



# CEO NEWSLETTER

## Together We Achieve More

Chicago Scholars wholeheartedly believes that cultivating partnerships and relationships will provide opportunities and access to our Scholars. Collaboration is one of our core values that is threaded throughout everything we do. Whether we are connecting Scholars with our corporate partners at First Look and Career Exploration Fair. Perhaps we are bringing together over 179 colleges, with 1,000 students to interview for early college admission during our Annual Onsite Admissions Forum. We know and understand that each event adds value to the Scholar experience. Inside this edition of the CEO Newsletter, we highlight key events such as Swing for Scholars, First Look and Onsite Admissions Forum to illustrate the importance of collaboration. Even our Scholar Othello Razo understands the importance of collaborating and partnership as he shares below. Thank you for being part of our Dream Team that believes in the power and potential of our City's young people.



*Dominique*

### Scholar Spotlight

## Othello Razo

### Harold Washington College '20

I was drawn to Chicago Scholars' primary focus on closing the achievement gap found in our under-resourced communities and that's why I applied to be a Scholar. I am impressed with how Chicago Scholars continually works to provide Scholars with additional educational or career opportunities to provide a rich and well-rounded experience. One such opportunity, was when I interned at Argonne National Laboratory, where I met Dr. Raj Pokkuluri. It was at Argonne, where I learned the value and the importance of relationships and collaboration in the summer before transitioning to college. I mirrored the professionalism of Dr. Pokkuluri. Being in such a professional environment allowed me to develop new skills, such as effective communication, leadership, and how to interact with colleagues and peers.



This experience deepened my commitment of "paying it forward". I have continued my involvement within the Chicagoland community by interning at Chicago Scholars, where I individually mentor high school and college level students in the mechanics of how to succeed in college. Seeing the students spark with excitement while participating in cohort workshops and college success seminars or the student who has struggled with financial aid modules finally understand what to do has been immeasurably rewarding for me. Beyond the rewards, these experiences have taught me how to tailor my approach to the students' needs and effectively communicate concepts to a group. These are skills I know will serve me well in life. Being a Scholars has afforded me many opportunities and I am grateful.

## Opening doors for Scholars

On August 4th, Chicago Scholars held its [Annual First Look Company Exploration and Career Fair](#). This event was created as a “first look.” for our corporate partners to see all vast talent and leadership that our Scholars possess. It provides an opportunity for our Scholars to glimpse into a corporate partner industry or company and envision future employment opportunities and all the possibilities that it holds.

First Look is so vitally important because Chicago Scholars understands that it is not just one thing that makes someone a successful and productive employee but a myriad of subtle aspects, soft skills, and experiences that help recruit, shape, and mold young talent...it takes exposure and opportunity. This is why these 32 companies are great partners to Chicago Scholars because they are committed to ensuring that diversity and inclusion are being implemented at all levels in their workplace. They are opening doors for talented young people to take on internships, job shadowing and employment opportunities.

We are striving to cultivate relationships that provide a strong foundation of likeminded individuals who envision a vibrant Chicago powered by diverse leaders as we do. They have joined us in breaking down the barriers that all too often stigmatize first generation and under-resourced students from being achievers and leaders.

This year, we honored our corporate partner Civil Tech Inc with the Chicago Scholars Diversity Award under the leadership of their fearless director, Michael Folkening. Civil Tech stands out for their commitment to provide access for our Scholars. They have proven themselves as leaders in the Diversity and Inclusion space, and in the Chicago Scholars community and internships with hands on business insight.

Are you thinking that you wished you had known so your company could have participated? It's never too late to connect and get involved! If your company would like to partner with us. Please contact Yair Rodriguez, Director of Corporate Partnerships via e-mail at [yrodriguez@chicagoscholars.org](mailto:yrodriguez@chicagoscholars.org) or at (312) 784-3305.



## Chicago Scholars in the News



National  
College  
Access  
Network

Chicago Scholars was been awarded the National College Access Network's College Access Organization Award of

Excellence at this year's conference in San Diego. The College Access Organization Award of Excellence recognizes the work of a college access/success program that is committed to college access and success so that all students, especially those underrepresented in postsecondary education, can achieve their educational dreams. This is a testament to the amazing work happening everyday with our team and Scholars.

## 35 under 35 Young Leaders Making an Impact 2018

Know a young leader who is doing great things for our city? Nominations are now open for our annual 35 under 35 Young Leaders Making an Impact.

Chicago is brimming with talented young leaders. They are the city's next generation of CEOs, political geniuses, innovators, and thought leaders. They are role models for our youth and community.

If you know a young leader making a difference in Chicago, [nominate them on this webpage](#).

Nominations are due by **November 3**.

