

Philadelphia Futures



Graduation Celebration

High School and Higher Education Graduates

Class of 2020

June 3, 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to Our 2020 Virtual Graduation Celebration

**Today we celebrate the high school
and higher education graduations of 147 students
who have participated in Philadelphia Futures' programs.**

**Our warmest congratulations to all of our graduates.
You are poised to achieve great things
as you turn your focus to your future.
Our pride in you is immeasurable.**

**Our heartfelt thanks to all of the dedicated
families, mentors, sponsors, and champions
of Philadelphia Futures who so generously support
our mission and who have made this moment possible.**

**Congratulations, graduates!
Thank you, friends!**

Virtual Program

Welcome

Rick Williams, Philadelphia Futures Board Member and 6abc News Anchor
Sara Woods, Executive Director

Celebration of Higher Education Graduates

Troi Strickland, College Connection, Class of 2016
Franklin & Marshall College, Class of 2020

Message to the Philadelphia Futures Community

Sharaine Eldafrawy, Sponsor-A-Scholar, Class of 2016
Drexel University, Class of 2020

Presentation of Graduates & Collegian Awards

Rick Williams, Philadelphia Futures Board Member and 6abc News Anchor
Changing the Story Award
Outstanding Overall Achievement Award
Marciene Mattleman Determination Award
Reach Higher Award

Celebration of High School Graduates

Kelvin Nuñez, College Connection, Class of 2020
Hamilton College

Message to the Philadelphia Futures Community

Lingarbel Brempong, Sponsor-A-Scholar, Class of
2020
Stanford University



Presentation of Graduates & Scholarship Presentations

Rick Williams, Philadelphia Futures Board Member and 6abc News Anchor
Laurie J. Keeler Award
Lisa Marie Thomas Memorial Scholarship
Destined for Success Scholarship
Dr. Willie W. Echewa Scholarship
Joan M. and James W. Keebler Scholarship
Lincoln Financial Foundation Scholarship
Kim Freitag Memorial Scholarship for Awesome Achievement

Closing & Thank You

Rick Williams, Philadelphia Futures Board Member and 6abc News Anchor

Sponsor-A-Scholar High School Graduates

 **Diliana Alvarez-Perez** 
William W. Bodine High School
Drexel University
SPONSOR Laura and Mitchell Wienick
MENTOR Samantha Wyatt

Meless Badume
George Washington Carver High
School of Engineering and Science
Swarthmore College
SPONSOR Janet and Alan Widra
MENTOR Geoff Hayden

Jaela Bambino-Forte
Central High School
Temple University
SPONSOR In Memory of Dorrance
Hamilton
MENTOR Erica Woods

Lingarbel Brempong
Northeast High School
Stanford University
SPONSOR Boscia Family Foundation
MENTOR Priya Levering


Han (Jennie) Bui 
Central High School
Temple University
SPONSOR Howard and Mary Hurtig
MENTOR Sharon Kim

Sequaya Cooper
Roxborough High School
Community College of Philadelphia
SPONSOR The Ruth Widmer Fund at
The Philadelphia Foundation
MENTOR Molly Walsh


Chadi Dennai
Central High School
Drexel University
SPONSOR Sue Lee


Josephine Effendi
Central High School
Drexel University
SPONSOR Dries and Katie Darius
MENTOR Lauren Maloney


Tymir Forrest
Philadelphia High School for Creative
and Performing Arts
University of Pittsburgh – Bradford
SPONSOR Mary and Geoff Hayden
MENTOR Reginald Foy

 **Haefa Froukh**
Central High School
Albright College
SPONSOR Elizabeth Stokes and Lynne
Brown
MENTOR Kelly Lawler

 **Joshua Garcia** 
Academy at Palumbo
Drexel University
SPONSOR Robert and Carol White
MENTOR Brad Blitz

 **Jaykob Gonzalez**
Kensington Health Sciences Academy
Penn State University
SPONSOR David O'Connor
MENTOR Joshua Samuels

Doha Ibrahim 
Abraham Lincoln High School
Temple University
SPONSOR Bronstein
Foundation/Comisky Family
MENTOR Rebekah Dorris

 **Iskander Irismetov**
Northeast High School
Drexel University
SPONSOR In Honor of Larry Pearlman
MENTOR Ken Sher

Aniyah Jefferson
Academy at Palumbo
Rutgers University – Camden
SPONSOR Ina and Michael Katz
MENTOR Jasmine Williams


Irene Jimenez-Lorenzo
George Washington Carver High
School of Engineering and Science
Albright College
SPONSOR Stephen and Julia Lis
MENTOR Evelyn Dodds

Taylor Johnson 
Philadelphia High School for Creative
and Performing Arts
Haverford College
SPONSOR Janet and Alan Widra
MENTOR Mary Costello

Nu La
George Washington Carver High
School of Engineering and Science
U.S. Navy
SPONSOR Philadelphia Futures



Inderdeep Mann
Northeast High School
Penn State University
SPONSOR David Kaplan

Sierra Manor 
Academy at Palumbo
Rutgers University – Camden
SPONSOR Laura and Mitchell Wienick
MENTOR Sakiya Gallon-Johnson


 **Oshane Mendez**
William W. Bodine High School
Arcadia University
SPONSOR Tim and Charity Lisko
MENTOR Chris Rahemtulla

Miguel Mendoza
George Washington Carver High
School of Engineering and Science
Temple University
SPONSOR In Honor of Aaron Nola
MENTOR Devin Voorhees


Ahmir Moment
Northeast High School
Temple University
SPONSOR Christina Santos and Michelle
Ottey
MENTOR Rodney Ross


 **David Morales** 
Central High School
Penn State University
SPONSOR Gregory Davis
MENTOR Scott Rosen


Maria Moreno-Santiago
Academy at Palumbo
Albright College
SPONSOR Amy's Kisses Foundation
MENTOR Leah Reisman


 **Christine Nguyen**
Academy at Palumbo
Penn State University
SPONSOR Steve and Julia Lis
MENTOR Marjorie Muecke

Francisco Oquendo
William W. Bodine High School
University of Pittsburgh – Bradford
SPONSOR Neil Oxman
MENTOR Andrew Morrison


Jennifer Ortega 
William W. Bodine High School
Lafayette College
SPONSOR Carolyn and Joseph Evans
MENTOR Kathryn Gruber



Jorge Padilla 
Central High School
Swarthmore College
SPONSOR David Bushnell

Sandy Phuong 
Central High School
University of Pennsylvania
SPONSOR Jonne and Corey Smith
MENTOR Melanie McKelvey

 **Daniyah Richardson**
Philadelphia High School for Girls
Penn State University
SPONSOR In Honor of Robert and Lynn
Woods
MENTOR Christina Goodreds

Hassir Salley-Grissette
Academy at Palumbo
Boston University
SPONSOR Gregory Davis

 **Alassane Sow**
Northeast High School
Arcadia University
SPONSOR Ina and Michael Katz
MENTOR Chris Ahearn

 **Alain Sto Domingo** 
Academy at Palumbo
Temple University
SPONSOR Solomon & Sylvia Bronstein
Foundation
MENTOR Eric Siegel

Alex Stover

George Washington High School
Penn State University
SPONSOR Nina Segre and Frank
Furstenberg

Enoch Tariku 


Central High School
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
SPONSOR Dries and Kathryn Darius

 **Istneydina Thomas**

Central High School
Penn State University
SPONSOR Stephen and Julia Lis
MENTOR Lynn Orr

Terrick Whitters

Central High School
Albright College
SPONSOR Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz
MENTOR Ken Sher

Doreen Valmyr 

Central High School
Carnegie Mellon University
SPONSOR Robert Young
MENTOR Marilyn Paucker

Jazlynn Velez

Philadelphia High School for Girls
Community College of Philadelphia
SPONSOR In Honor of Marie Natoli
MENTOR Sarah Walmsley

David Vuong

Northeast High School
Penn State University
SPONSOR Bronstein
Foundation/Comisky Family
MENTOR Micah Gerhart

 **Ella Wilkerson**

William W. Bodine High School
Temple University
SPONSOR Dylan Small
MENTOR Ali Caccavella

Amaliya Yunusova 

Central High School
University of Pennsylvania
SPONSOR Marie Natoli
MENTOR Nancy Gephart



College Connection High School Graduates

Ashley Acevedo 

Little Flower Catholic High
School for Girls
University of Pennsylvania

Nathaniel Asia

Northeast High School
Duke University

Caitlin Balmores

William W. Bodine High School
Dickinson College

Mahmadu Barrie

Northeast High School
Lehigh University

Tamia Beverly-Blair

William W. Bodine High School
Penn State University

 **Andre Bryant**

TECH Freire Charter School
Albright College

Fanny Chen 

Northeast High School
Drexel University

Jennifer Chinchilla

West Catholic Preparatory High School
Gettysburg College

 **Kamryn Coleman** 

Northeast High School
Penn State University

Colin Gao 

Northeast High School
Boston University

Kelly Garcia

George Washington Carver High School
of Engineering and Science
University of Pennsylvania

Carlos Garro 

Northeast High School
Lehigh University

 **Amira Gouri**

Science Leadership Academy--Center
City
Drexel University

Armando Gueits

Roman Catholic High School
La Salle University


Andrew Hu 

Central High School
Drexel University

Emmanuel Imperial 

Central High School
University of Pennsylvania


 **Naja Jackson** 
Philadelphia High School for Girls
Albright College

Cristina Jiang 
Northeast High School
Boston University

Michael Johnson
West Catholic Preparatory High School
Arcadia University

Lynn Larabi 
Central High School
University of Pennsylvania


Tyson Le
West Catholic Preparatory High School
Temple University

Shuang Lin 
Northeast High School
Lehigh University

Yaroslav Luchko 
Northeast High School
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Karyna Marchuk
George Washington High School
Temple University

 **Nafisah Mouzon** 
Philadelphia High School for Creative and
Performing Arts
Albright College


Aleana Nguyen 
Central High School
University of Pennsylvania


 **Anna Nguyen** 
West Catholic Preparatory High School
Penn State University

Julie Nguyen 
Northeast High School
Franklin & Marshall College

Kelvin Nuñez
Bishop Shanahan High School
Hamilton College

Rashon Robinson
TECH Freire Charter School
La Salle University

 **Sara Shuaipi**
Northeast High School
Villanova University

 **Justin Siegel**
Science Leadership Academy--Center
City
Villanova University


Madison Siegel
Science Leadership Academy--Center
City
Gettysburg College

Chastidy Simon
West Catholic Preparatory High School
Widener University

 **Tyviana Smith**
TECH Freire Charter School
Arcadia University

Cindy Tran 
Central High School
Lehigh University

 **Julia Tran** 
West Catholic Preparatory High School
Temple University

Kelly Vu 
West Catholic Preparatory High School
Bowdoin College

Aileen Wu
Academy at Palumbo
Drexel University

Ellen Zheng
Academy at Palumbo
Temple University

Philadelphia Futures Higher Education Graduates

Associate Degree Recipients

Tristian Carter-Berry (College Connection 2018) is a graduate of Delaware County Community College with an associate degree in Liberal Arts. He is currently exploring bachelor's programs.

▀ **Zachelle Hercules (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2017)** is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia with an associate degree in English.

Isaiah King (College Connection 2017) is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia with an associate degree in Computer Information Systems. He is currently exploring full-time employment.

Courtney Labbon (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia with an associate degree in Allied Health. She plans on pursuing a bachelor's degree in the future. Her proudest accomplishment is passing all of her classes and graduating.

Kwadir Mack (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia with an associate degree in Communications. He has started his career as a customer service representative in the Human Services Department.

▀ **Kendall Wood (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia with an associate degree in Liberal Arts. He currently attends Cheyney University and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Social Relations.

Bachelor's Degree Recipients

Gheed Aljubouri (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of Arcadia University with a bachelor's degree in Biology. She is currently working as a medical scribe while searching for her best fit graduate program. Her proudest accomplishments were overcoming life's many challenges all while following her dreams.

▀ *Distinguished White-Williams Scholar (GPA of 3.5 or higher)*

Kayin Bankole (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in Hydrology and Environmental Policy. He is looking forward to living life to the fullest. His favorite memory was studying abroad in Ghana, West Africa.

Kristin Bethea-Dinkins (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Design & Merchandising. She is currently working at Community Behavioral Health in Philadelphia.

Jasmine Billips (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Spelman College with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. In the future, she plans on teaching high school mathematics. Her favorite memory was when a third grader noticed her coming out of Spelman's book store and said "Wow, I'm the same height as a college student!"

▀ **Kaliph Brown (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of Dickinson College with a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts and Psychology. He is currently in the midst of his job search and hopes to attend graduate school in the future. His proudest accomplishment was helping to negotiate with Dickinson administrators to improve their Title IX gender based discrimination policy.

Jeffery Chen (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. He will begin his career as an auditor at Baker, Tilly, Virchow and Krause LLP's Philadelphia office. His favorite memory was meeting really great people and making new friends.

Brandon Cheung (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration. He has begun his search for a full-time career. His proudest accomplishment was balancing a full course load while working overtime.

Attiyana Coe (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Bio-Behavioral Health.

Cayla Cornwell (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a bachelor's degree in English and Art Studio. She is looking forward to working for City Year for the 20-21 school year.

Mercedes Davis (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Haverford College with a bachelor's degree in Sociology.

Lexus Davis (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. She hopes to find work in social service or education.

Raymond Deschamps (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Spanish. He will be working with City Year for the 20-21 school year. His favorite memory was when he studied abroad in Mexico and made it to the top of the Pyramid of the Sun.

▀ **Sharaine Eldafrawy (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems and Business Analytics. She has secured a full-time position as a Technology Consulting Associate at PWC. Her proudest accomplishment was representing Drexel University at the National Diversity Case competition and winning first place against 34 universities nationwide.

▀ **Esther Flavien (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Lafayette College with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. This fall, she will be pursuing her master's in education in Psychological Counseling with a focus on mental health counseling at Columbia University's Teacher's College. Her favorite memory was studying abroad in Senegal during her junior year and getting immersed in the culture. Her proudest moment was being able to carry out a full IRB approved psychological research project during undergrad.

Jacyna Foy (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of West Chester University with a bachelor's degree in English. She has begun her search for a career in her field of interest. Her proudest moments were taking on multiple leadership roles on campus, applying herself and stepping out of her comfort zone.

▀ **Charlese Freeman (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of East Stroudsburg University with a bachelor's degree in English. She will be attending Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communications for her master's in journalism. Charlese is proud of the growth she has experienced in her faith and her profession. Her proudest moments were serving as the Student Life Editor of The Stroud Courier newspaper, the Treasurer of the Voices of Triumph gospel choir and traveling to Israel.

Shjon Gillis (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Bio-Behavioral Health. He hopes to secure a position as a Direct Support Professional with Open Systems Healthcare. In the future he plans on going back to school and studying to become a physician assistant. His favorite memory was being a TA for some of his friends' classes. He really enjoyed being a resource of knowledge and clarification for his peers. It made him feel good when a friend would get higher scores on an exam after he was able to help them prepare. Shjon's proudest accomplishment was working with mentally disabled college students through LifeLink PSU. It was a great opportunity and

an eye-opening experience that helped him cultivate his communication skills for the future while getting to help those in need.

Antwain Kenyatta Golson (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Haverford College with a bachelor's degree in political science. He currently holds an internship with Philadelphia law firm Greenblatt, Pierce, Funt and Flores. His next step is to begin law school. His proudest moment was serving as Co-Head of the Black Student League and spearheading an exhibition on Black beauty that was supported and attended by the entire campus. It was a moment of profound solidarity and happiness.

Gabriella Gueits (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Dickinson College with a bachelor's degree in Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean studies. She is planning to take a gap year to gain work experience before applying to a masters program to get her MSW. Her favorite memory was her time spent studying abroad in South America. She studied abroad in Ecuador and Argentina, and also traveled to Chile on her own.

Ayanna Harmon (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Risk Management.

Amir Hill-Davis (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in Homeland Security.

Andy Huang (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering. He will be working as a System Engineer at Lockheed Martin. His favorite memory was meeting new people and making lifelong friends.

Tevin Julien (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Information Science and Technology. He is looking forward to starting his career and working full-time. His proudest accomplishment was making the Dean's list with five As and one B for his last semester as an undergraduate student.

Laura Lear (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of La Salle University with a bachelor's degree in Public Health. She currently works as a Special Events intern for the American Diabetes Association and hopes to gain full time employment at CHOP. Her long term goals are to attend the Jean Madeline Beauty Institute and become a certified skin care specialist. Esthetics has always been a passion for Laura and she hopes to eventually start her own independent practice. Her favorite memory was her freshman year Summer experience with the Academic Achievement Program at La Salle. She was able to instantly connect with students who had similar backgrounds to her own.

📖 **David Lee (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Economics. He is looking forward to starting a career in strategy consulting. His favorite memories were getting into his favorite on-campus organization freshman year and traveling to San Francisco his junior year..

Wei Zhen Li (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering. She is looking forward to advancing her career in IT. Her favorite memory was getting to explore Japan solo while studying abroad in Singapore.

📖 **Ada Li (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She is set to begin a finance rotational program at Johnson & Johnson. During her time at Drexel, Ada worked as a resident assistant. Her proudest moment was helping three students stay in college.

Allen Liu (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He is looking forward to working full-time. His proudest accomplishment was overcoming college as a first generation to college student.

Max Louissaint (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is set to begin a rotational program at the Ford Motor Company. One of his favorite memories was becoming a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

📖 **Xihao Luo (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Swarthmore College with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. He hopes to attend graduate school in the future. His proudest moment was meeting the challenge of Swarthmore's academic rigor.

Mariah Matias (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences. She will continue her graduate studies at Lehigh University this fall to pursue her master's degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences. Her favorite memory was her first day of class, when everything and everyone felt new and unfamiliar. She was super excited to explore everything that Lehigh had to offer.

📖 **Angelique McCoy (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of Lincoln University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She plans on becoming a Pediatric and Maternal Newborn Postpartum Registered Nurse. In the future she would like to start a non-profit organization dedicated to helping African-

American women in her community matriculate to college. Her proudest accomplishment was getting into the nursing program and learning more about herself and life. She is also proud to graduate as a first generation college student with her nursing degree.

Justina McMinn (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies. She is currently working as a program assistant in the Office of Workforce Development for the City of Philadelphia.

Bianca McWhorter (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in Communications and Theater. She is currently seeking employment in the speech communications field.

Sidney Miller (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2013) is a graduate of Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. He is currently working on starting a business with another SAS student. His favorite memory was completing scientific research with his late professor and mentor Rita Smith Wade-El.

Reana Moody (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She plans to continue her studies at Penn State to obtain her master's degree in counseling. Her proudest accomplishment was obtaining Dean's list in her last trimester of pregnancy and every semester after giving birth. She is also proud of her ability to fulfill her duties as a parent and maintain a stable household.

Taahir Mundy (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of La Salle University with a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences. His next steps are to pursue a career in public health and eventually enter graduate school to earn a doctoral degree in physical therapy. His proudest moment was being able to earn his degree. He faced many struggles and obstacles at the beginning of his college career and was able to overcome them all. Taahir was also awarded the class of 2020 Public Health Leadership award.

📖 **Anthony Perez (College Connection 2015)** is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Global Justice and Human Rights. He is currently working for Prevention Point Philadelphia as a Harm Reduction Specialist, providing awareness and resources for safer injection practices and training people on overdose reversal. His favorite memory was his time spent as an Asylee Resettlement intern at his HIAS co-op, where he got to call one of their clients to announce that her green card had just arrived. Hearing the pleasant surprise and

heartfelt joy in her voice filled him with so much motivation that it reminded him of why he chose his major.

📖 **Kerby Philippeaux (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2014)** is a graduate of Temple University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. This summer he is studying to take his CPA exam and will begin his career at KPMG in the fall. His proudest moments were setting goals and working hard each semester to reach them. He credits Philadelphia Futures for providing him with the foundation that made him successful.

📖 **Zubaida Qaissi (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Religious Studies. She hopes to attend graduate school in the future and is interested in pursuing a career in research and higher education. Her favorite memories have been with her mentors, including her advisor, counselor, and the director of the Greenfield Intercultural Center, where she became involved in the United Minorities Council community. These people and places became her home when Penn was lonely, and she owes much of her growth and development to them.

Mashour Rahman (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

Lucero Regalado (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in English. Her next steps are to begin the process of establishing herself in the publishing industry. Her favorite memory was studying abroad in London, England the fall semester of her senior year and taking a small trip to Paris, France.

📖 **Genesis Sanchez (College Connection 2015)** is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She is currently seeking a position as a Critical Care/Registered Nurse.

Katherine Smith (College Connection 2016) is a graduate of Lafayette College with a bachelor's degree in Geology. She is currently preparing to take the Massachusetts Educator Certification exam and hopes to move to the Boston area to teach earth science. Her favorite memory was the 2019 Lafayette-Lehigh rivalry game. As a member of the pep band, she's been to every football game over the last four years, and it was amazing to end with a bang, get a big win and rush the field at her last football game as a Lafayette student.

▀ **Aubrey Spak (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She hopes to find employment in the field of mental health.

TaMyra Starks (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of West Chester University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She is currently searching for full-time employment and hopes to attend graduate school. Her proudest accomplishment was finishing school and sticking it out even after having her daughter.

▀ **Bryanna Stokes (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016)** is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Technology. In the future, she hopes to work at a general practice or an aquarium. Her favorite memory was the PF college marathon. is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a bachelor's degree in veterinary technology. In the future, she hopes to work at a general practice or aquarium. Her favorite memory was the PF college marathon.

▀ **Troi Strickland (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College with a bachelor's degree in Business, Organization, and Society. He will begin his career as a Human Resources Employee Relations Representative for Amerisource Bergen. His proudest accomplishment was when he became a recruiter for LSC communications and independently handled the entire life cycle of six job listings, while maintaining Dean's list and an overall GPA of 3.46.

Sothia Sy (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She is currently pursuing a second bachelor's degree in nursing at Jefferson University.

Isaac Takyi-Buachie (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Labor Employment Relations. He has secured a consulting position with Deloitte. His proudest accomplishment was getting his degree.

▀ **Dymere Taylor (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Widener University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Dymere is currently preparing for the state nursing board exam. Dymere's proudest moment was getting inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Sarah Tran (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Dickinson College with a bachelor's degree in English. For the next two years, she will be working for the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps as a college advisor at McCaskey High

▀ *Distinguished White-Williams Scholar (GPA of 3.5 or higher)*

School in Lancaster. Her proudest accomplishment was serving on the executive board of Alpha Phi Omega each of her college years and finishing with her last position as Vice President of Service.

Nguyenanh Vuong (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2016) is a graduate of Arcadia University with a bachelor's degree in English. Her favorite college memory was her time spent studying abroad and skydiving in Australia.

Amir Winston (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2015) is a graduate of West Chester University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He has begun his search for full-time employment.

▀ **Karyn Wood (College Connection 2015)** is a graduate of Chestnut Hill College with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. She plans to pursue higher education and a career in public health. Her proudest accomplishment was writing, copyrighting, and publishing her own book, *Our Black Beauty*. The book was a transition from the obstacles and doubts of her past to a greater understanding and level of confidence she found within.

Julie Zhao (College Connection 2015) is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Her favorite memory was staying late on campus and studying for chemistry midterms with friends. Having the help and support of her friends helped her to understand the information in a much more effective way.

Bachelor's & Master's Degree

▀ **Muykim Ly (College Connection 2016)** is a graduate of Drexel University with a bachelor's and master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She is currently in the midst of her job search. Her favorite memory was staying out late with friends to study for her control course in Drexel's Korman Center.

Master's Degree

Dorcas Adedoja (Sponsor-A-Scholar 2014) graduated from Emory in 2018, and has just completed their master's in Public Health from Columbia University.

Aissetou Diawara (College Connection 2015) graduated last year with a bachelor's in Public Health from Temple University. She completed the 4+1 program to earn her master's degree in Public Health this year. Aissetou graduated with a 3.96 cum GPA. During her last year of graduate school, she earned a 4.0 GPA attending as a full-time student, teachers assistant, part-time cashier, and completing her fieldwork experience at Community Behavioral Health.

▀ *Distinguished White-Williams Scholar (GPA of 3.5 or higher)*

2020: FUTURES IN FOCUS



Tonight we recognize the accomplishments of our 2020 high school and higher education graduates, and celebrate these accomplishments!

We have a combined cohort of 83 Sponsor-A-Scholar and College Connection high school seniors.

- 100% of the Sponsor-A-Scholar High School and College Connection Classes of 2020 will graduate from high school and enroll in an approved post-secondary program.
- 99% will enroll in college in the fall, and 100% will enroll in an approved post-secondary program.
- 16% of the combined cohort was accepted to college via the Early Decision option.
- 62% of our high school graduates will attend Philadelphia Futures' partner colleges and will receive \$2.4 million in financial aid from these institutions. Philadelphia Futures' partner colleges are Albright College, Arcadia University, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Franklin & Marshall College, Gettysburg College, Haverford College, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Penn State University, Temple University, and Villanova University.

In 2020, Philadelphia Futures' students will earn 64 associate, bachelor's, and graduate degrees.

- The six-year college graduation rate for the Class of 2014 is 67%.
- The five-year college graduation rate for the SAS Class of 2015 is 80%, and the College Connection class of 2015 is 82%
- Forty-six students from the SAS and College Connection classes of 2016 will earn their degrees in 2020, with several more still enrolled and on track to complete in 2021.
- Thirty-six Philadelphia Futures students will earn degrees from our partner colleges in 2020.
- Of the students who completed their degrees in 2019, 90% were employed or in graduate school six months after graduating.

Philadelphia Futures Staff

Sara L. Woods
Executive Director

Timothy Atwood
College Access Coordinator

Ariel Brockman
Associate Director of College Success

Naima Campbell
Executive and Development Assistant

Maria Cashman
College Access Program Assistant

Shari Cumberbatch
College Success Advisor and
Special Projects Manager

Michael Deleon
Outreach and Engagement Administrator

Bonnie Dugan
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Korinne Gerhart
Director of Individual Giving

Abby Godfrey
College Success Advisor and
Alumni Engagement Manager

Uyen Ha
Director of College Connection

Jonathan Holbert
College Access Coordinator

Oneda Horne
Director of College Access

Christen Johnson
Director of Outreach and Engagement

Michael Johnson
Director of Finance and Administration

Marcia Johnston
Director of Charles Ellis Trust for Girls

Brittany Lewis
Director of PACE Scholars

Kelsie LeVan
Director of Career Initiatives

Mary Anne Lucey
Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Madison Milano
Events Manager

Hana Mura
Manager of Charles Ellis Trust for Girls

Laura Naylor
Academics Services Administrator

Amy Perez
Director of College Success

Elijah Rhea
College Access Coordinator

Ellen Ridyard
Director of Sponsor-A-Scholar

Renee Ross
College Access Coordinator

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