



DC-CAP ADVISOR

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM



Fall 2014

STUDENTS MAKING HEADLINES

Asia Alston



Asia Alston, 2014 James Brown Scholarship recipient, has been overcoming obstacles since she was a child. Not making any excuses, her life experience has become her story, and fuels her success.

An exceptional communicator, Asia is a recipient of the Parkmont Poetry prize, the Larry Neale Award, and a Gold Key Award for her poem 'The Lonely Republic.' Her work has been published in three anthologies, including The Best Teen Writing in 2012 and 2013. She confronts social issues head on through her work on various radio shows, school publications, documentaries, stage performances, and in the Fast Forward Program at The Washington Post.

NEWS & EVENTS

12th Annual Michael Wilbon and James Brown
Celebrity Roast and Golf Classic



Former teammates, family, broadcasters, friends, and sport icons, gathered at The Mayflower Hotel on September 29th to roast Washington Bullets legend Wes Unseld and to raise money for the DC-College Access Program.

There were many barbs and accolades directed to Wes, who was named one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history in 1996. He was also one of two players to be named NBA rookie of the year and MVP in the same season.

His commitment to education is also legendary, with the Unselds School of Baltimore serving children from Pre-K to eighth grade. On and off the court, Wes has a reputation for his iron resolve to win, and doing all of the fundamentals that lead to remarkable success. Today, graduates of the school attend the most competitive high schools, complete college, and many are bankers, doctors, nurses, educators, ministers, and lawyers.

Because of his dedication to his sport and our city, he has left an indelible mark on the NBA, the Washington DC and Baltimore communities, and the thousands of students who have benefited from the Unselds School. It was our pleasure to give honor and recognize the great accomplishments of Wes Unseld.

[Watch clips from the evening here.](#)

With the help of DC-CAP, teachers, and family, she is the first in her family to pursue higher education. She currently attends North Carolina Central University where she plans to study Mass Communications. Her goal is to provide a platform for issues that otherwise have no forum for discussion. She will be a game changer.

DC-CAP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Darrion Willis



In May 2013, Darrion graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.A. in Political Science. After graduation, he worked as a field organizer for the Muriel Bowser for DC Mayor campaign until April 2014.

Now, he is living his dream of traveling the world, educating, and helping people as a fourth grade English teacher in northern Thailand.

Recently, Darrion shared his story and where he is now to be an inspiration for other DC students. "I wanted to share this with you because I know for me, growing up in Southeast DC wasn't easy. I am a testament to success no matter where people like myself come



CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Your Washington Wizards



Ted and Lynn Leonsis, along with Monumental Sports & Entertainment, served as Celebrity Roast Presenting Sponsor

Ted Leonsis, majority owner of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, has a long history of charitable giving and community involvement. Known for his philanthropy as much as his business savvy, Leonsis has committed significant time and resources to DC's most vulnerable in efforts to help children overcome obstacles and reach their goals, notably by his strong support of DC-CAP.

Leonsis recognizes many students in the city have college dreams but no college plan. DC-CAP helps to develop a plan for first generation college going students and others unsure of the path to college enrollment or graduation.

from."

To share your story, contact [DC-CAP!](#)

COLLEGE CORNER *Applying to College*



Applying to college does not begin or end with the college application. Searching and choosing the best college also involves knowing when to apply, deciding whether to apply early decision, crafting college essays, and preparing for interviews with admissions officials.

DC-CAP advisors offer counseling, financial aid assistance, and the tools necessary to make the college application process easier.

You can help too! Help a DC public or public charter high school senior apply for college during "DC College Application Week" November 3-7, 2014!

[Sign up today!](#)

ABOUT DC-CAP

Changing lives by giving every child a chance at a college education



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With the support and contributions from donors such as the Washington Wizards and Monumental Sports and Entertainment, DC-CAP will continue to fulfill its mission of encouraging and enabling students to make the dream of a college education reality.

[Listen to Ted Leonsis' Interview with Pamela's Punch on why he gives to the DC College Access Program](#)

UP NEXT

Senior Parent Luncheons
November 16 & December 7



Each fall, DC-CAP hosts the Senior Parent Luncheons empowering parents to actively participate in the college application and financial aid process with their child. Each session, boasting 1,200 attendees, provides a workshop on how to finance a child's college education, and how to navigate the pending needs of their graduating high school student.

As an extension of the year-long work of DC-CAP, direct services and counseling are provided to improve academic achievement, and preparation for college.

Following the seminar, students and parents enjoy lunch before hearing the finalists present their entries of the "Why I Want to Go to College Contest." First, second, and third place winners are awarded prizes. DC-CAP salutes the parents who are supporting their children achieve the dream of a college education.

To **RSVP for this event**, please contact your DC-CAP Advisor and include the student's name, number of guests, and a contact number.

If you would like to make a gift to support this luncheon please [give now](#).

SAVE THE DATE

DC-CAPITAL STARS
APRIL 1

The DC College Access Program (DC-CAP) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping DC public and public charter high school students prepare for, enroll in, and graduate from college.

Since 1999, we have helped under resourced DC students believe that college is possible, find the path to get there, and complete their education.

DC-CAP is making it possible for thousands of DC public and public charter high school students to enroll in and graduate from college. With your support, we will serve thousands more.

Donate Now!



The seventh annual DC-CAPITAL STARS will take place on Wednesday, April 1 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As DC-CAP's largest fundraiser of the year, this event showcases outstanding artistic abilities of college-bound DC high school students.

This citywide competition begins with over 200 student auditions, and the top 10 finalists selected will perform at the event for scholarship awards. DC-CAPITAL STARS attracts 1,000 guests and a panel of celebrity judges which has included Patti LaBelle, Savion Glover, Jordin Sparks, Esperanza Spalding, and Debbie Allen. The net proceeds benefit scholarships awarded that evening and DC-CAP programmatic activities.

Vote for your favorite DC-CAPITAL STAR starting November 25 at dccap.org/gala.



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Changing lives by making college a reality for all DC students