

The HAMMIESPHERE

Alexander Hamilton Scholars' Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 1 | Spring 2021



Only smiles from our 2019 Hammies (left) during New York Leader Week 2019. These scholars are finishing their first years of college right now!

AHSCOMMUNITY



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Have you joined our exclusive online community, [AHSCommunity.org](https://ahscommunity.org)? This closed social media website is equal parts professional development and connection with all of our community members! There are opportunities to stay up to date on scholar news, share internship and employment opportunities, and browse through leader week photos and resources. We have specific memberships for everyone -- scholars, alumni, volunteers, supporters -- hop on over and introduce yourself today!



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring Hamilton Community! Welcome to our first quarter newsletter of 2021. We are excited to collaborate with our community in bringing you the highlights of each quarter in these features.

2021 continues to be a hybrid of lows and highs for our world – it has been one year since the COVID-19 pandemic began, reflecting a year of collective grief and adapting to connecting virtually to those in our lives. As an increasing number of individuals gain access to vaccines, our Scholars are looking forward to the promise of returning to in-person studies at their colleges in Fall.

Some of the highlights of winter quarter:

- Two of our 2017 Scholars & one 2016 Scholar are finalists for the Truman Fellowship
- Our 2020 Scholars are receiving their acceptance and financial aid packages for their upcoming first years – keep an eye out for College Signing Day
- 16 of our scholars are working remotely in internships with Students for Justice
- Our Alumni Board is planning the first Alumni Virtual Summit
- We are actively selecting our 2021 Cohort of 35 Scholars – look for the Cohort announcements in April
- We welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors – Dr. Christopher Gay and Mackenzie Welch (Alumni Board President)
- Five of our 2020 Scholars are recipients of the Horatio Alger National Scholarship
- Our supporters helped us reach our Fast Start fundraising goal of \$125,000
- We completed our 2020 Annual Report featuring some of our inspirational scholars

I am looking forward to Spring 2021 with hope – as more individuals have access to the COVID vaccine, may we all experience a safe, slow, and steady return to meeting in person with those we love, laugh, learn, and grow alongside.

All my best,



SPOTLIGHT Board of Directors

Dr. Christopher Gay

We're excited to welcome a new member of the Hamilton Community to our Board of Directors, Dr. Christopher Gay! Dr. Gay lives in Anchorage, Alaska with his wife, two kids, and extended family, where he is an anesthesiologist by training and practices interventional pain management at his own center. Below, he shares his excitement for joining our Board and working to support Hamilton Scholars nationwide:

"As a first-generation college student, the mission of the Hamilton Scholar program naturally resonated with me. After a chance meeting with our program founder George Cox and attending a Hamilton Scholar's gala, I couldn't wait to become more directly involved in the program. I'm looking forward to meeting more of the decision-makers of tomorrow!"

Prior to joining our Board, Dr. Gay connected with several of our scholars interested in the medical field, providing valuable and practical mentorship that low income, first generation college students typically don't have access to. More and more, we are seeing the strong impacts mentorship and professional experience has on scholars as they navigate through higher education. In addition to mentorship pairings with our professional community members, every year our newest cohort is formally paired with an older scholar to help guide them through the college application process. This formal mentorship pairing lasts far beyond scholars' first year of the program, serving as a support system as they explore college and enter the workforce. Each of our 31 Hamilton Scholars in the 2020 Cohort has been paired with older Hammie mentors and 100% of the mentorship



pairings have connected via email, social media, and/or video calls. Mentorship from those who have gone through similar struggles and barriers is not a resource first generation, low income students typically have access to. Only 54% of underserved youth enter a 2- or 4-year degree program, compared to 100% of Hamilton Scholars; the national average for underserved students to advance to their second year of studies is only 79%, compared to 88% of their higher-income peers (NSCRC).

The extra support Hamilton Scholars receive from AHS helps ensure they are successful not only in admittance to college, but throughout college, as indicated by our scholars' 97% college graduation rate in 5 years or less.

PROGRAMMING

2021 Hamilton Award

- 1,328 total applicants
- 427 applicants moved forward in Round One
- 208 applications graded for Round Two
- 72 applicants offered interviews for Round Three
- 45 total judges: 8 are new judges and 14 are Alumni Board members
- Of these 45, 22 judges are conducting phone interviews
- Will decide on 35 Scholars for the 2021 Cohort in late-April

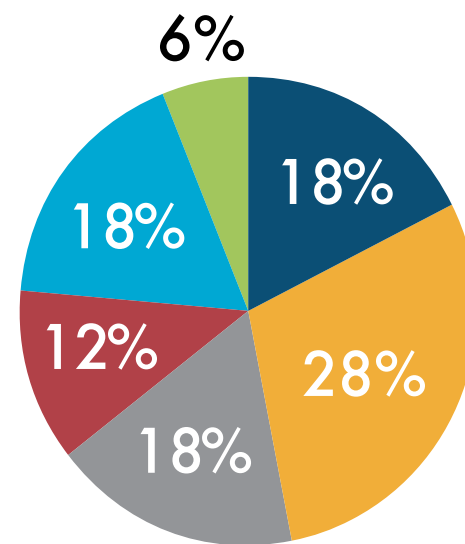
Upcoming Programming

- We are collaborating with Rainier Scholars again for summer and fall internships!
- Our Resume Review Workshop in March went very well, and we paired Alumni with Scholars in various fields like consulting, finance, medicine, engineering, politics, government, international relations, and more. We used AHSC's video chat features for this event, and big thanks to the Alumni Board's Program Committee for organizing the outreach.
- Up next: Annual Hammie Census, Alumni Board Summit, and Virtual Leader Weeks



Emergency Funds

We have distributed \$6017 in Emergency Funds to 9 scholars, spanning January 7 – March 8 in our first quarter of 2021.



Funding Breakdown

School Fees | Safe Transportation | Food Insecurity | Rent | Utilities | Technology

SCHOLARS IN SERVICE

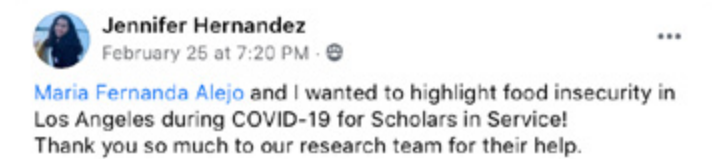
The 2018 Cohort raised awareness about food insecurity across the country and related to their hometowns in the spirit of our annual nationwide event, Scholars in Service.

Students participated by:

- Volunteering and communicating with organizations like Circles RVA, FeedMore (Richmond, CA), Nashville Food Project, FarmLink Project, Invisible Hands, The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together, Feeding America, His House Miami
- Food pantry pickups in Brooklyn
- Contributing to community food banks of New Jersey
- Creating infographics
- Engaging community members on AHSC and Facebook

2018 Scholar Reflection

"At the start of the pandemic, my family and I went through the hardest months of our lives. We dealt every day with food insecurity and it affected all of us deeply. During the month my dad was in the hospital with only getting phone calls from the nurses and never hearing his voice, I worked hard to find my family financial means for us to eat. Hamilton Scholars was an amazing help in this regard. Although food insecurity never left our house, the support I received from so many organizations was inspiring. This Scholars in Service was a way for me to pay it forward. I will never forget the support I received while my family dealt with food insecurity. I wanted to bring more awareness to the situation as a whole, engage with it, and mobilize the community to fight for it."

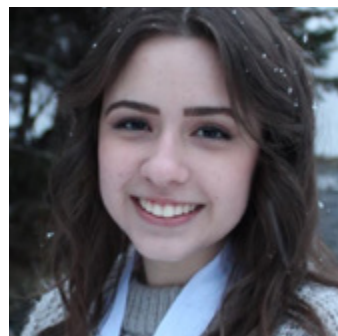


View Insights

139 Post Reach >

Bre Legan, Mikala Lain and 16 others 2 Comments

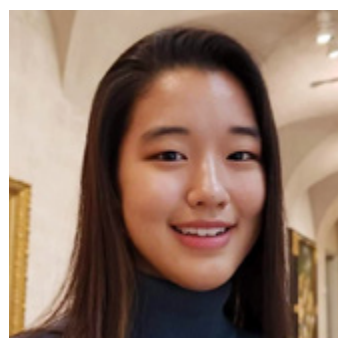
HAMMIE NEWS



Evelyn Nutt, 2020 Scholar

"In just a year, the Alexander Hamilton Scholars program has impacted me in a special way. While I lost a lot due to COVID-19, AHS helped me to push myself no matter the atmosphere I found myself in. I largely attribute my success as the new **Distinguished Young Woman of Alaska** for 2021 to the AHS staff, who made me realize my own capabilities without letting unnecessary outside forces influence me, which has brought me to a new state of immense independence and self love. I am very thankful for my **Hammie Mentor, Grace**, who has affirmed my feelings and worries every step of the way through my senior year!"

Evelyn will be competing at the Distinguished Young Women Nationals Competition in Mobile, Alabama in late June. Evelyn's mentor, Grace, nominated her for this feature and below she shares her enjoyment in being a mentor to younger scholars.



Grace Kim, 2018 Scholar

"Having gone through the college application process myself as a first generation low income student, I was grateful that the AHS' mentorship program gave me an opportunity to share what I learned and act as an observer to Evelyn's incredible journey. Despite being the mentor, I've learned so much from our introspective conversations, and this made me realize **the AHS mentorship program is a dual learning experience**. Thank you for connecting me to my amazing mentee AHS; this year felt so much brighter because of this mentorship program!"

Sidra Hassan, 2020 Scholar

We're sending a huge congratulations to Sidra Hassan for her success as the SkillsUSA Texas District 8 Medical Terminology Gold Medalist!



HAMMIE NEWS

Three Hamilton Scholars were elected for student body offices at Franklin & Marshall College and we could not be more proud of their dedication to courageous servant leadership!



Makaila Ranges, 2017 Scholar

Student Body and Diplomatic Congress President

"Luckily, I was able to keep in close contact with my AHS family who empowered me to continue doing social justice work during a time when I was not sure if it was necessary. Without that continual dialogue about the importance of social justice work, I would have transferred from F&M and would not have thought about getting more involved in student government work. Since AHS has been with me through various personal struggles and during a transformative time in my life, I can always revert back to them to remind me who I am and what I can offer."



Trinity Nguyen, 2017 Scholar

Senior Class President

"AHS fostered me into the leader that I am today! With a focus on empowerment and community building, I've gained so much experience and insights into how to be a leader, as well as developed my passion for diversity & inclusion. Of course, Makaila Ranges being with me at F&M has been the highlight through it all—she constantly inspires and pushes me all throughout our undergraduate career."



Munahil Sultana, 2019 Scholar

Sophomore Class Senator to Diplomatic Congress

"I am very excited to work with Diplomatic Congress this year and to represent the sophomore class! AHS provided me the foundation to succeed in college and truly provided the sunlight that allowed me to blossom in my first year of college. I am eternally thankful to the AHS staff for being my support system in this journey and I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to work as an AHS Summer Intern this year!"

DEVELOPMENT

Employee Matching

Please check with your employer on matching gifts for your donations to Alexander Hamilton Scholars.

Did you know...

There are several ways you can monetarily support AHS passively at no cost to you by selecting AHS as your "Charity of Choice" on these websites:

- Amazon Smile -- smile.amazon.com
- Give with Bing -- bing.com/give
- Fred Meyer Community Rewards -- fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

Fundraising

Thank you for helping us exceed our \$125,000 fundraising goal for our Fast Start Campaign: New Year, Renewed Hope!

Join us for our Annual Fundraising Gala going virtual again this year from June 7-27, 2021.

We will be hosting a special live auction on Sunday, June 27th where you'll have the opportunity to bid on some of our exclusive big ticket items like a pair of Alaska Airlines tickets, valid for any destination Alaska flies.

Save the date for our annual gala and stay tuned for more information!

Save the Date

Alexander Hamilton Scholars'
Annual Fundraising Gala

Supporting Scholars Through Community

June 7-27, 2021
virtual live auction Sunday, June 27th

hamiltonscholars.org/annualgala