



****MEDIA ADVISORY****

CollegeBound Foundation selects 2023 recipients for the CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award and CollegeBound Scholar of the Year

Baltimore, Md. (Monday, May 15, 2023) – CollegeBound is thrilled to announce its 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award and city-wide Scholar of the Year winners, Tracey Barbour-Gillett and Jordan Flood. They will be celebrated and give speeches at the 35th annual CollegeBound Scholars’ Luncheon on Friday, July 28th at 12 p.m. at the Hilton Baltimore. Baltimore area leaders in education, business, and government will gather to honor recent Baltimore City high school graduates, current college students, and recent college graduates. This year’s luncheon will be in person, with 850 guests (a sell-out crowd) expected. The event will be scholar-and alumni-focused, highlighting the achievements of Baltimore City public school graduates over the last 35 years.

2023 CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award recipient

The CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes CollegeBound alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at CollegeBound. Mrs. Tracey Barbour-Gillett, Program Officer of Community Development at the Abell Foundation, has been selected as the 2023 award recipient. Mrs. Tracey Barbour-Gillett is a graduate of Western High School with degrees from American University (BA, Political Science), and the University of Baltimore (MPA, Public Administration). She has built a robust career in both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors and has served on multiple boards united in making Baltimore a more equitable city. At the Scholars’ Luncheon on July 28th, she will be sharing more about her story and what led to her success.

“I’m honored and humbled to have been selected as this year’s CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award winner. I am grateful to be a part of this valuable legacy of Baltimore City scholars. As someone who has spent most of their adult life living and working in Baltimore City, I count CollegeBound as a critical factor in my ability to secure the education that laid the foundation for my career and my work.”

2023 CollegeBound Scholar of the Year

Each CollegeBound-staffed high school nominates a student for its Scholar of the Week designation. The winning Scholar of the Week from each participating high school is featured in a 30-second commercial that is aired on Fox45 in the spring for a one-week period. One of the Scholar of the Week applicants is then chosen as the CollegeBound Scholar of the Year. This year’s recipient is Jordan Flood, a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, in recognition of his outstanding academic accomplishments, leadership, and community service. He plans to attend New York University in the fall on a full scholarship. Hear more from about Jordan’s success and future plans at this year’s Scholars’ Luncheon.

2023 Scholars' Luncheon: Friday, July 28th

- WHAT:** CollegeBound 35th Annual Scholars' Luncheon – 850 guests expected (A sell-out crowd)
- WHEN:** Friday, July 28, 2023 at 12 PM
- WHERE:** The Hilton Baltimore, 401 W Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21201, 2nd floor Holiday Ballroom
- SPEAKERS:** **Mayor Brandon Scott**, CollegeBound board member and alum (Mergenthaler Vocational- Technical High School '02, St. Mary's College of Maryland '06)
Tracey Barbour-Gillett, 2023 CollegeBound Distinguished Alumni Award recipient (Western High School '89, American University '93, University of Baltimore '04)
Jordan Flood, 2023 CollegeBound Scholar of the Year (Paul Laurence Dunbar High School '23, New York University '27)
Mauricio Velasquez Rodriguez, 2019 CollegeBound Scholar of the Year (Baltimore Polytechnic Institute '19, Brown University '23)
- MEDIA:** The luncheon is Open Press: **Media interested in attending -- please contact Jaya Smith, jsmith@collegeboundfoundation.org or 443-867-5842, by July 25th at 5 pm.**

Background about CollegeBound:

For 35 years, CollegeBound has worked exclusively in Baltimore City public schools to help students navigate the path to and through college. Founded in 1988 by Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) and the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC), CollegeBound has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of Baltimore City public high school students.

CollegeBound's impact has grown significantly. Our reach now spans over 4,000 high school students and 700 college students. We administer a scholarship portfolio of \$4 million for local public school students. We actively advise 60% of Baltimore City Schools' seniors and 25% of Baltimore City Schools graduates attending 4- year college with the assistance of a federal Pell Grant. Our College Completion Program is now in its 7th year. Students in the CollegeBound College Completion Program are graduating from 4-year colleges at a 75% rate – outpacing their peers across the state.

CollegeBound currently staffs CollegeBound College Access Program Specialists, or CAPS, in 17 Baltimore City public schools. We also have expanded to staff CAPS in 3 middle schools and 4 community-based organizations to encourage and assist students to pursue post-secondary education.

For more information about CollegeBound, please contact Jaya Smith, Communications Associate, at 443-867- 5842 or jsmith@collegeboundfoundation.org or visit www.collegeboundfoundation.org.