

COLLEGE SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT!



Meet Safiyyah

Safiyyah, a Philadelphia native, is a graduating senior at Cornell University studying Civil Engineering. Since middle school, she has been interested in engineering and at Cornell, she has been able to explore what engineering could look like for her as a career.

Throughout her time in college, Safiyyah has been heavily involved in her two passions of mentorship and leadership. She has been a mentor for several organizations on campus that focus on the leadership and development of underrepresented engineering students and women on Cornell's campus. These organizations include Building Ourselves Through Sisterhood and Service (B.O.S.S), and The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Safiyyah has also served on the chapter and regional level of NSBE in roles such as Conference Planning Chair and Membership Chair.

On the professional side, Safiyyah has had the opportunity to intern as a Highway Road Design Engineer with the Detroit Department of Transportation and as a Project Engineer with Gilbane Building Company. Safiyyah will be continuing at Cornell University where she will be completing her master's in Systems Engineering in December 2024. She is looking forward to an exciting career where she can fully utilize her technical as well as business and professional skills in consulting and/or engineering management.



Meet Michaeya

Michaeya is a resident of West Philadelphia, and a 2024 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. Coming from a family where higher education was once a distant dream, Michaeya defied these odds and paved her own path to success. Raised by her Aunt Colleen, who continued to push her to excel, and acted as her number one supporter,

Michaeya has proved that with the right tools and dedication, barriers can be shattered for future generations. Michaeya's relentless pursuit, coupled with her passion for learning, turned challenges into steppingstones. During her time at Penn State, Michaeya has served as a mentor to incoming freshmen, volunteered at numerous events across campus to promote a healthy transition into a college career, and has recently traveled to Croatia to study public policy and work with students from the University of Zagreb to create new policies that may help the residents of the country. Her achievement is a testament to the power of resilience, hard work, and the pursuit of knowledge. As she steps into the next chapter of her life, Michaeya stands as a beacon of hope, proving that with courage and discipline, anyone can overcome obstacles and reach new heights.



Meet Nasir

Nasir is a lifelong resident of West Philadelphia and currently a senior at Williamson College of the Trades. He had been set on a career in the trades since high school, as he believed there was upside to learning a valuable skill. He credits his little sister, who he says is the rock of his motivation, hoping to inspire her to be dedicated to building a future and pursuing her career aspirations. Williamson College of the Trades has molded him into an honest man, embodying core values of faith, integrity, diligence, excellence and service.

Over the course of three years Nasir has gained much knowledge in the power plant field such as boiler service, electrical wiring and maintenance/repair, to be fully prepared for whatever field of service he chooses to pursue. He had the opportunity to intern with Exelon Eddystone Generating Station and Luminant Liberty Power Plant and is being highly sought after by many companies. Nasir looks forward to making a career choice that aligns with his interests and passions. Aside from his career, he plans to mentor other young African American men who want to enroll at Williamson. He acknowledges the discomfort he experienced of being in a different setting at Williamson and has seen numerous students who let that discomfort get in the way of the great blessing that the school is for him and others. He wants to do his part to help with assimilation to the trade school so they can reap the benefits of a free education and building of character that, like Nasir, will allow graduates to have a bright future, but also to give back to their communities.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



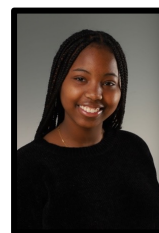
Meet Yohelia

Yohelia is a resident of Northeast Philadelphia and a senior at George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science. She immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic when she was nine years old. She lives with her mother who never had the opportunity to go to college in her home country and immigrated in hopes that her daughter would have the resources that she never had.

She grew up in a Hispanic household with Spanish as her first language and is the oldest of three children

Yohelia has always had a passion for education and a vision to be a college graduate. Since starting school in America, Yohelia has maintained a 4.0 GPA and taken on multiple rigorous courses such as AP classes, Honors, and dual enrollment. She participates in a multitude of groups in her school community including the National Honors Society, Ethics Bowl, Drama Club, Hispanic Student Alliance, Advisory Council, and Heights. She enjoys being involved with her community and the people that surround her. In addition to her academic endeavors, she enjoys hobbies such as reading, baking, playing the piano, and making tea.

From her formative years, her greatest dream has always been to make her mother's sacrifices mean something, to utilize her given talents and seize every opportunity. With the help of Brighter Horizon, not only will her dreams be attainable, but she will graduate with a college degree, debt free!



Meet Astan

Astan is a resident of Southwest Philadelphia and a senior at George Washington Carver Science and Engineering. With a deep passion for science and a commitment to giving back, Astan has been actively involved in various activities throughout high school.

As the youngest in a family of immigrants from Mali, West Africa, where her father arrived at the age of 19, Astan is driven by the pursuit of a better life for her community, family and herself.

During high school, Astan has excelled as captain of the school's Ethics Bowl team, interned at the Mutter Museum, and participated in projects like Eclose Biotechnology Diabetes Research and addressing issues such as redlining and food deserts through website creation. Engaging in organizations like Coded by Kids and representing students in the UPENN's Philosophy for the Young Foundation, Astan has shown dedication to making a positive impact.

Looking ahead, Astan envisions furthering her education, merging arts and sciences, with a focus on ethical biotechnology, policy, and management. Her journey is shaped by the resilience and aspirations instilled by her immigrant parents, marking a path towards a future where he can contribute meaningfully to the field.