

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# Message From Board President, **KARLO G. YOUNG**



As the new President of the Board of Trustees, it is my honor to lead the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust (**B.E.S.T.**) as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **B.E.S.T.** was founded in 1987 to create pathways to top Baltimore area independent schools for academically talented African American students of lower income. These outstanding students would receive the excellence in education provided by our member schools, and would enrich their campuses and communities. Thirty years later, **B.E.S.T.** celebrates our deep and lasting partnerships with our nineteen member schools and our abiding commitment to connecting deserving children with the highest caliber educational opportunities in our region. We celebrate, too, the expansive programming we provide, to meaningfully support and elevate our students along their entire educational continuum, from enrollment, to college and on to their careers. As our organization has grown over the past three decades, so has our investment in student success and achievements. We have much to celebrate.

We honor the early leaders of **B.E.S.T.** through our named programs, the Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs, established to encourage and inspire our upper school students as they develop their leadership capacity. We proudly provide support in the college access space, providing premier SAT and ACT preparation free of charge to all of our juniors, through the generosity of the Legg Mason Foundation, as well as providing local college and university tours. We build community with all of our families, more than 300 strong annually, at student and family events throughout the city. These experiences and opportunities shape the relationship between **B.E.S.T.** and our students, and continue to last as our students matriculate to college and begin their careers.

**B.E.S.T.** continues to be an essential convener in Baltimore, and the First Generation Affinity Group, founded and chaired by **B.E.S.T.**, dedicated to successful college admission and

completion, boasts a membership comprised of more than 150 members from 80 institutions. We particularly want to thank Johns Hopkins University and Towson University for their dedicated collaboration with **B.E.S.T.** to deliver student, parent and professional programming, and to all of the colleges, universities, nonprofit organizations and public school systems with whom we partner throughout the year to better support Baltimore youth.

This past year, the **B.E.S.T.** Board of Trustees and staff completed a strategic planning process that identified key areas for continued impact and growth, within our admissions work and our supportive programming. I look forward to sharing those successes with you as they develop over the next few years.

It is my pleasure to welcome to our Board of Trustees Tim Lorber of Legg Mason, James Page of Johns Hopkins Medicine, Floyd Smith of M&T Bank; and Sue Sadler, the new Head of Bryn Mawr School. We would also like to welcome Lila Lohr back to the Board of Trustees as she serves as Interim Head of School at Garrison Forest School this year. They join a standing Board of passionate leaders, dedicated to our critical mission. I am also pleased to introduce Peggy Bittner, the new Director of Programs and Alumni Relations at **B.E.S.T.**, whose vast experience in student, parent and alumni relations built over her career at Garrison Forest School and University of Maryland, College Park, positions the organization for the highest level of programming.

This past June, we celebrated the unparalleled dedication of Stuart Simms as he concluded his nine year tenure as President of the Board. Stu will remain on the Board as an Emeritus Trustee. His guidance and expertise as a leader for this organization dates back to 1991, and we are forever grateful for the way he has steered us and championed our students and families.

Thank you for your belief in **B.E.S.T.**, and your investment in our students. Their capacity to lead on their campuses, in their communities, across our city, and globally is limitless – and is because of you.

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from all of us at **B.E.S.T.**!

Karlo G. Young  
Board President

Stuart Simms, Past President and Trustee Emeritus,  
Board of Trustees and Karlo Young, President, Board of Trustees



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2U  
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### **\* Executive Committee Members**

*Special thanks to:*  
Ashish Arora  
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.  
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# B.E.S.T. Welcomes our New Trustees



**New Head of School Trustee:**

**Lila Lohr**

Interim Head of School,  
Garrison Forest School



**New Head of School Trustee:**

**Sue Sadler**

Head of School,  
The Bryn Mawr School



**New Community Trustee:**

**Timothy J. Lorber**

Managing Director/Chief  
Accounting Officer, Legg Mason



**New Community Trustee:**

**James E. Page Jr.**

Vice President/Chief Diversity Officer,  
Johns Hopkins Medicine



**New Community Trustee:**

**Floyd O. Smith**

Assistant Vice President,  
M&T Bank



# B.E.S.T. Admissions

**B.E.S.T.** identifies and recruits high-achieving African American students of lower income in Baltimore who have the potential to thrive at an independent school. These students, seeking admission for grades K-9, are identified through strategic recruiting partnerships with schools and other non-profit organizations in our city.

When a family is accepted into the **B.E.S.T.** program, they receive individual admissions counseling and support as they apply to our member schools. This support includes:

- Waived fees for admissions and financial aid applications to **B.E.S.T.** member schools
- Financial Aid and Financial Literacy Workshops for parents
- Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) Prep Workshops
- Personalized assistance in submitting all required admissions materials
- Educational “Plan B” guidance, should enrollment at a **B.E.S.T.** member school not be an option, including academically rigorous Baltimore City and County schools, Catholic schools and boarding schools

## NAIS Conference

In March, **B.E.S.T.** was invited to present at the National Association of Independent Schools Conference, hosted in Baltimore this year. Our session, titled “Supporting the Access and Success of Lower-Income African American Students: A Model That Works,” examined the ways **B.E.S.T.** is partnering with its member schools to provide the supports necessary for students to flourish in their communities and for parents to navigate the process.



Crystal Lee '96, **B.E.S.T.** Alumna and **B.E.S.T.**'s Director of Advancement;  
Dan Paradis, Head of the Park School of Baltimore, **B.E.S.T.** Trustee;  
Jessica Suriano, **B.E.S.T.**'s Executive Director



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

## New Parent Welcome Dinner

In June, we welcomed the parents of our newly enrolled **B.E.S.T.** students. The event was hosted at Calvert School and the new parents were greeted by Head of Calvert School, Andrew Holmgren. Following dinner, the new parents heard from a panel of current **B.E.S.T.** parents.

## Member School Networking Breakfast

Each August, **B.E.S.T.** hosts a Member School Networking Breakfast for Diversity, Admissions, College Guidance and Alumni teams from our 19 member schools. This year, 60 guests kicked off the 2017-2018 school year at Donna's Café, Cross Keys. The Staff at **B.E.S.T.** shared updates on our new Admissions timeline and student programming for the year, and Peter Baily, Executive Director of AIMS, shared inspiring remarks. This gathering with our member school colleagues helps to prepare for another school year filled with collaboration and support for our shared **B.E.S.T.** students.





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

## **Leaders on Leadership Breakfast**

In November 2016, **B.E.S.T.** upper school students and alumni, Baltimore leaders, **B.E.S.T.** Trustees and generous funders gathered for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Leaders on Leadership Breakfast* at The Center Club. This annual event 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.

Our Alumna Speaker, Nikki Hasselbarth, **B.E.S.T.** and Park School of Baltimore Alumna, '04, shared her personal **B.E.S.T.** story and expressed her gratitude to **B.E.S.T.** for being the "answer to her mother's prayers." She shared how her **B.E.S.T.** journey extended well beyond the time she spent at Park School. After graduating from Park, Nikki fulfilled a life-long dream of attending Columbia University and then went on to work for Teach for America before attending Duke University School of Law. Nikki is currently working as a Tax and Wealth Planning Associate at Venable and serves on the **B.E.S.T.** Board of Trustees.

Our Honored Speaker for the morning, Domonique Foxworth, a writer for ESPN's *The Undeclared* and a **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, shared his story of growing up in Baltimore and how acting on opportunities that came his way allowed him to play football at the highest level - first at the University of Maryland, College Park, followed by seven years in the NFL. He later went on to receive his MBA from Harvard Business School. He encouraged the students to learn how to recognize opportunities and to value the relationships of their peers and adults, as those relationships will continue to be valuable to them on their life journeys.



**B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emeritus, Stuart Simms; Alumna Speaker and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, Nikki Hasselbarth '04; Honored Speaker and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, Domonique Foxworth; **B.E.S.T.** Executive Director, Jessica Suriano; Head of School, The Park School of Baltimore and Chair of the Program Committee, Dan Paradis



Alumna Speaker and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, Nikki Hasselbarth '04, with **B.E.S.T.** students, faculty, trustees and administration of the Park School of Baltimore



**B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emeritus Redmond C.S. Finney and wife, Jean Finney (seated) with (from left): **B.E.S.T.** students from Gilman School; Cheo Hurley, **B.E.S.T.** Trustee and Gilman School Alumnus; Johnnie Foreman, Director of Diversity and Community at Gilman School; Victor Abiamiri, **B.E.S.T.** and Gilman School Alumnus, '03; John Schmick, **B.E.S.T.** Second Vice President and Former Head of Gilman School; Sherman Bristow, Gilman School Alumnus; Stuart Simms, **B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emeritus and Gilman School Alumnus; Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** Board President and Gilman School Alumnus



**B.E.S.T.** Alumni from left to right: Darius Jennings '11, Gilman School; Marlon White '03, Gilman School; Victor Abiamiri '03, Gilman School; Crystal Lee '96, Garrison Forest School and Director of Advancement at **B.E.S.T.**; Josh Perry '02, McDonogh School; Robyne McCullough '07, Garrison Forest School; Tuesday Barnes '09, Bryn Mawr School; Nikki Hasselbarth '04, The Park School of Baltimore and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee; Khalil Uqdash '06, Gilman School; Dia Clark '06, The Park School of Baltimore



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

## **B.E.S.T. and the Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute (GBALI)**

In late February, as part of the Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs, 30 upper school **B.E.S.T.** students joined GBALI for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual joint event entitled: "Success Strategies for Our Next Generation of Leaders."

The Pope Institute for Polish, Poise, and Etiquette led an interactive morning of workshops to help students "stay ready so they never have to get ready." The morning included mock table interviews, a review of sources on where to find internships and summer jobs, appropriate timelines in order to secure internships and jobs, the dangers of social media and tips on how to create an appropriate digital footprint.

This past year, **B.E.S.T.** had 11 students selected as part of the GBALI cohort of 34 students who met each Saturday, October through May.

A special thank you to The Pope Institute's Kimberly Pope and Roderic Baker 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 and B.E.S.T. Staff**

## **Legg Mason Women's Leadership Network Mentor Day**

In March, 11 **B.E.S.T.** upper school young women joined their Samuel Ready Scholar peers for a day of leadership activities with the Legg Mason Women's Leadership Network.

Before lunch, the young women participated in four speed mentoring sessions and then heard from the Community Law in Action organization. During lunch, the girls joined a large group of Legg Mason employees to watch *He Named Me Malala*. They ended the day by making Vision Boards to take with them to inspire their life's journeys. It was an incredible day for all involved. The students made meaningful connections with many of the Women's Leadership Network members.



**B.E.S.T. Upper School Young Women at Legg Mason**



**B.E.S.T. students who won the I Am Malala book raffle**



**B.E.S.T. Students making their Vision Boards**



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

## **B.E.S.T. and Professor D. Watkins**

In early May, as part of the Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Program, **B.E.S.T.** upper school young men, their Heads of School, faculty, **B.E.S.T.** Trustees and **B.E.S.T.** Alumni attended the Advocates for Children & Youth Distinguished Speakers Luncheon. This year's speaker was Professor D. Watkins, author and activist from Baltimore City. Our students had an opportunity to have a private Meet & Greet with Professor Watkins prior to the luncheon to ask questions and learn more about his journey. During this session and the luncheon, Professor Watkins reinforced several important leadership themes:

- Tell your own story so others can't tell it for you
- Treat others with kindness always
- Never look down on a person unless you are helping them up

**B.E.S.T.** Upper School Young Men with Professor D. Watkins and **B.E.S.T.** Board President, Karlo Young



## **National Museum of African American History and Culture**

In late June, as part of the Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs, **B.E.S.T.** upper school students and their parents joined **B.E.S.T.** Staff for a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. We began our visit to the museum with John Franklin, who serves as the cultural historian and Senior Manager of the Office of External Affairs at the Museum. He gave the students a history of the museum, an overview of the exhibits and a career tutorial – sharing with the students the rich diversity of jobs required to make the museum run successfully – from security officers to curators to architects. We had a wonderful day touring the museum!

**B.E.S.T.** Upper School Students with Mr. Franklin and Carla Thomas McGinnis from the Office of External Affairs at the National Museum of African American History and Culture





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

## ***Dale Carnegie Young Adult Leadership Program***

In late November 2016, nine **B.E.S.T.** students celebrated their graduation from the Dale Carnegie Young Adult Leadership Program. Over the previous nine weeks, participants learned how to communicate more confidently with teachers, parents, mentors, and peers while practicing fundamental leadership skills taught by Dale Carnegie in his book, [How to Win Friends and Influence People](#).

The program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to enhance their self-awareness, better manage procrastination and stress, and build confidence while expanding their comfort zones. Through real life applications, the students enhanced their understanding of the Dale Carnegie principles before recapping their experiences during heartfelt remarks given in front of the class each week.

Throughout the program, students had the opportunity to receive awards for their accomplishments. Of the 18 awards given, **B.E.S.T.** students received 12. We are very proud of all our **B.E.S.T.** students for their participation and leadership! A very special thank you to Diane Beliveau, Carla Doyle, and Dale Carnegie of the Mid-Atlantic for sponsoring our **B.E.S.T.** students in this outstanding leadership program.



From left to right: Julian A., Wayne G., Jairus G., Kennedy C., Aniya M., Diane Beliveau, Carrington G., Cache T., Jasmynn M., and Jalen M.

## ***The Art of Leadership***

**B.E.S.T.** is thrilled to partner with Art With a Heart's student leadership program, and celebrates the accomplishments of Kalin E., McDonogh School Class of 2018 and Aniyah A., St. Paul's School for Girls Class of 2019 for their involvement this past year.

The Art of Leadership program brings together 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade public and private school students from diverse backgrounds to develop leadership skills and engage in dialogue across cultural barriers. Through guest speakers and experiential opportunities, students are exposed to community challenges and develop fresh perspectives on how to address them.



# 2017 Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Awards

## 2017 Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award Winners

Congratulations to Kalin E., McDonogh School '18 and Bomani K., St. Paul's School '18, for being named the 2017 Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award winners!

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.



*Academician, dancer, role model to peers as well as younger girls, Kalin rises to the top of any group through strength of character, commitment to the cause at hand and vested interest. Whether in the classroom, organizing a discussion on the topic of diversity, or running on the track, she stands among McDonogh's very best*

Charlie Britton, Head of McDonogh School and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee;  
Jan Kunkel, Kalin's Advisor at McDonogh School; Kalin E., Panitz Award Recipient;  
Teri Alexander, **B.E.S.T.** Trustee and Panitz Award Committee Member

**B.E.S.T.,**

*Thank you all for all the hard work that each and every one of you do. Thank you for your long days, late nights & weekends just to help so many students. It's amazing how the staff want to assist the students to thrive and succeed. I am amazed at the consistency and the dynamics of the staff since I have been a part of B.E.S.T. So to the staff, congratulations to you for caring and committing to such a wonderful organization that changes people's lives every single day.*

*Much Love, Pam  
Daughter, Kalin, Class of 2018*



*Bomani is a true gentleman who excels at academics, sports and interpersonal relationships. His classmates respect and listen to him. His teachers would love to have classrooms full of students like Bomani, both for his academic ability and his leadership.*

Bomani K. with his Leadership Award



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

## **B.E.S.T. Family Holiday Party**

On the first Saturday of December 2016, **B.E.S.T.** students, families and staff joined in our annual holiday celebration at Friends School of Baltimore. **B.E.S.T.** families enjoyed the chance to decorate cookies and welcome in the holiday season with friends new and old. We also took this opportunity to recognize members of the Class of 2017 as they began their final semester at their member schools.

Allona H., a senior at Maryvale Preparatory School, shared heartfelt remarks with us about her **B.E.S.T.** journey. Allona was the leader of VIP, the Maryvale Diversity Club, and completed 11 seasons of Varsity Track and Field. She also completed over 400 community service hours while maintaining A's and B's throughout her time in upper school.

Allona is very proud of her accomplishments and, during her remarks, gave thanks to her mother for being her biggest supporter and motivator. She also expressed gratitude for the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust, sharing "...the summer program, accompanied with the many leadership breakfasts and workshops, provided me with the motivation and confidence I needed to successfully complete seven years at an independent school. I am forever grateful for what the program has done for me."

We are so proud of Allona and the entire **B.E.S.T.** Class of 2017!



Members of the **B.E.S.T.** Class of 2017



Karlo Young, **B.E.S.T.** Board President; Allona H., Senior Speaker, Maryvale Preparatory School, Class of 2017; and Jessica Suriano, **B.E.S.T.** Executive Director



**B.E.S.T.** Upper School Girls



**B.E.S.T.** Upper School Students



**B.E.S.T.** Siblings



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

## ***Hidden Figures***

In early February, **B.E.S.T.** middle and upper school girls were treated to a private viewing of *Hidden Figures* at the Senator Theatre, by Trustee, Vernon Reid. Thanks to Trustees Nikki Hasselbarth '04 and Diane Hutchins for spending the morning with our families and staff!



**B.E.S.T. Girls at The Senator Theatre**



**B.E.S.T. Trustee and Alumna, Nikki Hasselbarth '04 with B.E.S.T. Students**



**B.E.S.T. Families at *Hidden Figures***

## ***Torrey Smith Family Fund Charity Basketball Game***

In late March, the Torrey Smith Family Fund graciously provided tickets for 21 **B.E.S.T.** families to attend the organization's Charity Basketball Game at Royal Farms Arena. It was a fun-filled afternoon for **B.E.S.T.** families, watching Baltimore celebrities and current and former Baltimore Ravens players take to the basketball court to raise money for a good cause.



**B.E.S.T. student with Chanel Smith,  
wife of Torrey Smith**



## ***Middle School Family Game Night***

On a Friday in late March, we hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Middle School Family Game Night at Gilman School. Over 40 **B.E.S.T.** middle school family members enjoyed a photo booth, played games, ate pizza, and danced.

Ready for their turn in the Photo Booth!



**Playing the game, "Headbanz"**

**Happy Middle  
School Family**



**Two Middle Schoolers  
with their moms**



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

## ***B.E.S.T. Family Day at the Maryland Zoo***

On a Saturday in mid-June, 74 **B.E.S.T.** lower and middle school family members enjoyed a day at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. It was a wonderful way to congratulate our students on a great school year! Thank you to **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, Diane Hutchins, who serves as the Vice-President of Government Affairs at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, for helping to make this fun-filled and special day possible for our families.



**B.E.S.T.** Family feeds a giraffe at the Zoo



**B.E.S.T.** Siblings

## ***B.E.S.T. Back to School Family Celebration***

Over 230 **B.E.S.T.** students and family members attended the annual Back to School Celebration at St. Paul's School/St. Paul's School for Girls, to mark the end of summer and look forward to the start of the new school year. For new and returning **B.E.S.T.** students, the evening was a chance to make new friends, reunite with Summer Scholars classmates, or reconnect with the **B.E.S.T.** community. New Board members, Sue Sadler (Head of Bryn Mawr School) and Floyd Smith (M&T Bank), joined in the celebration. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get their face painted, play board games, complete a **B.E.S.T.**-themed scavenger hunt, and gather to take pictures in the photo booth.



**B.E.S.T.** Students enjoying the Back to School Celebration





# Building a **STRONG** Foundation with Summer Scholars

## *Summer Scholars*

For five weeks this June and July, **B.E.S.T.** hosted our annual academic enrichment and transition program for newly-enrolled rising middle and upper school **B.E.S.T.** students. The program consisted of rigorous academics, art, athletics, a curriculum focused on transitions, four field trips, and time to build lifelong friendships.



Summer Scholars students visit the American Visionary Arts Museum



Summer Scholars students at the Hippodrome Theater



Summer Scholars students at the Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School



Summer Scholars students outside of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum

As a special opportunity for our older students, both newly-enrolled and returning **B.E.S.T.** 9<sup>th</sup> graders participated in two workshops that focused on starting the college conversation and transitioning from middle school to upper school. Both sessions inspired important conversations and allowed for the exploration of these meaningful issues. Thank you, Megan Johnston and Marlo Thomas of Roland Park Country School, for leading these workshops!



9<sup>th</sup> Grade **B.E.S.T.** students at Summer Scholars Workshop Day



# Building a **STRONG** Foundation with Summer Scholars

## ***A Huge Thank You to All of our Summer Scholars Supporters***

Summer Scholars wouldn't be possible without the dedication and talent of the Summer Scholars faculty and staff! Thank you for supporting our newly enrolled students and providing them with the tools necessary to help them feel ready as they transitioned to their new schools this fall!

***Elisha James, Director and Science***

***Keri-Sue Baker, Reading***

***Dr. Jill Ewing Flynn, Writing***

***Fitz Hardcastle, Math***

***Antoinette Hawkins, Art***

***Marq Hayes '17, Intern***

***Kim Hoffman, Social Studies***

***Niala K. '18, Intern***

***Yvette Matthews, Extended Day***

***Marlo Thomas, Transitions***

***Preston Waters, Athletics***



Thank you to Roland Park Country School for hosting our Summer Scholars program, to STX for their donation of lacrosse equipment, and the Hippodrome Foundation for sponsoring a day at the Theatre.

**We are extremely grateful to our generous funders for making this experience possible for our students:**



# B.E.S.T. Class of 2017 Off to College



Bucknell University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Frostburg State University  
Morgan State University  
West Virginia Wesleyan (2)

Garrison Forest School.  
**YOU CAN. YOU WILL.**

Connecticut College  
Elon University

**McDONOUGH SCHOOL**

Davidson College  
McDaniel College  
St. Mary's College  
Syracuse University  
Washington College  
Wilkes University



Elon University  
Howard University (3)  
Towson University

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

Colby College  
Haverford College  
Howard University  
Ohio State University



**GILMAN**

Olin College  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Villanova University



Goucher College  
University of North Carolina Charlotte  
Wagner College



Towson University



**Jemicy School**  
Lycoming College

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

George Mason University  
Loyola University Maryland  
St. Mary's College  
Towson University  
University of San Francisco



Florida A&M University  
North Carolina A&T State University  
North Carolina Central University  
University of Maryland Baltimore County



St. Mary's College





# Building a Pathway to College

## ***FAFSA Workshop for Parents of B.E.S.T. Seniors***

In mid-October, **B.E.S.T.** worked in partnership with three member schools, Bryn Mawr School, Gilman School, and Roland Park Country School, to host a College Financial Aid Forms Workshop for Class of 2017 parents. Financial aid professionals from Goucher College, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University, Stevenson University, Towson University, and UMBC came to share their expertise and provide hands-on support to **B.E.S.T.** parents as they completed and submitted the necessary financial aid forms for colleges and universities.

*Thank you to Anna Follensbee, College Counselor at Gilman School; Sally Diehl, Director of College Counseling at Roland Park Country School; and Patti Whalen, Director of College Counseling at Bryn Mawr School, for their partnership in planning this important workshop.*

## ***Premier SAT/ACT Prep***

Thanks to the generosity of the Legg Mason Foundation, 22 **B.E.S.T.** juniors participated in an eight-week SAT/ACT preparatory program through Capital Educators. This invaluable program was provided at no cost to our families.



## ***Independent Senior Projects***

Before graduation in June, seniors at **B.E.S.T.** Member Schools must participate in a two or three week internship or "Senior Project," an unpaid internship working 40 hours a week in a field of their interest.

This year, **B.E.S.T.** was able to help place three **B.E.S.T.** seniors for internships.

Jalen M. '17 from Boys' Latin School spent his two week internship at **B.E.S.T.** putting together individualized College Resource Packets for his fellow **B.E.S.T.** classmates. College Resource Packets include: a customized information sheet full of helpful details about the student's college, alumni office information of their member schools and a college t-shirt.

Cache '17 from Roland Park Country School and Trey-Lonte '17 from Boys' Latin School, spent their senior internships shadowing Attorney, Tiffani Collins, **B.E.S.T.** Alumna '00 and Board Vice President.



Needless to say, we miss Jalen's energy in the office!



Crystal Lee '96, **B.E.S.T.** Director of Advancement with Jalen M. '17 on his last day of interning with **B.E.S.T.**

Caché T. and Trey-Lonte G. with Tiffani Collins '00, **B.E.S.T.** Board Vice President, and Aissatou Boye '16, **B.E.S.T.** and St. Paul's School for Girls Alumna, who returned for a summer internship with Tiffani's law practice after her senior internship experience last spring.



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

## ***B.E.S.T. Alumni Networking Breakfast***

In October 2016, **B.E.S.T.** Alumni gathered at Donna's Cross Keys for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alumni Networking Breakfast. Alums from the Classes of 1993 – 2011 were in attendance and represented the following **B.E.S.T.** member schools: Bryn Mawr School, Garrison Forest School, Gilman School, Friends School of Baltimore, McDonogh School, the Park School of Baltimore, Roland Park Country School, Severn School, and St. Timothy's School.

After hearing from **B.E.S.T.** staff about the extensive programmatic growth of **B.E.S.T.** since their time as **B.E.S.T.** students, the alums shared their current career choices and ways in which they would like to support both B.E.S.T and their member schools.



**B.E.S.T.** Alumni at Donna's Cross Keys

Tuesday Barnes '09, the Bryn Mawr School;  
Natasha Ampofo '94, St. Timothy's School; **B.E.S.T.**  
Trustee and Alumna, Nikki Hasselbarth '04,  
the Park School of Baltimore



**B.E.S.T.** Alumni from Friends School  
of Baltimore: Jonathan LaTouche '02,  
Temika Britton '99, Kijana Mack '93  
and David Fakunle '05



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

## ***B.E.S.T. Alumni Service Project & Lunch***

In May of 2017, **B.E.S.T.** college-aged Alumni started off their summer by joining **B.E.S.T.** staff at Art With A Heart\* to work on art-based service projects, benefiting the greater Baltimore community.

The projects included working on a large mosaic for Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital and prepping materials for the Baltimore Autism Society. Following work on these fun and rewarding projects, the group had lunch together, shared summer plans, and traded stories of their college experiences this year.

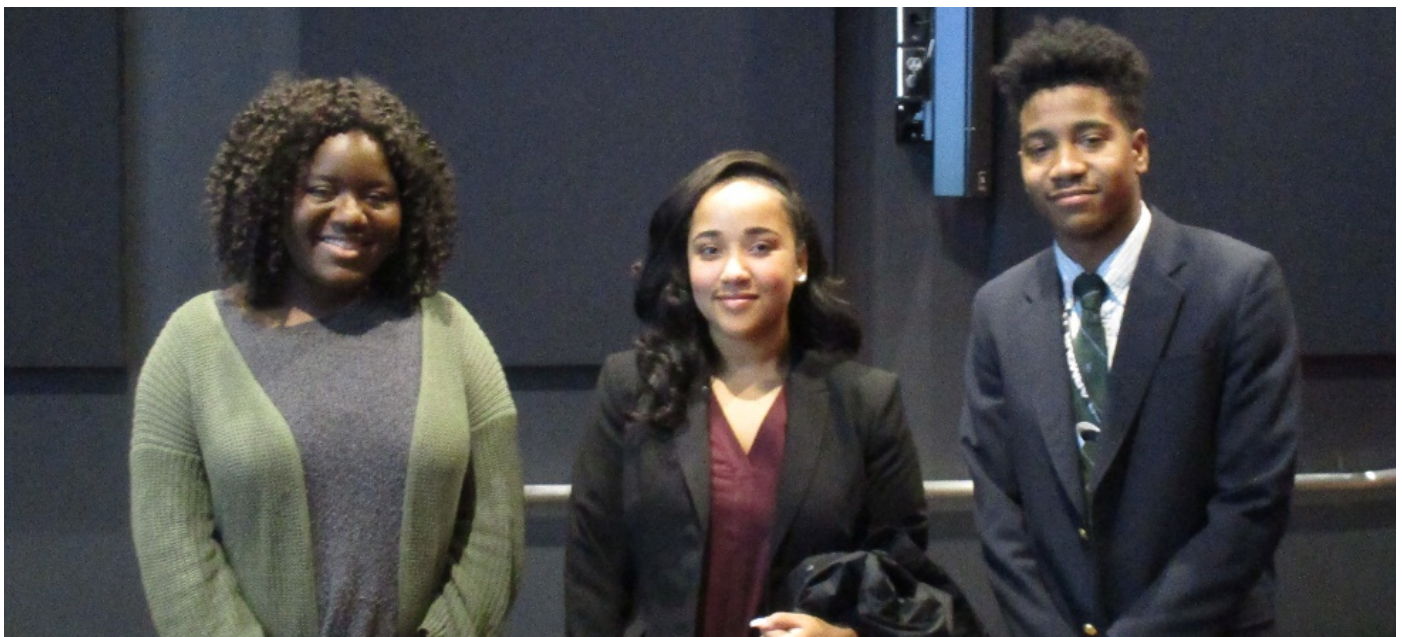
*\*Art With a Heart's mission is to enhance the lives of people in need through visual art.*



**B.E.S.T. Alumni at Art With A Heart**

## ***Alumni Connections and Congratulations***

In January, three **B.E.S.T.** college-aged Alumni participated in Under Armour's Career Combine. UA's Career Combine is a selective early career program for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> year college students to have an opportunity to experience UA from the inside. They spent three days at UA's Global Headquarters in Baltimore learning the business, enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and preparing for careers in their fields of choice upon graduation.



Tori Thompson, Maryvale Preparatory School '15, Hampton University; Nicole Steele, Bryn Mawr School '15, Penn State University; Kayin Chambers, St. Paul's School '15, Ursinus College



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

## **Alumni Connections and Congratulations**

Thanks to a connection **B.E.S.T.** made with Under Armour's Human Resources Department, India Peterson '15 was accepted into Under Armour's "KickOff Rookie Program," a seven-week internship for college students. The KickOff Rookie Program gives current college students the chance to get inside the world's most dynamic brand in sports, while advancing Under Armour's mission of making all athletes better through passion, design, and the relentless pursuit of innovation.

India interned in the Supply Planning Department at UA and was responsible for helping to cut the lead time for ordering shoes and the fabrics and materials needed for construction of footwear. She was the only non-Supply Chain Management major (she is an International Business major at Howard University) in the department and had the opportunity to work closely with managers on various projects.



India Peterson '15, **B.E.S.T.** and Roland Park Country School Alumna at the Under Armour Headquarters in Baltimore.



Congratulations to Cameron Wade, **B.E.S.T.** and Gilman Alumnus, Class of 2013, for securing a position with the Management Development Program (MDP) at M&T Bank in Baltimore. The Management Development Program at M&T Bank is one of the most respected post-undergrad programs in the banking industry. Cameron graduated from Amherst College in May of 2017 and began working at M&T in June.

Cameron Wade '13 (left) with new **B.E.S.T.** Trustee, Floyd Smith, Assistant Vice President, M&T Bank

## **Crystal Lee, B.E.S.T. Director Of Advancement, Named as a Baltimore Business Journal "40 Under 40" Honoree**

In November 2016, **B.E.S.T.** staff were joined by Stu Simms, Trustee Emeritus, and Karlo Young, Board President, to celebrate Crystal Lee at the *Baltimore Business Journal* "40 Under 40" recognition event at Port Discovery. Per the BBJ: "The honorees range from bankers and lawyers, to designers, entrepreneurs, social justice advocates, government employees and nonprofit workers. They are presidents, CEOs, founders, executives and directors. They are Greater Baltimore business people who have excelled quickly within their fields, engaged with the community and made a name for themselves all before the age of 40." Crystal Lee, **B.E.S.T.** and Garrison Forest School Alumna '96, was honored for her outstanding service and commitment to making Baltimore better. The event's theme was "What's Your Hashtag?" – and Crystal's was #LeadWithLove!

Crystal Lee '96 with **B.E.S.T.** Executive Director, Jessica Suriano at the "40 Under 40" Event





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

## ***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. Our work also includes chairing quarterly First Generation Affinity Group meetings, comprised of college support professionals, from independent, public and parochial schools, nonprofit leadership, and admissions and administrative teams from institutions of higher education.

On a Saturday in October 2016, **B.E.S.T.** hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Starting the College Conversation” Workshop at Towson University for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents.

Dr. Dave Fedorchak, Director of University Admissions, and Barry Evans, Outreach Specialist, led an engaging seminar for students and parents designed to help spark important family conversations about the journey to college and to reinforce that it is not an application process to go to college, but rather a “selection process.” They reinforced that the journey to college starts and is driven by the students, and is comprised of tiny, incremental steps that will help the students set themselves apart. Students learned the “return on investment” of obtaining a college degree, which includes having a richer life in all respects.

We are very grateful to Towson University and Baltimore City Public Schools for their continued partnership in hosting this meaningful workshop for students and families in Baltimore.



**B.E.S.T.** Students at the “Starting the College Conversation” Workshop

## **FIRST GENERATION AFFINITY GROUP MEETINGS** 2016-2017 Academic Year

### **Discussion Topic:**

How Do We Help Students Find Professional Fulfillment and Success After College?  
September 2016

How Early Employment Supports Post-Secondary Success  
November 2016

Wait... Who am I? Who am I Supposed to Be? Supporting First Generation  
Student Experiences of Identity Intersectionality and Negotiation  
January 2017

The Role of Counselors/Advisors/Families in Preparing Students for  
Educational Transitions  
April 2017

### **Host:**

Bridges

Urban Alliance

Roland Park Country School

Loyola University Maryland

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

## ***“Reframing the College Experience” – 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual .edu Project Professional Development Workshop at Johns Hopkins University***

In May, **B.E.S.T.** hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual .edu Project Professional Development Workshop in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore City Public Schools. This year’s workshop, “Reframing the College Experience,” featured a college student panel and a professional panel. Facilitated by Calvin Wise, Director of Recruitment for Johns Hopkins University, the student panelists shared their college admission experiences, their transitions to college, and the paths they have taken during their educational journeys. Common themes were navigating surprises, the importance of mentoring, and connections on campus beyond the academics. The professional panelists discussed their paths to college, what has been important to them in their careers, and their insights on how to prepare current college students for the workforce.

We are grateful to all of our panelists for candidly sharing their experiences and for reinforcing what students need on their paths to and through college and as they transition to their careers.

### **Student Panel:**

Kwame Alston, Johns Hopkins University

Trevor Ebert, University of Baltimore

Beteley Mulatu, Goucher College

Alandis Whitley, Towson University

### **Professional Panel:**

Nikki Hasselbarth, Venable LLP, **B.E.S.T.** Alumna '04 and Trustee

Robyne McCullough, WBAL TV, **B.E.S.T.** Alumna '07

Joshua Perry, Brown Advisory, **B.E.S.T.** Alumnus '02

Shane Tanzymore, Under Armour, **B.E.S.T.** Alumnus '91



Calvin Wise, Director of Recruitment for Johns Hopkins University (left) with Current College Student Panel

Calvin Wise, Director of Recruitment for Johns Hopkins University (left) and Jessica Suriano, **B.E.S.T.**'s Executive Director (second from right) with Professional Panel made up of **B.E.S.T.** Alumni: Shane Tanzymore '91, Under Armour; Robyne McCullough '07, WBAL TV; Nikki Hasselbarth '04, Venable LLP and **B.E.S.T.** Trustee; and Joshua Perry '02, Brown Advisory





# B.E.S.T. Financials

## Balance Sheet June 30, 2016 and 2015

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	169,931	176,258
Investments	9,736,710	10,117,294
Unconditional Promises to Give, Net	18,133	26,397
Prepaid Expenses	10,092	12,430
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation		
Respectively	19,583	29,091
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>9,954,449</b>	<b>10,361,470</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Distributions Payable to Member Schools	308,800	300,000
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	14,613	10,092
Capital Lease Payable	2,009	3,224
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>325,422</b>	<b>313,316</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	262,247	193,220
Temporarily Restricted	3,902,233	4,390,387
Permanently Restricted	5,464,547	5,464,547
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>9,629,027</b>	<b>10,048,154</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>9,954,449</b>	<b>10,361,470</b>

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, 2016. With summarized information for the Year ended June 30, 2015.

<b>Revenues and Support</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Student Emergency</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>Permanently Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2016</b>	<b>Total 2015</b>
Contributions	589,494	66,250	655,744	78,433	—	734,177	739,089
School Membership Fees	386,000	—	386,000	—	—	386,000	375,000
Application Fees and Other	10,696	—	10,696	—	—	10,696	10,793
Satisfaction of Donor Restrictions	587,430	(49,954)	537,476	(537,476)	—	—	—
<b>Total Revenues and Support</b>	<b>1,573,620</b>	<b>16,296</b>	<b>1,589,916</b>	<b>(459,043)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,130,873</b>	<b>1,124,882</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Program Services	1,196,658	—	1,196,658	—	—	1,196,658	1,107,967
General and Administrative	160,204	—	160,204	—	—	160,204	153,800
Fundraising	163,765	—	163,765	—	—	163,765	179,563
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,520,627</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,520,627</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,520,627</b>	<b>1,441,330</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>52,993</b>	<b>16,296</b>	<b>69,289</b>	<b>(459,043)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(389,754)</b>	<b>(316,448)</b>
<b>Other Changes</b>							
Interest and Dividend Income	3,285	—	3,285	172,770	—	176,055	164,662
Realized and Unrealized Loss (Gain)							
Investments	(3,547)	—	(3,547)	(201,881)	—	(205,428)	21,675
Change in Net Assets	52,731	16,296	69,027	(488,154)	—	(419,127)	(130,111)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>174,119</b>	<b>19,101</b>	<b>193,220</b>	<b>4,390,387</b>	<b>5,464,547</b>	<b>10,048,154</b>	<b>10,178,265</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>226,850</b>	<b>35,397</b>	<b>262,247</b>	<b>3,902,233</b>	<b>5,464,547</b>	<b>9,629,027</b>	<b>10,048,154</b>

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Waldorf School of Baltimore

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(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017). If an error has been  
made, please accept our sincere apologies and notify  
Crystal Lee at 410.752.2225 or clea@besttrust.org.

Thank you to Trustees, Chris Berrier and David Hunter, and  
Alumni, Victor Abiamiri '03 and Joshua Perry '02, for hosting a  
*B.E.S.T. Lunch and Learn* event at Brown Advisory.

Thank you to Trustee, Vernon Reid, Alumnus Shane Tanzymore '91  
and B.E.S.T. Friend, Tedd Alexander, for hosting a B.E.S.T.  
*Lunch and Learn* at T. Rowe Price and Associates.



## **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  
Roland Park Country School • St. Paul's School • St. Paul's School for Girls  
St. Timothy's School • Severn School • Waldorf School of Baltimore



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