

PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE
FUTURE



THE CLASS OF
2025

Stories of **SUCCESS**





As I reflect on the stories you are about to read, I am reminded of a powerful truth: the strongest trees grow through storms. These stories are not just accounts of success; they are a testament to the resilience, perseverance, and unwavering spirit of our graduates. While each story is unique, they all share one undeniable theme: triumph. You have faced challenges, some personal, some societal, and some environmental. Yet, you have emerged stronger, never losing sight of your dreams. Over the past four years, you have unlocked a strength that, as freshmen entering this program, you may not have even known existed.

In a world where access to higher education is becoming increasingly complex, especially for students of color, you refused to be deterred. Talent may be freely given, but opportunity is not. Yet, you found a way. You carved out space for yourselves, discovered support in places you never imagined, and most importantly, held onto the belief that your future is worth fighting for. You understood that the storm is not a sign to quit; it is the test of your roots, your growth, and your resolve.

One of our founding community leaders, Dr. LaVerne Spurlock, once shared with me the simple but powerful goal of Partnership for the Future: to make strong children stronger. To the Class of 2025, you have exemplified this strength. You have worked tirelessly to arrive at this moment, and tonight, this celebration is all about you. You are closing one chapter of your life and stepping into what I hope will be the most exciting, rewarding, and transformational chapter of your young lives.

When you first applied to this program, you dreamed of going to college. For many of you, that dream seemed distant and uncertain. But through this program, we've challenged you to think critically, to be more organized, to step outside your comfort zones, and to unapologetically take up space. You've learned that impostor syndrome isn't a sign that you don't belong; it's the feeling that deep down, you know that you do belong. If you didn't believe you belonged, you wouldn't be nervous. You're nervous not because you don't fit, but because you're ready to own your place.

Next year, as you step onto your respective college campuses, I want you to thrive. Never again question whether you belong in that space—you've earned your place. You've done the work. When you walk onto those campuses, you will never be alone. Your village, your community, will be with you, supporting you, challenging you, and cheering you on as you build a new legacy for your families and community. Remember, you can be the first, but it only matters if others come behind you. Your success isn't just yours; it's for the next generation.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dionne W. Henderson".

Dionne W. Henderson
President & CEO





NORTH CAROLINA
AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL
STATE UNIVERSITY

Full-Ride Scholarship

TOBENNA AKUNWAFOR

North Carolina A&T



Upon entering high school, the distant mirage of my future began appearing clearer by the day. So naturally, I started stressing. It felt like a multitude of responsibilities and expectations were soon to loom over me like a rain cloud. I barely knew anything about many colleges or about the overall college application process. All that I knew was that I had to go to a university and make something out of myself, for my parents who immigrated here with nothing; for my community back in Nigeria that's relying on me to succeed; and for my younger brother, for whom I continue to set an example.

One day, a friend told me about this Partnership for the Future (PFF) and urged me to look into it. Initially, I was a little dismissive, but before long, I found myself in my school's media center, listening to Ms. Kate list a hundred and one reasons as to why we should apply. There were students at my school who were already a part of the program, and their combined testimonies had me sold. They assured me that I wouldn't have to bear the weight of figuring out my future alone.

Since then, I've lost count of the number of college campuses we've visited, the number of business representatives and professional spaces I've had the pleasure of coming into contact with, and the sheer number of people I've built strong relationships with — and that just might be my favorite part. Of course, as a college preparation program, the objective is to prepare us for college by informing us of all of the ins and outs of higher education, but I believe Partnership for the Future prides itself on going the extra mile. Not every college prep program teaches you how to tie a tie, provides summer internships, and offers opportunities for you to practice interviewing. I could go on and on. PFF sets its participants up for life during and after college, and I deeply love that aspect of this program.

I'm not sure how I would've navigated my senior year without PFF and their staff's help. I used to dread all of the deadlines, but to tell the truth, the organization and constant nudges were probably the best things that could've happened to me this year. They kept me on track, and they constantly pushed me to strive further and higher. Additionally, my mentor, Mr. Tolliver, is genuinely one of the most inspirational men I've ever met. We got extremely close and have had many deep conversations, all thanks to this program.

I ensured that my brother Ejike finished his application because I want him to experience the same benefits I currently am. The extensive number of resources at my disposal, from scholarship opportunities all the way to PFF students that are at the institutions I'm considering attending, wouldn't be available to me if not for PFF. I'll always advocate for this program and encourage younger students to put effort into it, because I know just how much they can help.





Full-Ride Scholarship

MICAH ANDERSON

Virginia Tech



Partnership For the Future (PFF) was the first program I selected on my own to demonstrate that I can pave the rest of my path myself. PFF fed my inquisitive nature, prompting me to demonstrate patience, kindness, and consideration for myself and others. It fostered my independence and gave me the experience and confidence that has helped me push beyond my comfort zone. I am grateful for the push to continue to work smarter and be a great leader.

PFF knows their students are capable. I love that they never underestimated my ability to succeed. Their unwavering support, leadership, and monitoring have surpassed my expectations and have earned my trust. Through their vocational training, I was able to volunteer at the Richmond SPCA, within their adoption center, Internal Veterinary Services, and with their affiliate company, Smoky's Spay and Neuter. There, I had the opportunity to shadow amazing Veterinary Assistants, Veterinary Technicians, and Veterinarians, which eventually helped me obtain my first job at Toby Town RVA.

Thanks to PFF's college preparation, I will be attending one of my top five colleges, Virginia Tech, to pursue Veterinary Medicine on a full-ride scholarship. I understand that continuous introspection and seeking diverse opportunities will be essential to expanding my worldview and experiences to remain humble and inclusive. My skills in preparation, time management, teamwork, conflict resolution, sensitivity, leadership, and networking have been increased and improved from my participation in PFF. I am looking forward to my transition to college with PFF at my side and to the continued support and meetings at the end of each college semester to celebrate my successes.





TORRENCE ARTIS

Old Dominion University

Partnership for the Future has been a great program for me. It caused me to shift my mindset, creating space for growth. This program has pushed me to see my own potential in my academic and collegiate journey. I wasn't sure what direction I wanted to take or how to even begin thinking about my future career. But this program helped me break down that uncertainty, giving me multiple sources to learn about my intended college major.

Through its guidance, Partnership for the Future gave me access to professional tools and experiences that most students never get. Whether it was preparing for college by visiting several college campuses, learning how to carry myself in professional settings with mock interviews, or just developing the discipline to keep working even when things got overwhelming. Partnership for the Future introduced me to mentors and peers who were just as or even more passionate than I was about their future, and being in that environment made me want to bring that same energy into everything I do.

One of the most personally impactful parts was the opportunity to further my knowledge about STEM programs in college and explore the engineering field. As someone interested in engineering, I was able to see how my major could connect to real-world careers. It helped me feel more confident about what I want to pursue.

Partnership for the future also gives you experiences like the paid summer internships to provide you with experience in the workforce and your potential career field. These experiences could be huge for you to get ahead of the competition when trying to find jobs after you graduate from college.

Overall, Partnership for the Future hasn't just helped me plan for college or a career, it's helped me believe that I belong in those spaces. It made me feel capable and ready to go after something bigger. I'm grateful for how it's shaped not just my path, but my mindset moving forward.





Radford
UNIVERSITY



JORDAN ATHY

Radford University

When I was accepted into Partnership for the Future (PFF), I was very happy and nervous. Listening to my sister, who was a year ahead of me in school, share her great experiences about being a part of Partnership for the Future gave me a feeling of excitement and great expectations. My experience over the past four years has been just that. I have benefited so much from being a part of this program.

PFF ensured that we received all the tools and resources we needed to succeed. I know that the opening sessions, cultural capital sessions, and various summits helped to shape the individual that I am today. These various activities all had a major impact on me as they opened my eyes to what is expected of me as an aspiring college student. I learned about the importance of saving for college, career choices, and just preparing myself for college life. I have enjoyed the many college tours, and I have really enjoyed the connections that I have been able to make with other PFF students.

My most memorable experience in PFF was when I obtained my first internship with Capital One. This internship really opened my eyes to computer science/software development, as this has been a huge interest of mine since middle school. This internship opportunity opened my eyes to how work life is, especially as it pertains to work culture and job expectations. Each year of the PFF program has been a rewarding experience that I am appreciative of.

Thank you, Partnership for the Future, for all of your support throughout the years. I am beyond grateful for all the opportunities that have been presented to me. Because of your organization and support, I am on my way to greatness.



**VCU****Top 10% of Class****NAZIYA BRADLEY****Virginia Commonwealth University**

I first found out about Partnership for the Future (PFF) from my ninth-grade teacher. She asked if I would be interested in applying for a program that would help prepare me for college. Coming out of the pandemic, I lacked confidence in my social and academic skills. I decided I would regret not trying, so I decided to write the essay and apply to the program. After being in this program, I have grown tremendously from fifteen to eighteen years old.

My four years in this program have instilled in me my self-worth and the need to advocate for myself. I have had to learn to push and work for what I want. This was one of the first things we were told from the time of our institution week till now. Only second to the saying “extroverts make space and introverts take space,” which was also drilled into us. These sayings have helped me during the college tours to be more comfortable with asking questions and taking up “space.” I have as much of a right to ask questions and exist as my peers. This program has helped me to become a better communicator. Forcing us to speak in front of each other for our one-minute pitch, debates, presentations, projects, etc., has gotten me out of my shell. These are some skills that I will carry with me throughout my young adult journey.

I’d also like to express that I am truly grateful for this program, the staff, my mentor, the volunteers, and all the friends I’ve made through this experience. Thanks to PFF, I was able to visit many colleges in Virginia. Some of the highlights include a trip to Monticello, the only Black-owned bookstore in Richmond, the Science Museum, and the Jefferson Hotel to name a few. Visiting and being in these spaces I would have likely not gone to on my own was eye-opening. The staff made being there comfortable, safe, and fun while pushing us to try new things. Workshops on financial literacy with representatives from our local banks helped me learn valuable monetary skills.

I am very glad I was introduced to PFF and decided to apply. Being given the opportunity to be a part of this experience has shaped my high school career. This experience has encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and immerse myself in opportunities I might not otherwise have had. Thank you, PFF, for everything you’ve done for me. I can’t wait for the next chapter in my life as a college student.



**VCU**

MYASIA BRIDY

Virginia Commonwealth University

Growing up in a low-income home, in a poverty-stricken neighborhood like Mosby Court, life wasn't always the easiest. It forced me to mature quickly. Academically, I've always performed better than my peers, something my family would proudly praise me for; however, despite my academic success, I knew nothing about college or life beyond my small world.

In elementary school, I was just a little Black girl trying to fit in. But I didn't. The kids around me liked different things, acted differently, and even talked differently. I wasn't "Black enough" in their eyes because I enjoyed school and had big dreams. I faced bullying, not just for being different but also for my dark skin. That pain followed me into middle school, where things got even harder. I transitioned to a military school environment, struggled in math, struggled to connect, and then... COVID hit. That was the year that humbled me.

My family got sick, virtual learning was a struggle, and I didn't even have a Chromebook until the second half of the year. I failed math and science subjects that I was once confident in. I had never experienced failure like that. Algebra 1 was a high school credit class, but a miscommunication in summer school left me repeating it my freshman year. I didn't even know what a GPA was at the time. It felt like I was drowning. Then came PFF.

My teachers pushed me to apply, and out of curiosity, I did. When I got the call for an interview, I dressed in my sharpest and gave it my all. Weeks later, I was accepted. I still remember the reactions from my mom and aunt. My aunt told me, "In our time, there weren't opportunities like this." My mom couldn't go to college. Another aunt never finished high school. For the first time, I realized. I had to make it. Not just for me. For them. For us. PFF provided me with many firsts: the first time learning about the FAFSA, my first college tour, my first time out of state, my first overnight trip, and my first internship. They believed in me before I fully believed in myself.

They guided me through everything, from building my GPA, understanding financial aid, prepping for the SAT, and opening doors I never thought existed. Through PFF, I landed my first paid internship in project management with Capital One. I spent that summer learning professional skills, working in a corporate environment, and connecting with people I never imagined meeting. They taught me how to navigate college life, even breaking down tuition costs.

Now, I want to major in bioengineering. I want to be an astronaut, not just to explore space but to represent girls like me—girls who come from struggle, overlooked neighborhoods, and families who never had the chance to dream this big. Today, I'm not just a girl from Mosby Court. I'm a future engineer, an astronaut, and a Black woman in STEM, showing little girls who look like me that we can dream bigger than our circumstances. PFF didn't just help me get into college, they helped me see that I belonged there. And for that, I am forever grateful.





LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY



HERBERT BULLOCK

Longwood University

As far back as I can remember, I've dreamed of pursuing higher education. College always felt like a magical portal—an escape route to a better life and a chance to elevate myself beyond the limitations I was born into. Neither of my parents attended college, and both faced obstacles because of that. They never let me forget how valuable education is. My father often told me, “Your mind, if built right, is the one thing no one can take from you.”

As I grew older and watched my siblings navigate adulthood, the idea of college slowly shifted from fantasy to looming reality, and I began to doubt whether I was truly ready. That's when my mother told me about Partnership for the Future (PFF). My older sister had been in the program and always seemed so prepared, so I hoped it would be my bridge too—a kind of crutch to lean on.

In the beginning, I treated PFF like a social club. I had fun, met new people, and barely paid attention to the guest speakers and resources available to me. College still felt far away. I didn't see the urgency until the summer after my sophomore year. We toured the University of Richmond, and like many tours before, I drifted through it, half-listening. Afterward, I hung out with some friends, and that's when everything changed. A boy, no older than I am now, pulled a Glock 9 with a green beam and pointed it straight at us. I'll never forget the shape of that dark barrel or the way he issued commands with disturbing confidence. He held all the power between my life and death.

I gave him everything without hesitation and ran when I could. I was consumed with rage. I wanted revenge for how small and powerless he made me feel. But I caught myself. Would revenge make me any better? What if he had dreams, too, dreams crushed by a lack of opportunity or guidance? What if he were once just like me?

That moment shook me awake. I stopped fixating on the things I lacked and began to appreciate the doors that had been opened to me, especially PFF. I thought of how different my life might be without it. And I began to show up. Fully. I soaked in every workshop, every lecture, every chance to grow.

Now, as I finish my senior year, I'm preparing to attend Longwood University as part of the Cormier Honors College. I plan to major in Psychology and minor in Social Work, focusing on counseling and mentoring at-risk youth. My goal is to be the voice that reaches someone like the boy with the gun before they pick it up. Because I know now: opportunity isn't magic. It's not a portal. It's people, timing, awareness, and someone choosing to make the most of it.





MARTIR BUSTILLO

University of Virginia

Partnership for the Future (PFF) isn't just a college readiness program; it's a community. A community made up of driven individuals, all striving for excellence, betterment, and a greater future. I remember the first day of institute week; I was nervous as I walked into the dorm to meet my roommate. I had never been away from home alone. Yet, I was welcomed by my roommate warmly, and that is how I would describe everyone at PFF: warm, kind, and welcoming. This is the reason inside of this powerful community, I found a village of my own, friends who have encouraged me throughout my high school journey. Friends that I'll see again once I go off to UVA in the fall.

Yet, friends aren't the only thing that PFF has given me; I've also received an internship at Capital One, an internship that, if I had to describe it, would be nothing less than life-changing. I not only got real work experience but also discovered what I wanted in a career for myself and what I wanted to major in. I thank my supervisor, Lauren, and the people I worked with, such as Ashley, because without them, I wouldn't have discovered what I was passionate about in a career and major.

PFF has guided me in my journey of attending a four-year institution with people such as Jasmine, Kate, and Mr. Rich, who were there for me every step of the way. I remember one day I was volunteering for an event, and Ms. Dionne sat down with me and my friend Emerald. The conversation started off with Ms. Dionne and Emerald talking about Emerald going off to UVA (which Ms. Dionne is an alumna of), and then she turned to me and asked me what my top choice was, and I panicked and said UVA as well. After she had left, I told Emerald I had panicked and lied and that now I had to put it on my list in case she checked when I started to apply to colleges. In some weird, twisted way, faith led me to being accepted to UVA and going there with a full ride. So, to Ms. Dionne, the staff of PFF, the board members of PFF, and the parents of the students who were and are in PFF, I give thanks because PFF wouldn't be what it is without them.





EVA CARSON

Old Dominion University

Even though I started PFF the summer after 9th grade, it was not the first introduction to the program. My sister Elise had participated in Partnership for the Future (PFF), but due to her new job, she was unable to keep up with the schedule and commitment required for PFF. It was not until 2022, through my after-school program UPRVA, that our leader, Mr. Greg, provided me with the opportunity to join PFF. With PFF only being open to public schools generally, I had to take the opportunity as a private school student, who usually would not have access to this opportunity. Also, I wanted to finish what my sister started.

Carrying this same mindset, I started PFF that summer, attending the introduction week at Randolph-Macon College. This was my first time spending the night on a college campus. From that moment on, I have had many valuable experiences with PFF. From our field trips to museums, our workshops, and even the presentations we have received from experts and professionals, I have learned everything from the simplicity of introducing yourself properly to mock interviews, internships, SAT practice, financial literacy, a variety of career paths, and how to navigate the college admissions process.

PFF has not only helped me navigate my path towards college, but also taught me how to make all-around good decisions as a new adult transitioning into the world outside of high school. Unlike my sister, I'm proud to say I will complete the PFF high school program. Although she didn't finish the program, her participation helped her attend her dream college with little debt. That alone shows how much of an impact PFF truly has on their students. It will be a difficult transition to college, but I know that I will continue to shine thanks to the tools and experiences I've had with PFF.





Top 10% of Class

MAYA CHRISTIAN

Virginia Tech



Partnership for the Future (PFF) has impacted me the most by providing me with the opportunity to tour several college campuses. During the fall semester of my senior year, PFF offered a select group of students the chance to stay overnight at Virginia Tech. At the time, Virginia Tech wasn't one of my top choices. I applied mainly as one of my in-state options and really went on the tour to hang out with my friends in the program and hopefully get an early college decision. What I didn't expect was to fall in love with the campus. I've toured several colleges with PFF but never experienced the "at home" feeling until I stayed the night at Virginia Tech.

During the tour, we heard from a panel of students and instructors about the programs at Tech and the Living Learning Communities. One of the tours I enjoyed the most was to the Ujima dorm, which focused on Black history and community. It was also one of the more updated dorms, with suite-style rooms and air conditioning. Hearing about the close relationships the suitemates had was reassuring. I spoke with an upperclassman who lived in Ujima and majored in Animal and Poultry Science, which is the same field I'm interested in. She provided valuable insight into the program, and we exchanged contact information in case I had questions. The next day, we split into groups based on our prospective colleges and attended a presentation. I was at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with two of my friends from PFF. Walking from the student center to the college building, I felt like a college student heading to class. The scenery exemplified what a college campus should feel like to me. During the presentation, we learned about the classes we might take and the internship opportunities, including working on the college's farm. This hands-on experience was exactly what I was looking for.

After the tour and hearing from the student panel, we returned to the student center for a majors fair and lunch, where we would soon learn our acceptance decisions. Waiting for the decision was stressful, knowing I could be accepted, waitlisted, or rejected before the early decision deadline. But when I opened my decision letter and saw that my friends and I were all accepted, I felt elated. This trip made my decision about which school to commit to an easy one. In the end, I thank PFF every day for the opportunity. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to call myself a Hokie and truly feel that this is home.





JUSTIN COTMAN

Old Dominion University

When I first heard about Partnership for the Future (PFF) from my mom, I didn't know how much the program would shape the rest of my high school years. I applied during my 9th grade year and was unsure what to expect. My journey started with a Zoom interview, which was a bit nerve-wracking at the time. I remember sitting at my desk with my heart pounding, hoping I'd make a good impression. Once the interview was over, I felt so relieved and excited when I heard the good news that I had been selected.

I was pretty excited about our Institute Week at Randolph-Macon College because I had never stayed on a college campus before, and I was looking forward to spending the week with other students from all over the Richmond area. This opportunity gave me an incredible experience that was fun, interesting, and eye-opening. We did team-building exercises, learned professional skills, and had late-night talks in the dorms that helped us bond. It was the first time I really started to feel like I was a part of something bigger, where I was surrounded by a community of students all trying to build a better future for themselves.

Partnership for the Future supported me in ways I didn't even know I needed. They helped me with financial aid guidance, college tours, SAT prep, and even paired me with a college mentor. Our level managers genuinely cared about helping us succeed, and I could feel that in every session. It made college feel less intimidating and more like a real possibility.

One of the most impactful experiences through PFF was my summer internship. I was placed at the Varina library, and the experience taught me so much. I developed time management skills, learned how to work in a professional environment, and interacted with people of all ages. This internship made me feel like I belonged, and I am truly grateful for what Partnership for the Future has given me.

Looking back, Partnership for the Future helped me grow not just as a student, but as a person. I became more confident, more focused, and more prepared for life after high school. It gave me opportunities and experiences that I'll carry with me after graduation.





MALEAH COWAN

Old Dominion University

Joining Partnerships for the Future (PFF) has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life. I still remember the first week at Randolph-Macon College; being dropped off for a weeklong stay surrounded by strangers was terrifying, especially since I was still battling the effects of social anxiety and the isolation that came from the COVID-19 pandemic. I was nervous, unsure, and hesitant to connect with others. But over time, that experience became the beginning of something truly life-changing. I made long-term friendships with people who understood me, and I began to find confidence in spaces that once made me feel uncomfortable.

Every summer after that, I continued with PFF, learning lessons that weren't just helpful; they were necessary. We were taught about financial literacy, saving money, preparing for college, and more. While there were other things I could've done with my time, I know now that nothing would have prepared me for the future quite like PFF did.

One of the most impactful parts of my journey was being paired with an amazing mentor. My mentor guided me through the college process, helping me stay on track with applications and deadlines, especially with finding scholarships. Having someone who genuinely cared about my success and was there every step of the way gave me the confidence to aim higher and push through moments of doubt.

Although I wasn't placed into a traditional internship the summer after my sophomore year, I was placed into Career Immersion, a program that turned out to be just as impactful. Through hands-on simulations tailored to our career interests, I was able to explore potential career paths in ways that were both engaging and realistic. I remember the mock court case designed for students interested in law—it was one of the most exciting activities I've ever done. I learned how to think critically, speak confidently, and work collaboratively.

Beyond academic and career prep, PFF also gave us moments of joy and celebration. I'll never forget the Precious Pearls ceremony, where women came to speak to us and gifted us with pearls, symbolizing growth, wisdom, and womanhood. The Dining Etiquette luncheon was also impactful. We dressed in business professional attire to learn proper dining etiquette and practice our networking skills. I also found the college tours memorable, especially the spring break tour and visiting campuses like North Carolina A & T and Spelman. Those trips were not only fun, but they also helped me picture my future in higher education.

PFF has truly changed me. It gave me the confidence to push past my anxiety, the skills to prepare for the real world, and the experiences to shape my dreams. I now walk into new environments with a sense of purpose and preparation. The lessons I've learned through this program will continue to guide me in college and beyond, helping me become the best version of myself.





NYLAH DOSWELL

Old Dominion University

Before joining Partnership For the Future (PFF), I was just a teenage girl starting her new journey as a high school student. I faced many challenges in keeping up with certain aspects of my education. I did enough to get by, but I knew that my potential was greater than I could imagine. PFF has given me the opportunity to be surrounded by peers from different backgrounds, mentors who care deeply about our education, and, most importantly, a great support system.

Not only did PFF provide me with educational resources, but it also connected me with people I will forever be grateful for. The many workshops and life lessons have taught me so much about myself and the things I need to work on. PFF has gone above and beyond for me and my peers. They gave us opportunities they didn't have to, took the time out of their day to be with us and teach us valuable lessons, and offered a shoulder to lean on.

One of the many things that have helped me along this journey was my mentor. She listened, helped me establish goals, and guided me to achieve things I didn't think were possible. She challenged me in ways I didn't know I needed to be challenged. She supported me through every decision and helped me grow into the student I am today.

Career Immersion was one of the many experiences I enjoyed. We had the opportunity to meet new adults at almost every session. We learned life skills, such as managing money, saving properly, and better preparing for the future. We also had the opportunity to stay at Randolph-Macon College for a week during our first summer for Institute Week, which was truly exciting to me. That experience gave me insight into college life and helped me envision my daily routine.

Having the opportunity to meet and engage with people who have already experienced college and successful careers showed me that I can achieve my goals. I've been given opportunities such as internships, scholarships, and fun trips to different colleges. This has reignited hopefulness that I once lost.

I would like to truly thank PFF for everything they have done for me. I wouldn't have the confidence I have today if it weren't for this program. It took me out of my comfort zone when I needed it the most, and now I am more grateful than ever. This program has changed my life for the better and has set a solid foundation for me to have a successful future. I've met the most kindhearted people and built lifelong friendships with some of my peers.

Thank you, Partnership for the Future.





Full-Ride Scholarship

CHRISTIN DUVAL

University of Virginia



"You have to apply to this program!" I shouted to a freshman I met at the beginning of my senior year, who had shown interest in attending college. We were at a college fair, and I stood behind a table with a Partnership for the Future (PFF) branded tablecloth. I was wearing my ambassador nametag on top of my seasoned PFF T-shirt. I knew how impactful this program could be for a college-bound student, so I encouraged him to apply, knowing he would gain access to a well-connected support system.

Like many students in my community, I started high school with the dream of going to college, but I had limited access to the opportunities that could prepare me for it. As a low-income student, I faced numerous barriers to obtaining higher education. My family faced significant financial challenges like outstanding debts and unemployment, which limited their ability to fund my goal of attending college. Also, my family had little experience with the college application process, so they could not guide me through it. These factors and others made it difficult for me to see college as a possibility. However, when I discovered the opportunities PFF would unlock for me, my dream of attending college quickly became a reality.

In this program, I have been exposed to various educational opportunities that have helped me prepare for higher education despite my circumstances. Through our Cultural Capital Sessions, I have expanded my knowledge and broadened my perspective on the world while building meaningful connections with my peers. During the Friday sessions, I gained insight into college preparation and FAFSA completion to successfully navigate the college application process. The financial burden of college seemed less drastic as I became exposed to scholarships through PFF and learned about multiple methods of paying for college. These opportunities, combined with the advice and mentorship of my GUIDES mentor, helped me prepare for the college application process and develop essential life skills.

Furthermore, PFF has provided me with valuable professional experience and prepared me for life after college. Through my internship with the Community Impact & Investment Team at Capital One, I have had the opportunity to network with various associates, work on meaningful community-centered projects, and develop a sense of what I want to do. Also, I have been exposed to new environments as I traveled with my manager to different worksites and collaborated with associates from various departments. The invaluable lessons I learned from my internship have helped me thrive in the workforce. Overall, PFF has created a lasting impact on my ability to dream big and pursue higher education by providing me with the tools and resources to learn, develop, and succeed in life. Now I can look to the future with optimism, empowered by the support PFF has provided me throughout my high school career.





Valedictorian

TAYLOR ELLIS

Hampton University



Before joining Partnership for the Future (PFF), I had already discovered my passion for healthcare and my dream of becoming an anesthesiologist. Personal experiences fueled that ambition, including shadowing medical professionals and immersing myself in environments where I could see anesthesiology's impact. PFF played a critical role in helping me grow into the kind of student and leader I needed to be to pursue that goal. PFF gave me the skills and confidence to navigate the college application process, the knowledge to present myself professionally, and the understanding of financial literacy that will serve me long after high school.

One of the most empowering aspects of PFF was college exposure. Initially, I wasn't set on attending a HBCU. However, through campus tours and conversations, I discovered environments that resonated with my values and felt like a community. This experience shaped my vision for the college experience I wanted and instilled in me the confidence to make intentional choices.

The college and scholarship application process was sometimes overwhelming, but PFF helped break it down step by step. Through consistent support and resources, I stayed organized and pursued opportunities matching my academic achievements and financial needs. PFF also allowed me to find scholarships easily, as there were consistent scholarship updates and workshops. Because of that support, I was accepted into over 30 colleges, earned multiple full-tuition scholarships, and graduated as Valedictorian.

The Career Immersion program was a highlight of my PFF experience. It allowed me to sharpen my professional skills, build a network, and gain real-world insight into workplace environments. Those experiences helped me become more confident in my communication, time management, and adaptability skills, skills I'll carry with me through college and into my future career.

The workshops offered by PFF have left a lasting impact. From financial literacy to personal branding, resume building, and dining etiquette, I walked away with the knowledge that will serve me long after high school. These sessions equipped me with the skills to present myself professionally, manage money wisely, and navigate formal environments, providing a strong foundation for my future.

Partnership for the Future gave me the tools and confidence to pursue them. It helped me grow personally, professionally, and academically. As I prepare to take the next step in my journey, I do so with a clear vision and a strong foundation. Thank you to the Partnership for the Future community for investing in me, supporting me, and helping me unlock opportunities I once only dreamed of.





Full-Ride Scholarship

MINA FAHIM

Virginia Tech



Saint Father Bishoy Kamel, the Hegumen and Cross bearer, once said, “Anything that man owns decreases if it is divided and distributed to others, except love, which increases the more it is given to others.” I live with these words every day. Love takes patience, love takes service, and love is what Partnership for the Future has shown me. They’ve poured into my future, stood by me through every win, and offered comfort when I felt weak.

One person who embodied that love is my guide's mentor, Yuqing. She's like the older sister I never had. She pushed me to be better, to think deeper, and to believe in myself. I still remember sitting across from her at Panera just talking about life, about scholarships and about everything that felt too heavy to carry alone. Her presence was calm and real, and in a year full of noise she gave me peace.

I also had the honor of interning at Capital One. It gave me a glimpse into life beyond the classroom and opened my eyes to the kind of discipline and passion the real world requires. My supervisor, Caitlynn, and so many others poured into me. They didn't just see me as an intern. They saw me as one of their own, and that belief was powerful.

Because of PFF, I am heading to college on a full-ride scholarship. That is something I don't take lightly. It is a gift I hold with gratitude and care. Just as Father Bishoy Kamel said, love only grows when it is shared. Because of PFF, I have seen the power of love in action, and I will carry that with me wherever I go.





ARIES FRANKLIN

Virginia State University

It all began on March 22nd, 2022, during an assembly that I initially expected would be another uninteresting presentation. Little did I know that this presentation about Partnership for the Future (PFF) would profoundly transform my journey to college in ways I could never have imagined. When I first began my journey as a PFF student, I was filled with skepticism. Growing up in a community often labeled simply as the “projects” or “the ghetto,” I was hesitant to embrace an opportunity that seemed too good to be true. After all, I had seen many initiatives come and go; therefore, I was naturally cautious. However, as I engaged more with PFF, I soon realized that this was not just another program but a lifeline offering much-needed support, guidance, and a sense of belonging. From that moment on, PFF broadened my horizons, introducing me to new worlds, environments, and communities that opened doors I never knew existed.

Through PFF, I learned that I am more than just a demographic within a statistic. I am a unique individual with dreams, ambitions, and potential waiting to be unleashed. This organization truly values me for who I am, not where I come from. I’ve discovered a community that sees beyond our varied backgrounds and strives to champion personal growth, empowering me to reach for my aspirations fearlessly and without hesitation.

Moreover, the skills and experiences I’ve garnered through PFF have been instrumental in shaping the young man I am today. PFF has equipped me with the tools necessary for navigating the complexities of college life. I’ve gained a profound understanding of the foundations of business and valuable life skills that I will carry with me throughout my journey. The academic guidance has been extraordinary, but what stands out even more is the rigorous program that has instilled a sense of determination and a relentless pursuit of greatness within me.

What truly sets PFF apart from any other program is the perfect balance it strikes between hard work and joy. Through this program, I’ve created lifelong friendships with my peers, forged connections that I know will last beyond my college years, and amassed a treasure trove of memories that make this journey all the more fulfilling. PFF has taught me that while striving for success is undoubtedly essential, the relationships and bonds we create along the way are equally, if not more, meaningful. These connections provide the support system we need to thrive personally and academically.

I am immensely grateful to PFF for believing in me and all the incredible opportunities you have provided. Thank you for seeing me for who I truly am and for giving me the necessary tools to succeed not just in college, but in life. Your unwavering support has fueled my hope and determination for the future, and I am excited to embrace what lies ahead. With every challenge I face, I carry the lessons learned and the friendships forged through PFF close to my heart.





JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY®

Top 10% of Class

TYLER FURBERT

James Madison University



Joining Partnership for the Future (PFF) was my best decision. PFF has opened many doors for me, and I've also learned a lot about college and myself. Growing up as an only child raised by a single parent, I was expected to pursue higher education and a successful career. I always wanted to go to college, but I didn't have much information about college. When I was introduced to PFF, all of my concerns were nullified. PFF has educated me about the college experience as well as different career pathways.

Throughout my years in PFF, I've acquired new knowledge about the college process each year. I've learned things such as private and public universities, universities that fit my needs, scholarship and internship opportunities, and much more. PFF has also informed me about the college experience through college tours and student panels with PFF collegiate students and alumni. Thanks to PFF, I greatly understand life after high school.

PFF helped me prepare not only for college but also for professional life. I've attended many networking events that have allowed me to speak with professionals in different fields to gain different perspectives in other career fields. I've also developed my skills professionally by attending workshops that help young men in the workforce, professional meet and greets, resume workshops, and mock interviews. Last summer, I was given the amazing opportunity to intern at Markel Insurance Company. If it weren't for PFF, I wouldn't have been given this opportunity to gain professional work experience.

I've been given nothing but guidance and mentorship during my last year in the program. My mentor, Jimmy Lee, has been invaluable to me during my senior year. He has helped me during the college process by editing essays and informing me about different opportunities for institutions and scholarship opportunities. I've been able to talk to my mentor on a professional and personal level, which has provided comfort and support. Thanks to Mr. Lee's help, the college process was much easier and less tedious. I was very worried about going to college, but Mr. Lee has given me a lot of confidence to go to college. I was accepted to a total of eight colleges! Without the assistance of PFF, I would've never made it this far. I've acquired lifelong friends and skills while being in PFF. I would like to thank everyone on the PFF staff (especially Ms. Jasmine) for believing in me and investing in my success.





Top 10% of Class

ORREN GORDON

Virginia State University



PFF has played a significant role in my life since I was introduced to the idea of the program in the ninth grade. At the time, I was still very clueless about who I wanted to be, what kind of job I wanted in life, and my future. Then, on a random morning, I was given a pass to go to a presentation because I had a GPA higher than 3.0. It was during that presentation that I learned about Partnership for the Future. I was immediately sold on the program and wanted to join as soon as possible.

When I left that presentation, I talked with my mother about the program, and she agreed that I should join. Even before I was accepted into the program, I was enrolled in the highest level of classes offered at my school, but I never really felt challenged by them. I wanted to find something more fulfilling and worthwhile for me. Hearing about this program, where I could learn about job opportunities, college tips, and life progression, changed my perspective on life. When I was finally accepted into the program, my first real experience with the program was Institute Week. We spent a week on a college campus surrounded by our peers while learning important life lessons, such as public speaking and how to present ourselves. After this experience, I wanted to learn more about the opportunities to improve myself and how I could set up my future.

Over time, I learned much about professionalism, college preparation, and my history. I have realized and been taught that historically African Americans have gotten significantly fewer opportunities to improve ourselves, build generational wealth, and be in positions to lift as we climb. Sitting in and learning from guest speakers that joined us during some sessions of our meetings informed us of how the real world works and what kind of people and situations you will be thrown into. These lectures inspired me to research afterward and learn more about what I could do for my family. I began challenging myself to ensure I did not fall victim to the same threat. This lasted for months until I finally decided that I was going to dedicate myself to being a business lawyer. This specific job would allow me to defend other black entrepreneurs and small shop owners while also being able to provide employment opportunities for my family. All of this stemmed from what I have learned from PFF, and I don't plan on stopping my pursuit of education and enlightenment after graduation. I plan to pay it forward and help PFF help other students like me.





Top 10% of Class

CHARIAH HARRISON

Old Dominion University



Navigating through the college application process was overwhelming at times, but with the support of Partnership for the Future, I was able to complete my college applications on time successfully. Throughout the years within the program, PFF has provided me with guidance on how to approach college and the scholarship application process. By connecting me with a mentor, I received tailored advice that has made me feel more confident in submitting my applications. Not only did I learn about the college application process, but I also gained knowledge on understanding financial literacy. This has helped me understand the cost of higher education while also making smart, financial decisions.

Through the workshops offered through PFF, I was able to receive helpful tips on creating my first resume. I also learned how to dress professionally for work and events. Attending the Cultural Capital sessions allowed me to learn more about history, art, and science around the world. I loved travelling to different museums and watching short films about past and current events in the United States.

During breaks, I was able to explore many college campuses on our college tours, which made it easy for me to choose a school that resonated with me. As someone who is quite shy, I appreciate the times when PFF has encouraged me to take space during presentations and group activities. Becoming friends with people with similar goals and commitment to our studies has positively impacted me. I appreciate all that Partnership for the Future has poured into me! From the beginning to the end, I feel well-prepared and equipped to make informed decisions as I embark on this new chapter in my life.





JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY



MIKHAIL HAYWOOD

Johnson & Wales University

Partnership for the Future (PFF) is an experience that I feel every student needs to elevate themselves and the people around them. PFF taught me many things that I would not have known without participating in this program. I have also made several friends who have done nothing short of boosting my morale and esteem. The beginning was rough, but now that I look back, it was all worth it.

Initially, PFF served as a source of information on pursuing my future goals. Once I began my journey as a PFF student, it was clear that I needed to start thinking about what I wanted to do in life. I decided I wanted to be a chef and pursue a degree in business. Once I made this decision, PFF started teaching me everything I needed about colleges. I learned about different dorm styles through visits and lectures. I learned about the FAFSA and navigating the college admissions process.

I have made numerous friends during my experience at PFF. It all started at Institute week, this is where I learned to navigate my new surroundings and embrace the experience. Once I understood that, I realized how easy it is to socialize and make new friends. As the years have passed, I also learned what kind of people I like to surround myself with, which is very important.

Although it was all very new to me in the beginning and very rough, I made it. Through the good and bad, PFF has taught me how to adapt and strive. From the lectures about mortgages and how to calculate the cost, PFF gave me so much more than I could ask for. I truly hope this program can continue to bless others like it blessed me.





JAQUELINE HERCULES RODRIGUEZ

James Madison University

I've come to understand that achieving higher education has been essential to me and my future since I was young. However, being a first-generation student has made my process challenging, which is why I am forever grateful to be part of Partnership for the Future (PFF). Partnership for the Future has allowed me to be confident in my knowledge in education and life as a whole.

This program has helped me to access greater opportunities from my first year at Partnership for the Future to where I am now. They have influenced me to become a better leader and public speaker, and invest in my personal development. This program has set me up for success through volunteering, internships, and learning about potential career paths. They've challenged me and helped me accomplish my goals; thanks to these tools, I can excel in anything that may come my way.

I was unsure about the transition from high school to college, but participating in college tours and workshops made me feel more prepared for the college experience. Thanks to Partnership for the Future, I feel much more confident in my future. I could not be more appreciative of such a program. From learning about the college experience to making life-long friendships and connections, PFF has fostered an unbreakable bond and a strong sense of community. I've realized that I am not on this path alone and that there are others with the same worries as me; together, we have ensured what's next in our lives, and that wherever we go, we will thrive in the best way possible.

Furthermore, I'd like to give a huge thank you to my mentor, Morgan Lewis. She has been remarkable in helping me through the college application process. She has always guided me through what I need to make this process easier and given me additional resources and information. She has made me feel secure about anything I was confused about or worried about. I am utterly grateful for having such an amazing mentor to guide me on this journey.

I am proud to say that I am ready to embark on this journey that awaits me. No amount of words can express how grateful I am to PFF. This program has helped me strive for excellence and has enriched me with the resources needed to excel. One piece of advice I will always keep in my heart, in the words of Mrs. Dionne, is whether we leave space for others or take space to stand out; we make the choice.





SYMONE HUTCHINSON

Old Dominion University

Being a part of Partnerships for the Future has truly been one of the most impactful experiences of my high school journey. When I first joined this program in 9th grade, I had dreams of going to college, but didn't fully understand the steps it would take to get there, or how to pay for it. Over the past four years, PFF has provided me with the tools, resources, and support to not only navigate the college process but also to grow personally and professionally.

The college tours were one of the most valuable and cherished parts of PFF. Visiting different campuses helped me get a real understanding of what I wanted and how to choose the right college. This helped me ensure I was making an informed decision about my future. I enjoyed the opportunity to explore these different campuses and get an inside view of what college life would be like at that school.

Another valuable part about PFF was the financial aid workshops and scholarship walkthroughs. These taught me how to understand FAFSA, scholarships, and manage money. I value the constant push to motivate us to go to college for free and not have to pay off loans for the rest of our lives. I also value the guidance on applying for scholarships through the PFF scholarship packet. This helped me stay on task with applying to scholarships and gaining ways to pay for my education with minimal cost left to pay out of pocket. Through PFF, I opened a Virginia529 account to save for college, which PFF would match funds I saved up to \$2,000. This kind of support showed me that they truly cared and believed in my success.

The work ethic and credit workshops helped me to become a more financially responsible person. Learning how credit works, how to build it, and how to manage money early in life has given me a huge advantage that not many get. Even adults still struggle with their finances, saving money, and maintaining a good credit score. PFF was able to provide my peers and me a chance to get an understanding of financial literacy firsthand.

I participated in the Career Immersion for two summers, which provided me with hands-on experience and real-world knowledge about college life, career readiness, and financial literacy. I gained confidence in my ability to do things like networking, public speaking, professionalism, and setting realistic and achievable goals for the future. Through this program, I feel more prepared than ever to take on college and life beyond. PFF didn't just guide me through high school; they helped build a strong foundation for my future, and I am extremely proud and thankful to have been part of such a life-changing program.



**VCU**

JONATHAN INGRAM

Virginia Commonwealth University

Since the first day of being introduced to Partnership for the Future, it's been as if my life has taken a turn for the better, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this program. From the beginning, I didn't honestly know how much this decision would impact my life. I learned about opportunities to pay and prepare for college, which would increase the likelihood that I would be successful in the future. The essay question asked us to write about why college was important to us, and I was unsure of what to write. I managed to complete it, and after submitting my essay, I was nervous. I hadn't written an essay like that in a long time since my seventh-grade year ended early due to COVID, and I spent eighth grade learning virtually. When I received the message that I was offered an interview spot for the program, I was ecstatic. After the interview, I received an email that I had been accepted, and I couldn't believe it.

Since being a part of Partnership for the Future, I've been able to tour some of the finest colleges/universities on the East Coast. I learned how to manage my spending habits and plan for a better future. Another benefit was meeting amazing people from other schools, once strangers, I can call my lifelong friends. I've learned to be determined and to strive for educational excellence. Although I was required to maintain a 3.0 GPA to participate, being in this program inspired me to not accept minimum effort from myself, and that I have what it takes to be amongst some of the brightest individuals.

I am grateful for the opportunity to intern at Markel, as it allowed me to experience a working environment, along with welcoming people, especially Mrs. Lisa. I want to thank my mentor, Ms. LaTasha, as she's been with me during my senior year, ensuring I complete everything and checking on me in general. At Partnership for the Future, they want the extroverts to make space and the introverts to take space. While I feel as if I didn't take as much of the space offered to me, I know that the person I was before being part of the program would be proud to see who I am today.





SENYA JACKSON

Military Gap Year

Participating in Partnership for the Future (PFF) has been one of the most transformative experiences of my high school journey. Coming from a background where college wasn't always seen as an achievable goal, PFF provided the structure, resources, and support I needed to believe in my potential and chart a path toward higher education.

Before joining the program, I had limited knowledge about the college application process, financial aid, or even what it truly meant to be "college-ready." PFF changed that. Through workshops and mentorship, I gained critical skills in time management, professional communication, and resume building. These aren't things typically taught in a classroom, but they've been essential in helping me grow academically and personally.

One of the most impactful aspects of the program was the Career Immersion program. Working and gaining experience in a professional setting gave me a taste of the real world and helped me build confidence in my abilities. It also helped me discover what kind of environment I thrive in, which is shaping how I choose my college and future career path. I now feel equipped to advocate for myself, ask questions, and take initiative—skills that I know will benefit me in college and beyond.

PFF also gave me a sense of community. Being surrounded by other motivated students with similar goals made me feel seen and supported. I wasn't alone on my journey. The mentors and staff treated us like family, constantly reminding us that our dreams are valid and within reach, no matter where we come from. Ultimately, PFF didn't just prepare me for college—it helped me realize that I belong in college. It gave me the confidence to be the first in my family to pursue a degree, and the tools to make it happen.





Top 10% of Class

YAZMINE JACKSON

Old Dominion University



Over the past three years, Partnership for the Future (PFF) has acted as a mentor for me. This program has guided and impacted me as a student and a person. When I first applied to PFF, I was in a very difficult place in my life. I was dealing with the loss of my grandmother, the person I would always count on and go to for help. Her passing led me to question my purpose in life. I began to lose interest in the things that used to excite me, such as school and social interactions. Once I applied to PFF, I began to regain my drive for learning new things and taking on challenging situations. The most helpful thing that led me to regain my love for school and interacting with others was during the Cultural Capital sessions, where we heard different ideas and perspectives. This program has created a safe space for people with similar backgrounds to mine and the opportunity for growth.

PFF was essential in successfully becoming the first one in my family to apply and attend college. They have given me all the tools I will need to succeed once I move on to college. I gained many of these resources from participating in the Career Immersion program, where we explored different career fields and networked with professionals. By applying these new tools to my everyday life, I was accepted into many programs, such as the Early College Academy at Reynolds Community College, the National Honor Society, SOAR, and the Armstrong High School Softball Team. Many of these accomplishments were made possible because I was a student in PFF. The program has opened so many doors for me that I would've never imagined otherwise.

During my PFF experience, I've grown a lot mentally and physically. PFF has taught me and given me resources I would have never had if it weren't for being in the program. I've grown my communication and networking skills as well as my overall professionalism. Many of my peers did not receive these kinds of great opportunities, but I'm glad I was allowed to be a part of such a great program. I will never forget all the opportunities and guidance I've received in PFF. I will carry these lessons with me every single day, looking at my future with hope, confidence, and certainty.





WILLIAM & MARY



IVAN JARA

William & Mary

PFF has been a part of my life for a few years, and this experience has changed how I view things. Before PFF and high school, I was terrible at socializing and communicating with others. At that time, I didn't want to try to change this and decided to remain antisocial. This changed when I got to high school. During high school, I got into the PFF program and thought it was a good opportunity to get ready for college since it would help me through the college admissions process. I didn't know back then, but it would provide me with so much more.

When I began my journey with PFF, I was my usual self and very confused about most things. It took me a while to get used to the classes, workshops, and other events. When I began my internship, I felt alone for the most part, until I talked with one of my friends who was in the program. I became a part of a friend group I wouldn't have been a part of without this program. Over time, the program made me more open, talkative, and confident in presenting and asking questions.

In PFF, I learned about college, and researching the best-fit college required more than just looking on Google. Several speakers came in and explained the process to us. We were eventually placed into internships, where I was able to learn more and gain my confidence in professional settings. Our trips deepened my friendships and provided me with new experiences such as navigating a college campus.

Overall, though, I enjoyed my PFF experience. I am glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to participate in this program, from being more social and gaining new friends to learning more about the future and being more responsible in life. I gained a lot from this opportunity, and now I can't wait to experience life as a college student after high school.





KEVIN JASPER

Radford University

My name is Kevin Jasper, and this is my success story. My journey to discovering my true passion started with Partnership for the Future's Career Immersion program. During this experience, I realized what I wanted to do in life. Today, I'm focused on pursuing a career that blends my love for research, analysis, and debate. That's why I am planning to go to college to study business and later obtain a law degree.

One of the most influential moments in the program was our participation in debates. Each debate required us to thoroughly research and understand different topics, and I enjoyed the challenge. I was particularly drawn to gathering information, analyzing it, and presenting a compelling argument. This experience sparked a passion for communication, research, and critical thinking.

Through these debates, I realized I wanted to pursue a career that allowed me to continue honing these skills. I began to see how impactful effective communication could be, whether in a professional setting or helping others understand important issues. Career Immersion allowed me to explore various fields, but it was clear that I was most drawn to areas where I could continue working with ideas, data, and persuasive communication. I am grateful to this experience for not only preparing me for college but my future career.





Top 10% of Class

ARIANNA JORDAN

University of Virginia



“Ponte las pilas.”

A phrase many Hispanic children know all too well—shouted by parents, a call to focus, to push forward. In English, it means “get to work,” but these words have shaped more than just my actions—they have shaped my identity and my ambition. As PFF students, our journey hasn’t always been easy. We’re united by a shared belief in higher education, by a community built on kindness and self-expression.

In a generation that is often uncertain, we stand as a student body that has not only embraced opportunity but also confronted challenges head-on and emerged stronger because of them. I will never forget my first day at PFF—I was terrified. I stepped onto the Randolph-Macon College campus with a new purpose and lots of questions. Did I have what it took? As a first-generation student with immigrant parents, doubt was a constant companion. My parents questioned every decision I made, not out of distrust, but out of fear—fear of the unknown. The comfort of family tradition often clashed with the limitless possibilities I wanted to reach for.

PFF didn’t just provide me with an education; it gave me experiences that shaped me in ways I never imagined. The trips were revelations, each expanding my concept of the world beyond my own. Growing up, I never had the luxury of exploring new places or being rooted in community—it wasn’t part of our reality. Through PFF, I found myself in unfamiliar places, meeting new people who changed my perspective, and discovering new horizons. Then there were the Friday sessions—sacred moments filled with laughter, deep reflection, and visions of the future. With my peers, I realized we weren’t dreaming; we were building. We saw ourselves not as statistics, but as doctors, entrepreneurs, attorneys, and leaders. We saw hope.

One of my proudest moments was my internship at Markel. Walking into a professional environment for the first time, I felt like an outsider. But then Curtis, Rachel, and Rebecca stepped in—managers who didn’t just teach me but treated me as if I were one of them. They showed me that I belonged in spaces I once believed were beyond my reach. And then there were the quiet heroes: Jah, my mentor, who believed in me when I couldn’t believe in myself. Jasmine and Mrs. Kate, whose unwavering words of encouragement lifted me every time I wanted to give up. Their kindness, guidance, and steadfast support reminded me that my journey wasn’t solitary—it is built by the hands of those who refuse to let you doubt your worth. Looking back, I see now that the unexpected is not something to fear—it’s something to embrace. Every doubt, every challenge, every moment of uncertainty led me here. Because you are stronger than you know. Because you will overcome it. Because your story is just beginning, and it is destined for greatness. So, to those who are still grappling with fear, to those questioning whether they belong, to those wondering if they are enough—

Ponte las pilas.





JACKSON JORDAN

James Madison University

My name is Jackson Jordan, and I am proud to say I am a Partnership for the Future (PFF) student. In college, I plan to major in Marketing and want to pursue a full-time career as a content creator. These are goals that I cannot say I would have pondered if I had not participated in this program. PFF provided me with numerous opportunities throughout my high school career. It has helped me not only contemplate my future but also prepared me to be more responsible and confident when attending college. PFF has also given me numerous tools to ensure I was ready to apply to colleges and scholarships. Even after transferring to a blue ribbon-recognized school, Midlothian High School, I wasn't provided nearly as many opportunities as PFF provided.

One facet of my character I always noticed when I was younger was that I was not a future-thinking person. What I mean by that statement is that not only did I not think about what I wanted to do in the future, but it was also difficult for me to even think about it when asked. This is especially true when I was asked the infamous question "Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?" during my PFF interview. Participating in this program helped me find my answer to that question. Through every assignment, my eyes were opened to the importance of figuring out my plan for my future. I learned the importance of self-care in other ways as a byproduct, and could help others because of what I'd learned.

I was interested in going to college long before I entered high school, but I was very naïve in understanding what it took to get there. I had the chance to go on several trips with PFF, most of them being college tours. Learning from PFF students currently in college deepened my understanding of all the things that would be expected of me in college. This was not demoralizing, but reaffirmed my desire to go to college. Beyond college tours, PFF also gave us tangible professional experiences that we could put on our resumes. I not only earned money during the summers, but I was also able to form connections with people in the workforce who could potentially be my future employers.

I am beyond grateful for the Partnership for the Future Program and the community I created in it. Beyond establishing connections with people, we have also forged unbreakable bonds as friends. Not only would I not have been as successful without this program, but my desire for greater success wouldn't have been nearly as strong. This program taught me the importance of planning for the future and the power of community.





Full-Ride Scholarship

Top 10% of Class

IBRAM KARAM

University of Virginia



“You get out of this program what you put into this program.”

I heard these words on my very first day with Partnership for the Future (PFF), and they are true even now. As a freshman, I walked into Institute Week at Randolph-Macon College filled with anticipation and a bit of anxiety. Every afternoon, I stepped outside my comfort zone, which was one of the first lessons I learned through PFF.

I grew up as the only son of immigrant parents who came to the United States seeking better opportunities. Witnessing them build a life from scratch taught me that success is earned through persistence and humility. At PFF, I found a community of peers who shared that same drive to break away from limited opportunities and seize every opportunity that came our way. We motivated each other to aim higher, and I realized that partnering this mindset with an undeniable drive transforms individuals into being successful.

Last summer, I secured an internship at Capital One through PFF. This experience was my first taste of professional life. I worked on projects that required careful research and creative problem-solving. I also learned how vital teamwork and accountability are in the workplace. Working at a company like Capital One has truly been a privilege, and the connections I made here have helped guide me to a professional lifestyle. I enjoyed it so much, I was excited to return for a second summer!

Over the past four years, PFF has become a community where I feel safe to take risks and fail forward. The friends I have made, mentors, and coordinators who guided me showed me that true progress comes from embracing each opportunity with courage and commitment. I am now preparing to attend UVA with a full scholarship through QuestBridge, and I attribute much of my success to PFF. The program exposed me to an abundance of knowledge I would not have gained anywhere else. PFF has always been dedicated to supporting its students. Finally, through PFF, I learned that an open mind can pave the way for achievements that previously felt distant. I am grateful for every challenge, victory, and lesson learned along the way. These experiences have shown me how important it is to create and be involved in a partnership for the future.





SYNAY LAMBERT

Randolph-Macon College

My name is Synay Lambert, and I'm the third Lambert to graduate from Partnership for the Future (PFF). Two of my brothers went through the program and encouraged me to complete it and pursue my dreams of being a forensic scientist. I didn't fully know what I wanted to do until I joined PFF and learned about different professions. Being able to gain valuable professional experience and have such an amazing support system really helped me understand what I wanted out of life. PFF helped me figure out what I want out of my college experience, specifically what I want my school environment to be. Small or large campus? Far from home? Close? The college tours and meetings we had with admissions counselors helped show me what I was looking for.

The college application process was definitely one that scared me. It always seemed so daunting. My mentor, Jennifer Cole, has been a tremendous help. She's been so supportive and such an amazing person to talk to when I have questions about college and scholarships, as well as when I just need personal support. I was also nervous about my internship placement. It was my first internship and I was afraid I wouldn't do well. I didn't know much about history, and I wasn't comfortable engaging with the public. However, I gained so much perspective during my time at The Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. My manager and his coworkers taught me a lot and were so helpful throughout my journey working at the museum. My first day, my parents told me I would be great because of my yearning to learn and work hard. They are skills I learned from not only my parents, but also from PFF.

This program has taught me a lot about the importance of constantly learning, the importance of strong communication in life, and the workplace. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be in this program and for my growth into the successful woman I am today. The village I've accumulated because of Partnership for the Future is overwhelmingly beautiful.





CHRISTIAN LIGHTFOOT

Old Dominion University

Partnership for the Future (PFF) has been one of the most influential experiences in my academic journey. When I first joined the program, I had no idea just how much it would shape who I am today, not only as a student, but also as a young professional with a growing sense of confidence.

Through PFF, I was given the opportunity to intern at the Richmond International Film Festival. This opportunity introduced me to the fast-paced, exciting world of the arts and event planning. Working alongside professionals and contributing to such a major event gave me hands-on experience that can't be learned in a classroom. It challenged me to communicate effectively and manage my responsibilities.

PFF surrounded me with like-minded, ambitious students who constantly pushed me to do better and be better. I am grateful for the friendships and connections I've made through the program. Being part of a group where everyone is striving toward something greater helped me stay focused on my goals and believe in my potential.

PFF also equipped me with tools to excel beyond high school. From workshops on financial literacy to college essay writing and professional etiquette, I've gained knowledge that will benefit me for years to come. I now know how to build a budget, plan for the future, and present myself in professional settings with confidence. The college prep support I received—whether it was help with applications, scholarships, or understanding what colleges are really looking for—was invaluable.

Above all, PFF has helped me grow into someone who is prepared. Prepared to succeed in college, navigate adulthood, and take on the challenges of the professional world. I'm not just a better student because of this program—PFF didn't just prepare me for the future—it helped me realize I'm capable of shaping it.



**VCU**

HAMID MAJIDI

Virginia Commonwealth University

As a first-generation college student, I didn't have anybody to look up to for advice or help when applying for college. Partnership for the Future (PFF) was there to guide me through the college application and scholarship process, making an overwhelming journey much more manageable. In the summer of 2021, I joined PFF, a program that has had a huge impact on my personal and academic journey. Through PFF, I gained valuable skills, experiences, and insights that have helped me prepare for college and beyond.

One of the most memorable parts of the program was the Career Immersion program. I learned important financial skills, like money management, from Bank of America and Virginia Credit Union. They taught us about budgeting, saving, and making smart financial decisions, tools that will be useful for the rest of my life.

Fridays were always exciting because different companies and colleges came to speak with us. These sessions gave me a better understanding of career options and the college process. Another highlight was the college tours. We toured several universities, including Virginia Tech, ODU, William & Mary, and VCU. My favorite visit was to the University of Richmond, where we climbed the ropes course and tower—a thrilling and unforgettable experience!

A key part of my success in PFF was my G.U.I.D.E.S. mentor, Ms. Hannah Haynes. She met with me twice a month and made sure I stayed on track, offering guidance and encouragement throughout my journey. Her support played a huge role in keeping me focused and motivated as I worked toward my goals.

As a senior preparing to graduate from high school and begin my college journey, PFF has helped me so much that it's hard to put into words. They guided me through the college application process, helping me with submissions and ensuring I was on the right path. Their support has been invaluable, and I wouldn't be where I am today without them. Being a part of PFF has truly changed me. It opened doors to opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise, helping me grow both academically and personally. The program gave me the confidence and knowledge to take my next steps toward college and my future career. I'm incredibly grateful for everything I learned and for the amazing experiences that will stay with me forever.





Top 10% of Class

DANIELLE MCDONALD

Old Dominion University



I went into high school knowing I wanted to go to college. Partnership for the Future (PFF) came, and from the first presentation in the auditorium, I was hooked on the opportunities that were presented. I applied and crossed my fingers that I would be considered. When I received the news that I was accepted, from that moment on, I knew this was the right choice for me to make, especially financially.

The organization increased my circle to a community of like-minded people. They helped me want better for myself, and I wholeheartedly believe the people you keep in your circle influence how you carry yourself. Not only did I meet amazing peers, but I was also able to meet influential people like Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan and several others. The connections allowed me to build a network of peers with shared interests.

One of the things I'm proudest of is my internship at the Markel Corporation. This experience gave me a glimpse into the professional field I plan to go into and helped me grow my soft skills. It heavily focused on collaboration, communication, and time management, all of which are very important. I love the work environment and the people I met at the company. I always made it a point to push myself, and this was another opportunity to practice that.

Choosing where to attend college was incredibly nerve-racking and stressful. Senior year was right around the corner, and now that I'm here, it has gone by in a jiff! Time flew as I constantly applied for scholarships, kept up my grades, balanced a social life, held leadership positions at school, and more! I've had some extreme highs and very low lows throughout my high school experience. I've had many outstanding achievements and losses of close friends and loved ones. I pushed myself and placed my faith in God, even though everything didn't go as I expected it to. I could look back and say I made it and made the most of it. PFF has been a huge blessing in my life, and I would not be as far as I am now without them.

I have always been taught to be thankful for the fortunate situations I'm in, and the chance to go to college is a huge accomplishment alone. I learned many invaluable lessons with money, making connections, cherishing friends, and wanting better for myself. I want to first thank God for helping me throughout all this, along with everyone who has guided me through this invaluable journey- I will always be grateful for this amazing opportunity I have been given! I want to express my sincerest gratitude to PFF and my mentor, Ms. Mary Allen! I'm extremely proud I'm able to say I made it, and I can continue working to be a better me!





WILLIAM & MARY



KEZIAH MCKENNA

William & Mary

As an upcoming first-generation student, I felt I would have to fend for myself when choosing the right college path. Since my family are immigrants from Trinidad & Tobago, I felt like I didn't have many connections and guidance for my future. I was always told to choose something that would make a lot of money and attend college, but the things I had an interest in typically didn't result in becoming rich. I had no idea where to start, and I began questioning myself: "What could I do when I grow up that would allow me to love my job, while also making a ton of money?"

In my freshman year, talking about the future would cause me to panic, because I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. Despite the irrational fear of the future, I constantly thought about it. Scared, I often researched various career fields, but nothing felt right for me. I felt this uncertainty until Partnership for the Future (PFF) came to my school. I finally felt like there were people who could truly steer me onto the right path. The opportunities presented to my class were too good to pass up! But when I applied, I didn't get in—leaving me feeling unwanted.

It wasn't until the beginning of my sophomore year that my mother received an email from PFF stating that I had gotten into the organization. I felt an array of emotions: excitement, a sense of resolution, and the intense feeling of being an afterthought. Despite ending up with what I really wanted, I didn't know what to expect since everyone was already familiar with each other; I wondered if I would be an outsider.

Quickly, PFF made me feel the complete opposite. Everyone is welcoming, and most have shared lived experiences. I quickly learned that everybody is there to achieve their goals and ultimately grow. Partnership for the Future gave me resources I probably wouldn't have found or gained on my own. I was introduced to a lovely mentor, staff who genuinely care, and they assisted in building my work ethic and took us on numerous college tours. I have also been challenged through interviews, the Career Immersion program, learned proper dining etiquette, and learned time management through multiple assignments throughout the year. The little things like these truly count and have shaped me into the person I am today with a growth mindset.

I am forever grateful for Partnership for the Future. Because of them, I finally understand what I want to do with my life. If it weren't for PFF, I wouldn't have figured it out until it was too late. Now, more than ever before, I have been working extremely hard to get the recognition and future I deserve. This organization is extremely valuable for kids like me, truly a breath of fresh air. I cannot wait to see what else my future has in store for me.





Full-Ride Scholarship

Top 10% of Class

AMR MOHAMED

University of Virginia



"You will receive from this program what you put in."

Three years ago, I attended my first Partnership for the Future (PFF) session. These words were uttered by the Senior Director of Operations, Ms. Tiffany. Though they didn't hold much meaning to me at the time, I now look back and realize those words couldn't be any truer. As a first-generation student, I joined PFF to gain an advantage over my more privileged peers. I was promised many things: SAT preparation sessions and thousands of dollars in scholarships, but most notably, I was offered the chance to learn to take initiative at a young age. From the first assignment PFF gave me to the last, I took it upon myself to exceed expectations and make the most of whatever opportunities PFF granted me.

During the summer of 2022, my level and I were assigned to write our first speech on our PFF experience. I knew this speech wasn't graded, and I knew PFF didn't expect much from freshmen. Still, I poured my all into this essay. I combined humor and emotion, and I, along with a few others, was granted the chance to share our essays with our peers. The reward of being recognized for my efforts was small, but it signified the first of many benefits I'd gain from utilizing ambition in this program.

Further down the road, in my junior year, we officially became eligible for internships. To me, completing an internship was incredibly important—not only would it give me the professional experience I craved, but it would also be a strong selling point on my college applications. Unfortunately, there was a limited number of business sponsors available to host students, and internship opportunities were limited for Level 3 students. I knew that if I didn't push myself, I wouldn't be able to obtain an internship. So, from the beginning of my junior year, I persistently contacted my coordinator inquiring about internships, even if I may have been a little annoying.

After months of tenacity, I acquired an interview with Dominion Energy, my dream company. Still, there was work to be done. In preparation for the interview, I took advantage of PFF's mock interview sessions, where I polished my skills with Capital One employees. I also updated my resume, highlighting my STEM experiences and extracurriculars. Lastly, I researched Dominion's objectives and explored the similarities between the company's goals and mine. Thanks to those measures, I was chosen to intern at Dominion Energy that summer. Again, PFF rewarded my resourcefulness and proved the power of initiative. Now, as a rising college freshman, I carry those words—"you will receive from this program what you put in"—with a deeper understanding. What Ms. Tiffany told us wasn't just advice. It was a challenge. And I'm proud to say I rose to meet it.





VCU

Top 10% of Class

KHRISTIAN MOSES

Virginia Commonwealth University



As a high school student, I was overwhelmed by college applications and the unknowns of life. The word "transformation" captures my journey with Partnership for the Future (PFF) perfectly. PFF was a huge help, guiding me through preparing for college and life beyond. Their mentoring, mock interviews, and workshops made me feel supported in a confusing and lonely time. They didn't just help with academics; they built my self-confidence. This belief in myself wasn't natural for me—PFF helped me believe in myself.

PFF's not only provided me with skills and techniques for college life, but they also prepared me for even more. Workshops such as creating resumes, mock interviews, and financial literacy sessions significantly improved my skill set. These workshops with partners such as Virginia Credit Union taught us about investment banking, or Capital One, helping us with interview strategies, has boosted my confidence in the professional world.

PFF was really helpful in building a strong community of students and staff. We all aimed for similar goals, but we came from different backgrounds. We participated in team-building activities and worked on group projects. This gave me a chance to work closely with others. These people were as motivated as I was, yet they brought unique ideas and perspectives. PFF fostered an environment where we could freely share our opinions, listen to each other's views, and learn from each other's experiences. This atmosphere significantly improved my teamwork skills and boosted my confidence in voicing my ideas. Being around people who were both passionate and supportive had a big impact on how I now see my potential. The diversity of thoughts and experiences helped me approach problems from different angles and develop creative solutions. Thanks to PFF, I built lasting connections and gained valuable skills I can use in my future career.

One of the most impactful parts of my PFF journey was working with my GUIDES mentor and the PFF staff. The level coordinators, such as Ms. Jasmine, were always very supportive and pushed us to be better every day. My GUIDES mentor, Devon Jackson, has helped me with bad habits as well as helping me improve my essay writing skills with critiques and edits. The network of adults who want to help me has been unimaginable from the start of high school to now. I appreciate the time that each and every one of them puts into us, and want to return the kindness.

Now looking forward to college, and beyond, I have an unfathomable appreciation for PFF. It has been a community and a launchpad to skyrocket my goals and ambitions with college workshops, financial literacy lessons, and mock interviews. The community that has allowed me to gain the confidence I didn't have before, thanks to my GUIDES mentor, my peers, and the PFF staff. Overall, PFF has been the most impactful part of my high school journey, and I'm forever grateful.





KRISTAL MOSES

University of Virginia

I always knew I wanted to go to college, but as a first-generation student, navigating the college process was daunting. Partnership for the Future was a guide, allowing me to navigate the challenging college process and fulfill my dream of attending college. From the moment I joined the program, I was surrounded by like-minded individuals who were eager to help me achieve my goal.

From Friday sessions to internships and career seminars, Partnership for the Future has equipped me with the tools necessary to navigate the college experience and the workplace. I have learned many professional skills, including interview skills, resume writing, and financial literacy. These skills enable me to excel in all workplace environments, from my marketing internship with Big Brothers Big Sisters to my part-time job at Panera Bread.

Above all, Partnership for the Future instilled in me a sense of confidence that I didn't have as a high school freshman. Their belief in me and my potential encouraged me to seek leadership, job opportunities, advocate for myself, and always take space in rooms, never restricting myself for others' comfort.

As I prepare for the next four years of my life at my dream school— the University of Virginia- I carry the skills, confidence, and poise this program cultivated within me. Partnership for the Future didn't just help me achieve my dream of getting into college; they provided me with the tools necessary to navigate any challenges or hardships I may face along the way, empowering me to become a leader, scholar, and innovator.





KIMBERLY PILLACELA

Randolph College

I learned about Partnership for the Future (PFF) by chance, and I'm grateful I did. I remember being in my science classroom during my freshman year, finding out about the program with my classmates, and I instantly applied, not knowing that it would be one of the best decisions I've made. Partnership for the Future has provided me with an environment where I am surrounded by like-minded students who all have the same goal of going to college. PFF has also given me opportunities I would've never had without participating in this program. My journey through PFF has impacted my life as I have grown my professional skills tremendously and my confidence that I can and will reach my full potential.

The Career Immersion program taught me the importance of responsibility, staying on task, and effectively communicating with coworkers and my supervisor in the workplace. I have also seen personal growth in my life since joining this program. I was always shy growing up, and public speaking was not my best trait, but with the help of PFF, I have had opportunities to grow and practice these skills that are needed in real life.

Overall, before the program, I felt overwhelmed at the thought of applying to colleges and how I would be able to afford it. This worried me, especially being the oldest child and having no one in my family who has gone through the process of preparing for college. I am an older sister and the oldest cousin of 10. Attending college would make me the first in my whole family to go to college and graduate. As a first-generation Hispanic student, I felt like there was no one I could lean on. Partnership for the Future has allowed me to visit many universities, explained my financial aid award letters, and provided opportunities to speak with PFF collegiate students and alumni who were in my shoes. I felt more confident about this journey as PFF never let me feel alone and has guided me through every step of the way.





KIFAH RIDDICK

George Mason University

In 2013, I attended my first Reaching for the Stars event, as my brother had recently started his journey with Partnership for the Future (PFF). I remember sitting in the VMFA and seeing all those big numbers on the screen and wondering how all these students were getting so much money for college. I wanted to be like them, and every year until 2016 (the year my brother graduated), my mother would always tell me that she would make sure that I had the academic standing to get in this program. When my time came to apply, I did just that, and it changed my life for the better. Honestly, I don't know how people go through high school without Partnership for the Future. This program has taught me so much that I wouldn't have learned in school, and I'm so grateful for that.

Last year, I had my first internship with Greater Richmond SCAN, a nonprofit that works to prevent child abuse. I learned so much during this internship, and it changed my perspective on many things. Before I started this internship, I never would have thought my preferred field of study would be psychology, but witnessing the outreach projects SCAN was taking action in showed me that I also want to make a change in someone's life, just like they do.

I am so grateful for the chance that PFF took in me to show them who Kifah Riddick truly is. They made this college application process so much smoother and less stressful. I would strongly advise anyone entering high school to apply for this program. I met so many lifelong connections through PFF and wouldn't trade any of my time spent here for the world.





Valedictorian

Full-Ride Scholarship

FATMA SIDI-ELEMINE

University of Richmond



Moving from Mauritania at a young age, I found America to be a strange and intimidating place where I felt like I didn't belong. Over time, I realized that instead of trying to fit in, I should strive to stand out. This shift in perspective led me to the incredible Partnership for the Future (PFF) program, which has had a positive impact on my life. Without this program, I might not have been prepared for college and likely wouldn't have been accepted into institutions that previously seemed out of reach. PFF provided me with invaluable resources and unwavering support, helping me to cultivate the skills and confidence necessary to pursue higher education.

In my sophomore year, a pivotal moment occurred during the college tour at the University of Richmond. As we walked across the campus, a realization washed over me—I could envision my future there. It felt like a place where I could truly belong, a potential home where I could thrive academically and personally. I am now committed to the University of Richmond and will be attending in the fall. I discovered a great community within PFF that has truly resonated with me. The friendships and support I've received here have been invaluable, creating a sense of belonging I will carry into college and beyond. This experience has deepened my understanding of connection and encouragement, and I'm certain the connections I've formed will last a lifetime.

Throughout the college application process and while applying for scholarships, I received incredible support from my mentor, Brenda Lewis. Her guidance was crucial, helping me navigate the complexities of applications and scholarship opportunities. I would also like to thank everyone who helped me, including my amazing parents, family, and friends, and thank you to everyone at PFF. Reflecting on my senior year, I remember feeling a mix of excitement and anxiety, especially regarding the scrutiny surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion in education. While it was challenging at times, it also motivated me to advocate for myself and others.

Participating in workshops focused on financial literacy was another vital part of my experience in PFF. These sessions equipped me with essential knowledge about managing finances, budgeting for college, and understanding student loans, all of which alleviated some of the stress surrounding my transition to higher education. I also achieved significant milestones during my final year, including securing three full-ride scholarships. This accomplishment was not merely a reflection of my hard work; it was a testament to the strong network and connections I built throughout my journey with PFF. I owe a heartfelt thank you to those who supported me, especially Kate Bishop, Chantal Ampah, Staisha Perry, Jasmine Frazier, and Reshaud Rich, for their invaluable contributions to my success.





JANAE SILER

Old Dominion University

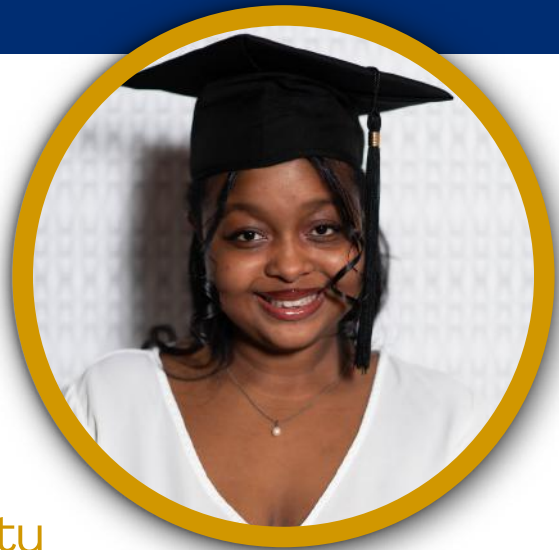
Growing up, I always knew I wanted to go to college, but the decision of where to attend was a mystery that felt daunting. I had dreams of higher education, but the path to realizing those dreams seemed unclear. Fortunately, Partnership for the Future (PFF) emerged as a guiding force, providing me with the resources and support necessary to navigate the college selection process and ultimately shape my future.

One of my favorite experiences with PFF was the ability to speak directly to representatives from colleges. Whether on college tours or college representatives coming to visit us, getting to know about schools directly was extremely helpful. I learned a lot of information that I may not have gotten the chance to know without PFF providing us with so many opportunities to learn about college. One of the college tours we did was to Old Dominion University (ODU), a school I had not initially considered. To my surprise, ODU quickly became my top choice. The campus, the programs offered, and the vibrant community resonated with me in a way I had not expected. This experience not only opened my eyes to a school that perfectly aligns with my academic goals but also solidified my commitment to pursuing my higher education there.

As I reflect on my senior year, I am proud of my accomplishments, most prominent being my graduation from high school and college this year. With aspirations to study real estate and international business later this year, I am excited about the opportunities that await me. My long-term goal is to further my education by obtaining a master's degree in architecture, enabling me to merge my interests in business and design. PFF has played a role in helping me clarify these academic pursuits, providing me with the mentorship and guidance needed to explore different fields and make informed choices.

Throughout my senior year, I was fortunate to have an incredible mentor, Vanessa Morgan, who provided me with support and encouragement. Her kindness and dedication made a significant difference as I navigated the college application process. With her guidance, I felt more equipped to tackle the challenges ahead and was able to approach my applications with confidence. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in Partnership for the Future. The relationships I have built and the experiences I have gained through this program have shaped my path and equipped me for success. Thank you, PFF, for helping me turn my dreams into reality.



**VCU**

ARIANNA SIMPKINS

Virginia Commonwealth University

Growing up, I had a weak immune system that often kept me stuck inside. Though I spent most of my time indoors, I was always creating. My family supported my little projects and hobbies, providing me with the supplies and motivation to continue doing what I love. I was also raised by my guardian, who treated me like her own daughter until her passing when I was eight. Afterward, I moved in with my father, who helped me improve in school. However, the older I grew, the more my parents wanted me to answer the big question: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I shifted from police officer to doctor to fashion designer. But one thing my parents said always stuck with me: “Work for no one but yourself. Choose a career that makes you happy.” I carried that advice with me into high school.

As a first-generation student with five younger siblings looking up to me, I’ve always felt a strong responsibility to set a positive example. I focused on keeping my grades up and learning as much as I could about different careers and colleges. In ninth grade, I joined Partnership for the Future (PFF) to help guide me through that journey, but the program gave me so much more than I expected. Beyond college and career guidance, PFF taught me valuable life skills like financial literacy, navigating scholarships and financial aid, networking, and overall career readiness. Surrounded by passionate peers and a supportive team, I found not just guidance, but a true sense of community. That same year, I became a Social Media Ambassador, excited to help others learn about the powerful impact of this program.

PFF helped me discover my love for business, but I still didn’t know what business I wanted to start. That changed during a final art project in tenth grade. I tried everything, painting, clay, sewing, but nothing felt right. Then a friend handed me a crochet hook. That moment sparked something, my love for yarn, color, and expression through crochet. I began creating everywhere I went, eventually turning my passion into a business and inspiring others to create too.

As a rising junior and Level 2 PFF student, I was placed in an internship at Capital One. Knowing my love for entrepreneurship, they placed me with a team of successful businesswomen. I learned about branding, marketing, public speaking, and how they built their own companies. Their mentorship gave me confidence and a sense of principle. PFF also taught me essential life skills, from budgeting workshops to networking events to college tours that helped narrow down my choices. But above all, it gave me belief in myself. I’m forever grateful to PFF for helping me discover my passion, refine my purpose, and shape a future where I work for myself, and love every moment of it.





DRAMYAH SINGLETON

Norfolk State University

From the moment I had the opportunity to interview for Partnership for the Future (PFF), I knew I wanted to be a part of the program. The past four years have taught me workplace readiness skills and allowed me to engage in enlightening conversations. Additionally, the program has taught me the importance of being prepared and organized. Due to the limitless amount of help and support, my ideas have evolved from personal goals into life goals. This program has helped me grow as a person and a leader.

Partnership for the Future afforded me the opportunity to visit college campuses, attend workshops, etiquette classes, and public speaking sessions. I am honored to say I got into over 15 colleges with the help of PFF. In the future, I plan on becoming a pediatrician and informing kids about how this program helped me choose my career path and opened my eyes to many colleges on many different levels.

PFF focuses on high school students who want to further their education after high school and have goals they want to accomplish. PFF surrounds students in environments where excellence is the minimum, and it's truly inspirational. The mentors and staff encourage you to think outside the box and look at different career paths that you may enjoy. PFF gives students that little extra push of confidence to achieve those goals, to show they have the potential to reach their goal, to show they can use these skills in the real world to improve the world.





OLANDO SMITH

Hampton University

I want to start this off by thanking the entire Partnership for the Future (PFF) staff: Ms. Tiffany, Ms. Jasmine, Ms. Kate, Mr. Rich, and Ms. Dionne, who have been so helpful these last four years. This program has truly shaped my high school experience for the better and prepared me for the next chapter of my life in ways I never expected. My favorite part of PFF has been the countless opportunities it has introduced me to. It helped me form some great relationships and gave me an incredible mentor, Ms. Washington, who has been an amazing help throughout the college process. They also surrounded me with like-minded peers that I've been able to build a bond with for the last few years and will continue to stay connected with after high school.

Some of my best high school memories came from PFF; one of them was during our spring break college tour to Atlanta, Georgia, and throughout North Carolina. Visiting the AUC (Morehouse, Spelman, and Clark Atlanta) was an experience that influenced my future. The moment I stepped on Morehouse's campus, I knew it was a place I could envision myself attending. I can't describe the feeling, but I just felt that it was the place for me. That visit started my love for HBCUs and my desire to be part of a legacy of Black excellence. PFF gave me the chance to explore schools I never would have considered, and in the process, it helped me narrow down my top-choice colleges.

One of the biggest lessons PFF has taught me is the importance of advocating for myself. As a first-generation college student, I had a lot of questions and things I didn't know, but PFF made sure I had the resources I needed. PFF also exposed me to valuable life skills. The networking, financial literacy, and dining etiquette workshops gave me knowledge that will stick with me forever.

The college application process was both exciting and overwhelming. I was so eager to apply that I completed all of my applications with early action. However, after that rush, I felt incredibly burnt out and struggled to meet scholarship deadlines. Thankfully, Ms. Washington and Ms. Jasmine helped keep me on track, constantly reminding me of opportunities and encouraging me to stay focused. Thanks to my family and the resources PFF provided, I have been accepted into multiple schools. The connections I've built through this program have already opened doors for me, and I know they will continue to do so in the future. As I prepare for the next step in my journey, I am incredibly grateful for everything PFF has done for me. This program has given me the tools to succeed and the confidence to pursue my dreams. Thank you to everyone who has been part of my PFF experience. I appreciate all of you so much!





RANDY SMITH

George Mason University

Partnership for the Future (PFF) has personally helped me stay focused. My participation in an extracurricular program, especially one that is academically based, gave me another reason to stay on top of my work. The regular Google Classroom announcements and assignments have also played a strong part in staying on top of my schoolwork. PFF informed me when the FAFSA opened, PFF kept me updated on available scholarships, and PFF has constantly kept in touch with me every step of the way during the college admissions process. No matter what, PFF has always tried to keep me on the right track and given me all the tools necessary to stay focused on my goals.

Partnership for the Future has allowed me to be a part of things I otherwise wouldn't have, leading to some amazing opportunities. Partnership for the Future has put me in uncomfortable situations that have helped me grow as a person, such as dining etiquette. I've never even thought of dining etiquette as something I needed to learn, but just participating and gaining experience allowed me to see that it could be very helpful to add to my professional toolbox. PFF has provided me with opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise, like my internship at Markel. Without a third party like Partnership for the Future, I would have no idea how to secure an internship. PFF's support and guidance through these processes allowed me to have more time for things like studying and school, so I didn't have to spend my time searching and applying for internships like some of my peers.

Partnership for the Future has greatly impacted my ability to successfully plan for my future. From lessons on financial literacy to college tours, Partnership for the Future provides you with opportunities and tools that you may not know you will need at the time, but will prepare you for success in life. Finally, I can't leave off a very important and impactful part of my Partnership for the Future journey, my GUIDES mentor. Monique graduated from a field I am interested in pursuing. Her knowledge has helped me in the college decision-making process and strengthened my resolve to pursue a career in the engineering field. This is in addition to her pushing me to do my best each week and apply for scholarships. Partnership for the Future has not just left a huge impact on my high school experience, but it's positioned me to leave a significant impact on wherever I go and whatever I do in the future. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this organization.





WILLIAM & MARY

Full-Ride Scholarship

ANIYA STEVENS

William & Mary



Partnership for the Future (PFF) has had an immense impact on my life. When I first joined the program as a high school freshman, I was only looking forward to the money. To be honest, I was an anti-social, money and clothes-obsessed, boyfriend-focused, immature teenage girl when I applied. During the first of many, many Zoom calls, I entertained myself by doing a roll call with the rest of the participants instead of taking in the information. I now understand that it was highly unwise not to pay attention since I did not even know any colleges outside of VCU (specifically the School of Business), Harvard, and Yale.

I am now fortunate enough to say I have matured significantly since then due to PFF's dedication and its undeniably stressful deadlines. PFF expects a lot from its students. My last two summer breaks were spent waking up at 5 am and working a 9-to-5 with the Career Immersion program or at my internship. Don't misunderstand me, I absolutely adored my internship placements but I developed an appreciation for coffee and my body instinctively wakes up early. I have not been able to sleep past 11 am on the weekends since 2023. PFF has often given me anxiety over deadlines and book reports, but it was the kind of anxiety that I needed to push myself forward. The program profoundly changed me as a person.

Without PFF in my life, I would not have applied to 19 colleges, of which I got into 13 of them. I probably would not have been able to apply to even half of that number. When PFF says they are giving their students a head start compared to their classmates, the program is not lying. I have had multiple of my senior friends ask me what a CSS profile is, if they should apply to any in-state schools, or how they should prepare for an interview.

I thrived during my senior year, and I have to give a lot of that credit to PFF. Not only have they fostered my sense of responsibility, given me a supportive mentor, and given me a sense of belonging with my peers, but they have also built the foundation of my academic and professional career. Without PFF, I would have faced a much more difficult and uncertain path, and I am deeply grateful to them.





Top 10% of Class

JAIYDIA THIGPEN

Old Dominion University



I look at Partnership for the Future (PFF) as a place I can always turn to. PFF had my back, whether it was Auntie Dionne, Mrs. Tiffany, or my amazing mentor, Ms. Shanice. No matter what, they always made sure to check on me. This organization had my back and supported me no matter how challenging things became. They were both compassionate and understanding. In my eyes, it's not necessarily being able to feel empathy for someone, but being able to listen to others' struggles and support in any way you can. This embodies what this program has been for me.

Partnership for the Future has brought me friendships and built bridges to others my age who have aspirations and expectations for their life that they want to meet. PFF has drilled financial literacy and essential life skills, which were like puzzle pieces as I put together my personal puzzle. While I have years to put together all the pieces for this puzzle, I feel as though this program has given me an unmatched jump start. It has provided me with clarity and an idea of how I envision my life. I can now sit through college-style lectures and present myself in a more professional manner.

Life is hard, and more importantly, adapting to change. This program has accelerated my understanding of the ins and outs of the professional working world. The staff could be doing so many other things professionally, but they choose to wake up every day and be the bridge we need for successful futures. Their time is spent making connections that we as a class or group can connect and benefit from, and having this extra bit of knowledge allows me and my peers to be ten steps ahead of our peers, friends, and family. I truly value this program and all that it has to offer. I appreciate its leaders, ones I have met personally and ones who are out fundraising and promoting and overall making this well-oiled machine that we call Partnership for the Future run.



**VCU**

YULISSA TINOCO-CRUZ

Virginia Commonwealth University

From the moment I became a part of this incredible community, I felt an overwhelming sense of support and encouragement. The College Access Managers at Partnership for the Future not only helped me understand what colleges were looking for, but they also helped me reach my true potential. They went above and beyond to provide workshops on SAT prep, time management, financial literacy, and the importance of building a community. Throughout the program, we visited several college campuses that opened my eyes to the endless possibilities ahead of me. With these resources, I was able to identify my strengths and passions and align them with my college goals. The mentors were experienced professionals who understood the challenges I faced, helping me feel more confident and prepared for what comes next in my journey to the future.

One of the most impactful moments for me was reflecting on how much I changed since I began my PFF journey as a rising sophomore; I couldn't have predicted my growth at that time. Back then, I was a timid, introverted person who struggled to speak up or share my thoughts. I never could have imagined becoming the confident individual I am today. My mentors helped me identify my passions, recognize my achievements, and guided me to identify a career that best suited my interests. With Partnership for the Future, I explored different career paths, learned professional skills, and gained workforce experience through my internship.

The program also provided me with priceless guidance on financial aid and scholarships, which gave me a clear, realistic view of the economic picture of attending college. I applied to multiple colleges with the confidence of getting accepted to my top three schools. I was thrilled to be accepted into my top school, a place that once felt out of reach, although I had always dreamed of attending. Now, as a Level 4 graduating senior, I can see how far I've come. I know firsthand how transformative Partnership for the Future can be, and I am committed to helping other students overcome the barriers I once faced. I am exceedingly grateful for all the support from my mentors, peers, and family.





Full-Ride Scholarship

NEVAEH TURNER

Virginia Tech



As a first-generation student, I had no help navigating the academic world. No roadmap was handed to me, no family members to share personal stories about college life, or advice about handling college expectations. Hence, being selected into Partnership for the Future (PFF) during my freshman year in high school was the initial unlocking of my academic door. Through the PFF program, I've had the pleasure of gaining access to an amazing support system that pushes me academically, socially, and emotionally. The biggest skill PFF assisted me with was my public speaking. As an introvert at heart, the first summer with PFF is a memory I will never forget. It was the first time I was pushed to speak to a large crowd, larger than the 24 students in my classroom. With my heart pounding, I had to introduce myself to nearly 100 other people, with everyone's eyes on me, I felt like throwing up. But experiences like this, where I was pushed out of my comfort zone, helped me learn to get comfortable with being uncomfortable.

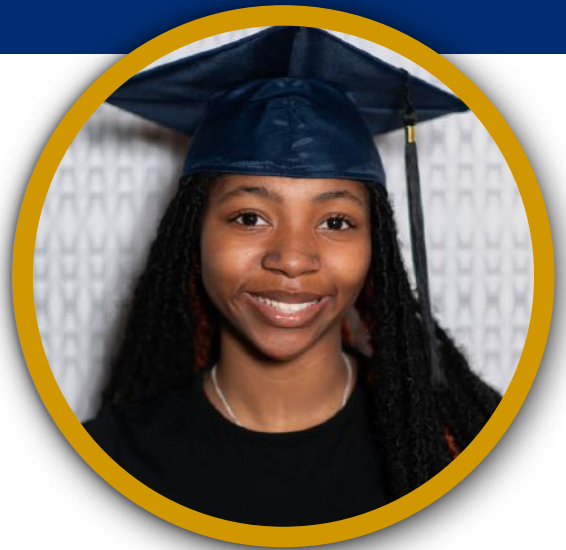
If I hadn't learned how to engage and entertain a crowd through the many workshops we did during our four years, I wouldn't have pursued opportunities like becoming an Ambassador for Virtual NSILY, a language program funded by the U.S. Department of State, or being a team lead through an internship program. I led five people in an 8-month workshop initiative for people in rural Nigeria to combat yellow fever in front of experienced doctors. Although I won't be starting my external internship placement through PFF until this year, I have learned how to network for myself and how to get involved deeper within a community, which is a skill I will take with me to college and beyond.

PFF has also taught me the importance of having an open mind. When I first joined in 2021, I wanted to become a doctor. My mind was set on this track, and no one could change my mind. However, during our summer sessions, I learned about how broad the medical field was, gained knowledge about many different careers, and heard from amazing guest speakers. Which helped me realize I do not need to become a doctor to help our nation's health.

Choosing a college to commit to has been the most stressful part of my senior year. When I think back on my high school experience without PFF, I wouldn't have pushed myself to get comfortable communicating with others. Developing this skill allowed me to get two full rides from excellent institutions. Deciding between my two dream schools was daunting. So, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to my GUIDES mentor Monyette, Mrs. Kate, Ms. Jasmine, and Mrs. Dionne for pushing me to reach for greatness. I cannot wait to be in more spaces where I learn to get comfortable with being uncomfortable.

Thank you again.





TAHAIRAH TURNER

Virginia State University

Partnership for the Future has profoundly impacted my life by providing me with support and guidance in preparing for college and my future career. As a high school student, it often felt overwhelming to make decisions on my own, but this program helped me navigate through the uncertainties by offering career readiness workshops and mentorship. One of the program's most significant aspects was its networking opportunities. Through various workshops, events, and interactions with professionals, I gained the confidence to connect with people from different fields and backgrounds. These connections have not only helped me learn more about potential careers but also shaped my experiences.

In addition to networking, the program kept me on track academically and personally. The guidance I received helped me stay motivated to do my schoolwork and allowed me to work through personal challenges. Ms. Staisha, my Level 3 College Access Manager, understood what it was like being an introvert with a lot to say. She helped me through school challenges, and she made sure to always check in. I learned valuable skills like time management, goal setting, and problem-solving, which helped me balance the pressures of school and life. Moreover, the program played a significant role in improving my social skills. Before joining, I often struggled with speaking up or networking with new people. However, through the various activities and group settings, I became more comfortable in social interactions, learning to communicate more effectively and confidently. Overall, the Partnership for the Future program has been essential in preparing me for college and life beyond, giving me the tools I need to succeed academically and socially.





Full-Ride Scholarship

Top 10% of Class

ESTEFANY VILLALTA-BONILLA

University of Richmond



Anxiety hit me like a truck. The first day with Partnership for the Future (PFF) at Randolph-Macon College's campus, my heart pounded as my mom drove closer and closer to the campus, unsure of what to expect. I had moved from Maryland during quarantine, a time when isolation became my normal routine. Socializing had never been my strong suit, and the thought of stepping into a new environment filled with unfamiliar faces terrified me. But little did I know that PFF would be the push I needed to become the person I am today.

Joining PFF forced me out of my comfort zone in the best way possible. Slowly but surely, I started to come out of my shell. I met peers who not only shared my ambitions but encouraged me to be the best version of myself. I became more confident, both personally and academically. My public speaking skills, which once made me super nervous, improved dramatically. PFF didn't just teach me how to communicate effectively; they taught me how to believe in my own voice.

Beyond personal growth, PFF also gave me opportunities I never would have had otherwise. Through the program, I landed an internship at Capital One, an experience that opened my eyes to the professional world and taught me the value of networking. I learned how to build connections, advocate for myself, and step into spaces I once thought were out of reach. Most importantly, PFF provided me with a mentor during the college application process. As a first-generation student, I had no family to turn to for guidance, but Ms. Lauren, a University of Richmond alumna, was there every step of the way. She answered my endless questions, reassured me when doubts crept in, and made me even more excited about the possibility of attending my dream school.

And now, that dream is a reality, I got into the University of Richmond. If you had told my younger, antisocial self that I would be where I am today, she wouldn't have believed it. But thanks to PFF, I've achieved things I never imagined possible. As the child of immigrant parents, I have always wanted to make them proud, and this program has given me the tools to do just that. I am endlessly grateful for the experiences, the friendships, and the growth that PFF has given me. I know that the version of me who walked into that first meeting: anxious, unsure, and afraid, would be proud of the person I have become.





Top 10% of Class

JANISHA WILKINS

Old Dominion University



When I first heard about Partnership for the Future (PFF) in ninth grade, I was drawn in by the chance to earn money over the summer. At the time, I had a clear plan for my future, but I didn't know how to take the right steps to make it happen. I saw PFF as an opportunity, and as I became more involved, I realized the program was giving me much more than I expected: guidance, exposure, and skills that helped me bring my goals to life.

One of the most valuable experiences was participating in the Career Immersion Program the summer after tenth grade. This opportunity was exciting because it allowed me to stay engaged over the summer while still learning. But what made it even more meaningful was that I wasn't just gaining knowledge, I was applying it in real life. I found myself teaching my mom about financial literacy, explaining credit, and walking her through the college process, which had become much easier for me thanks to PFF. Their support didn't just prepare me for my future; it allowed me to help my family, too.

Before joining PFF, I knew what I wanted, but I didn't have the professional skills to get there. I didn't understand business casual attire and wasn't confident about conducting myself in an interview. Through PFF, I learned how to present myself professionally, answer questions effectively, and leave a strong impression. Today, I walk into interviews knowing how to dress, speak, and carry myself. I've been told multiple times that my interviewing skills are exceptional, something I never would have believed before.

PFF also made my college process much smoother. I always knew I wanted to attend college, but I wasn't sure how to navigate applications, financial aid, or career planning. Their support gave me the knowledge to approach my future with confidence, making sure I was not just dreaming about success but actively working toward it. Because of PFF, I feel more prepared for what's ahead. The program has helped me grow, not just as a student but as a future professional. The skills and confidence I've gained will stay with me, guiding me through college, my career, and beyond.





Top 10% of Class

MALIAH WYATT

Virginia Tech



I first heard of PFF through my cousin, Camryn Walker, who graduated in 2024. Camryn enlightened me on the many wonderful opportunities Partnership for the Future (PFF) offered. They provided my cousin with important experiences as an aspiring college student, such as college visits, networking events, and professional readiness workshops. I was lucky enough to watch Camryn progress through the PFF program and onto her path to greatness. Through her excitement and stories, I decided to embark on my own PFF journey. Unbeknownst to me, I would be accepted into a life-changing experience. PFF has set me up to be successful and empowered me with the confidence, skills, and support network I needed to thrive academically and professionally.

Furthermore, PFF provided me with the internship of my dreams. Growing up, I have always wanted to become a veterinarian. My passion for animals shone through in the care I gave to my own pets and my desire to do more. I had been searching and searching for opportunities to work in a veterinary clinic to secure that feeling and experience of what I've always wanted to do. I remember the exact email PFF sent me, delivering the news that I would be interviewing with the Richmond SPCA, a local non-profit animal shelter in Richmond. After the long interview process and nerves about whether I would get it, I was offered the internship. Since then, I've been blessed with the opportunity to shadow their veterinary hospital and explore the many activities their internal teams do to ensure every pet has a chance to be adopted. I built a network with multiple veterinarians and veterinary technicians who mentored me and gave me advice on how to follow in their footsteps. This opportunity even helped me find my current job, working as one of their Birthday Party Hosts. I was finally given the opportunity to validate my purpose, and it all started with PFF's helping hand.

Partnership for the Future is a program that truly changes lives. It has allowed me to meet lifelong friends and even introduced me to the college I will attend for the next four years. PFF has taught me skills that are necessary in the workplace, school, and life in general. I am forever thankful for the opportunities they have provided me with, and I am excited to embark on this new collegiate journey, starting with their blueprint. Thank you, PFF!



First Name	Last Name	High School	College	Class Ranks	Scholarship	Internship Experience
Tobenna	Akunwafor	Richmond Community HS	North Carolina A&T		Full-Ride Scholarship	Markel Corporation
Micah	Anderson	John Marshall HS	Virginia Tech		Full-Ride Scholarship	Locke A. Taylor Vet Clinic
Torrence	Artis	Richmond Community HS	Old Dominion University			Black History Museum
Jordan	Athy	CodeRVA Regional HS	Radford University			Capital One
Naziya	Bradley	Hermitage HS	Virginia Commonwealth University	Top 10% of Class		Black History Museum
Myasia	Bridy	Franklin Military Academy	Virginia Commonwealth University			Capital One
Herbert	Bullock	Richmond Community HS	Longwood University			First Tee of Richmond
Martir	Bustillo	CodeRVA Regional HS	University of Virginia			Capital One
Eva	Carson	St. Catherine's HS	Old Dominion University			Maymont Foundation
Maya	Christian	Highland Springs HS	Virginia Tech	Top 10% of Class		St. James Children's Center
Justin	Cotman	Highland Springs HS	Old Dominion University			Henrico Varina Library
MaLeah	Cowan	Goochland HS	Old Dominion University			Art for the Journey
Nylah	Doswell	Highland Springs HS	Old Dominion University			
Christin	Duval	J.R. Tucker HS	University of Virginia		Full-Ride Scholarship	Capital One
Taylor	Ellis	Richmond Community HS	Hampton University	Valedictorian		Greater Richmond Fit4Kids
Mina	Fahim	J.R. Tucker HS	Virginia Tech		Full-Ride Scholarship	Capital One
Aries	Franklin	Franklin Military Academy	Virginia State University			Podium RVA
Tyler	Furbert	Meadowbrook HS	James Madison University	Top 10% of Class		Markel Corporation
Orren	Gordon	Meadowbrook HS	Virginia State University	Top 10% of Class		Capital One
Chariah	Harrison	Meadowbrook HS	Old Dominion University	Top 10% of Class		Capital One
Mikhail	Haywood	Goochland HS	Johnson & Wales University			Goochland Cares
Jaqueline	Hercules-Rodriguez	L.C. Bird HS	James Madison University			Big Brothers Big Sisters
Symone	Hutchinson	Thomas Jefferson HS	Old Dominion University			NextUp
Jonathan	Ingram	Henrico HS	Virginia Commonwealth University			Markel Corporation
Senya	Jackson	Franklin Military Academy	Norfolk State University			
Yazmine	Jackson	Franklin Military Academy	Old Dominion University	Top 10% of Class		Commonwealth Savers
Ivan	Jara	CodeRVA Regional HS	William & Mary			Markel Corporation
Kevin	Jasper	L.C. Bird HS	Radford University			Markel Corporation
Arianna	Jordan	Huguenot HS	University of Virginia	Top 10% of Class		Markel Corporation
Jackson	Jordan	Midlothian HS	James Madison University			Capital One
Ibram	Karam	J.R. Tucker HS	University of Virginia	Top 10% of Class	Full-Ride Scholarship	Capital One
Synay	Lambert	Henrico HS	Randolph-Macon College			Black History Museum
Christian	Lightfoot	Richmond Community HS	Old Dominion University			Richmond Intl. Film Festival
Hamid	Majidi	Hermitage HS	Virginia Commonwealth University			Westminster Canterbury
Danielle	McDonald	Hermitage HS	Old Dominion University	Top 10% of Class		Markel Corporation
Keziah	Mckenna	Richmond Community HS	William & Mary			Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
Amr	Mohamed	Deep Run HS	University of Virginia	Top 10% of Class	Full-Ride Scholarship	Dominion Energy
Khristian	Moses	Highland Springs HS	Virginia Commonwealth University	Top 10% of Class		Henrico Libbie Mill Library
Kristal	Moses	Richmond Community HS	University of Virginia			Big Brothers Big Sisters
Kimberly	Pillacela	J.R. Tucker HS	Randolph College			
Kifah	Riddick	Thomas Jefferson HS	George Mason University			Greater Richmond SCAN
Fatma	Sidi-Elemine	Huguenot HS	University of Richmond	Valedictorian	Full-Ride Scholarship	Capital One
Janae	Siler	Franklin Military Academy	Old Dominion University			Legacy Builders Real Estate
Arianna	Simpkins	Franklin Military Academy	Virginia Commonwealth University			Capital One
Dramyah	Singleton	Varina HS	Norfolk State University			Science Museum of Virginia
Olando	Smith	Highland Springs HS	Hampton University			Higher Achievement
Randy	Smith	Highland Springs HS	George Mason University			Markel Corporation
Aniya	Stevens	Varina HS	William & Mary		Full-Ride Scholarship	Podium RVA
Jaiydia	Thigpen	Thomas Jefferson HS	Old Dominion University	Top 10% of Class		First Tee of Richmond
Yulissa	Tinoco-Cruz	J.R. Tucker HS	Virginia Commonwealth University			Visual Arts Center of Richmond
Nevaeh	Turner	Hermitage HS	Virginia Tech		Full-Ride Scholarship	Henrico Mobile Library
Tahairah	Turner	Varina HS	Virginia State University			JMI
Estefany	Villalta-Bonilla	Huguenot HS	University of Richmond	Top 10% of Class	Full-Ride Scholarship	Capital One
Janisha	Wilkins	Thomas Jefferson HS	Old Dominion University	Top 10% of Class		Dominion Energy
Maliah	Wyatt	Highland Springs HS	Virginia Tech	Top 10% of Class		Richmond SPCA





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