

# HARVEST TIME



3 SEEDS NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 5 [ SEP - DEC ] 2017 3SEEDS.ORG

## BEES FOR JAYS RETURNS!

**SPELLING COMPETITION PARTICIPATION TRIPLES FROM FIRST RUN.**

No one would know that better than this year's winner of the Bees for Jay's Spelling Contest, Aaliyah Ferris-Goins, a member of our TRIO Program. On Thursday November 9, 2017, 3 Seeds Mentoring held our 3rd Annual Bees for Jay's Spelling Contest at Hillcrest High School. BfJ's was created to invoke a passion in students for literacy and excellence. In the last 3 years, we have seen student participation TRIPLE and we could not be prouder of our students who made this past event one for the record books! There was a breathtaking, head to head battle that left only Ms. Ferris-Goins standing. She was our winner on last year and she maintains her reign as the BfJ Spelling Champion. Thanks to our wonderful Sponsors, whom we affectionately call our "village", Aaliyah was awarded a prize package worth \$400.00 for winning the competition!



## THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

**GIVING BACK TO THOSE IN NEED ONE BASKET AT A TIME.**



The Junior Executives hosted a Basketball Free Throw contest in an effort to provide food to families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students eagerly signed up to try to hit as many free throws as possible for a good cause. In a society where many of our youth are inwardly focused, we are grateful for the youth who extended themselves to assist families in need. All the donations collected were donated to the Richton Park Food Pantry.

## 3SEEDS GETS UPWARD BOUND!

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JASON THOMAS ANNOUNCING THE GRANT**



We are PROUD to announce that the TRIO Upward Bound Program is coming to 3 Seeds Mentoring Group! In the Fall of 2017 we were notified that we received a grant for the program in the amount of \$1.2 million dollars over a 5 year period to serve students at Hillcrest high school located in Country Club Hills. Mrs. Kristie Lacy will be heading up the program and will be assisted by Ms. Ashley Dale who is also an Upward Bound alumnu.



# TRIO STUDENTS VISIT OVER 500 COLLEGES!

**THE LARGEST COLLEGE FAIR IN THE MIDWEST ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS EACH YEAR!**

One of the main emphasis of our programming here at 3 Seeds Mentoring Group is college exposure and college readiness. On October, 14, 2017, our TRIO Upward Bound program bussed a group of students to the National Association for College Admission Counseling Fair that was held at the McCormick Place. Over 500 colleges were represented. Our students had the opportunity to ask pertinent questions to counselors represented by each college, which helped them narrow down their college choices and for some, broaden their view on what is possible and available to them by select-

ing the right school. This is the largest college fair in the Chicagoland area that attracts thousands of students and their families. Larger college fairs like this one are great places to compare and contrast what schools all across the nation are offering. There is always good mix of schools ranging from Historically Black Colleges and University all the way to Aviation and Culinary Institutes. The scholarships are also a major focus with some schools offering on the spot admission decisions based on transcripts and test scores. The students walked away from the experience armed with information, options and hope!

# CAREER EXPLORATION

**PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS AND SO MUCH MORE!**



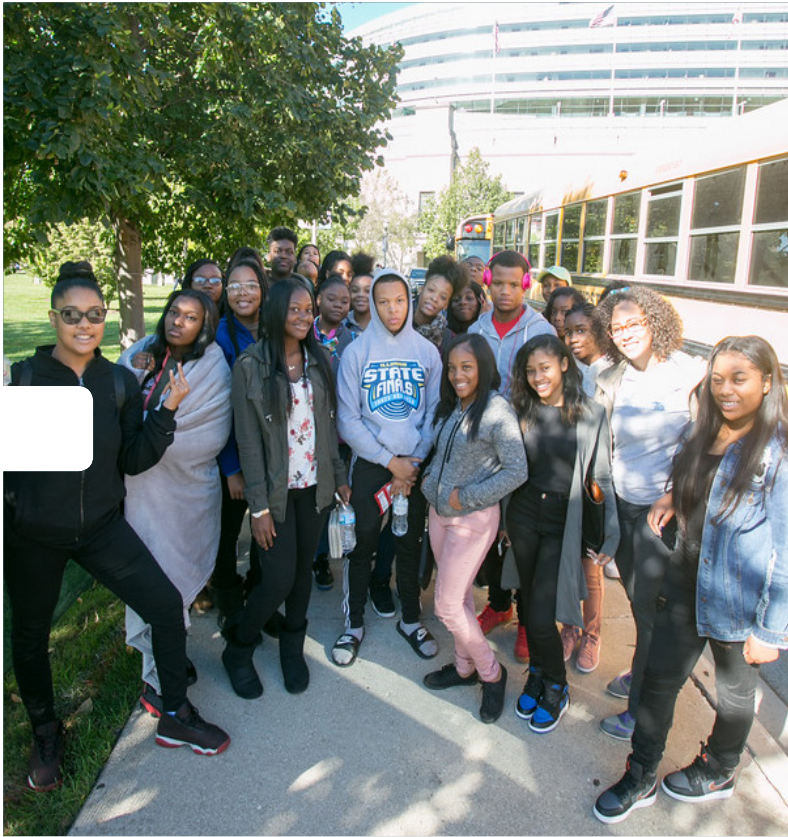
3 Seeds Mentoring Group has been consistently working with Prairie Hills middle school over the last year offering monthly workshops after school that focus on career exploration and problem solving. The students also get the opportunity to participate in our debate program that will begin this summer.

# VISIT TO INDIANA STATE

**OUT OF STATE AT AN AFFORDABLE RATE!**



When it comes to selecting schools, tuition and location are important factors to consider. This spring we took students to visit Indiana State University, and affordable option that utilizes a scholarship program called Raiseme. Through RaiseMe, high schoolers can start earning college scholarships as early as 9th grade for good grades, sports, extracurriculars and other achievements.



# THE CHICAGO CLASSIC!

BRINGING THE SOUTHERN FLAVOR TO THE WINDY CITY!

On Saturday September 30th, the TRiO students at Hillcrest High school attended the Chicago Football Classic. Since 1997, the non-profit Chicago Football Classic has been promoting scholarships for African American students looking to attend college. Many historical black colleges and universities (HBCUs) attend the annual event and showcase their educational programs at the college fair that happens right before the game.

A battle of high school marching bands and a football game draw crowds to Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois each fall. Over 5,000 people attend the event each year and our students were able to attend the game with tickets that were donated to 3 Seeds by our board member Kelly Ferguson. The classic provides a unique experience for students who may have never had a chance to visit an HBCU with the closest one being close to 6 hours away. The bond, support, pride, and excitement can only be experienced and we are so glad that our students were able to take advantage of this opportunity.

# TRIO STUDENT LANDS INTERNSHIP!

STUDENTS FROM ALL ACROSS THE CHICAGOLAND AREA WORKING WITH SOME OF THE TOP FIRMS IN THE CITY

A part of being able to provide our students with world class opportunities is through the ability to form valuable partnerships with like-minded agencies. One partnership that we are proud to have established is with ACE Mentorship Chicago. ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) is a mentorship program that encourages students to pursue careers in the areas of architecture, construction and engineering. Because of this partnership, Senior and second year TRiO student, Tia Pollard, landed an impressive internship with a company in downtown Chicago. Through this internship, Ms. Pollard will gain a wealth of knowledge, build her skillset and become a valuable asset to any company she applies to in the future.



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## IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

**NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK, LOCAL PROFESSIONALS TAKE TIME TO INVEST IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT CAREER, LIFE JOURNEYS AND MORE.**

On Thursday, February 22nd, 2018, 3 Seeds Mentoring Group's Upward Bound students had the opportunity to practice their networking skills by speaking with prominent professionals from across the Chicagoland area. The purpose of the networking event was to exchange of information, and advice via an informational interview process that assisted the students in attaining future goals and careers. Prior to the mixer, students attended workshops in efforts to prepare for the event. Making the most of their conversations and learning ways to manage their nerves associated with meeting new people, the students acquired information to successfully navigate the event. Students were eager to mingle with professionals who worked in the fields of education, marketing, medicine, publishing and more. During the Networking Mixer, students retrieved contact information and business cards from knowledgeable professionals who are all well respected in their fields, who were open and willing to share and contribute to the advancement of the students.



**CHICAGOLAND PROFESSIONALS AND UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS POSE DURING THE PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING MIXER.**

## A DAY WITH THE FIGHTING IRISH

**3 SEEDS MENTEES VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME ON JANUARY 25TH, 2018 AND LEARN ALL ABOUT THE FIGHTING IRISH PRIDE.**



On January 25th, 2018 3 Seeds Mentoring Group visited the prestigious University of Notre Dame. Students were given a campus tour, where they visited historical sites and meet with admission representatives about life on campus and the culture of the university. Students also met with the University's Trio Director and TRiO students to learn how it feels to be a student of color at the University of Notre Dame.

## MATH TUTORING GETS A BOOST!

**WYATT RUSH REVIEWING GEOMETRY WITH UB FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES**



Wyatt Rush visited Hillcrest High School twice a week to provide group tutoring and one-to-one tutoring services. He provided a vital and multifaceted role in supporting students' academic learning. With his assistance students' motivation to learn increased as they became independent learners.



## SUCCESS IS A MINDSTATE: CARING AND SHARING LIFE TIPS

HILLCREST 2018 YOUTH MALE SUMMIT PARTNER WITH 3 SEEDS MENTORING GROUP TO INSPIRE AND REINFORCE POSITIVITY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

On January 24th, 2018, 3 Seeds Mentoring Group and Hillcrest High School partnered to create a Male Youth Summit “The Power of Choice”. With more than 50 professional presenters present, the Male Youth Summit objective was to address social issues and concerns for young men are dealing with in today’s society. “The Power of Choice” is saying communicating to these young men to let them know they have more options for success than they currently believe. The Youth Male Summit featured workshops that were centered around Social, Emotional and Behavioral issues, in addition to, College and career readiness workshops and workshops specifically dealing with authority

and authority figures. With over 95% of the male population from Hillcrest in attendance, students enjoyed meaningful conversations and spoken word artist Real Talk Raps performances relating to young male struggles. There was a wide variety of professional men who volunteered their time to conduct workshops including law enforcement officers, corporate executives, educational administrators, and engineers. The majority of the presenters were from the south suburban area so they have a genuine interest in supporting the young men in this community. The young men were very engaged throughout the event and the professionals were able to make genuine connections because most of them shared similar stories when it came to how they grew up.

## SOLVE FOR X = PARCC PREPARED

PRAIRIE HILLS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THEIR STANDARDIZED MATH TEST IN A FUN FUELED MATH COMPETITION.



The first annual Prairie Hills Solve for X math competition involved over 15 students who competed to raise their current math scores. Through multiple afterschool activities, quizzes and workshops that were completely math centered, after the completion of the program, students were much more confident as they approached their standardized math test, PARCC.

## MONEY MATTERS

AN INNOVATIVE METHOD FOR STUDENTS TO GAIN INSIGHT AND INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY THROUGH THE GAME OF JEOPARDY.



3 Seeds offers monthly educational workshops for students to obtain needed and practical knowledge. What are the fundamentals of building credits? Student answer questions regarding many elements of financial literacy like loans, checking and credit during the Financial Literacy Jeopardy. An interactive approach of teaching the matters of money, students left with a new bank of information to make better decisions that make sense financially.



## GEORGIA ON MY MIND

STUDENTS EMBARK ON A JOURNEY TO 3 SEEDS 1ST ANNUAL SPRING BREAK COLLEGE TRIP FULL OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Visiting or touring a campus can be pivotal in a student's decision to apply to or attend a school. Students traveling on the tours can not only expect to experience college-life but also receive information on curriculum, entrance requirements, financial aid and scholarship resources. During spring break, 3 Seeds hosted their first-annual college tour for top performing Upward Bound students. We traveled over 700 miles to Atlanta, Georgia. Within a four-day span, students had the opportunity to visit Spelman College, Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology. While visiting the students were presented with the opportunity to learn from college admissions officials, current students, members of the NPHC and representatives from various student groups on campus. In addition to the campus tours, students experienced various cultural and team-building activities. Overwhelm with emotions at The Center for Civil and Human Rights students participated in an interactive lunch counter exhibit that provided a physical experience that showed how it felt to sit in during a non-violent protest.

## UPWARD BOUND GOES TO LAW SCHOOL!

LAW IN ACTION, UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS SPEND A DAY DEVELOPING SKILLS AND CONNECTING WITH NORTHWESTERN LAW STUDENTS THROUGH PRACTICAL AND MEMORABLE ACTIVITIES.

The Black Law Student Association of Northwestern's Pritzker School of Law invited Upward Bound students to visit their downtown Chicago campus to learn about Street Law, an organization that develops and presents materials to classrooms and community programs to educate young people about law and government. Students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with current professionals with one of the most memorable activities being a mock trial where they debated points from The Case of Joseph A. Baily (Virginia, 1983). Jamiah Bell-Ray, TRiO Upward Bound student reflected that, "I was able to discuss law with the black law students. I saw minorities such as myself accomplish something. In my eyes, I've never seen something so phenomenal".



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## A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

**6 WEEKS OF SELF- REFLECTION, IDEA DEVELOPMENT AND COLLEGE EXPOSURE OCCURRED DURING THE UPWARD BOUND SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACADEMY.**

Character, career and creativity were the foundational pillars of

Upward Bound's first summer enrichment academy. Over 40 Upward Bound scholars spent an average 25 hours per week learning about college success while creating vision and memories with their peers. On the campus of Governor State University, students were introduced to college through mock lectures and activities like course schedule development. Each week provided a different focus to present students with the opportunity to explore and engage beyond the classroom. Outside of the primary location of GSU, students visited Indiana University- Bloomington, Ball State University and Depaul University. During the college visits students were able to put the learned lessons into action by asking questions and obtaining information on topics like retention, campus involvement opportunities, financial aid, scholarships and more. From vision boards to strength assessments to video projects, the exposure and experience was fun yet noteworthy. The days began and ended with online assessments containing questionnaires, writing prompts, daily quotes for discussion and SAT vocabulary words. After a summer of hard-work and dedication, the most active and high performing students were invited to a summer tour to Washington D.C., read more about the UB scholars taking on D.C. on page two.



**UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS ON A COLLEGE VISIT TO DEPAUL DURING THE 6 WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM.**

## KICKOFF THE ACADEMIC YEAR RIGHT!

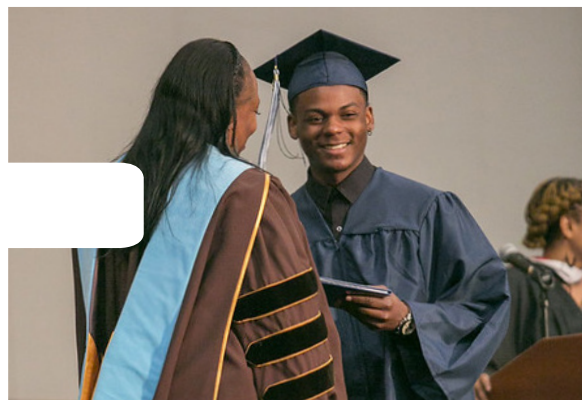
**3 SEEDS TRIO PROGRAMS JOIN FORCES TO GET CONNECTED TO THE STUDENTS DURING THE ANNUAL FALL KICK-OFF 2018.**



This annual event brings out about 100 students who gather to hear more about our 3 seeds college readiness programs. The room was filled with energy, enthusiasm and excitement, as the students were exposed to and connected with to high quality tutoring software, scholarship research information and upcoming events and workshops.

## A NEW CHAPTER AWAITS...

**WE SALUTE OUR HILLCREST ETS STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRADUATED AND ARE HEADED TO COLLEGE IN THE FALL!**



3 Seeds Mentoring Group will love to say Congratulations to the Class of 2018! We cherish the memories we have created with you and we're excited about the next journey in your lives. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams and live the life you've always imagined.



## UPWARD SCHOLARS TAKE ON DC

**FUN, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXPOSURE EQUALS A GREAT SUMMER CAPSTONE IN THE DMV AREA FOR ALMOST TWENTY ACTIVE STUDENTS FROM THE UPWARD SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACADEMY .**

We wrapped up the first Upward Bound Summer Enrichment Academy with a trip to the capital city. Our action-packed August adventure began with a first-time flight for many of our students, food and lots of fun. The overall experience was deeply rooted in history and culture, leading the students to explore areas of Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. The monuments were exciting, the city views were amazing but the students were most impacted by the trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The stories of hope, freedom, victory and cultural expression opened the door for challenging yet rich conversations. Students

visited Bowie State University, Howard University and Georgetown University gaining insight on many elements of college life. Divine 9 students of Bowie State offered authentic dialogue with the students on freshmen expectations, gaining admission and balancing involvements. Within two and a half days, we visited three universities, four museums, many historical landmarks. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing left the students intrigued and perplexed as they observed millions of dollars being printed as they walked along the gallery overlooking the production floor.

## HAWKS AND REDBIRDS UNITE

**5TH QUARTER SUMMER ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE SHOWS WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A STUDENT ATHLETE AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL**



This year the 5th Quarter took place at Illinois State University, where players meet with the director of football operations, ISU strength and conditioning coach and program recruiters. This opportunity allows our student athletes the chance to learn how the college recruitment process works from professionals involved in the day to day recruitment process.

## READ IT. THINK IT. SPEAK IT.

**PRAIRIE HILLS SUMMER DEBATE CAMP DEVELOPS EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS**



This summer 3 Seeds Mentoring Group's Debate Camp students learned how to develop proper research techniques, gain critical thinking skills and argue multiple points of view to enhance persuasive speaking skills. During the camp, students talked about various topics like gun control and 4-day school weeks. Our students also participated in workshops while visiting Prairie State College and Illinois Media School.





# FINISHING STRONG

**RISING SENIOR SUMMER CAMP GIVES STUDENTS A HEADSTRAT WHEN IT COMES TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

3 Seeds Mentoring Group 2018 Rising Senior Camp is a 3-day program created to prepare 3 Seeds mentees in the class of 2019, for their final year of high school. Activities during the camp included; a college visit to Michigan State University to visit the campus and discuss college life with students in their TRiO program, Course selection assistance and a free class from South Suburban College, a financial literacy conference and team building activities. During Rising Senior Camp, the class of 2019 are given tips and resources to succeed during and after their final year of high school and participate in group discussions to understand pressures that occur during their last year. On the last day, Students participated in a financial aid seminar where they received presentations on the different types of federal student aid options available and a scholarship presentation. Students also participated in a financial aid activity where they had to identify with a student profile to determine how much aid they would get if they fit the profile.

# HOLLYWOOD IN THE SOUTH SUBURBS

**FREE SUMMER VIDEO PRODUCTION PROGRAM INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO ADOBE PREMIERE PRO AND THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM**

3 Seeds Summer Video Production program took place during the month of June for mentees interested in video production and design. Students who participated over the summer were introduced to Adobe Premiere Pro, In-Design and Photoshop to enhance film making skills and techniques. Students who were interested in video hosting practiced their craft by conducting interviews with professionals and peers on topics selected by the students during brainstorming sessions. While holding positions such as video host, videographers, assistant producers, and others, our mentees created content relatable to the issues they face on a daily basis. Over the course of one month, our 3 seeds mentees created a public service announcement about the importance of mental health, they conducted interviews with professionals in the world of entertainment and psychology and held a peer roundtable about the effects of music on this current generation. Our dedicated mentees spent each Saturday creating and producing content they felt is impactful for their peers.



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