

## PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS ALUMNUS CLIMBING THE CAREER LADDER

Christopher Siaplay never managed a team before he rose to the position of manager of a business development team at CEI, a nationally recognized IT management company. Chris, a Philadelphia Scholars (Scholars) alumnus, has been moving up the ladder since graduating *cum laude* five years ago from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

“My job is finding opportunities for my company to sell services to IT customers,” Chris said.

His peers say he’s driven, intelligent and hardworking.

“I saw a remarkable talent that has shown an ability to adapt to any situation, work well in a team environment and learn new technologies quickly,” said colleague Brian Wallace, Mobile Demand Specialist at MaaS360 by Fiberlink.

Eventually, Chris aims to become a vice president of development.

Chris said being a Scholar contributed to his success.

“Scholars and the Last Dollar Scholarship was one of the few programs that continuously gave back to us Scholars in various ways,” said Chris, who graduated from Lankenau High School in 2005. “The program leaders helped and supported me and other recipients as we were preparing to attend college, and then when we entered college.”

“They checked in with us about our academic status during semesters, and kept us involved with the program every summer before going back to college,” Chris recalled. “There are many scholarship programs out there, but Scholars focuses on Philadelphia public school



Philadelphia (Left) Scholar Alumnus Chris Siaplay with Paul Adorno, Ed Fund Senior Advisor, Educational Innovation

students and that meant a lot to me.”

Being a Scholar also taught Chris the value of giving back and how it can change the lives of students like himself, and he plans to serve as a mentor to a current Scholar. He said it’s difficult for a first-time college student “not knowing what’s ahead.”

“I want to make someone’s journey easier,” said Chris.

## Scholars’ First Year Experience Shows “How to Carry Yourself in Society,” Says Student

A few things Naikae Sexton learned last year about going to college for the first time, before he started attending Millersville University in Millersville, PA, made his transition easier. In 2013, Naikae attended the annual College Access Program’s (CAP) First Year Experience (FYE) workshop for new students receiving Philadelphia Scholars (Scholars) Last Dollar Scholarships.

“How to carry yourself in society; be on your best behavior; you never know who is watching you,” he said. Naikae was attending Gratz High School at the time of the FYE event.

FYE, a requirement for those receiving scholarships annually, offers a series of workshops for CAP students who are the

first-generation college students. The workshops focus on important aspects of what to expect when attending college and offering students tips and tricks for handling common campus problems.

FYE provides students with practical strategies, such as improving time management, and accessing on-campus resources.

There’s even a workshop to guide parents in how to support their child.

Naikae admitted time management had been a challenge.

“It’s hard to juggle everything.”

He continues to be involved with CAP through the Scholars’ Mentoring Program and



Students attending FYE review list of issues they will confront as first-generation college students

participates in the Next Steps AmeriCorps program. The Mentoring program matches Scholars with individuals, who, already having experienced campus life, in order to share their insights on what it takes to succeed in college and prepare for a career. Naikae is currently majoring in Speech Communications, with an eye towards opening a boutique PR agency.

## DEAR PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS SUPPORTER,

I know first-hand the importance of Philadelphia Scholars (Scholars) and donors who make this program possible.

I am proud to say that I have been affiliated with the Philadelphia Education Fund's (Ed Fund) work for 24 years. My journey with the Ed Fund began in 1990, as a student at Bartram High School, where I joined CAP. Staff provided me with the support I needed to set my sights on college and navigate the complicated college application process. I had no idea that I needed to fulfill certain requirements for college, such as the SATs, until I met the CAP team. I would not have successfully applied to college without their help.

At that time, my high school did not have any counselors. CAP filled a critical gap for many of us during that difficult period.

When I received my acceptance letter to Villanova University, I was excited to start college. However, once the financial aid package came in, I was still short the money needed to pay for books and other costs associated with college. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, these costs did not stop me from pursuing my dreams.

I completed my undergraduate degree in 1995 and went on to receive my MBA from Temple University.

Thanks to my degrees, I am working to solve some of our greatest challenges in health care. Through a public-private partnership, I have built a public health and wellness model for underserved populations.

To return the generosity I received, I became a donor and joined the Scholars Advisory Committee in 1997 to ensure that future generations of Philadelphia public school students would have the same opportunities I had. I give back to Scholars because it is an investment in human capital, with a return that extends beyond the individual students who receive the scholarships, to their families and their communities.

This holiday season, join me in helping Philadelphia public school students attend college.

**Make your gift today and give future generations the opportunity to succeed.**

Sincerely,

Jermaine Bromell

## 2014 SCHOLARS' EVENTS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

The two annual events that are instrumental in funding Philadelphia Scholars (Scholars) were a spectacular success this year, not only in funds raised, but as a great experience for attendees.

### 2014 Score 4 Scholarships 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament

Score 4 Scholarships which took place on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Drexel's Daskalakis Center, raised \$61,000, making it the tournament's most successful year.

The tournament chaired by David Baker, Chair of the Ed Fund's Board of Directors, and Scholars Alumnus Jermaine Bromell, who was instrumental in creating the tournament initially and organizing all of the events, hosted 12 teams organized by corporate partners including presenting sponsor Shire Pharmaceuticals, Comcast Corporation, and Pepper Hamilton LLP. The teams were managed by celebrity coaches including Coach Dominique Stephens from Cheyney University, Coach Pat Chambers from Penn State University, Coach Bruiser Flint from Drexel University and radio personality Mike Missannelli from 97.5 The Fanatic.

At half-time, attendees heard from Baker and Philadelphia Deputy Mayor and Managing Director Richard Negrin, and were entertained by dancers from the Feltonville Dream Center.

"We are improving access to college by creating cultures in public high schools where students believe they can go to college and they receive all the supports they need to get there," Baker told the crowd.

At the end of the day-long tournament, Pennoni and Associates' Team (Pennoni) was declared the winner.

### Celebration of Scholars

At The Franklin Institute on June 18<sup>th</sup>, donors, Scholars, and volunteers helped raise over \$90,000 for Celebration of Scholars. The evening program featured Sara Lomax-Reese, President & General Manager of WURD Radio, as Emcee, and Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams as keynote speaker, along with a performance by the Kensington CAPA choir.

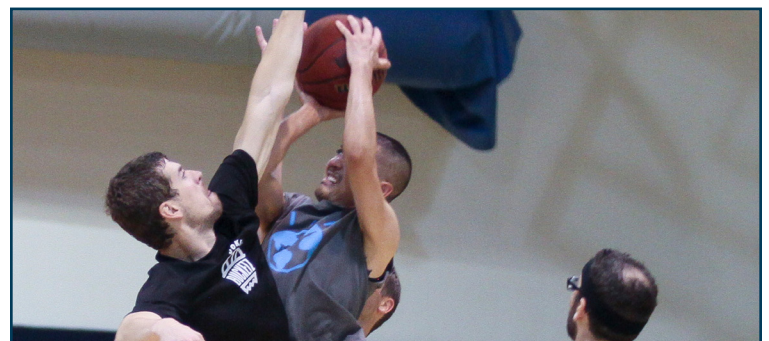
"To the students in the room tonight who are entering college, in college, or graduating this year; you should be very proud of yourselves for doing what you needed to do, and all you have achieved," said Williams.

Attendees also heard from individuals who have benefitted from the Ed Fund's work: Otis Hackney, principal of South Philadelphia High School and Scholars Alumnus; Satiecka Walker, a current Scholar and Nahje Royster, a College Access student. Donors also enjoyed meeting Scholars whose lives they have personally touched.

Thanks to all who have supported these important moments and the students whom Scholars helps to achieve college access and success.

"We salute and thank each of you. Your generosity has changed lives," Ed Fund President/CEO Darren Spielman told guests that night.

Join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 2015 Score 4 Scholarship at Drexel; and again on June 11<sup>th</sup> for Celebration of Scholars at The Franklin Institute.



Basketball play on the court was fierce at Score 4 Scholarships

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While great care has been taken to create accurate lists, mistakes can occur. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors. If you are listed incorrectly or would like to change the way your name appears, please contact Haley Singer at [hsinger@philaedfund.org](mailto:hsinger@philaedfund.org).

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## Scholars By The Numbers

**289 students** at **68 different schools**  
received a total of **\$515,200** in scholarships for  
the Fall 2014 semester.

Thank you for your support!

## ABOUT PHILADELPHIA EDUCATION FUND

The Philadelphia Education Fund (Ed Fund) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of public education in Philadelphia. For nearly 30 years, the Ed Fund has worked to create opportunities for all young people through education, by developing and supporting great teachers, and building paths to college and career success. The job of educating Philadelphia's youth is too big for any one institution. As a trusted intermediary, the Ed Fund works with partners across sectors to grow impact for all Philadelphia's children. The Ed Fund supports more than 16,000 students and 1,000 teachers in schools across Philadelphia, and grants one million dollars per year in Last Dollar Scholarships to low-income students attending college.

## ABOUT PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS

Philadelphia Scholars (Scholars) receive Last Dollar Scholarships, filling the gap between financial aid, other scholarships and the total amount needed to attend college. Award amounts range from \$300-\$4,000 every year for up to six consecutive years while enrolled in college.

Often the first in their families to attend college, Scholars receive support from Ed Fund staff critical to their college journey. Services include workshops on topics such as time management and enhancing study skills, mentoring and internship placements, along with scholarships.

Since the Scholars Program began in 1990, over \$13 million in Last Dollar Scholarships have been awarded to more than 2,700 students.

## A Big Thanks to the Scholars Advisory Committee

We are grateful for the dedication, time and energy of these individuals who make an impact in the lives of students every day.

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