



# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024



## HECKSCHER NEWS

USE THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR LINKEDIN ALUMNI GROUP FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE NEWS ON THE PROGRAM AND MORE.



PLEASE ALWAYS UPDATE YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL HECKSCHER SCHOLARS TO TAKE SWIMMING OR DRIVING LESSONS.



REACH OUT SO WE CAN HELP YOU SET IT UP AND PAY FOR IT.



GEOFFREY HOWARTH,  
DIRECTOR OF  
HECKSCHER  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

THIS YEAR, OUR HECKSCHER SCHOLARS DEMONSTRATED EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION AND RESILIENCE IN PURSUING THEIR DREAMS.

OUR GRADUATING CLASS IS NOW EMBARKING ON JOURNEYS TO COLLEGES NEAR AND FAR, FROM THE VIBRANT STREETS OF PARIS TO RENOWNED INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE SOUTH AND EAST COAST. DESPITE A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR COLLEGE APPLICANTS NATIONWIDE—MARKED BY THE COMPLEXITIES OF AN EVOLVING FAFSA PROCESS—OUR SCHOLARS NAVIGATED THESE OBSTACLES WITH DETERMINATION, SECURING SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOLS OF THEIR DREAMS.

OUR JUNIORS, MEANWHILE, EMBRACED OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR THEIR NEXT CHAPTER. THEY PARTICIPATED IN A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL GLIMPSE. WHILE THERE, THEY CONTRIBUTED TO MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY PROJECTS, EXPLORED THE COUNTRY'S RICH HISTORY, AND GAINED INVALUABLE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP.

TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE PROGRAM, OUR SCHOLARS SOUGHT ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES AND EXCELLED IN PRESTIGIOUS PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS NYU, NORTHEASTERN, AND COLUMBIA. THEY EXPLORED FIELDS RANGING FROM LINGUISTICS TO ENGINEERING TO ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, FURTHER FUELING THEIR PASSION FOR LEARNING. AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, THEY ARE EXCITEDLY SUBMITTING THEIR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS, READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING THEIR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR SCHOLARS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND EAGER TO SEE THE IMPACT THEY WILL MAKE IN THE WORLD.

SINCERELY,  
GISELLE ROBLEDO  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

## MEET OUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024



EDWIN MURUZUMBAY  
HUNTER COLLEGE



KATHERINE SILLERO  
HAMILTON COLLEGE



AUGUST SMITH  
SUNY ONEONTA



DEBORAH AIGBOGUN  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



FARIDA MOHAMMAD  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ROCHESTER



HAOYU HUANG  
RENSSELAER  
POLYTECHNIC  
INSTITUTE



OLIVIA DOM  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



NATE CUMMINGS  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ROCHESTER



TRAN TRAN  
EMERSON COLLEGE



RAHIM RAHAMAN  
MESSINA COLLEGE



SOPHIA CHEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
RICHMOND



STEPHANIE MARTINEZ  
UNION COLLEGE



SURAILENNY PEREZ  
HAMILTON COLLEGE



JENNIFER LOPEZ-  
ALVARADO  
BARUCH COLLEGE

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

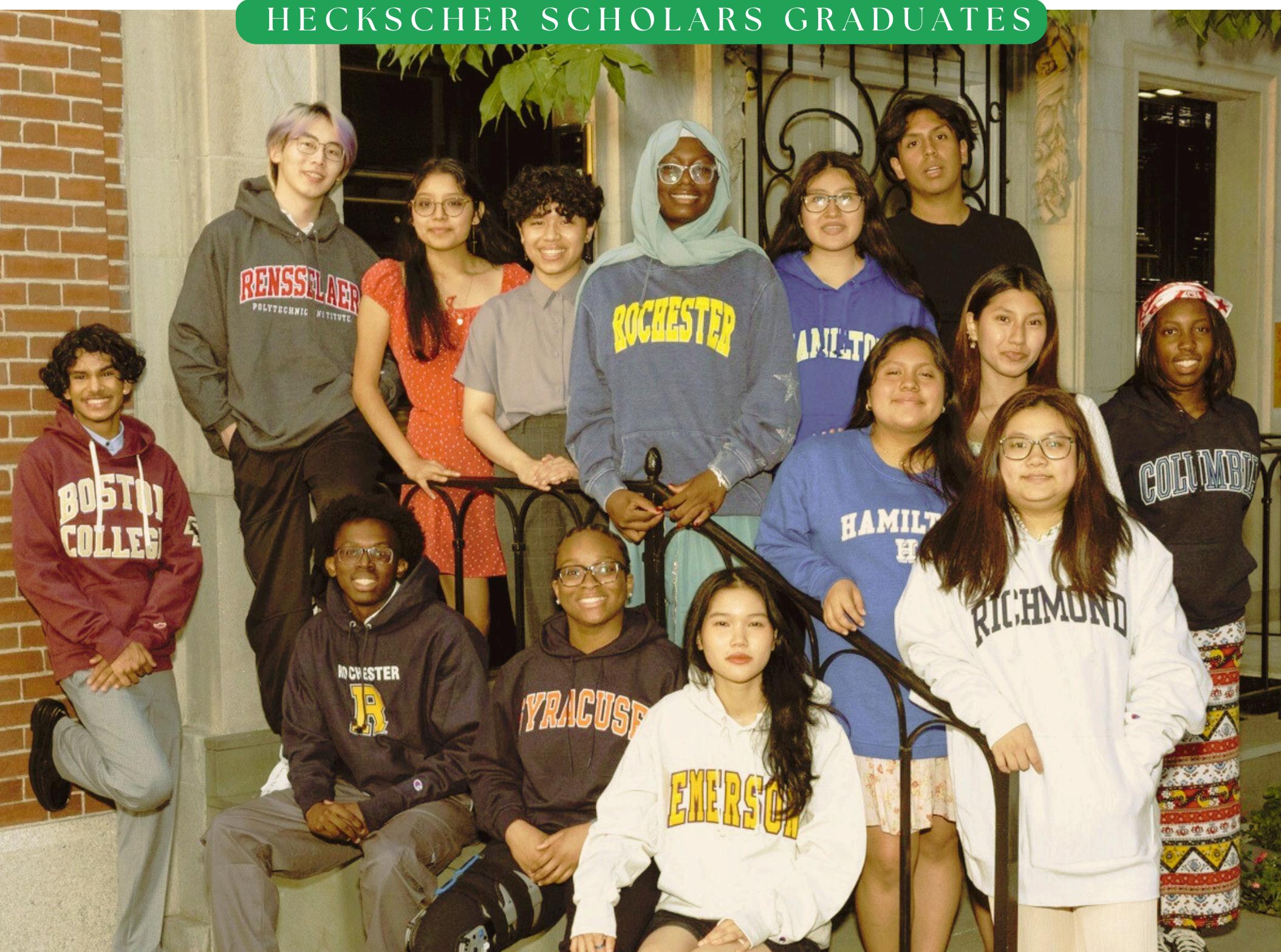
## CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION CEREMONY



# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

CELEBRATING OUR CLASS OF 2024  
HECKSCHER SCHOLARS GRADUATES



## CLASS OF 2024

August Smith  
Deborah Aigbogun  
Edwin Muruzumbay  
Farida Mohammad  
HaoYu Huang  
Jennifer Lopez-Alvarado  
Katherine Sillero  
Nate Cummings  
Olivia Dom  
Rahim Rahaman  
Sophia Chen  
Stephanie Martinez  
Surailenny Perez  
Tran Tran

## CLASS OF 2025

Alexandra Palafox  
Ashley Callejas Uraga  
Dania Neri-Bravo  
Jeovani Alvarez  
Kelly Mendoza  
LeSean Tyson  
Lesley Balmes Lucero  
Mariam Diallo  
Mariana Degante  
Nanakofi Kagya  
Naralia Acateco  
Ramses Solano  
Troyina McCoy  
Vikki Perez  
Xiao (Michelle) Chen  
Yadid Charry

## CLASS OF 2026

Alay Polanco  
Alexander Hernandez-Reyes  
Angelin Serrano  
Callice Watson  
Daisy Romero Cruz  
Jessica Garcia-Castilla  
Kareem Alarefi  
Kevin Morales  
Leslie Castillo-Martinez  
Medine Akca  
Norman Sorokin  
Samierla Boalds  
Sean Michael Rivas  
Viola Saweris  
Williamson Urbano  
Yamelis Bautista

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

## HECKSCHER ALUMNI UPDATES

### JOSHUA ROBERTSON (CLASS OF 2018)

JOSH IS A GLOBAL HISTORY TEACHER AT PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL. HE GRADUATED FROM SUNY NEW PALTZ IN 2022 WITH A DEGREE IN ADOLESCENT EDUCATION AND IS ALSO ENROLLED IN THE ADOLESCENT SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST MASTER'S PROGRAM AT CUNY HUNTER COLLEGE. SOON, HE WILL BE CERTIFIED IN NOT ONLY SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION, BUT ALSO SPECIAL EDUCATION.

### JOCELYN RENDON PASCUAL (CLASS OF 2018)

JOCELYN HAS MOVED BACK FROM CAMBRIDGE WHERE SHE WAS AN OPERATIONS ANALYST AT BANK OF NEW YORK AND IS NOW LIVING IN NYC AND WORKING AS A FINANCE ASSOCIATE AT THE RESOLUTION PROJECT, A NON-PROFIT THAT IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH COLLABORATIVE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP. JOCELYN GRADUATED FROM VASSAR IN MAY 2022.

### ANGELIE (LALL) HANIFF (CLASS OF 2018)

ANGELIE DECIDED TO SWITCH CAREER PATHS AND NOW IS A FIRST-YEAR ALGEBRA I TEACHER AT HER ALMA MATER. SHE IS ALSO PURSUING HER MASTER'S IN EDUCATION AT PACE UNIVERSITY, WITH HOPES OF MOVING INTO ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.

### EMELYN ROSARIO (CLASS OF 2019)

EMELYN HAS EARNED HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, WITH DOUBLE MINORS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS & PEACE STUDIES. SHE WORKED IN COLLEGE ACCESS IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES.

SHE BEGAN AS A COLLEGE TRANSITION COACH AT COLLEGE BOUND INITIATIVE, WHERE SHE HELPED NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS NAVIGATE THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS AND FINANCIAL AID.

LATER, SHE TRANSITIONED TO UASPIRE, DIVING DEEPER INTO FINANCIAL AID KNOWLEDGE AS A COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY ADVISOR, ASSISTING GRADUATES WITH THEIR POST-SECONDARY PLANS. SHE CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE ADVISING PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR AT UASPIRE.

---

WE AT THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN  
ARE SO PROUD OF OUR FORMER HECKSCHER SCHOLARS  
AND LOOK FOR WAYS WE CAN ASSIST THEM IN THEIR CAREERS.

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

STAY IN TOUCH AND SEND AN EMAIL TO:  
[GHOWARTH@HECKSCHERFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:GHOWARTH@HECKSCHERFOUNDATION.ORG)

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

## ACCORDING TO LINKEDIN



**MUHAMMAD MBAYE**  
STATISTICS & MATHEMATICS  
SCHOLAR AT FORT VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY



**KIARA WALTERS**  
STUDENT AT  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY



**EMELYN C. ROSARIO BELLO**  
ADVISING PARTNERSHIPS  
COORDINATOR AT UASPIRE



**JULIAN HUTSON**  
FLIGHT CREW RECOVERY  
COORDINATOR AT JETBLUE



**ZHAVIERRE MCGOWAN**  
TRANSCRIPTIONIST AT  
TRANSCRIBEME



**KAITLYN CEPEDA**  
JD CANDIDATE AT  
ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW  
AT PACE UNIVERSITY



**JOCELYN RENDON PASCUAL**  
FINANCE ASSOCIATE  
AT RESOLUTION PROJECT



**SAIDA BLAIR**  
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE  
AT ESP GROUP



**SAAD SHARI**  
CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR II  
AT BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH, LLC



**KAZI NOOR**  
BOARD MEMBER AT  
OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH  
PRESIDENT



**JAYCE JASSO**  
ACCENTURE SUMMER ANALYST



**DEBORA CAMACHO**  
STUDENT CO-CHAIR MARKETING  
AND COMMUNICATION AT  
SMITH COLLEGE



**GERALDINE NIETO-AYALA**  
STUDENT AT  
LA GUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**AHMAD SALMAN**  
RESIDENT ADVISOR AT  
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

## ACCORDING TO LINKEDIN



**ISAAK BASIS**  
AUDIT ASSOCIATE AT  
RSM US LLP



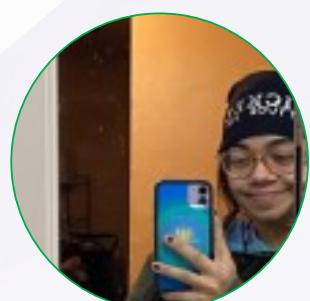
**ISHMAL SHAIKH**  
PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT AT  
MACALESTER COLLEGE



**EMMANUEL ASANTE**  
PRIVATE EQUITY ANALYST AT  
GARNETT STATION PARTNERS



**JOSUE PEREZ**  
SUPERVISOR  
AT UPS



**ALINA LUGO**  
DOG WALKER AT  
SWIFTO



**LUIS PEREZ**  
DOORMAN AT  
FIRSTSERVICE RESIDENTIAL  
NEW YORK



**SMARLIN ESPINO**  
PLANNING TECHNICIAN AT  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON



**SHERYL YANG**  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT AT  
TSAI PERFORMANCE CENTER



**IZABELLA TANDLMAYER**  
STUDENT AT  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY



**AMINATA KONATEH**  
INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS  
COUNSELOR AT LIM COLLEGE



**TEYLOR HAMILTON**  
ENGLISH TEACHER AT  
DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**HENNESSY LOPEZ**  
STUDENT AT  
BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**XAVIER ARCE**  
SEASONAL GROUNDSKEEPER AT  
NYC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
& RECREATION



**SHANE LADENDALE**  
GLIMPSE AT  
GLOBAL GLIMPSE

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

UWILL  
STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS



We're here for **U**  
when you need  
someone to talk to

## FREE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO TELETHERAPY

Choose a therapist based on your preferences  
gender, ethnicity, language, focus area

At a time that fits your schedule  
day, night, weekend availability

*Private. Secure. Confidential.*

# Uwill



# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

## HECKSCHER APPAREL

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE ONE, PLEASE LET US KNOW, AND WE'LL SEND IT TO YOU FREE OF CHARGE.

SIMPLY EMAIL US AT [COMMUNICATIONS@HECKSCHERFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@HECKSCHERFOUNDATION.ORG) WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

- YOUR NAME
- FULL MAILING ADDRESS
- ITEM NAME
- SIZE (AVAILABLE IN SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE, X-LARGE)

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST AND ENSURE IT REACHES YOU!



BACKPACK



SWEATER WITH HOOD



LONG SLEEVE SHIRT



SWEATPANTS



WINTER HAT



T-SHIRT



POLO SHIRT

# HECKSCHER SCHOLARS

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | DECEMBER 2024

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

#### THE HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

IS A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS FROM UNDER-RESOURCED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS HOUSED AT THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

OUR PROGRAM PROVIDES INDIVIDUALIZED ACADEMIC GUIDANCE, COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID COUNSELING, AND A MULTITUDE OF OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS FROM DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES. HECKSCHER SCHOLARS GUIDES ITS STUDENTS TOWARDS THE GREATEST PATH OUT OF POVERTY, A COLLEGE EDUCATION, OPENING DOORS TO COMPETITIVE FOUR-YEAR PRIVATE COLLEGES AND A HIGHER EDUCATION THAT WILL HAVE A CATALYTIC IMPACT ON THEIR FUTURE.

#### AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT

THE OVERARCHING PHILOSOPHY OF HECKSCHER SCHOLARS IS TO GIVE ITS STUDENTS WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR THEM TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS. HECKSCHER SCHOLARS BEGINS WITH A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM, WHERE SCHOLARS RECEIVE RIGOROUS ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION, TUTORING, PERSONALIZED COLLEGE GUIDANCE, FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION SUPPORT, CAREER-READINESS SUPPORT AND LIFE-SKILLS TRAINING.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AN INTENSIVE FIVE-WEEK ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM THAT BEGINS IN THE SUMMER BEFORE THEIR JUNIOR YEAR, AND CONTINUES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR WITH WEEKLY MEETINGS. ONCE OUR STUDENTS ENTER COLLEGE, HECKSCHER SCHOLARS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT AS INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARISE.

#### A FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROVIDES A DEEPLY PERSONALIZED EXPERIENCE FOR EACH STUDENT THROUGH ITS ACADEMIC AND COLLEGE ACCESS SUPPORT. HECKSCHER SCHOLARS' STAFF DEVELOP STRONG AND LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STUDENTS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC AND CAREER SUCCESS.

WITH INDIVIDUALIZED GUIDANCE, OUR SCHOLARS FIND INTERNSHIPS, COLLEGE COURSES, AND PROGRAMS THE SUMMER BEFORE THEIR SENIOR YEAR, AND MOST EXPERIENCE OVERSEAS TRAVEL THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL GLIMPSE.

WE FOSTER A COMMUNITY OF FUTURE LEADERS, GIVING OUR SCHOLARS THE RESOURCES AND TOOLS THAT THEY NEED TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND FIND A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS.