



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# Message From Board President, Karlo Young and Executive Director, Jess Suriano



Dearest Friends of B.E.S.T.,

The Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust continues to shine as a source of opportunity and promise, building on our proud 38-year history of championing Black students in Baltimore from families with limited financial resources. Through our wide-ranging programs, spanning admissions guidance, financial aid counseling, parent/caregiver partnerships, academic enrichment, leadership development, college readiness, an internship pipeline, and financial support, we are committed to removing barriers and creating pathways to success. And we are so grateful to have you as a partner in this work.

We are thrilled to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust and the essential role you play in making them possible. This year, we are proud to support 404 **B.E.S.T.** students in grades K–12 across our 17 Member Schools. These students are leaving their marks, not only by thriving in the classroom but also by enriching their school communities and shaping a more inclusive future.

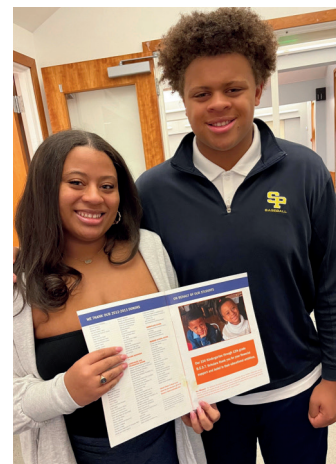
As we look back on a remarkable year, we are energized by what we have achieved together. In the pages ahead, we invite you to explore the key pillars of our work: **SUPPORT, LEADERSHIP, FAMILY, CONNECTION, ACHIEVEMENT** and **ALUMNI**. We also encourage you to visit the **LEGACY** section to learn more about how your continued investment ensures that this mission endures for generations to come. At the heart of everything we do are our students, Alumni, families, Member Schools, Trustees, and supporters - especially you.

Thank you for your ongoing belief in our mission and the promise of every **B.E.S.T.** scholar.

With deepest appreciation,

Karlo G. Young  
Board President

Jessica W. Suriano  
Executive Director



Cover, Teddy J. '25 (John Carroll University) Pictured with sister, Ariel J. '24 (University of North Carolina - Charlotte) who were featured in the 2013 Annual Report

## Our Mission

The Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust, in partnership with our seventeen 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.

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# Admissions

At its core, **B.E.S.T.** is committed to supporting academically ambitious Black students from families with financial need in the Baltimore region who are poised to thrive in an independent school. We identify prospective candidates for grades K–9 through intentional recruitment partnerships with public and parochial schools, as well as nonprofit and youth-serving academic, arts, and athletic programs and organizations across the city. These partnerships include, among others, St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson School, Bridges Baltimore, and the Baltimore School for the Arts TWIGS program. We are also proud of our strong word-of-mouth network, as current and past **B.E.S.T.** families regularly refer friends, relatives, and colleagues to the program.

Each year, from June through September, we guide families through a thoughtful and thorough admissions process. Once accepted into the **B.E.S.T.** program, families receive one-on-one admissions counseling and support as they explore and apply to our Member Schools, along with guidance on other educational opportunities in the region. Our admissions programming includes Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) preparation, administration of the ISEE, a Financial Aid Workshop for parents and caregivers, a Member School Fair exclusively for **B.E.S.T.** applicants, and continuous, personalized support from our Admissions team every step of the way.



*New Parent/Caregiver Welcome  
Dinner Current Parent Panel*



*B.E.S.T. Convenes our Member School colleagues  
at the start of each academic year*



# B.E.S.T. Student, Family and Alumni Support Programming

**B.E.S.T.** programming offers meaningful opportunities for connection, leadership growth, essential support, and community engagement. Our initiatives are designed to enhance the independent school journey for students and families, while deepening their relationships with both **B.E.S.T.** and their Member Schools. We also remain closely connected with our college-aged and older Alumni communities, providing continued support and engagement beyond graduation. Many of our year-round programs are highlighted throughout this report.

Here are some additional 2024-2025 Student, Family, and Alumni Programs:





# Summer Scholars

Summer Scholars, our longest-running, signature support and transition program, prepares our newly-enrolled **B.E.S.T.** Middle and Upper School students for the rigor and opportunities awaiting them at their new independent schools. And the program ensures the newest members of the **B.E.S.T.** family complete the program feeling connected to **B.E.S.T.**, each other, and the broader independent school community.

Over the course of five weeks, Summer Scholars offers an engaging curriculum comprised of academics, athletics, art, field trips, study skills, advisory and affirmational programming, as well as provides experiences necessary to support a smooth transition in the fall. Also, Summer Scholars establishes a rich network of friends and faculty who will stay with them long after the summer is over. In addition to rigorous academic courses, Summer Scholars 2025, themed “Get Rooted,” featured the following experiences:

- Field trip to Camp Hippodrome at The Hippodrome Theatre
- Day at Outward Bound for team-building and leadership development
- Story Telling Workshop with B.E.S.T. Alumnus, David Fakunle '05, Ph.D.
- Transitions Workshops led by Farah Evans '98, Bryn Mawr School Director of Student Support Services and Upper School Counselor; and Donell Thompson, Gilman School Director of Secondary School Admissions and Upper School Math Teacher
- Roller-Skating Party at Skateland



## PARENT REMARKS:

*“The Summer Scholars Program meant a lot for my daughter entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It not only focused on Academic Enrichment, but it also showed her that Cultural Representation is important. It allowed her to build courage entering St. Paul’s School for Girls, knowing that she belongs and can excel within the school she chose. Connecting with the interns there showed her she was fit for the journey ahead.”*

—Summer Scholars Parent

## STUDENT REMARKS:

*“This [program] wasn’t just about fun and new experiences. It was about preparing us for what’s ahead, helping us feel a sense of belonging in our new private schools, and reminding us to stay true to who we are is what really matters...It helped us grow more confident in who we are and showed us that we’re ready to face new challenges with resilience and a strong community who we can always turn to and rely on. To my classmates, I challenge us to walk into our new schools not with fear, but with courage.*

*Whether it’s a new sport, leadership positions, or a club—be yourself, take chances, and make the most of every opportunity.”*

—Summer Scholars Student, rising 9<sup>th</sup> grader

Our heartfelt thanks to Roland Park Country School for graciously and lovingly hosting us; and to Summer Scholars Director, LaShanda Lawrence, and the incredible faculty, including our interns, B.E.S.T. / St. Paul’s School for Girls Alumnae Chace C. ’25 (North Carolina A& T State University) and Mykenzie C. ’25 (North Carolina A& T State University) and B.E.S.T. / St. Paul’s School Alumnus Xavier B. ’25 (Bowie State University).

Your support of our students is a gift that will stay with them.





SUPPORT



Thank You

STX®

*Lee* Thomas Wilson  
FOUNDATION



# Summer Camp Initiative

Summer camp is incredibly rewarding for children, providing the chance to explore areas of existing interest, try and discover new things, and make new friends and memories. Attending summer camp is also very much a part of the culture of the independent school community. We also know that the expense of summer camp, particularly for families with limited financial resources, can be overwhelming and prohibitive. Since our pilot in 2023, **B.E.S.T.** now provides up to \$500 for students in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in summer camps and experiences.

Offering families the opportunity to select a summer camp or summer experience of their choosing for their child creates a ripple effect for the family - we lessen the financial burden for the parents/caregivers and provide meaningful summer experiences for the students.



We offer a tremendous thank you to the **Black Philanthropy Circle** of the Baltimore Community Foundation for their generous grant which helps to fund this initiative.



*Josh Perry '02, B.E.S.T. Alumnus; Jess Suriano, B.E.S.T. Executive Director; Theo Rodgers, B.E.S.T. Trustee Emeritus; Crystal Lee '96, B.E.S.T. Deputy Director; Alicia Wilson, Co-Founder of the Black Philanthropy Circle – celebrating the Black Philanthropy Circle's first \$1 million in grants to Black-led and Black serving nonprofits in Baltimore.*

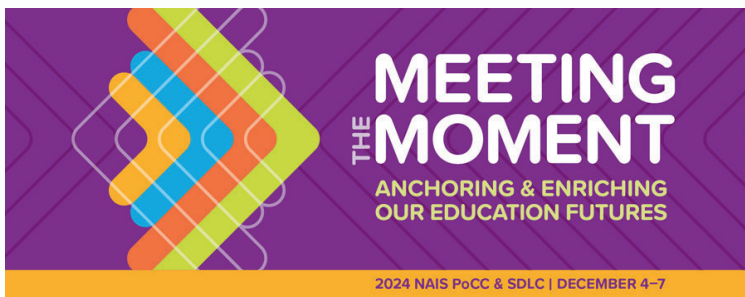




## Special Funds

### Stuart O. Simms President's Fund

**The Stuart O. Simms President's Fund** at **B.E.S.T.** was established to honor Stu Simms, Past President and Trustee Emeritus, for his unwavering commitment to the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust. The Fund provides transformational support for **B.E.S.T.** students above and beyond the existing support provided by **B.E.S.T.** and our Member Schools. This includes, but is not limited to: psychoeducational testing, significant transportation challenges, academic supports, experiential learning opportunities, out-of-state travel for college visits, and school-sponsored domestic and international travel.



**MARYLAND**  
**STATE CHOIR**

### Anthony Deering Cultural Enhancement Fund

Established by Theo Rodgers to honor the memory of his friend, **the Anthony Deering Cultural Enhancement Fund** provides **B.E.S.T.** students the opportunity to have enriching cultural experiences, including school-year and summer opportunities at Baltimore area cultural institutions. This past academic year **B.E.S.T.** took 37 students to see *The Lion King* at The Hippodrome Theatre.





## The Rodgers Family Emergency Fund

The Rodgers Family Emergency Fund, named for Theo Rodgers, Past President and Trustee Emeritus, and in loving memory of his wife, Blanche, was created to respond to emergency grant requests for a family at risk of their student's disenrollment from their Member School due to financial crisis caused by health challenges, the loss of employment, or other life-complicating circumstances. This past academic year, the Rodgers Family Emergency Fund supported 12 families in need.

## GAP Funding

GAP Funding is administered by **B.E.S.T.** to support student enrollment, including supporting a portion of the enrollment deposit of each newly-enrolling student. GAP Funding can also be requested by a **B.E.S.T.** Member School as a one-time financial award given on behalf of a specific, newly-admitted student to support their tuition for the first year at their new independent school. GAP Funding is the balance of tuition between what is offered in financial aid from a school, and what a parent is able to provide as their first-year parent contribution. After the first enrollment year, as a condition of receiving the award, the Member School adjusts their financial aid award to cover the amount of GAP Funding that **B.E.S.T.** contributed towards the first year of tuition.

Thank you to the Baltimore Community Foundation for your longstanding support of GAP Funding.



## SAT/ACT Prep

Thanks to special funding provided by Lee Owen **B.E.S.T.** Trustee Emeritus, and his wife Jenny, **B.E.S.T.** supports SAT/ACT prep for all **B.E.S.T.** Juniors through a significant partnership with premier test-prep company, Capital Educators.



## B.E.S.T. *Leaders on Leadership* Breakfast

Each fall, **B.E.S.T.** hosts our annual *Leaders on Leadership* Breakfast at The Center Club, convening our Upper School Students, Trustees, partners and most generous funders for a morning of community and inspiration. This event brings together our city's top philanthropic, educational, and corporate leaders with the next generation of Baltimore leadership- our students. The morning features empowering messages from Black leaders along with expressions of deep appreciation for our distinguished funders, Heads of School, Community Trustees, Alumni and friends of **B.E.S.T.** And most importantly, the morning celebrates the significant, positive impact of our students on their independent schools and the broader Baltimore community.



*B.E.S.T. Trustee and Head  
of St. Paul's School for Girls  
Ereni Malfa*



*2024 Honored Speakers  
B.E.S.T. & St. Paul's School for Girls Alumna and B.E.S.T.  
Trustee Keyia Yalcin '02, owner of Fishnet Restaurant; and  
Michael C. Ford B.E.S.T. Trustee*



*B.E.S.T. Board President Karlo Young*





# LEADERSHIP







## GILMAN BLACK ALUMNI LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute (GBALI) is a non-academic co-educational leadership program designed to expose Baltimore Area high school students to business, college, career and life concepts not typically addressed in the curriculum and pedagogy of most schools. Since 2005, the foundation of GBALI is the idea that success is defined by more than a career, and that a career is determined by more than academics. Emphasis is placed not only on educational and career choices but also on the importance of interpersonal relationships and accountability to oneself and others. GBALI students develop a more complete and stronger understanding of the connection between decisions, career, friendships and family.

**B.E.S.T.** is proud to partner with GBALI in supporting our shared students. The 2025 cohort included 17 **B.E.S.T.** students.

**Congratulations, GBALI Directors Past and Present, on your 20 Years of service to young people in Baltimore. We are grateful to have had so many B.E.S.T. students participate these past two decades and look forward to many more years of partnership!**



*Karlo Young,  
B.E.S.T. Board  
President and  
GBALI Co-Director*



*GBALI/B.E.S.T. students  
Aamir E. '26, Jalise D.'26,  
Sammi K.'25*

## 2025 Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award Winners

This award, in memory of the late Stanley I. Panitz, Founding **B.E.S.T.** Board Chair, is presented annually to two **B.E.S.T.** Juniors in recognition of their academic achievement, their demonstrated leadership in both their school and the broader community, and their strength of character. We are so proud of Aubrey and Noah!



*Aubrey J. '26, Bryn Mawr School*



*Noah L. '26, Gilman School*



# Partnerships

ART WITH  A HEART



Macy H. '25, Art of Leadership Graduate,  
pictured with B.E.S.T. Executive  
Director, Jess Suriano

Each year, **B.E.S.T.** students participate in Art with a Heart's yearlong leadership program "Art of Leadership." The Art of Leadership brings together 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade public and independent school students of diverse backgrounds to develop leadership skills and engage in dialogue across cultural barriers. In 2025, through the Molly Hathaway and Redmond C.S. Finney Leadership Funds, **B.E.S.T.** sponsored three **B.E.S.T.** upper school students to have this wonderful leadership opportunity. Since the Art of Leadership Program began, **B.E.S.T.** has made it possible for 33 students to take part.



Kennedy G. '20, Marketing Content Manager,  
B&O Railroad Museum; INROADS Alumna

**B.E.S.T.** hosts INROADS information sessions annually to encourage our young Alumni to build their professional experience through paid internships and other supports provided through INROADS.

INROADS is a non-profit organization that creates pathways to careers for ethnically diverse college students across the country.



## 2025 B.E.S.T. STEMcx Summer Interns



Jasmine R. '28  
Healthcare



Brooke S. '27  
Healthcare



Logan W. '28  
Architecture



Aubrey J. '26  
Healthcare



Laila R. '26  
Environmental Justice











**B.E.S.T. is both a connector and a convener.** We celebrate the many ways we build and strengthen relationships with our students, families, and Alumni; with our 17 Member Schools; through our partner organizations; and within the broader Baltimore community and beyond. At the heart of our work is a commitment to ensuring students feel seen, supported, and truly connected. That sense of belonging is made possible through the depth and diversity of the connections we foster every day.

## College Visits and Workshops

**B.E.S.T. CONNECTS OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE COLLEGE SEARCH, ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION PROCESS**

### Visit to the University of Maryland, College Park



## College Admissions FAQ Workshop

Special thanks to **B.E.S.T.** Trustee Calvin Wise, Dean of Admissions at Johns Hopkins University, for leading this informative annual session for our Upper School students and families each fall. New this year was the post-session tour of Johns Hopkins University's beautiful campus.





## Convening Our Families

### B.E.S.T. CONNECTS WITH OUR FAMILIES AND HONORS OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

**B.E.S.T.** students and their loved ones gathered in December for our annual Family Holiday Party to enjoy festive cheer and celebrate the Class of 2025 as they move into the second half of their Senior year. Each year, a Senior is selected to share their reflections and the impact **B.E.S.T.** has had on their school experience. This year, Teddy's powerful words resonated with students and parents alike.

**"B.E.S.T. IS A NETWORK OF SUPPORT THAT GOES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM. THE MENTORSHIP AND GUIDANCE I RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM WERE INVALUABLE. WHENEVER I FACED CHALLENGES — ACADEMIC, PERSONAL, OR EMOTIONAL — I KNEW I HAD PEOPLE IN MY CORNER WHO BELIEVED IN ME AND WANTED TO SEE ME SUCCEED...B.E.S.T. HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF MY SUCCESS. IT HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE TOOLS, RESOURCES, AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO DREAM BIG AND WORK TOWARD THOSE DREAMS. IT HAS ALSO SHOWN ME THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BACK AND SUPPORTING OTHERS IN THE SAME WAY I'VE BEEN SUPPORTED."** -TEDDY J. '25, ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL (PICTURED SECOND FROM LEFT)



## Convening Our Colleagues

### B.E.S.T. CONNECTS WITH OUR MEMBER SCHOOL DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING COLLEAGUES

In February, **B.E.S.T.** convened colleagues from our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging offices for a morning of building connections and highlighting the vital work being done in our schools to support and affirm **B.E.S.T.** students in predominantly white environments. The event was hosted at Roland Park Country School, and Courtney Dixon, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program at RPCS guided the group through a facilitated conversation and reflection focused on affirming, uplifting, and celebrating one another.



## Convening Our Partners

### B.E.S.T. CONNECTS WITH OUR ADMISSION PARTNERS

In the spring, **B.E.S.T.** welcomed colleagues from many of our admission partner schools and organizations for a meaningful conversation about how our collaboration supports their students and families as they navigate educational opportunities at **B.E.S.T.** Member Schools.





# Black History Month Student Book Mailing

**B.E.S.T. CONNECTS WITH AND UPLIFTS OUR STUDENTS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Each February during Black History Month **B.E.S.T.** sends specially selected, affirmational books to our students to help them build their “Leadership Library.”



# Kickoff to Summer Celebration

**B.E.S.T. CONNECTS WITH STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND ALUMNI TO CELEBRATE THE START OF SUMMER**

What a way to start the summer! Thank you to Odyssey School for hosting the **B.E.S.T.** Community for an evening of connection and family fun. Food trucks, face painters, DJ DPTJR, lawn games, and memory-making with old and new friends make this the perfect annual event!







## Special Student Opportunities

**B.E.S.T. CONNECTS OUR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### Honorable Mabel Houze Hubbard Legacy Luncheon, hosted by the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland

Thank you to **B.E.S.T.** Board Vice President & Alumna, Tiffani Collins, Esq., Friends School '00, for hosting Upper School students at this luncheon, which gathered a distinguished group of legal professionals from the greater Baltimore area for an afternoon of connection and community.



### *& Juliet*

Students were treated to the exciting final dress rehearsal of *& Juliet* at The Hippodrome Theatre at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center in Baltimore. We are so grateful to our partners at The Hippodrome Foundation for including **B.E.S.T.** in this wonderful, fun and empowering production. Guests also participated in a “talk back” following the show with the incredible *& Juliet* cast.





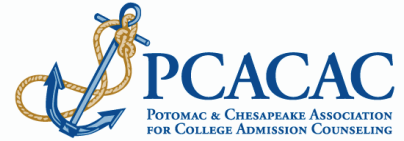


## Professional Conferences

**B.E.S.T. CONNECTS WITH PROFESSIONAL PEERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY**



The National Association of Independent Schools People of Color Conference in Denver, CO  
Attended by Crystal Lee '96, Deputy Director; Karlo Young, B.E.S.T. Board President; Jill Wood, Director of Finance; Alecia Pridgen, Director of Enrollment Management (pictured left to right)

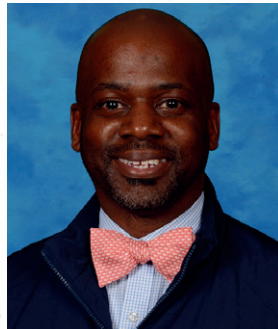


PCACAC Summer Institute hosted at Morgan State University, attended by Peggy Bittner, Director of Programs and Alumni Relations

## Welcoming New Trustees

**B.E.S.T. WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP TO THE 2025-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### COMMUNITY TRUSTEES



**TYE CAMPBELL**



**DARIUS JENNINGS '11**  
CBRE

### HEAD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES



**DR. TIM LIGHTMAN**  
THE ODYSSEY SCHOOL



**ANN TEAFF**  
GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL (INTERIM)



**PAT WHITEHEAD**  
WALDORF SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE (INTERIM)



# Congratulations to the Class of 2025



## Congratulations to a new 2025 B.E.S.T. college graduate



### Excerpts from a letter from Chéla's mother to B.E.S.T.

My heart is overflowing with gratitude as I reach out to share the most wonderful news about Chéla.

Just last week, we celebrated a moment that feels like a beautiful dream come true - Chéla walked across the stage at Amherst College, graduating Cum Laude with not one, but TWO bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Black Studies. Can you believe it? Four years of dedication, late nights, and unwavering determination have led to this incredible milestone. She was also honored with an invitation to join the Honor Society, a recognition that still brings tears of joy to my eyes.

...This fall, Chéla will continue her educational journey at Columbia University, pursuing her master's degree in psychology as she works toward her ultimate goal of earning a Ph.D.

My heart nearly bursts with joy when I think about the young woman she's become and the incredible future that lies ahead of her. From the girl you first met and supported in high school to this accomplished scholar heading to one of the nation's most prestigious universities - again - it's nothing short of miraculous.

I know that none of this would have been possible without the love, support, and belief that ... B.E.S.T. [has] shown Chéla from the very beginning. You saw her potential when she was still discovering it herself. You invested in her dreams when they seemed impossibly big. You stood by her through every challenge and celebrated every victory along the way.

As Chéla continues to soar to new heights, please know that you will forever be part of her story - the people who believed in her before she fully believed in herself.



CHÉLA C.

SEVERN SCHOOL '21  
AMHERST COLLEGE '25  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATE



## Jonathan Elliott '21

Boys' Latin School of Maryland

Bucknell University '25 - B.A. in Psychology

Program Administrator - Art with a Heart

*"B.E.S.T. opened the door to opportunities I never imagined. With their support, I was able to attend The Boys' Latin School of Maryland, where I gained the academic foundation and confidence to pursue my passions, including a life-changing opportunity to be part of Art with a Heart's fourth leadership program cohort. I decided to continue my academic journey at Bucknell University, where I studied psychology and, after graduating in May 2025, I'm proud to return to Art with a Heart as their Program Administrator. None of this would have been possible without the guidance, connections, and support of the B.E.S.T. community."*



## Olu Kopano '21

St. Paul's School

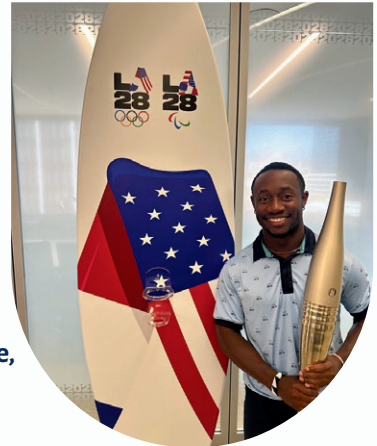
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - B.A. in Global Studies, Minor: Entrepreneurship

Certificate: Sports Communication - anticipated 2026

*"Thanks to the support of B.E.S.T., I was able not only to attend St. Paul's but also to travel and study in Tokyo, Japan during high school.*

*It is a major reason I'm in my current position now."*

**Olu (pictured right) spent his summer interning with LA28, the Los Angeles Organizing Committee, for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2028**



## Maliyah Peacock '18

The Bryn Mawr School

Arizona State University '22 - B.S. in Sociology, Minor: Spanish

Project Coordinator - Training Institute - House of Ruth Maryland

*"I credit my B.E.S.T. experience with fostering a strong sense of community, resilience, and academic confidence which have shaped both my personal and professional journeys."*

## Briana Williams '12 Ph.D.

Garrison Forest School

Carnegie Mellon University '16 - B.S. in Clinical Psychology

Michigan State University '20, '24 - M.A. in School Psychology; Ph.D. in School Psychology

Postdoctoral Fellow - The Warren Alpert Medical School - Brown University '25

Clinical Assistant Professor & Pediatric Psychologist - Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

*"Because of B.E.S.T, I graduated from Garrison Forest School with an excellent education and lifelong sisters. I was able to discover my authentic self and strengths, develop strong sisterhoods, and forge a path to my current career. My time in the B.E.S.T. program was invaluable in shaping my passion to meet unmet needs for youth and their families in an underserved area. I am grateful for my time as a B.E.S.T. student and now as an Alumna, as I can see how B.E.S.T. continues to pour into Black youth in Baltimore."*





The B.E.S.T. Alumni Network is over 1,000 strong and growing each year. We celebrate our four B.E.S.T. Alumni serving on the B.E.S.T. Board of Trustees, our Alumni working at our Member Schools, and all of the members of this vibrant, powerful community.

## Young Alumni Luncheon

Our college-aged **B.E.S.T.** Alumni gathered to reconnect with each other and the **B.E.S.T.** staff at Mt. Washington Tavern early in the New Year. Guests were able to build and expand their networks over discussions about college coursework and early careers. A special thanks to Board President Karlo Young for spending time with our young Alumni.



## Alumni Cocktail Party

**B.E.S.T.** Alumni gathered again this year at Easy Like Sunday in Cross Keys for the perfect spring evening of connection, conversation, great music from DJ DPTJR and delicious food. **B.E.S.T.** Alumni were inspired to hear about **B.E.S.T.**'s expanded work and excited to learn about ways they can connect with the organization and their Member Schools in support of current **B.E.S.T.** students. We also celebrated **B.E.S.T.** Alumnus Josh Perry (Calvert School '96 / McDonogh School '02) as he concluded his tenure on the **B.E.S.T.** Board.







# Creating a Legacy for B.E.S.T.

For nearly four decades, the **Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust** has been a catalyst for change, supporting academically ambitious Black students in Baltimore who, in turn, have strengthened and shaped the independent school community with their talent, leadership, and excellence.

What began as a mission to expand access to independent schools for families with limited financial resources has grown into a far-reaching commitment to student success. Today, we pair meaningful financial support with year-round programming to ensure that access leads to achievement, and that every student we serve is set up to thrive.



A Legacy Gift is the B.E.S.T. gift of all - one that lasts far beyond a moment.  
It's the gift of education, opportunity, and a future full of promise.



Your belief in **B.E.S.T.** has fueled our growth and solidified our role as a vital force in Baltimore's educational landscape. Because of you, young people are thriving, and the impact is lasting. We are deeply grateful for your support. Your Legacy Gift helps ensure we can continue evolving to meet the needs of our students and families for decades to come.

To make or discuss a Legacy Gift with **B.E.S.T.**, please call 410.752.2225 or email [clee@besttrust.org](mailto:clee@besttrust.org) or visit [www.besttrust.org](http://www.besttrust.org).  
If you have already included **B.E.S.T.** in your estate plans, please let us know – we would love to thank you and celebrate your generosity.







## INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Lily and Michael Abbaei  
Ime Addey  
Suzanne and Eric Adler  
Shonique Alexander  
Teri and Tedd Alexander  
Bonnie and David W. Allan  
Colleen and Deal Allen Jr.  
Anonymous (3)  
Vasundhara and Ashish Arora  
Danielle and David Ascione  
Heather K. and Clifford M. Athey  
Nancy M. and Preston G. Athey  
Nicole and Nate Atkinson  
Debra and Marc Attman  
Peter Baily  
Cricket and John Barrazotto  
C. Joyce Baughn  
Kirsten Becker  
Polly and Bruce Behrens  
Christopher Wolf and James L. Beller, Jr.  
Mary Beth Haller and Dante Beretta  
Ellen and Edward C. Bernard  
Cristin and Christopher A. Berrier  
Peggy and Brett Bittner  
**Hussainatu T. Blake '00**  
Whitney and Brian Boles  
Janice and Bruce Bolten  
Kathryn Breisch  
Casey and Erik Briggs  
**Eric D. Brooks '98**  
Sana and Andrew M. Brooks  
**Britta Brown '04**  
**Heather N. Brownley '96**  
Jean Waller Brune  
Andrew Bulgin  
Brooke and William Buppert  
**Aniya Martin Burgess '18**  
Sue Sadler and Mark Cammock  
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