, your capabilities, and your greatness. We will not be deterred in our fight for educational equity. Greatness is still within your grasp. We will March forward - together.

"Either the United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States."

W.E.B. DuBois, The Niagara Movement Speech of 1905



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JOIN AN EVENT:

Recognition Ceremony 8/11

National Non-Profit Day 8/17

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Small Gifts Make A BIG Impact.

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STAND WITH OLIVER! MAKE A COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUTH!

YOUR IMPACT AS A MONTHLY DONOR

Monthly Donation	Impact
\$19.84/ Month	Funds test prep services for HS Scholars for the year.
\$30/ Month	Keeps the Saturday Academy Program supplied with materials throughout the year.
\$40/ Month	Provides ongoing support for Scholars through the College Bound Initiatives Program.
\$100/ Month	Funds one Scholar's College Tour experience to 3 different colleges in 4 states.