



MINDS MATTER
PORTLAND

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Welcome back all!

A message from Reed Harrison, Executive Director of Minds Matter Portland:

We've officially kicked off our 15th year of mentoring and tutoring local students who aspire to attend college! Thank you for helping to be a part of it.

Our city, our country and our world are experiencing historically significant events related to health, economics and social change. Within this context, our goals remain the same; to get smart and motivated students from low-income backgrounds into and through college, with little to no debt. We have an amazing group of new and returning volunteers and students, and each of us faces the challenge of seizing this moment to build a better future for ourselves and our communities.

On Saturdays, all of our students and volunteers now meet virtually in a combination of large and small groups. We are talking about the myriad of important current events and engaging the sometimes challenging conversations around race, politics, and more. During this period of heightened awareness around the inequality of opportunities in this country, we are proud to help bridge the resource gap and to support the dreams that our students are working so hard to make a reality.

The **Seniors** started working on college applications back in August and are inching closer to clicking "submit" with the help of their counselors and mentors. Multiple college representatives are visiting each Saturday to present on their schools and to get peppered with questions from our students. They'll have visits from nearly 20 schools, all of whom provide significant need-based financial aid! The **Juniors** are reconnecting with their classmates and mentors and are already nearly done with the first semester of this critically important academic school year. We are so excited to welcome our 18 new **Sophomores** who joined us knowing this year would be very different. They are getting to know each other and the volunteers in the classroom, and will soon be formally matched with their mentors.

To all students - Thank you for investing your valuable time and energy with us each week, and for trusting that the activities we do are all a part of the process to get you to college. We are so impressed with your drive and ambitions.

To our volunteers and donors - Minds Matter functions because of you. Thank you for choosing to give back and make Minds Matter a part of your life. As a 100% volunteer-run organization, all of your financial support goes towards helping our students. In addition, we are fully reliant on the professionalism, energy and commitment of our team of 90 volunteers to drive our program forward.

Sending our students to on-campus summer programs remains a cornerstone of our Minds Matter program. These are transformative multi-week experiences, and the travel and tuition costs for these programs represent the majority of our budget. Many of our students were able to take advantage of immersive online college programs this past summer (15 online class hours a week, for 3 weeks, for example), but we are all hoping they all get to be in real college classrooms next summer. Our fundraising efforts throughout the year are all to prepare for these summer expenses.

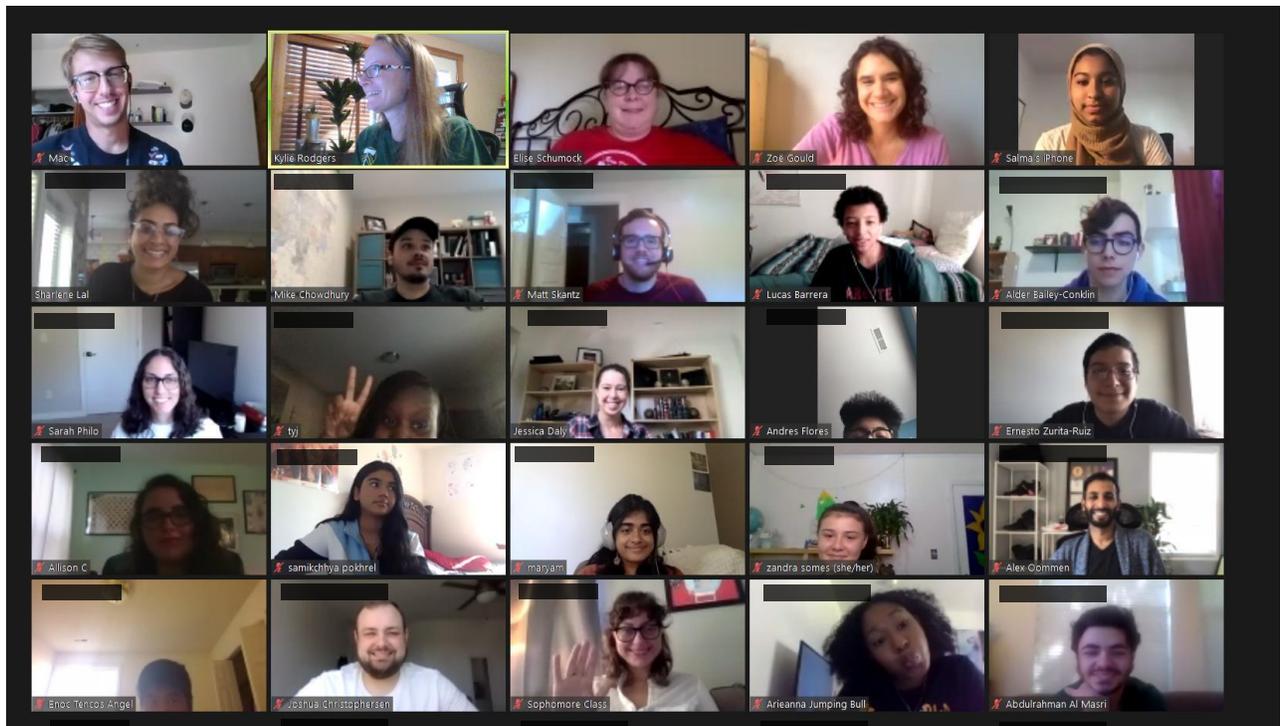
Thanks to everyone involved in Minds Matter, and we hope you are all staying safe and active during these challenging times,
Reed Harrison

In their own words:

We asked our students what Minds Matter means to them.



Saturday Zoom sessions amidst the 2020 Pandemic. We have some full group time (below) and then small "breakout rooms":





College matriculations for the 2020 Minds Matter graduating class:

- Smith College
- Boston College
- Portland State University
- Oregon State University
- Xavier University
- University of Portland
- Portland Community College
- University of Oregon
- Grambling State University
- Dickinson College
- Lewis and Clark College
- St. Olaf College



Colleges that will be visiting our Minds Matter Seniors this fall:

- Oberlin College
- Princeton University
- Smith College
- Union College
- Reed College
- Scripps College
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Grinnell College
- Washington University in St. Louis
- University of Rochester



Bon Voyage, Seniors!

We celebrated our Seniors this past spring with gift bags and socially-distanced send-offs!

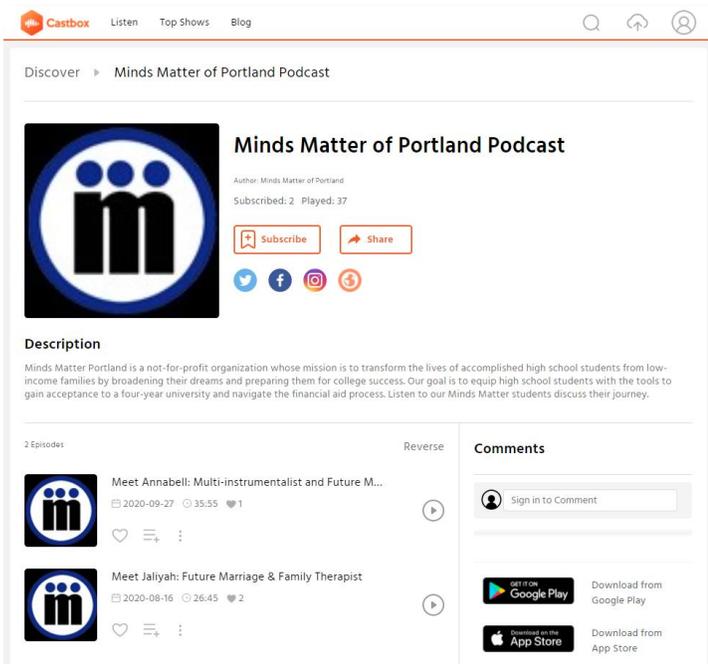


Alumni Updates

“The summer programs prepared me so much by showing how to budget on my own, travel, meet people in new environments, and balancing fun and work. Also applying to those prepared me for college and MM was so helpful with college apps and financial aid.”

Y.T. – 2020 Minds Matter graduate currently attending Boston College

Minds Matter of Portland Podcast



Visit our Podcast page to hear interviews with our students – what they love about Minds Matter, what it means to them, what their experience has been like.

In your web browser, visit:
www.Bit.ly/MMPDXpodcast

"Summers were one of the best parts about Minds Matter. Before the summer programs I'd never gone out of state by myself. For my first flight I had to transfer from Philadelphia to New York, which was an experience. I'm now not as nervous about this upcoming fall where I have to fly down to Minnesota [to attend St. Olaf College]. . . . I loved [Ithaca], it was a small campus in a small college town. I found out that I wouldn't want to be in the middle of a big city."
- Annabell

"There's a lot of different things your mentor can do for you. This is very beneficial... Somebody to kind of help keep you on track. They can help with schooling, hook you up with tutors. I think the experience between a mentor and mentee is very vital for this program. I kind of think that's what sets Minds Matter apart... there's that one-on-one connection."
- Jaliyah



Support Minds Matter of Portland

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to Minds Matter of Portland.

Donations through the end of 2020 will be matched up to \$30,000 by a generous donor!

Visit **www.mindsmatterportland.org/donate**

Minds Matter of Portland

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