

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Message From Board President, **STUART O. SIMMS**



Nearly thirty years ago, the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust (**B.E.S.T.**) was founded to provide access to the area's top independent schools by academically talented African American students in need of financial support. **B.E.S.T.** has and continues to be a proud leader and partner of that effort. We serve nineteen Baltimore area member schools by identifying and supporting outstanding students through the admission and enrollment process. **B.E.S.T.** is now leading the way in programmatic support that begins with our youngest students and spans their educational journeys to and through college.

We are committed to elevating our students and seeking to level the playing field for them as they thrive on their campuses and in their communities. Through the Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs, we are assisting our students as they emerge as thoughtful leaders. As our students navigate the critical college admission process, our

fully-funded SAT Prep for all **B.E.S.T.** juniors, generously funded by the Legg Mason Foundation, and our Maryland College and University tours, support our students and parents. We continue to engage and support our alumni once they graduate from their independent schools through alumni networking opportunities and our partnership with INROADS. The student relationship with **B.E.S.T.** is one that follows the entire continuum, and we encourage and foster their connection back to Baltimore.

Our partnerships in Baltimore are extensive, and the Board and I wish to extend our appreciation to Baltimore City Public Schools, Johns Hopkins University, Towson University, and all members of the First Generation Affinity Group, a group founded and chaired by **B.E.S.T.**, dedicated to successful college admission and graduation for students in Baltimore. Collaboration is a key component in supporting all students in Baltimore, and our relationships with local colleges, universities, nonprofit organizations and public school systems position **B.E.S.T.** to achieve its goals and support Baltimore youth.

This year, the **B.E.S.T.** Board of Trustees and staff are excited to engage in a strategic planning process that will affirm our positive and effective growth, as well as chart a course for the coming years. I am also pleased to share that Karlo Young is spending this year as Board President-Elect and will become the new President of the Board next July.

It is my pleasure to welcome to our Board of Trustees Nikki J. Hasselbarth of Venable LLP, a **B.E.S.T.** and Park School of Baltimore Alumna, '04; and the new Head of School of Roland Park Country School, Caroline Blatti. The Board and I are eager to partner with them in support of our students.

Thank you for your investment in the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust. Your commitment to our students is essential and appreciated as we support them along their important journeys.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stuart O. Simms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Stuart O. Simms, Esq.
Board President

Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust

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Special thanks to:

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B.E.S.T. Welcomes our New Trustees



Caroline Blatti
Head of School
Roland Park Country School



Nikki J. Hasselbarth, Esq.
Venable LLP
The Park School of Baltimore and
B.E.S.T. Alumna, '04



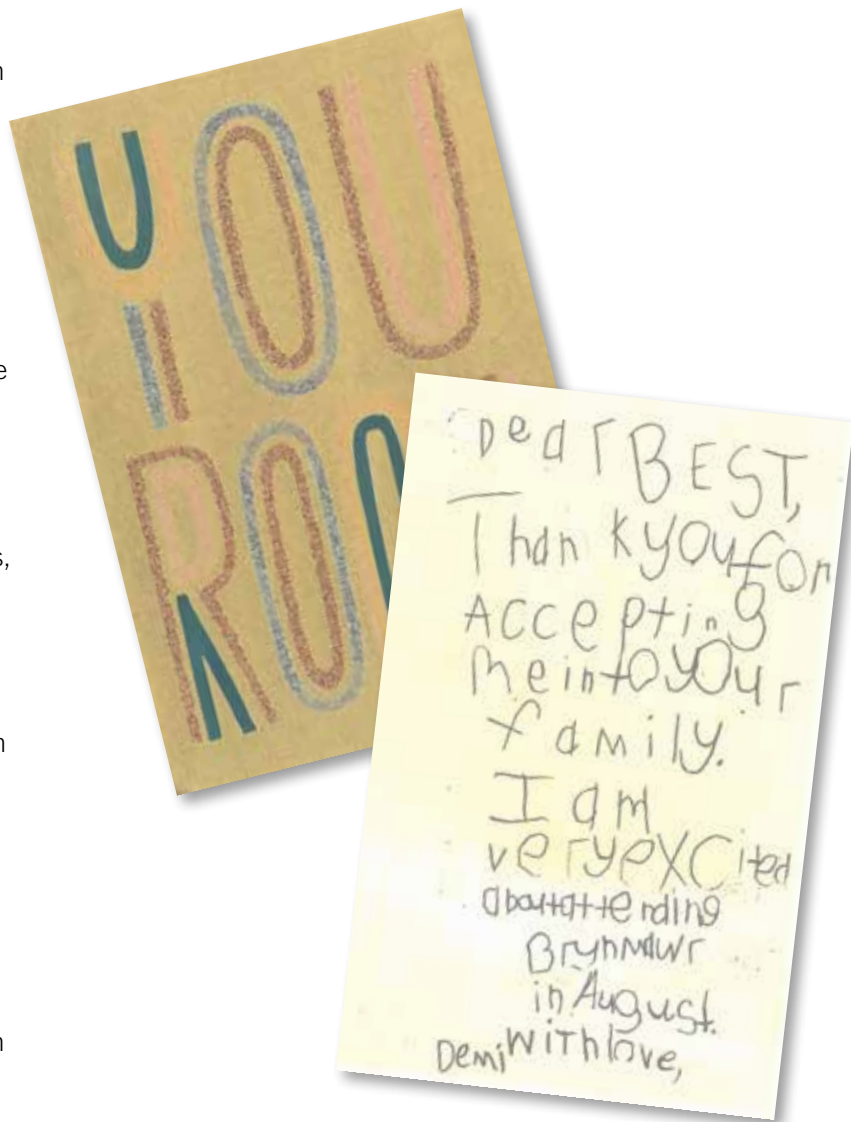
Caroline Blatti and Nikki Hasselbarth '04 at the New Trustee Welcome Breakfast



After twenty-four years of service to Roland Park Country School and as a Head of School Trustee on the **B.E.S.T.** Board, we are proud to announce Jean Waller Brune as a **B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emerita.

B.E.S.T. Admissions

B.E.S.T. is committed to changing the lives of academically talented African American students with financial need through the excellence in education that our nineteen independent member schools provide. Through our extensive partnerships with schools and nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore area, and a pipeline of families who learn about us through their friends, family and religious institutions, we are able to reach and recruit children for our admissions process. Each fall, we select a competitive applicant pool comprised of boys and girls seeking independent school admission for Kindergarten through 9th grade. Students accepted into the **B.E.S.T.** program receive personalized admissions support including: financial aid workshops for parents, Independent School Entrance Exam preparation for rising 5th – 9th grade students, strategies on how to navigate the independent school interview and visit, as well as ongoing guidance throughout the process. **B.E.S.T.** also provides Educational Plan B information and resources to all applicant families, encouraging them to consider alternatives for their students, should enrollment at a **B.E.S.T.** member school not be an option. We share information about Baltimore City and Baltimore County Public School options, including charter schools and schools affiliated with the CollegeBound Foundation, as well as information about high performing Catholic Schools. Our intention is that all **B.E.S.T.** applicant families have the information they need to make informed educational decisions for their children.



Current Parent Panel Representing: Boys' Latin School, Friends School of Baltimore, Maryvale Preparatory School, McDonogh School, The Park School of Baltimore and St. Paul's School

As **B.E.S.T.** students enroll at their new member schools, they truly become members of the **B.E.S.T.** family. In June, **B.E.S.T.** kicked off the 2016-2017 school year at the New Parent Welcome Dinner hosted at Bryn Mawr School. Maureen Walsh, Head of Bryn Mawr, welcomed new **B.E.S.T.** parents on behalf of her colleagues and offered them advice on engagement with their member schools. She also reinforced how grateful **B.E.S.T.** member schools are to have their children as valued members of their communities. Following dinner, new **B.E.S.T.** parents had the opportunity to ask questions to a panel of current **B.E.S.T.** parents. There was a wonderful exchange of information and advice, and the building of important and lasting relationships.

Building **B.E.S.T.** Leaders

Through the leadership programming offered at **B.E.S.T.**, we teach our students that they can serve in a variety of ways both on and off of their member school campuses. Leadership can take many forms, and we encourage our students to be leaders in every arena in which they participate.

Leaders on Leadership Breakfast

In November 2015, **B.E.S.T.** hosted our 3rd annual *Leaders on Leadership Breakfast*. Over 90 **B.E.S.T.** upper school students joined Baltimore area leaders, **B.E.S.T.** Trustees, Alumni and generous funders for breakfast at The Center Club.

B.E.S.T. honored Jean Waller Brune as she prepared to retire after 24 years as the Head of Roland Park Country School. A Roland Park Country School Alumna herself, Jean was a member of the faculty and administration at Gilman School before becoming Head of School at RPCS. Jean's commitment to **B.E.S.T.**, and to hundreds of **B.E.S.T.** students as a founding Head of School Trustee

and as a member of the Executive Committee, has been tremendous. Fortunately for **B.E.S.T.**, Jean will remain connected to the organization as a Trustee Emerita.

Ashlee Tuck, **B.E.S.T.** and Roland Park Country School, Class of 2002, was the Alumna speaker. She shared her personal **B.E.S.T.** story and charged all students to "lift as they climb." Stuart Simms, Partner at Brown, Goldstein & Levy and President of the **B.E.S.T.** Board of Trustees, gave an inspirational talk about his own life and reminded the students that "their scars don't define them."

The annual *Leaders on Leadership Breakfast* is an opportunity to recognize the generous donors to the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust and to honor Molly Hathaway and Redmond C.S. Finney for whom the Young Women's and Young Men's Leadership Programs are named. **B.E.S.T.** students enjoyed being with their peers and having the opportunity to spend time with corporate, philanthropic and civic leaders in Baltimore.



Alumna Speaker, Ashlee Tuck '02; Honored Speaker and President of the **B.E.S.T.** Board of Trustees, Stuart Simms; Retired Head of School, Roland Park Country School and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emerita, Jean Brune; Trustee Emeritus, Theo Rodgers; **B.E.S.T.** Executive Director, Jessica Suriano



B.E.S.T. Alumni from Friends School of Baltimore, Garrison Forest School, Gilman School, McDonogh School, The Park School of Baltimore, and Roland Park Country School



B.E.S.T. Trustee Emerita Molly Hathaway (center) with **B.E.S.T.** and Garrison Forest School Alumnae, Robyne McCulloh '07 and Crystal Lee '96, and **B.E.S.T.** students from Garrison Forest School



B.E.S.T. Trustee Emeritus Redmond C.S. Finney (seated) with Stuart Simms, Honored Speaker and President, **B.E.S.T.** Board of Trustees; Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** President-Elect; Khalil Uqdah, **B.E.S.T.** and Gilman School '06 and Director of Programs and Alumni Relations, with **B.E.S.T.** students from Gilman School

Building **B.E.S.T.** Leaders



B.E.S.T. Students with Members of the Legg Mason Women's Leadership Network

Legg Mason Women's Leadership Network Mentor Day

In February 2016, ten **B.E.S.T.** juniors and seniors participated in the Legg Mason Women's Leadership Network Mentor Day. This annual event hosted by Legg Mason brings together **B.E.S.T.** students and Samuel Ready Scholars for a day of mentorship, networking and meaningful engagement. This pairing is significant because several **B.E.S.T.** students hold the honor of also being Samuel Ready Scholars. The event began with a breakfast meet and greet, followed by an overview of Legg Mason and its Women's Leadership Network. Our students received a course in Finance 101, followed by a waterfront lunch and learn. The second half of the day focused on mock interviews, social media "DOs and DON'Ts", and a service project. Legg Mason truly treated our young women to an interactive and impactful day, and provided valuable lessons and tools as they head toward high school graduation, college and ultimately, their careers.

Social Etiquette for Our Next Generation of Leaders

In the winter, as part of the Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs, upper school **B.E.S.T.** students joined the Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute (GBALI) for our third annual joint event. This year's program centered on essential etiquette as our young leaders navigate their independent schools and the path to college and careers, entitled: "**Social Etiquette for Our Next Generation of Leaders.**"

The Pope Institute for Polish, Poise, and Etiquette led an interactive morning of workshops to help students successfully navigate their future development and social opportunities. They covered topics that included knowledge about first impressions, proper business attire, and "netiquette" – creating a positive and appropriate social media presence.

GBALI selected eleven **B.E.S.T.** students as part of their 2015-2016 academic year cohort of thirty-four students that met each Saturday, October through May.



The Pope Institute for Polish, Poise, and Etiquette with Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute Directors

A special thank you to The Pope Institute's Kimberly Pope, Roderic Baker and Ijea "EJ" Alfred for sharing their expertise and advice with our students; and our heartfelt appreciation to the Directors of GBALI for their continued partnership.



B.E.S.T. and GBALI upper school students with GBALI Directors

Building **B.E.S.T.** Leaders

A Morning with Wes Moore

In April 2016, Wes Moore spent the morning with **B.E.S.T.** and Boys' Latin upper school students at the Boys' Latin School of Maryland, sharing his story, insights and advice. Students asked questions about The Other Wes Moore, the concept of "nurture vs. nature," and what motivates Wes. He challenged the students to consider the questions "Who do you choose to fight for?" and "Who do you stand up for?" as these will be the defining questions throughout their lives. He discussed the importance of seizing opportunities, and reinforced how important their voices are, both independently and collectively, in shaping their community. **B.E.S.T.** President-Elect, Karlo Young, shared remarks with our students at the conclusion of the program, reinforcing Wes's most important messages of the morning – that our students should always be pulling up those behind them, and that they are loved.



B.E.S.T. young women enjoying the *Morning with Wes Moore*

"It's good to see that anyone can do great things. It ignites a fire in me to be the best that I can be."

McDonogh School, 10th grade

"I learned that when I am in any room, it is because I belong there."

Bryn Mawr School, 10th grade



Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** President-Elect, with students and Khalil Uqdah '06, **B.E.S.T.** Director of Programs and Alumni Relations



Wes Moore with **B.E.S.T.** and Boys' Latin upper school students

Building **B.E.S.T.** Leaders

“The main thing I took away from Mr. Moore is that once you make it, don’t forget the people behind you. He said that once it’s your time to go through the door, make sure to hold it for the person behind you. I always thought about how I’m going to make it, but I didn’t think of how I’m going to give back. Now thanks to Mr. Moore, I am thinking about that.”

Gilman School, 9th grade



Wes Moore and **B.E.S.T.** senior from Friends School of Baltimore

The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland's Legacy Luncheon

In the spring, **B.E.S.T.** Alumna and Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Tiffani S. Collins, sponsored five **B.E.S.T.** upper school girls to join her at the signature event of The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland (ABWA) – their annual Legacy Luncheon. The event serves to celebrate the organization’s past presidents and founders as well as African American female lawyers and judges. Tiffani created a wonderful opportunity for our students to receive words of wisdom from these esteemed community leaders.



B.E.S.T. students with **B.E.S.T.** Alumna and Trustee, Tiffani S. Collins, Esq. '00

2016 Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Awards

In May 2016, Ryley Young, Garrison Forest School, and Josiah Bedford, the Boys' Latin School of Maryland, were awarded the Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award at the final **B.E.S.T.** Board meeting of the year.

The Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award, created in memory of the first Board Chair of **B.E.S.T.** by his family at the time of his passing, is presented annually to a **B.E.S.T.** young woman and **B.E.S.T.** young man at the conclusion of their junior year of high school, in recognition of their academic achievement, their demonstrated leadership in both their school and the broader community, and their strength of character. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 award to support their senior year tuition.

"Ryley is the true embodiment of the idiom 'still waters run deep.' Thoughtful, caring, self-aware and positive, she is a quiet, strong leader who serves as a true, unassuming example to both students and faculty."

Kim Roberts

Head of Garrison Forest School



Ryley Young (left) and Josiah Bedford (right) with Linda Hambleton Panitz (center)



Chris Post, Head of the Boys' Latin School of Maryland; Stu Simms, **B.E.S.T.** Board President; Josiah Bedford, Panitz Leadership Award Recipient; Linda Hambleton Panitz; Ryley Young, Panitz Leadership Award Recipient; Kim Roberts, Head of Garrison Forest School

"[Josiah's] family has raised a thoughtful, kind and deeply humble young man. I think that's why faculty respect him greatly and his peers flock to him. [He] is a servant leader in the truest sense."

Chris Post

Head of the Boys' Latin School of Maryland

Building the **B.E.S.T.** Community

Throughout the year, **B.E.S.T.** hosts meaningful events that allow students to connect with members of their own and other independent school communities, encourage and foster networking and support among parents, and deepen the relationships between **B.E.S.T.** staff and our students and families.

B.E.S.T. Family Holiday Party and Class of 2016 Celebration

On the first Saturday of December 2015, **B.E.S.T.** families gathered at Calvert School for our annual **B.E.S.T.** Family Holiday Party. It was a fun afternoon of celebrating the holiday season, decorating cookies, and spending time with each other.



DEAR B.E.S.T. FAMILY,
I WANT TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOUR WHOLE STAFF HAS GIVEN ME OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. FROM HELPING TO FIGHT FOR FINANCIAL AID, TO KEEPING UP WITH ME THROUGH TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATION ON THE OLDFIELDS CAMPUS, YOU ALL WERE ALWAYS THERE IN MY CORNER AND NEVER LEFT. THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING THAT I WAS A SPECIAL PERSON AND GIVING ME A CHANCE WHEN THEY STARTED TO BECOME SLIM. YOU ALL ARE AN AMAZING ORGANIZATION AND I AM PROUD TO BE AN ALUMNA
THANK YOU! Samantha F.

Samantha Frazier '16, a senior boarding student at Oldfields School, shared wonderful remarks with us about her **B.E.S.T.** journey. She especially appreciated **B.E.S.T.**'s support of her as a participant in the Dale Carnegie Young Adult Leadership Program and selecting her as a Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award Recipient in 2015. **B.E.S.T.** students and family members appreciated hearing her advice on navigating senior year and the college application process. Sam values her **B.E.S.T.** experience and her time at Oldfields School, saying "because **B.E.S.T.** believed in me, my future is brighter." Sam received many honors and awards during high school, including the Freshman Trustee prize and the Marian Culberston '63 award, given annually at Oldfields. She served as President of the Senior Class, Co-Captain of the Volleyball team, Co-Leader of the R&B acapella group, Co-Captain of the Oldfields School Dance Company and Representative to Oldfields School's Judiciary Board. We are so proud of Samantha and the entire **B.E.S.T.** Class of 2016!



Mom with her two **B.E.S.T.** students enjoying the Holiday Party



Samantha Frazier '16 (right) with Khalil Uqdah, '06, **B.E.S.T.** Director of Programs and Alumni Relations (left) and Jessica Suriano, **B.E.S.T.** Executive Director (center)

Building the **B.E.S.T.** Community

Middle School Family Game Night

Our second annual Middle School Family Game Night, hosted at Gilman School in March 2016, was a huge success. **B.E.S.T.** middle school families spent the evening dancing, playing games, and taking fun pictures in the very popular photo booth.



Middle School girls on the dance floor



Student from Boys' Latin School with his brother and mom playing the "Headbanz" game



B.E.S.T. students from Boys' Latin School and Gilman School

Building the **B.E.S.T.** Community

A Day at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

On a Saturday in May 2016, **B.E.S.T.** lower and middle school families enjoyed a day at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Diane Hutchins, **B.E.S.T.** Trustee and Vice-President of Government Affairs at the Maryland Zoo, helped make this fun-filled and special day possible for our families.



B.E.S.T. students at the giraffe exhibit



A **B.E.S.T.** family at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Back to School Family Celebration

In late August 2016, **B.E.S.T.** staff welcomed families to our annual Back to School Celebration at the Ward Center at St. Paul's School and St. Paul's School for Girls. Students enjoyed doing a **B.E.S.T.**-themed scavenger hunt, taking pictures in the photo booth, having their faces painted, making new friends and seeing old ones as they prepared to start the new school year. Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** President-Elect, inspired our students to make it a goal this year to seek and take advantage of the many opportunities before them at their member schools.



B.E.S.T. students enjoying the photo booth props



New **B.E.S.T.** students



B.E.S.T. students with Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** President-Elect



Penny Evins, Head of St. Paul's School for Girls, warmly greets a student

Building a **STRONG** Foundation with Summer Scholars

Summer Scholars

Each summer, all newly enrolled rising middle and upper school **B.E.S.T.** students are provided with the opportunity to spend five weeks at our Summer Scholars program, preparing for the rigors of their new independent schools. The Summer Scholars program is designed to support **B.E.S.T.** students through their academic and cultural transition and position them to hit the ground running as they begin at their new schools in the fall. Directed by Elisha James, Middle School Dean at Roland Park Country School, and led by a dedicated faculty, Summer Scholars offers students the chance to make new friends, mitigate summer learning loss, and experience life as independent school students before their first day.

Each week included a full course-load of academic subjects, athletics and advisory.

We thank our Summer Scholars Faculty:

Elisha James, Director of Summer Scholars
Keri-Sue Baker, Reading
Lemuel Bourne, Athletics
LaSheara Cole, Math
Jill Flynn, Writing
Chris Garland, Social Studies
Fitz Hardcastle, Math
Antoinette Hawkins, Art
Yvette Matthews, Aftercare
Cyndy Piepenbrink, Science
Wendy Torres, Technology



In addition to rigorous academic classes, special activities helped to enrich the experience and create lasting memories.

During week one, current **B.E.S.T.** 9th graders joined their Summer Scholars peers for a day of transition workshops. Led by Marlo Thomas-McNeil, Director of Diversity at Roland Park Country School, the morning session allowed students to discuss the realities of their transition to upper school, including: time management, academic help, extracurricular club opportunities, and financial aid. Students also addressed issues related to prejudice, stereotypes and micro-aggressions, and identified strong communication strategies around all three. The afternoon session was led by the Assistant Director of College Counseling at RPCS, Megan Johnston, who facilitated an interactive workshop about the many opportunities that will be available to them and how their class selections, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation and standardized test scores will impact their college choices.

During week two, Summer Scholars participated in a fun-filled trip to Outward Bound that reinforced team-building, pushing past personal limits, effective communication, taking on challenges, and leadership.

During week three, students created Andy Warhol-inspired self-portraits and spent an afternoon on a guided tour of the exhibits at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

During week four, students spent a day at Camp Hippodrome learning about theatrical arts and experiencing the thrill of performing.

During the final week, students showcased what they learned and accomplished at a special Closing Ceremony for families.

We thank our Summer Scholars Interns:

Lemuel Bourne, Loyola University, Next One Up Foundation
Marq H., Class of 2017, Roland Park Country School,
B.E.S.T. Student

We thank our Summer Scholars Funders:

The Thomas Wilson Sanitarium for
Children of Baltimore City
SunTrust Foundation
STX



Summer Scholar students at the Closing Ceremony of the program with Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** President-Elect

Building a **STRONG** Foundation with Summer Scholars



Upper school Summer Scholars students between classes



Happy Summer Scholars students conquer the ropes course at Outward Bound



Summer Scholars students outside of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum



Rising 9th grade **B.E.S.T.** students with Marlo Thomas-McNeil, Director of Diversity at Roland Park Country School; Megan Johnston, Assistant Director of College Counseling at Roland Park Country School; and Khalil Uqdah '06, Director of Programs and Alumni Relations at **B.E.S.T.**



Summer Scholars students arrive at the Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School

B.E.S.T. Class of 2016 Off to College



THE BOYS' LATIN
SCHOOL OF MARYLAND

Stevenson University

THE BRYN MAWR SCHOOL
GREAT MINDS. STRONG HEARTS. BOLD VOICES.

Clemson University
Goucher College
Howard University
Swarthmore College



Friends School
BALTIMORE • 1784

Community College of
Baltimore County
Goucher College
Morehouse College
University of Maryland,
College Park

Garrison Forest School.
YOU CAN. YOU WILL.

Drew University
Marymount University
Messiah College
Pomona College
Towson University
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County



GILMAN

Howard University
Wright State University



Jemicy School

Stevenson University

MARYVALE
LEARN. LEAD. SUCCEED.
Educating Young Women for Life

Rutgers University,
Camden Campus

MEDONOGH SCHOOL

Baltimore City
Community College
Maryland Institute
College of Art

OLDFIELDS
SCHOOL

University of Maryland,
College Park

Roland Park Country School
Educating Girls K-12, coed Preschool

Community College of Baltimore County
Franklin University in Switzerland
Morgan State University
Stevenson University
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Pittsburg, Titusville
Winthrop University



ST. PAUL'S

University of Pennsylvania



St. Paul's School for Girls

Ohio University
Rutgers University
St. Joseph's University
Temple University
Towson University
University of Maryland, College Park



Building a Pathway to College

An independent school education places students on a path to college. **B.E.S.T.** supports our students along that path and is committed to providing the resources necessary to level the playing field as they move through the competitive college application process.

SAT/ACT Prep

Beginning in January 2016, thirty-six **B.E.S.T.**

juniors participated in an eight week premier SAT and ACT preparatory program instructed by Capital Educators. This program is provided at no cost to our families through the generosity of the Legg Mason Foundation and our partnership with Capital Educators.



College Financial Aid Forms Workshop

In early February 2016, **B.E.S.T.** partnered with Gilman School to host a College Financial Aid Forms Workshop for Class of 2016 parents. Seven financial aid professionals from area colleges attended and shared their expertise with parents as they completed the necessary FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).



Jennifer Coveney, Johns Hopkins University; Mark Tasker, UMBC;
Jean-Paul Diatta, Johns Hopkins University;
Albertha Mellerson, Johns Hopkins University;
Peter Wyatt, Johns Hopkins University; Tom Patterson, Loyola University;
Stephanie Bender, Goucher College

Maryland College Tours

In March 2016, **B.E.S.T.** upper school students and their parents participated in a day of Maryland College Tours. We began the day at Johns Hopkins University with an information session hosted by Calvin Wise, Director of Recruitment, and a current Johns Hopkins junior, followed by a student-led campus tour and lunch in the Freshman Dining Center. We spent the afternoon on a tour at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Held on the first day of spring break, this tour was designed to allow students to see both a small private college and a large public university. We are grateful to Theo Rodgers, **B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emeritus, for funding this informative day for **B.E.S.T.** families. We look forward to making this an annual event, touring different colleges each year so that **B.E.S.T.** students are able to see the wide variety of college options available right here in our own state of Maryland. Maryvale Preparatory School's Monica Graham, Director of College Counseling, and Kalea Selmon, School Counselor, joined our families for these visits and helped spark lively and engaged conversations.



B.E.S.T. upper school students at University of Maryland, College Park

While students and parents were touring the University of Maryland, Khalil Uqdah, **B.E.S.T.** Director of Programs and Alumni Relations, met with three **B.E.S.T.** Alumnae who are currently attending UMD. Khalil enjoyed seeing Breechaye '12 from St. Paul's School for Girls and Teyarna '12 and Jordan '15 from St. Timothy's School and hearing about their college experiences so far.



B.E.S.T. upper school students at Johns Hopkins University

Building the **B.E.S.T.** Alumni Network

Our support of **B.E.S.T.** students continues well beyond their member school years. We are working to reconnect our alumni to one another, to their member schools, and to opportunities that will enhance their college experience and encourage their post-college aspirations. We also celebrate our alumni so that current **B.E.S.T.** students are exposed to all that is possible.

Alumni Networking Breakfast

In April 2016, **B.E.S.T.** hosted our second annual Alumni Networking Breakfast for post-college-aged Alumni. Alums spanning over 15 years gathered for breakfast and to network. Member schools represented by **B.E.S.T.** Alumni were the Bryn Mawr School, Friends School of Baltimore, Garrison Forest School, Gilman School, McDonogh School, and the Park School of Baltimore.

Additionally, Alumni from two previous member schools, Loyola Blakefield and Calvert Hall, were in attendance.

B.E.S.T. Alumnus Dia Clark, Class of 2006 who attended The Park School of Baltimore and is currently serving as their Director of Athletics, Boys' Programs, shared his story and appreciation for the **B.E.S.T.** program and for his Park School experience. Hussainatu Blake Mumford, Bryn Mawr School Class of 2000, thanked **B.E.S.T.** for being one of the first supporters of Focal Point Global, a non-profit that she and her twin sister, Hassanatu Blake, Class of 2000, founded in 2010.

We look forward to this Alumni event each year, and we thank our Alumni who share their talents to support the work of **B.E.S.T.**



B.E.S.T. Alumni enjoying breakfast



Alumni speakers: Dia Clark '06, The Park School of Baltimore and Hussainatu Blake Mumford '00, The Bryn Mawr School



B.E.S.T. Alumni including Crystal Lee '96, **B.E.S.T.** Director of Advancement and Khalil Uqдах '06, **B.E.S.T.** Director of Programs and Alumni Relations

Building the **B.E.S.T.** Alumni Network

College-Aged Alumni Lunch

B.E.S.T. Alumni from the classes 2012-2015 kicked off summer 2016 by joining us for lunch at Pepe's to share stories about their college experiences thus far. We were so proud to hear of their summer plans, which included: working at their member school alma mater, interning at Travelers Insurance in Maryland through **B.E.S.T.**'s partnership with INROADS, interning at LabCorp in New York, and interning in the fashion industry in Louisiana.



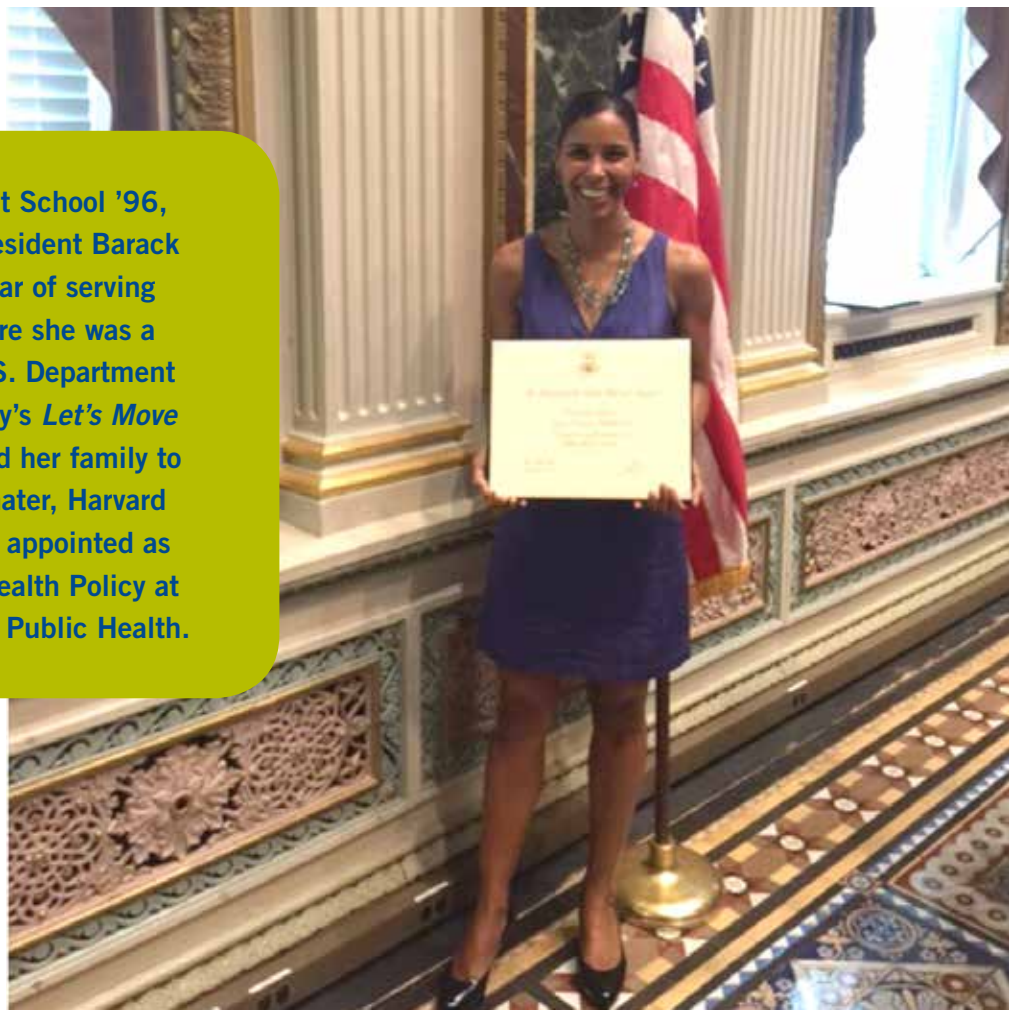
College-aged Alumni enjoying lunch



College-aged Alumni holding signs of where they attend college

Alumni Highlights

Dr. Sara Bleich, Garrison Forest School '96, holds a certificate signed by President Barack Obama as she concluded a year of serving as a White House Fellow, where she was a Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the First Lady's *Let's Move* initiative. In August, Sara moved her family to Boston to return to her alma mater, Harvard University, where she has been appointed as a tenured Professor of Public Health Policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Building the **B.E.S.T.** Alumni Network

David Fakunle, B.E.S.T. and Friends School Alumnus, Class of 2005, is a Pre-Doctoral Fellow in the Drug Dependence Epidemiology Training Program at the Department of Mental Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. David served on the steering committee of Light City, a light, music and innovation festival that was hosted in Baltimore this past spring. Additionally, David partnered with a team of light artists to create kinetic light drums inspired by the djembe of West Africa.



Photo Credit: Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts



Jalysa L. '15, B.E.S.T. and McDonogh School Alumna, spent her summer as an INROADS Intern with Travelers Insurance in Hunt Valley, Maryland. Jalysa is a sophomore at Howard University.



Rae'ven H. '14, B.E.S.T. and Maryvale Preparatory School Alumna, spent the summer as an INROADS Intern with TD Ameritrade in New Jersey. Rae'ven is a junior at American University.

The **B.E.S.T.** .edu Project

The .edu Project of **B.E.S.T.** supports first generation college-bound students and their families with our annual student and parent workshops and our professional development within the broader Baltimore educational community. We partner with colleges and universities throughout Maryland in order to leverage the resources they can collectively provide to first generation students. In addition, **B.E.S.T.** founded the First Generation Affinity Group and chairs quarterly meetings comprised of college support professionals from independent, public and parochial schools; nonprofit leadership; and admissions and administrative teams from institutions of higher education. These meetings create networking and learning opportunities around best practices in supporting first generation college-bound students. First Generation Affinity Group members present and facilitate discussions on relevant topics. The intention of the group is to allow for the forming of partnerships and collaborations between members to strengthen the work we do to better position college-bound students for success.

Student and Parent Workshop

In November 2015, **B.E.S.T.** hosted our third annual “Starting the College Conversation” Workshop at Towson University for 8th and 9th grade students. We are very grateful to Baltimore City Public Schools and Towson University for their continued partnership and support of this event. Attendees included **B.E.S.T.** families, as well as students, families and faculty from Baltimore City Public Schools.

The Towson University Admission Staff led an interactive, engaging and high-energy seminar that addressed the timeline of applying to college and gave the students year-by-year action items beginning in 9th grade to maintain a path to a four-year college; defined commonly used college terms such as grants, GPA, transcript, financial aid; and highlighted the “return on investment” of obtaining a college degree, including lower unemployment rates and higher salaries.



9th Grade **B.E.S.T.** and Garrison Forest Student with her Mother at Towson University



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The **B.E.S.T.** .edu Project

Professional Development Workshop

In May 2016, **B.E.S.T.**, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore City Public Schools, hosted the 4th Annual **.edu Project** Professional Development Workshop for college guidance professionals, nonprofit leadership and college admissions and program staff. Our opening session featured keynote speaker, Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, former Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs at JHU and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, who presented: "Supporting First Generation College Students: Accountability, Intentionality and School Culture." The morning also

included an interactive panel discussion about the impactful programs designed to support student success at Goucher College, Johns Hopkins University and UMBC. The morning concluded with a discussion led by Calvin Wise, Director of Recruitment at Johns Hopkins University, about the dynamics affecting student graduation and success with data from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and inspiring videos from CollegeBound and *I'm First*. Thank you to Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Kristina Nance (JHU), Mary Tandia (Goucher College), Laila Shishineh (UMBC), and Calvin Wise.



Panelists: Kristina Nance, Director of Hop-In at Johns Hopkins University; Laila Shishineh, Assistant Director of First Year Experience at UMBC; and Mary Tandia, Program Manager of Goucher College's Educational Opportunity Program



Calvin Wise, Director of Recruitment at Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, former Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs at Johns Hopkins University (current Dean of American University School of Education) and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee; and Jessica Suriano, Executive Director of **B.E.S.T.**

FIRST GENERATION AFFINITY GROUP MEETINGS

2015-2016 Academic Year

Discussion Topic:

The Goucher Prison Education Program
September 2015

Under-Represented Students in the
College Selection Process: an Attitudinal Study
November 2015

Supporting First Generation College Students
at Independent Schools
March 2016

A Conversation on Undocumented Students
April 2016

Host:

Amy Rosa, Goucher College

David Strauss, Art and Science Group,
Gilman School

Megan Hall, Nicole Yeftich,
KIPP Through College

Melissa Nehmer, University of Baltimore

B.E.S.T. Financials

Balance Sheet June 30, 2015 and 2014

Assets	2015	2014
Cash and Cash Equivalents	176,258	138,733
Investments	10,117,294	10,271,317
Unconditional Promises to Give, Net	26,397	35,222
Prepaid Expenses	12,430	9,309
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$101,788 and \$90,703, Respectively	29,091	29,280
Total Assets	10,361,470	10,483,861
Liabilities		
Distributions Payable to Member Schools	300,000	294,772
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	10,092	6,425
Capital Lease Payable	3,224	4,399
Total Liabilities	313,316	305,596
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	193,220	135,400
Temporarily Restricted	4,390,387	4,578,318
Permanently Restricted	5,464,547	5,464,547
Total Net Assets	10,048,154	10,178,265
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	10,361,470	10,483,861

These figures are excerpts from the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust's Full Annual Audit. The full financial statement is available upon request.

Profit & Loss Year ended June 30, 2015. With summarized information for the Year ended June 30, 2014.

Revenues and Support	Operating	Student Emergency	Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2015	Total 2014
Contributions	589,932	59,300	649,232	89,857	—	739,089	713,162
School Membership Fees	375,000	—	375,000	—	—	375,000	368,464
Application Fees and Other	10,793	—	10,793	—	—	10,793	7,950
Satisfaction of Donor Restrictions	523,150	(61,748)	461,402	(461,402)	—	—	—
Total Revenues and Support	1,498,875	(2,448)	1,496,427	(371,545)	—	1,124,882	1,089,576
Expenses							
Program Services	1,107,967	—	1,107,967	—	—	1,107,967	1,082,578
General and Administrative	153,800	—	153,800	—	—	153,800	152,134
Fundraising	179,563	—	179,563	—	—	179,563	173,124
Total Expenses	1,441,330	—	1,441,330	—	—	1,441,330	1,407,836
Change in Net Assets from Operations	57,545	(2,448)	55,097	(371,545)	—	(316,448)	(318,260)
Other Changes							
Interest and Dividend Income	1,277	—	1,277	163,385	—	164,662	266,757
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	1,446	—	1,446	20,229	—	21,675	1,157,802
Change in Net Assets	60,268	(2,448)	57,820	(187,931)	—	(130,111)	1,106,299
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	113,851	21,549	135,400	4,578,318	5,464,547	10,178,265	9,071,966
Net Assets, End of Year	174,119	19,101	193,220	4,390,387	5,464,547	10,048,154	10,178,265

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This list includes all donors to the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust during the 2015-2016 giving year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). If an error has been made, please accept our sincere apologies and notify Crystal Lee at 410.752.2225.

Thank you to Alex Kirby, B.E.S.T. Board Treasurer, and Chris Kastendike for Co-Chairing the Scramble for Baltimore golf tournament. The proceeds from the golf tournament benefitted the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust and the William S. Baer School.



Trustee John Timken (second from left) with foursome



Scramble for Baltimore Organizers: Chris Kastendike, Trustee at the Baer School and Alex Kirby, B.E.S.T. Trustee and Board Treasurer

Our Mission:

The Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust, in partnership with our nineteen independent member schools, recruits and supports through the admissions process academically ambitious African American students with financial need from the Baltimore area. Once students are enrolled, **B.E.S.T.** positions them for success through academic preparation, character and leadership development, and support programs.

Our Member Schools:

The Boys' Latin School of Maryland • The Bryn Mawr School
Calvert School • Friends School of Baltimore • Garrison Forest School
Gilman School • Jemicy School • The Key School
Maryvale Preparatory School • McDonogh School • The Odyssey School
Oldfields School • The Park School of Baltimore
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