Persistence and IAP Opportunities—
A Recipe for Student Success

It’s one thing to have adults encouraging me to study hard, pursue my education and develop new skills. But when those adults trust me to become a peer mentor, it’s a different story.

I am looking forward to becoming a peer mentor to help other students. It makes me feel like I have a purpose and that I have a role to play. I have also learned that success through perseverance, hard work and teamwork.

SUCCESS THROUGH
PEER MENTORING

Davette Vice ’17

I am a program freshman who has been assigned an IAP mentor, Afia Yeboah ’15. Afia and I have a weekly meeting to discuss our personal and academic struggles with study skills and time management. Over the last several weeks, I have been working with Afia and have made real progress on understanding the importance of organization.

Charmaine Wilson-Jones ’15

She is one of the top students on our campus and she has been my model to follow. She is a very bright student who is very talented in her academic abilities. She is also a very friendly person who is always willing to help others.

Veronica Holdings Inc., in Washington, D.C. to prepare underrepresented students for graduate studies and careers in the information sciences. She is currently a Leadership Fellow with the Program. Before joining the Leadership Fellows Program, studied for graduate studies and careers in the information sciences. She is currently a Leadership Fellow with the Program. Before joining the Leadership Fellows Program, she studied for graduate studies and careers in the information sciences. She is currently a Leadership Fellow with the Program. Before joining the Leadership Fellows Program, she studied for graduate studies and careers in the information sciences. She is currently a Leadership Fellow with the Program. Before joining the Leadership Fellows Program, she studied for graduate studies and careers in the information sciences. She is currently a Leadership Fellow with the Program. 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Kareem Branch '10

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Kareem Branch '10

“A large part of why I am in college is due to the many efforts of strangers who believed in my ability to succeed… and give back to society.”

Melva Coles '16

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

“...a large part of why I am in college is due to the many efforts of strangers who believed in my ability to succeed… and give back to society.”

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STUDENTS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Students Help Fund Meals for People in Need

By Carrey Smoot ’15

Students of Social Justice (From left) Gerald Doby ’16, Veronica Richards ’16 and Chijiaku Maduka ’16 at a Community Roots conference.

Capturing the Moment

In front of the entire student body and staff at D.C. High School, seniors Delonzo Delves, Jr., Chikwe Ekpehawa and David Ekpehawa (from left) learned they were accepted into MIT. The packed assembly erupted in thunderous applause and cheers.

Linda Clement, vice president of student affairs, Patricia Mielke, former director of the Department of Resident Life, and Karen An has known about the opportunity if he hadn’t been in IAP.

Kareem

“Our job is to help people.”

Antonio Tyson ’10

“...a large part of why I am in college is due to the many efforts of strangers who believed in my ability to succeed… and give back to society.”

Melva Coles ’16

Forbes Academy graduate Philippa Major ’16, left, and Dorcas Mudau, center, are students of Social Justice.
It’s one thing to have adults encouraging me. I am looking forward to becoming a peer mentor next year so I can take my experience as a junior and share it with a senior. I really enjoy sharing my insight, personal resources, among many other things. For example,插槽Bishop was determined to stay drug-free and support from the university’s Academic Skills Center helped him maintain a high GPA and develop skills he employed while at MERVO. His mission: to help others not go down the same path. He cited academic, personal, and social responsibility at Pepco iSchool Inclusion Institute, which aims to advise on the academic and professional goals. Their shared values forged a strong bond that continues to this day. We caught up with them—Artemus, on campus, and Karen, at Arizona State University—on their update.

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This summer, Bishop will be one of 20 students chosen for the University of Maryland Incentive Awards Program, a master’s degree program in information systems management. Misbha Qureshi co-authored a master’s degree in psychology. She is also a lecturer at the University.

The lab provides Smith School faculty and doctoral students with resources to conduct experimental research. I am the manager for the Behavioral Lab in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. I’ve been involved in research with a number of companies. I also have a role in teaching and advising undergraduate students. In that capacity, I mentor and advise members of the research team. My role is to supervise the students who are working on their bachelor’s degree projects. I assist them in developing their research questions and in managing their time. My goal is to help them develop the skills they need to be successful in their academic careers.

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IN TOUCH
committed to our friendship so we meet up and will work diligently to help kids who face an entire network of opportunities in higher education. We continue to talk about our professional goals. It would be great to get Antonio on opportunities, I'm constantly thinking about similar obstacles that I once had. We're curious about schools who actually care about our scholars after graduation?

As IAP students, we learned that networking is critical. Connect with people who share your aspir-ations. You need to demonstrate that you deserve it and pursue it relentlessly.

Students Help Fund Meals for People in Need
by Cassandra Brown ‘16

Donor Spotlight

The program is of particular importance to our family because its premise resonates with them. Recently, he was tapped to serve in his professional role.

“A large part of why I am in college is due to the many efforts of strangers who believed in me, became a mission for Coles and co-volunteer Veronica Richards ‘16, and set the dining area for hundreds of people each day.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Martin Segal
(Credit: Mark Maggard)

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students who actually stuck it out and graduated. We did some kind of focus-group thing to talk about the students who stick it out and the ones who don’t, and it was really eye-opening to see how much more resilient and motivated the students who stick it out are. You realize that you really need a system in place to help people who want to graduate and who can help you stay on track."

"As IAP students, we learned that networking is critical. You need people around you who can help you stay on track."

Kareem Shakoor ’10

A TEST OF WILL

By Lenaya Stewart ’15

Branch is now the IT database systems manager for the Maryland College. He made the dean’s list four times and graduated in May 2013 with a bachelor of science in cybersecurity and a 3.69 GPA. "The IAP staff, donors and my mentors were expecting great things from me and I had to deliver," he says. "I found success to be a challenge as dealt with these and other leadership positions," Branch said. "The school was my nay-D.C. and the campus community large, but I drove through them all.

After two years, Branch took to leave Maryland without a degree in hand. Following his departure, Branch visited the University of Maryland at College Park in 2009 to look for online classes through University of Maryland University College for the first time. In 2011, he was finally able to graduate when he finished his bachelor of science degree online. "I wanted a degree to fulfill my obligation to the mission of IAP," he says. "The IAP staff and I worked to get very excited about great things. I wasn't a bad kid at all but I had a bad experience." Branch went on to work for S.O.M.E. Energy Services and is responsible for advocating for the elderly. He says, "I am grateful."

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When the first-year students enrolled at UMBC, they began working with African-American students to help them succeed. This was the beginning of the Incentive Awards Program and the University’s Academic Success Network. In the summer of 2008, 100 students were matched with mentors, and the students were placed in computer science classes.

In the spring of 2009, the program expanded to include 200 students. The mentors were from a variety of backgrounds, including the arts, business, and science. The students were placed in classes that would help them succeed in college.

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Ervin Bishop '14

In addition to helping students with their classes, peer mentors provide friendship and informal support. For example, Amirah Grady ‘17 and freshman Marie LaRue '17, a peer mentor, spend time together regularly. "I look up to her as an older sister, and she has helped me with my assignments," says Grady.

The peer mentoring experience is mutually beneficial. For example, Afia Yeboah '15 and freshman Charmaine Wilson-Jones '15, a peer mentor, spend time together regularly. “I look up to her as an older sister, and feel like I can talk to her about anything,” says Richards '16 of her mentor, “and feel like I can talk to her about anything.”

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