



TALENT SEARCH

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

February 2023
Newsletter

Important Dates

February 1-3
**SDP Early Dismissal
Report Card
Conferences**

Saturday, February 11
**Talent Search Visits
African American
Museum**

Friday, February 17
**SDP Professional
Development
Half Day**

Monday, February 20
**SDP Closed
Presidents' Day**



Greetings, Scholars and Families -

There are still a few spots left for our [visit to the African American Museum in Philadelphia on Saturday, February 11](#). In celebration of Black History Month, all enrolled Talent Search scholars are invited to join us for a drum circle workshop and museum tour. Lunch will be provided at the National Constitution Center cafeteria.

[Click to sign up for the African American Museum no later than Sunday, February 5.](#)

Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu.



Meet our New Associate Director

Talent Search is pleased to welcome our newest full-time team member, **Associate Director and Senior Counselor Julia Cai**.

Julia is responsible for providing ongoing personal, academic, career, and financial counseling and support to assigned students, along with developing academic and extracurricular activities for students and monitoring the program's activities and administration.

Julia's past experience serving as a program



coordinator at PennRSSA has given her extensive experience in program coordination, college applications, curriculum design, and program management. Her academic training in psychology and human development, combined with her deep concern for youth and expertise in psychological and career counseling, make her a highly qualified addition to the Talent Search team.

Julia began her journey of studying abroad in the United States in order to broaden her personal and professional development. She earned her B.S. degree in psychology and minored in neuroscience and Korean language at the University of Minnesota. Julia then obtained her master's degree in Human Development from the University of Pennsylvania. In her spare time, she enjoys fishing, drawing, and baking.

Julia is available for one-on-one academic, career, and financial counseling appointments.
[Click here to schedule a session.](#)



Provost's Summer Mentorship Program

All Talent Search participants **currently in 9th and 10th grade** are encouraged to apply for the Penn Provost's Summer Mentorship Program (SMP).

Students attending this **FREE four-week, innovative college-career immersion program** have the opportunity to complete internships in one of five Penn's professional schools (Dental, Engineering, Law, Medicine, and Nursing).

The program will take place on campus at Penn, **July 10 through August 4**, Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Get more details and apply at the link below.

Apply Today!

How I Benefited from Pre-College Programs



Angelina Jala is a current second-year student at the University of Pennsylvania and a prospective Cognitive Science major on the Pre-Med track. She's involved with the Varsity Cheerleading Team, the Penn Philippine Association, and a research lab. Angelina grew up in Northeast Philadelphia.

The Summer Mentorship Program was the first program I ever did in high school. It was amazing. It broadened my horizons and showed me more about the college process and the path to medicine. When I did the program, I was mentored by individuals in different points in their medicine journeys, shadowed doctors, and got hands-on experience that most undergraduates never get to experience. Actually, there was

another high school program being held by the medical school at the same time as SMP, and it cost thousands of dollars to attend. I did the same exact things (AND MORE) than they did while in SMP. Not to mention, I met so many people who genuinely cared about uplifting high school students

I also applied for other programs (all free!) after SMP. During my junior year, I did the Thomas Jefferson University's Future Health Professionals Program. During my 11th grade summer, I did PennRSSA and Penn's Summer Academy for Biomedical Research. During 12th grade, I did two dual enrollment programs: Penn's Young Scholars Program and CCP's Early Scholars Program.

As you can see, I did a mix of college/career prep and academic-based programs. I highly encourage you to do the same if you are able. Programs like these are a great way to show colleges that you care about your education and want to push yourself, especially if your school doesn't have many resources.

Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

WINS Environmental Science Program

Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) is a **free after-school and summer science enrichment program** at the Academy of Natural Sciences serving young women from underrepresented communities and households facing financial limitations within the Philadelphia School District.

WINS is open to **girls who will be graduating 8th grade** with at least a B average who plan to attend a Philadelphia public or charter high school.

WINS begins in the summer after 8th grade with eight weeks of environmental exploration in and outside of the city. The summer concludes with an exciting week-long trip to the Poconos.

Students must be nominated by a teacher, counselor, family member, or friend by **February 15**.

[Click to get more information and download the nomination form.](#)

Venus Morris Griffin Scholarship

The \$10,000 annual Venus Morris Griffin Scholarship is awarded to **a student who currently has an incarcerated parent**.

Penn Summer Scholarships for SDP Students

If you are a Philadelphia resident and attend a School District of Philadelphia public or charter high school, **you may be eligible to attend a Penn Summer Prep or a Penn Summer Academy free of charge** with a Penn Summer Scholarship.

Penn Summer Academies are subject-intensive three-week programs that fuse sophisticated scientific or social theory with relevant applications. The **Penn Summer Prep Program** allows ambitious students to enroll in two undergraduate-level modules from across disciplines while benefiting from the rich educational resources of the University.

Scholarship applicants must be a **current 9th, 10th, or 11th grade student** with a minimum 3.3 high school GPA and demonstrated financial need.

[Visit the website for more information on scholarships for Penn summer programs.](#)

Exelon Foundation STEM Leadership Academy

The Exelon Foundation STEM Leadership Academy is a **free, week-long in-person event for young women currently in 10th or 11th grade** (Class of 2024 or 2025) who live in

Applicants must:

- Be a **high school senior** in the United States
- Have a biological parent who is currently incarcerated
- Prove acceptance into an institution of higher learning or trades program by March 2023

Students that are adopted or in foster care are encouraged to apply.

[Click to get more information and apply by February 15.](#)

Philadelphia and surrounding counties.

Successful applicants will spend the **week of July 23 to 28** attending educational sessions, improving leadership and professional skills, and tackling a week-long group challenge. Young women will have the opportunity to meet business and community leaders and converse with women currently working in STEM.

[Click to get more information and apply by April 11.](#)



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