

FALL | WINTER 2020

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THE COLLEGEBOUND CONNECTOR

NEWSLETTER



CASSIE MOTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

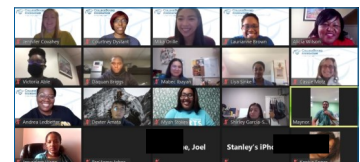
Greetings from the team at CollegeBound. Eight months into the pandemic, our Baltimore City scholars continue to demonstrate their resilience. All of our high school students and most of our college students are learning remotely. During this extraordinarily challenging time, many students have taken on additional hours at part-time or full-time jobs to support themselves and their families. The digital divide is real; many students struggle with inadequate access to technology and the internet. Nevertheless, Baltimore's students are persevering. Over the summer, hundreds of rising 9th and 12th graders and their families participated in CollegeBound's Virtual 9th Grade Success Seminar and Rising Senior Seminar. This fall, our 16 College Access Program Specialists (CAPS) are working with students remotely, arranging virtual college tours and visits with college representatives. Our CAPS are also helping students submit college applications and navigate the complexities of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Our College Success Team is in frequent touch – via text message, phone call, and Zoom -- with the 837 Baltimore City Schools' graduates receiving CollegeBound scholarships. In an effort to find a silver lining in this virtual world, we have partnered with local businesses and graduate schools to create "CareerBound: CollegeBound's Virtual Career Series," one-hour Zoom sessions for CollegeBound scholars and alumni to learn about local job and internship opportunities. A huge thank you to the local companies and graduate schools listed below for so swiftly and enthusiastically answering the call to participate. Thank you to so many in the Baltimore community for your continued support of our city's great students, particularly now and in the months to come.

2020-2021 CAREERBOUND DATES

NEW INITIATIVE VIRTUAL SERIES

CollegeBound is coordinating a weekly series for area employers and graduate schools to connect with Baltimore City Schools' graduates in college. Each Thursday at 4 pm, an area employer or graduate school will lead a one-hour Zoom session, sharing entry level job openings and internship opportunities, company benefits and mission, and their personal experiences in their professional careers. CollegeBound alumni and other area nonprofits who serve Baltimore City Schools' graduates have also been invited to participate. If you're interested in leading a CareerBound session or know a Baltimore City Schools' graduate who would like to participate, please reach out to Courtney Dystant at cdystant@collegeboundfoundation.org or 410-783-2905 x215.

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| 10/29—University of Baltimore School of Law | 1/14—Mercy Hospital | 3/11—Ameriprise Financial |
| 11/5—Travelers Companies, Inc. | 1/21—MCB Real Estate | 3/18—Teach for America |
| 11/12—Johns Hopkins University (Session 1) | 1/28—Morris & Ritchie Associates, Inc. | 3/25—Weller Development Company |
| 11/19—Johns Hopkins University (Session 2) | 2/4—Venable LLP | 4/1—University of Maryland
School of Social Work |
| 12/3—Mariner Finance | 2/11—Travis Rodgers Group | |
| 12/10—Parks & People Foundation | 2/18—Whiting-Turner | |
| 12/17—M&T Bank | 2/25—SC&H Group | |
| 1/7—Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan | 3/4—Brightview Senior Living | |



FOLLOW US!



FORWARD PROGRESS: HIGH SCHOOL ADVISING UPDATE

It is an understatement to say that now is a challenging time to be a high school senior or college advisor. Nevertheless, the Baltimore City Schools Class of 2021 and CollegeBound College Access Program Specialists (CAPS), teachers, and school counselors have demonstrated remarkable creativity and grit in adapting to the current all-virtual setting. Our CAPS have worked with teachers – particularly English teachers – across the city to offer virtual group advising sessions to students. CollegeBound CAPS and supervisors are doing Zoom “FAFSA Blitz” sessions to help several students at a time with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Using Zoom shared screens and break-out rooms, our team is making the most of technology to reach as many students as possible. City Schools and CollegeBound have partnered to arrange dozens of virtual college tours and visits from college representatives. Our CAPS are also spending several hours a day doing individual virtual advising sessions. One silver lining of the remote setting is that CAPS have more one-on-time time with students (without interruption in a crowded office). Many CAPS have shared that after an individual session, a student who thought college was out of reach is now applying.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: DAVON HARRIS

Digital Harbor High School ‘17 Stevenson University ‘21



Davon Harris is a CollegeBound Travelers EDGE Scholar and current Stevenson University senior pursuing a Computer Information Systems degree. This past summer, he took part in a summer internship through Travelers in Hunt Valley, Maryland, which was performed remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unconventional experience, Davon's performance earned him an extended internship at Travelers through December. “Though COVID-19 altered the format of my internship with Travelers, it did not hinder the quality of information I learned and the relationships I built throughout the experience. My internship with Travelers has put me on the path to further my success within the technology industry.” Davon was excited to

learn in October that he was offered a placement in the national Travelers Technology Leadership Development Program, which he readily accepted.

Davon is driven by his goal to become a role model for other young men. In addition to serving Stevenson's campus as a member of the university's tech support team, he is one of the founders of the Stevenson University Phi Mu Delta chapter, the first national fraternity in school history.

WE'LL BE THERE: COLLEGE SUCCESS UPDATE

The College Success Team continues to provide holistic scholar support for City Schools' graduates in college. The fall semester looks different for many of our students, some of whom are attending in person, fully online, or through a hybrid format. One constant is the team's unwavering dedication to understanding every scholar's situation and adjusting support accordingly.

The College Completion Program provides intensive case management coupled with financial aid from CollegeBound's need-based Last Dollar Grant (up to \$3,000 annually for up to six years in college). Scholars may face adversity and need to stop out of college, but they don't lose the support of the College Success Team. Advisors continue to reach out, stay connected, and check in with scholars to see how their lives are progressing. This spring, advisors were able to facilitate the return to college of two scholars. Our team assisted with letters and appeals that led to the financial aid needed to re-enroll. We are proud to share that both scholars are currently enrolled as full-time students.

The emergency fund remains a welcome support for many of our college scholars who face unbudgeted financial expenses that threaten their ability to remain on-track academically. To date, our emergency fund has provided 58 individual awards to cover unexpected food, technology, and housing costs. The weeks and months ahead will undoubtedly bring additional hurdles for our college scholars to conquer. One thing is certain: CollegeBound's resources will be there to help.

2021 SAVE THE DATE!

SCHOLARS' LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, JULY 16th

VOLUNTEER!

EVALUATE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The College Success Team relies on volunteer support to read scholarship applications from Baltimore City Public Schools' graduating seniors. Volunteers will attend a two-hour training session and review and evaluate scholarship applications online between March and April 2021.

MENTORS

FOR COLLEGE COMPLETION

The College Completion Program is seeking mentors for Baltimore City Public Schools' graduates who will be rising juniors or seniors at a Maryland four-year college or university in the 2021-2022 academic year.

For more information, visit:

collegeboundfoundation.org/volunteering

SUPPORT!

2020 LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN

Contribute to the Baltimore legal community's efforts to raise \$150,000 by December 31st.

To learn more, please visit:

[Secure.qgiv.com/event/lawyersforcollegebound](https://secure.qgiv.com/event/lawyersforcollegebound)

GIVING TUESDAY—DEC. 1st

This year, we are raising funds for the new CollegeBound Finishers' Fund, a scholarship dedicated to upperclassmen and students who stopped out just shy of a college degree who require additional tuition assistance to complete their undergraduate degrees.

CollegeBound Foundation participates in the following workplace campaigns:

521598921 - Maryland Charity Campaign | 5666 - United Way of Central Maryland | 65583 - Combined Federal Campaign