**SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

Provost Summer Mentorship Program

As Nominated By:

Dr. Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum, Vice Provost for University Life

University Reference Letters Provide by:

Dr. Kathleen McCauley, Associate Dean for Academic Program for the School of Nursing

Roy Hosi Hamilton, MD, MS, Assistant Professor in the Perelman School of Medicine

**The Provost Summer Mentorship Program** is an innovative four-week program geared to inspire first generation underrepresented minority students in Philadelphia to view higher education as an achievable goal. Students attending this program will have the opportunity to participate in Penn’s five professional schools (Dental Medicine, Nursing, Engineering, Medicine and Law). Over the course of the program, high school students gain first-hand exposure to an academic discipline and the opportunity to explore a variety of career opportunities.

**SMP Programming Video:**

[https://vimeo.com/52006098](https://vimeo.com/52006098)
Models of Excellence Nominees

Confirmed monthly/weekly paid staff

University Life (VPUL)
- Gail Oberton, Program Director Provost Summer Mentorship Program
- Don Harrison, Jr. Program Coordinator, Provost Summer Mentorship Program
- Donna Oberthaler, Senior Business Manager, Equity and Access Programs

School of Dental Medicine
- Dr. Beverly Crawford, Director of Diversity Affairs and Clinical Assistant Professor of Preventive & Restorative Sciences

The Nursing School
- Christina M.C. Clark, Assistant Dean of Academic and Student Affairs
- Margaret J Griffiths, Assistant Dean for Curricular Initiatives

The Law School
- Nancy Porcellini, Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Law School

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Megan Doherty, Associate Director, International & Local Service Learning Programs

The Perelman School of Medicine
- Jack B. Lewis, Office of Diversity and Community Outreach
- Michelle Wells Lockett, Director of the Summer Mentorship Program for the Perelman School of Medicine

Detailed contact information and supervisor confirmations included in Appendixes
The Work

As a component of Penn’s University Equity and Access pre-college initiatives, the Provost Summer Mentorship Program has supported approximately 424 local high school students since 2006. Students attending this four-week innovative college-career immersion program have the opportunity to participate in five of Penn’s professional schools (School of Dental Medicine, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences, Law School, Perelman School of Medicine, and the School of Nursing). These rising young scholars gain first-hand exposure to an academic discipline of their choice and a variety of career opportunities connected to that field. More specifically, these individual professional school job functions and goals are:

**The School of Dental Medicine** Under the guidance of faculty, staff, and professional students the School of Dental Medicine exposes dentistry to high school students with ambitions to exceed their education. The genesis of this goal is to recruit individuals from minority groups that are historically underrepresented in the dental profession, providing them with a wealth of information pertaining to the everyday duties of and in the field of dentistry.

**The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences** Under the supervision of faculty, staff, and professional students, the high school students in this program learn how to refurbish computers, install software and perform basic web design. Participants also learn about responsible internet practices and safety. At the end of the program, students take home the computer that s/he has refurbished. Additionally, students refurbish computers for a community service project.

**The Law School** through the dedication of faculty, staff, and professional students, participants are provided with a first-hand look at the study and practice of law. Participants peruse and discuss many court documents, briefings and testimonies from real life court proceedings. Overall, participants are given exposure to the experience of
what it takes to become a lawyer in its purest form, as they gain knowledge on the inner workings of the United State legal system.

**The Perelman School of Medicine** (PSOM) Under the direction of the PSOM faculty, staff, and professional students, participants are enrolled in clinical courses that expose them to neurological diseases including Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's, Seizures, Strokes, and other brain traumas. At the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, participants are given access to the many aspects of the inner workings of a major hospital. SMP participants visit HUP’s emergency room, the Specialized Tertiary Aeromedical Response (PENNSTAR), and observe surgical operations in real time in HUP’s surgical theater. Participants also explore exhibits at the College of Physicians, The Franklin Institute and The Penn Archaeological Museum where they view birth anomalies, body specimens, mummies and other scientific offerings.

**The School of Nursing** faculty, staff, and professional students introduce and mentor participants about the many facets and roles of a nurse within the nursing discipline and profession while providing insight on the basic clinical and research applications of nursing. While participating in the program the nursing school faculty and staff help foster an understanding of cultural diversity, community and global awareness and considerations of social health policies.

**SMP Central Office** programming provides sessions that are specifically designed to aid participants in making an informed decision about their post-secondary education so they may move forward, and achieve their career aspirations. Under the guidance of senior administrators, faculty members and graduate student coordinators, the participants are exposed to a wide range of college preparatory activities, such as college admissions workshops, SAT preparation, study skills and time management workshops, college essay writing workshops, and college application development seminars. The SMP central office mission is to engage students so they can view post-secondary education as an attainable goal.
Above and Beyond Responsibilities

“I just wanted to let the SMP staff know that I’m doing well at La Salle and I wanted to thank you so much for all that you have done for me. I really appreciate all the things that you have helped me with as far as college and life lessons in general, and I am very grateful to have someone like you all in my life”

Quaddriah Moore Smith, SMP and SMP+ Alumni
LaSalle University, Class of 2016

For over the six years the SMP staff, which consists of Penn Administrators and Faculty and Staff operate above and beyond their standard duties at the University to design and execute an inter-disciplinary program that engages in creating and applying the concept of earning a college degree as an obtainable goal to all SMP participants. As Penn administrators, they work together as equal stakeholders in addressing this common challenge.

Furthermore, in order to continue the participant achievement; the SMP Central staff along with staff of five professional schools concluded that existing SMP central programming need to be modified to measure the needs of each cohort we serve annually. Below are examples of additional resources provided to our participants on an annual basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMP Programming Enhancements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Time Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Study Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>- College Application Essay Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SAT Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Social Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Admissions Overview</td>
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<td>- College Application Development Plan (CADP)</td>
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<td>- Common Application Overview</td>
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<td>- College Selection Workshop</td>
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<td>- Student Financial Planning Seminar</td>
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<td>- SAT -vs- ACT Overview</td>
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<td>- Extra-Curricular Involvement Overview</td>
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Contribution to the University Mission

With approximately 30,000 students who begin 9th grade in the Philadelphia's public high schools are left without earning a diploma, and even those students in our community who graduate from high school face difficulty accessing post-secondary education. Researchers note that low-income minority students alike "are disproportionately under-enrolled in college preparatory programs", such as SMP.

In line with the Penn Compact to increase access, and to engage locally, the SMP experience has provided hundreds of local high school students with hands-on access to career exploration and pre-college resources for post-secondary admissions, thus empowering them to view higher education as an obtainable goal. Due to the extraordinary service of the SMP staff in providing rigorous pre-college curricula to 424 local high school students has resulted in a yield of 89.76% (excluding years 2006 & 2007) of our SMP Alumni that are currently enrolled in a 2 year or 4 year college or university.

By immersing our participants into the University community; along with providing the extraordinary resources that Penn has to offer gives our participants perception into the life as a college student. After dedicating their summer to the program, these rising scholars have proven their dedication to continue their education by succeeding and graduating from high school and perusing an academic career in a post-secondary institution.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Number of SMP Participants</th>
<th>Number of SMP Participants Eligible for Post-Secondary Enrollment</th>
<th>Number of SMP Alumni Enrolled in 2-4 year Post-Secondary Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>54*</td>
<td>Data Unknown</td>
<td>Data Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>68*</td>
<td>Data Unknown</td>
<td>Data Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>302</th>
<th>215</th>
<th>193</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71.19%</td>
<td>89.76%</td>
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* Data Not Available

Our most notable contribution to the University is the seventeen SMP alumni that are currently enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania. Here are some testaments from our Penn students describing how SMP inspired them to go onto college and to make Penn their college of choice.

For me, SMP helped me realize that Penn has an outstanding community of staff and education. One of my interests during SMP 2009 was in the sciences and medicine. As an SMP participant made me realize how much I like the atmosphere of Penn and that that is why I decided to apply to Penn.

Nancy Le, C, 2014

SMP introduced me to staff and faculty that have helped and guided me throughout my past 3 years at Penn. It has been an invaluable resource for me, and I don’t know how I could have made it this far without SMP.

Stacey Pham, N, 2014

The SMP program allowed me to observe the issues that divide the world today; my peers were of various race, culture, and religion. As a result, I needed to establish a place where individuality and diversity could prosper became present. At Penn, I plan to participate in programs that support these key values in an effort to contribute to global harmony.

Miranda Brickle, C, 2016
Standards of Excellence

During the summer I have the opportunity to visit the students in the classroom sessions and on their specific assignments. Because of the commitment of the SMP staff, my students receive an experience that will remain with them their entire lives. The SMP team serves mentors and role models for all the students who have the privilege of attending the program.

Irv Rotter,
Career Coordinator
Delaware Valley Charter High School

In order to continue the success and to compliment the SMP program, the SMP staff generated a grant proposal to create an academic year pre-college pipeline program for past SMP participants. This new program would provide a percentage of SMP alumni with pre-college programming from 11th grade through high school graduation. In 2009 the Jesse Ball duPont foundation graciously elected to fund this new program, the Summer Mentorship ProgramPLUS for 4 years in the amount of $200,000. We recognized that in order for SMP to achieve its mission-to have all students graduate from high school on-time and prepare to matriculate at a post-secondary institution—it was critical that students continue to receive complimentary college preparatory and life skills programming throughout their junior and senior years. We have high expectations for the participants that completed SMP and SMPPLUS strive to provide a level of programming that matches these expectations.

These dedicated 11th and 12th grade students currently participate in Saturday programming from September through March. Through a series of college preparatory workshop and seminars, that include SAT preparatory course, college application development program, life skills workshops and college tours, our participants are fully prepared for the college admission process and matriculation into a post-secondary institution.

To date the SMPPLUS staff serves sixty participants and 100% of the SMPPLUS alumni are enrolled in a four year college or university.
Appendix A

Nomination Letters of Reference

(Hard Copies to Follow)
## Appendix B

*Detailed Nominee Listing and Contact Information*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **University Life Staff (VPUL)** | Gail A. Oberton  
Program Director,  
Summer Mentorship Program  
VPUL Office of Equity and Access, University Life  
Ph: 215-898-0809  
oberton@upenn.edu |
| **University Life Staff (VPUL)** | Don R. Harrison Jr.  
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Summer Mentorship Program  
VPUL Office of Equity and Access, University Life  
ph: 215.518.2801  
donrh@upenn.edu |
| **University Life Staff (VPUL)** | Donna Oberthaler  
Business Manager  
Equity and Access Programs, University Life  
University of Pennsylvania  
obерthal@exchange.upenn.edu |
| School of Dental Medicine | Dr. Beverly Crawford  
Direct of Diversity Affairs and Clinical Assistant Professor of Preventive & Restorative Sciences  
Office of Diversity and Community Outreach, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine  
ph: 215-898-2840  
beverlyc@dental.upenn.edu |
|---|---|
| Engineering and Applied Science | Megan Doherty  
Associate Director, International & Local Service Learning Programs  
University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and Applied Science  
ph: 215-573-8266  
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| Law School | Nancy Porcellini  
Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Law School  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
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| Perelman School of Medicine | Jack B. Lewis, MSW, LCSW  
Office of Diversity and Community Outreach  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
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| Perelman School of Medicine | Michelle Wells Lockett  
Director of the Summer Mentorship Program for the Perelman School of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine  
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miwells@mail.med.upenn.edu |
| School of Nursing | Christina M. Costanzo Clark, MSEd  
| | Assistant Dean for Academic & Student Affairs  
| | University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing  
| | Ph: 215.898.6687  
| | costanzo@nursing.upenn.edu  
| School of Nursing | Margaret Griffiths  
| | Director of Nursing Academic Affairs  
| | University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing  
| | Ph: 215-898-3301  
| | griffimj@nursing.upenn.edu  

Appendix C

Supervisor Confirmations

(Hard Copies to Follow)