

SPRING | SUMMER 2021

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FIRST-EVER ALUMNI EDITION

THE COLLEGEBOUND CONNECTOR

NEWSLETTER



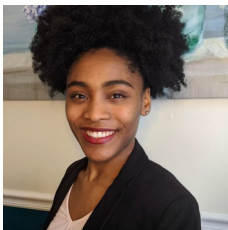
CASSIE MOTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the CollegeBound Team. As another difficult school year draws to a close, we continue to celebrate our scholars' many successes and to do all we can to help students navigate significant COVID-related challenges. The first cohort of students in our College Completion Program is about to graduate from college. Of the 44 Baltimore City Schools' graduates who began the program in the fall of 2017, 80% are on track to graduate from college this year or next year. We are expanding the program, adding another 75 current City Schools' seniors who will be college freshmen this fall. Over the last six months, our first-ever virtual CareerBound series connected 210 CollegeBound college scholars and alumni with 24 local businesses and graduate schools. Several students landed paid internships and jobs with local companies. Our scholars continue to juggle the competing demands of family, work, and school, and many have taken on extra work hours to support themselves and their families. All year long we have been communicating with our students via phone calls, text messages, FaceTime, Google Classroom, and Zoom, though the pandemic has reinforced the importance of the in-person connection with our students. It is likely that most high school graduation celebrations this year will be a mix of limited in-person ceremonies, Zoom events, and festive caravans and congratulatory yard signs. One recent highlight was a series of surprise home visits made by CollegeBound advisors, the McDaniel College admissions team, and the McDaniel mascot to five City Schools' seniors to inform them that they won CollegeBound/McDaniel full tuition scholarships! Another high point this spring has been the virtual career-focused sessions for high school students led by CollegeBound alumni to introduce students to various fields. In this issue, we highlight our CollegeBound alumni, who contribute so much to the Baltimore community. Several CollegeBound alumni will speak at our virtual Scholars' Luncheon on Friday, July 16th. We hope that you can join us for the scholar-focused 30-minute virtual luncheon, which will conclude with a live 30-minute Zoom panel about the anticipated impact of the Kirwan Commission's Blueprint for Maryland's Future on college and career readiness in Baltimore City. The panel will be moderated by CollegeBound alumna Alicia Wilson, and panelists will include Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson, Baltimore City Schools' CEO Dr. Sonja Santelises, and Baltimore Mayor (and CollegeBound alumnus) Brandon Scott. For more information, please visit our website (collegeboundfoundation.org). Thank you for supporting CollegeBound and the great Baltimore City Schools' students and graduates we serve.

COLLEGEBOUND ALUMNI GIVE FORWARD THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Several scholarships have been established by alumni over the years to support the next generation of CollegeBound scholars. The CollegeBound Foundation Alumni Association (CBFAA) Scholarship, created in 2015, leverages annual donations by members to support one Baltimore City Schools' graduate who attended a CollegeBound-staffed high school each year. Another scholarship was recently established by immediate past CBFAA President Dr. Tracey Durant. Western alumna Dr. Durant and her husband, Poly alum Bruce Durant Jr., created a book scholarship that honors the spirit of Sankofa - reflecting on the past to build a successful future for another. Two students, one from each of their high school alma maters, will receive funding each year. CollegeBound alum Matthew Reeds announced in February the launching of his new scholarship, The Roxanne L. Reeds Scholarship (reedsfund.org), which was created to even the playing field for students in Baltimore on the autism spectrum or living with sarcoidosis. Matthew hopes to "alleviate the education disparities that currently exist in Baltimore while providing individuals the opportunity to live vibrant, productive lives." This spring over 100 community volunteers evaluated CollegeBound scholarship applications. We look forward to announcing and celebrating the 2021 scholarship recipients at the CollegeBound Scholars' Luncheon on Friday, July 16th.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: I'SHEA BOYD



I'Shea Boyd, Poly '16, University of Maryland College Park '20, reflects below on her CollegeBound experience. I'Shea spent two summers at Amazon in Washington and Arizona as a software development engineer intern and studied abroad in Mexico and Australia. She chose to return to Baltimore to work as a data scientist at Arena Analytics, a local software company that uses machine learning to reduce bias based on race, class, and gender in hiring. I'Shea is the first in her family to graduate from college. Her brother, Isaiah, a senior at Poly, was just accepted to the University of Maryland, College Park, in the Incentive Awards Program, the same full scholarship program in which I'Shea participated. Her brother, Jaden, was just accepted as a ninth grader at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and her sister, Jayla, is in elementary school.

"Thus far, I have been on a 7-year journey with CollegeBound. That's one of the amazing and unique aspects of the organization. It is not a 1-month, 1-year, or any length commitment, it is a community. A community that I can access, rely on, and contribute to indefinitely. In these 7 years, through CollegeBound, I have experienced college tours, college workshops, one-on-one college prep, scholarships, study tips, study abroad, internships, mentorship, leadership, encouragement, inspiration, community, Michelle Obama's book tour, and more. CollegeBound helped make my college experience more than I ever imagined. I cannot tell my story of becoming a computer engineering graduate of the University of Maryland without mentioning CollegeBound."

COLLEGEBOUND FOUNDATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (CBFAA) USHERS IN NEW INITIATIVES

Last summer, the CBFAA welcomed a new executive board (listed below) that has leaned into supporting our scholars through creative new initiatives. We sat down with CBFAA President Dr. Darian Senn-Carter to learn more about the alumni association.

CollegeBound Foundation Alumni Association Executive Board



Left to right:
Dr. Darian Senn-Carter, *President*
Dr. Tammira Lucas, *Vice President*
Angela Scott, *Treasurer*
Lawanda Lewis, MS, PHR, *Secretary*

CALLING ALL ALUMNI! To learn more about the CollegeBound Foundation Alumni Association and ways to get involved, please email: alumni@collegeboundfoundation.org.

How has CBFAA remained connected during the pandemic?

Now more than ever, we recognize the value in connections and community. I am proud of CBFAA and all that we are able to accomplish year after year, but I am most proud of the relationships built and experiences that we've shared over the years. During the pandemic, we have remained connected by focusing on the fundamental basics, fellowship and our shared love of CBF. We once again hosted the alumni panel leading up to last year's virtual Scholars' Luncheon and gathered remotely for summer and fall social events (spring event details coming soon!). We also adjusted how we supported CollegeBound scholars and alumni and were proud to provide care packages for CAPS and students. There are some new collaborations on the horizon with the CollegeBound staff team – both with the high school team and the college success team.

Looking ahead, what are you most excited about?

The CBFAA Alumni Board consists of extremely dynamic members. I am excited about the new CBFAA initiatives and shared enthusiasm among members. As we continue to grow and expand, opportunities are truly boundless. I'm grateful for our virtual connections but really look forward to when we are able to connect in person. I am excited about CollegeBound's new office location and look forward to the ability to visit with the team. The Scholars' Luncheon is one of my favorite events of the year and I look forward to another great event on Friday, July 16th.

What would you like to share with new alumni or alumni who aren't currently involved with CBFAA?

There are many ways to become involved with CBFAA! We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event and welcome you to formally join the CBFAA. Membership is broad and includes college graduates who attended Baltimore City Schools and received CollegeBound advising in high school and/or CollegeBound financial support during college. We are always looking for more alumni to connect with us and encourage anyone interested to reach out to alumni@collegeboundfoundation.org. Attend our events, volunteer with us, or consider a position on our board – there is a place for you within CBFAA!

2021 SAVE THE DATE!

VIRTUAL SCHOLARS' LUNCHEON
FRIDAY, JULY 16th
Purchase a ticket or sponsorship:
<https://secure.gqiv.com/event/scholarsluncheon2021/>

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS: ALICIA WILSON & MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT



CollegeBound is fortunate to have two CollegeBound alumni serve as longstanding board members. Alicia Wilson joined CollegeBound's Board of Directors in 2010 as a rising star in the Baltimore legal community. She currently leads the organization as Board Chair. Since joining the board a decade ago, Alicia has been influential in raising over \$1 million in new funding for CollegeBound in addition to her countless advocacy efforts. "Opportunities that were transformational for my life and educational journey, as simple as receiving a fee waiver to take the SAT and attending a free college bus tour to UMBC that connected me to Freeman Hrabowski and ultimately a full scholarship to attend UMBC, happened because of CollegeBound." City of Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott joined the board in 2013, at the time an up-and-coming city councilman for the second district. Mayor Scott's ongoing dedication to CollegeBound has been invaluable and, regardless of his full schedule, always finds the time to encourage equitable post-secondary opportunities for Baltimore City Schools' students. "I would have never attended and graduated from St.



Mary's College of Maryland were it not for the CollegeBound Foundation. CollegeBound connects opportunity with the talented young people of Baltimore City and that's something I will always support."

COMMUNITY-BASED EVENTS!

RISEING SENIOR SEMINAR

The **Rising Senior Seminar** will take place **virtually** on Tuesday, August 10th from 2 to 3pm. Registration opens July 10th. Please check our website periodically for updates.

SUCCESS SEMINAR

CollegeBound will hold the **8th Grade Success Seminar** for soon-to-be 9th grade students and their families **virtually** on Thursday, August 12th from 11am to 12:15pm. Registration opens July 12th. Please check our website periodically for updates.

Whether you're able to give time, money or expertise, CollegeBound relies on the generosity of supporters like you to continue our mission of getting students "To College. Through College."
For more information, visit collegeboundfoundation.org/how-you-can-help.