



MINDS MATTER

PORTLAND

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A Message from Executive Director Reed Harrison



We've had many in-person activities in the months of May and June that have felt like an exciting return to normalcy!

We celebrated our 16 graduating Seniors with a festively-decorated and well-attended ceremony. These students joined Minds Matter in September 2019 and we thank them for their amazing commitment to our program and to their futures. Their work during this challenging three-year journey is leading all of them to college in the fall. Graduates - Congratulations, and we wish you the best of luck!

A week later we had our first Jazz Soiree fundraiser since 2019. We had a terrific evening of reconnecting, welcoming new members into our community, and hearing from six students and alums who shared their experiences and future aspirations. We fully achieved our \$20K matching grant opportunity and raised a total of \$65K to support our students, our most successful event ever.

In June we conducted 30+ in-person student interviews to select the 18 students who will join Minds Matter as Sophomores in September. We applaud the conviction with which these students are pursuing their college dreams. In addition to making the laudable decision to invest their Saturdays with us for the next three years, students also needed to complete an application, collect recommendations, and answer several essay questions.

Perhaps most exciting of all, several students started their college summer programs in June! After two disruptive years, on-campus academic summer programs are largely back to normal. Our students fly alone, all over the country, to attend academic summer programs on college campuses after both their Sophomore and Junior school years. Students attend programs that they selected and applied to, and have a chance to live like a college student for several weeks and to be immersed in the rhythms and challenges of college life. Minds Matter supports the process and covers all the costs.

Thank you to those who supported this flurry of activities and to everyone who has become a member of this Minds Matter community!

Take care and enjoy your summer,
Reed Harrison
Executive Director



Minds Matter 2022 Graduation Ceremony



Class of 2022 College Destinations

It's an exciting time of year for Minds Matter Portland! Our graduating seniors have made their decisions and will be enrolled in these excellent schools:



Abigail H	Smith College
Ahemed B	Boston University
Alexandria LG	Loyola University New Orleans
Angel FR	University of Portland
Anthony N	University of Portland
Denayt A	Pacific University
Faith I	Emory University
Fiona C	Blinn College, Bryan Texas
Gabriela F	Pacific Lutheran University
Janice L	University of Southern California
Kana L	Pacific Lutheran University
Katie VM	Pacific Lutheran University
Kevin A	PCC/Portland State University
Le'Nieyah A	Xavier University of Louisiana
Mariana ML	Pacific Lutheran University
Yasmin AR	Pacific Lutheran University

Class of 2022 Senior Testimonials

Faith I - Emory University

Minds Matter prepared me for the college application process by helping me apply to summer programs. I had a lot of essays already written by the time I started applying to college, and I had a lot of experience writing personal essays. Minds Matter provided a community of devoted students and mentors to work with and seek advice from for 3 years and this program has shaped my high school experience. The support system Minds Matter provides is phenomenal.

Mariana ML - Pacific Lutheran University

I personally struggled a lot finding the motivation to continue school after high school; it was hard to have it all figured out at such a young age and especially with Covid-19 coming in out of nowhere and making me lose some motivation. With the program Minds Matter, I had the support from my mentors and other adults. Hearing other adults that graduated from a university and in some way they had the same thoughts and feelings as me when I first started my journey to applying to universities; it definitely felt safe. Minds Matter helped me figure out how I work well, what I should look for in universities, how to save money, pretty much everything. I plan on majoring in social work and with a minor in Spanish and work my way to a Bachelor's of Science in Social Work. I want to become a family social worker, because I've always loved helping people and helping others in tough situations.

Abi H - Smith College

Minds Matter has been an incredible experience for me over the past three years. Everyone helped to ensure that I had the tutors and resources that I needed to maintain my high grades throughout the last two years with CoVID-19, and have been invaluable in my college search. After my virtual summer program at Johns Hopkins during 2020, I was able to explore what a future in the medical field would look like. That, combined with my interest in physics and applied mathematics, has influenced my plan to major in engineering at Smith.

Janice L - University of Southern California

Minds Matter helped me with my college journey by keeping me focused and goal-oriented at looking at colleges and what to major in. Having and meeting mentors who have graduated and are working gives me ideas of what success looks like. My biggest takeaway is going on a summer program and experiencing those 2 weeks of independence and college. Some activities I was also involved in are volleyball, basketball, tennis, NHS, ECMC scholars, College Possible, and Chinese club. I plan to pursue Computer Engineering/ Computer Science. One of my career goals is to get a job at Intel or an engineering firm and represent female minorities!

Kana L - Pacific Lutheran University

I have decided I am going to PLU where I will major in nursing! I hope to get my bachelors in nursing and work as a registered nurse in the ER. I am so grateful to be a part of Minds Matter! Minds Matter has not only helped me academically by providing me SAT help, tutors, essay edits, etc, but has also led me to great experiences and great people. Last summer I had the opportunity to fly to Rhode Island to study at Brown University. This was the best two weeks of my life! This was all thanks to Minds Matter.

Fiona C - Blinn College, Bryan Campus (College Station)

Minds Matter was able to help me navigate resume building as well as how to budget and prepare for college. I plan on majoring in business in marketing and social media, as well as minoring in economics and creative writing. I did an internship with business marketing in social media last summer and I really enjoyed it, but even before that I planned on going into business because to me, it's a building block in today's world of careers. After I finish the credit hours needed at Blinn college, I plan on transferring to Texas A&M in college station to further my education.

Scenes from the 14th Annual Minds Matter Jazz Soiree Fundraiser – May 24, 2022

A terrific evening of reconnecting, welcoming new members into our community, and hearing from six students and alums who shared their experiences and future aspirations. We fully achieved our \$20K matching grant opportunity and raised a total of \$65K to support our students, our most successful event ever.



Students, Volunteers and Alumni - Save the Date!

Summer BBQ:

Minds Matter will host the Summer BBQ at the St. Andrew Nativity School on July 23rd from 3pm-6pm. All students, volunteers, and alumni are welcome and we hope to have a relaxing and fun get together with food and games.

Interested in joining our team?

We are always looking for more volunteers. We have opportunities to work directly with our students on Saturdays as mentors, tutors, college counselors, or by supporting Saturday operations. If you might be interested in volunteering with us please reach out to our volunteer coordinator at susanne@mindsmatterportland.org.



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