



Division of the Vice Provost
for Student Engagement

ANNUAL REPORT

20

A YEAR IN REVIEW

23



“Higher education is uniquely positioned to help Americans understand the histories and contours of our present challenges as a diverse democracy. It is also uniquely positioned to help both students and our communities to explore new ways of fulfilling the promise of justice and dignity for all, both in our own democracy and as part of the global community...We must seek reciprocal partnerships with community leaders, such as those responsible for elementary and secondary education. To achieve our goals we must define them in ways that inspire our institutional missions and help measure our success.”*

*Ehrlich, Thomas. "Presidents' Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education and Campus Assessment of Civic Responsibility" (1999). *Higher Education*. 125.

VPSE Communications Leadership Council

*Pamela Edwards
Oscar Prieto Jr.
Dann Truitt
Andrea Walkup
Aubrey Woodward*



Table Of Contents

Message from the Vice Provost

002

Section II: Our Programs

009

Section I: Penn Pipeline
Programs

003

Section III: Our Outcomes

016



A Message from the Vice Provost

VPSE is the Division of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement at Penn. Our charge, on behalf of the Provost, with the Deans and faculty of the 12 Schools and other senior University partners, is to markedly increase access, participation, engagement, and outcomes of students from under-resourced backgrounds, and other cohort groups of students who have had limited opportunities critical to their success in baccalaureate, graduate, professional, and post-doctoral education, by expanding their skills, knowledge, confidence, motivation, and preparedness to successfully navigate relevant application, enrollment, and graduation processes.

In 2023, although many members of our service populations have continued to move through the profound impact of local, regional, and national challenges including the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, VPSE was able to expand our work to:

- Convene pipeline program connections and community, across all of Penn's 12 Schools and divisions;
- Markedly increase University collaborations amongst programs that promote access, participation, engagement, and outcomes of students from under-resourced cohort groups in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and professional education;

- Nurture engaged, multimodal, mentorship for University pipeline program participants, from Penn undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; postdoctoral students; faculty; staff; and alumni;
- Provide free, Act 158-compliant: workforce skills development, college prep, and career exploration; capstone project and service-learning experiences; and internship/externship opportunities, both during the summer and year-round; and
- Curate specific "Penn Local" opportunities for learner community introductions to, engagement with, and immersion in, Penn and Philadelphia educational, research, arts, and cultural institutions/initiatives for Penn K-12 pipeline participants and undergraduate, graduate, professional, and post-doctoral students.

We are so very grateful to all of the Penn family, community, City of Philadelphia, national, and global partners who have worked so tirelessly with us to help secure the futures of those we serve in VPSE.

Sincerely,

Dr. Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum
*Provost's Distinguished Senior Fellow
Graduate School of Education
Vice Provost for Student Engagement
University of Pennsylvania*



Section I

Penn Pipeline Programs



By the Numbers

Penn Pipeline Programs

Penn's 12 Schools, University divisions, and centers provide high-quality learning experiences that promote introductions to, and immersion in, Penn, Philadelphia, and global scholarship, research, arts, and cultural initiatives. Following are data that illustrate just a subset of the many programs and initiatives supported by the University in 2023.

Penn Pipeline Program Census 2023 Service Population

Service Population	%	Count
Undergraduate	33%	66
Graduate / Professional	30%	60
K-12	38%	76
Total*	100%	202

* Of 212 programs with 10 n/r



By the Numbers

Penn Pipeline Programs

Program Duration	Count	%
Academic Year (AY) Only (August-May)	57	27.80%
Both (year-round)	56	27.32%
Summer Only (May-August)	92	44.88%
Total	205	100%

Tuition/ Fee Charged



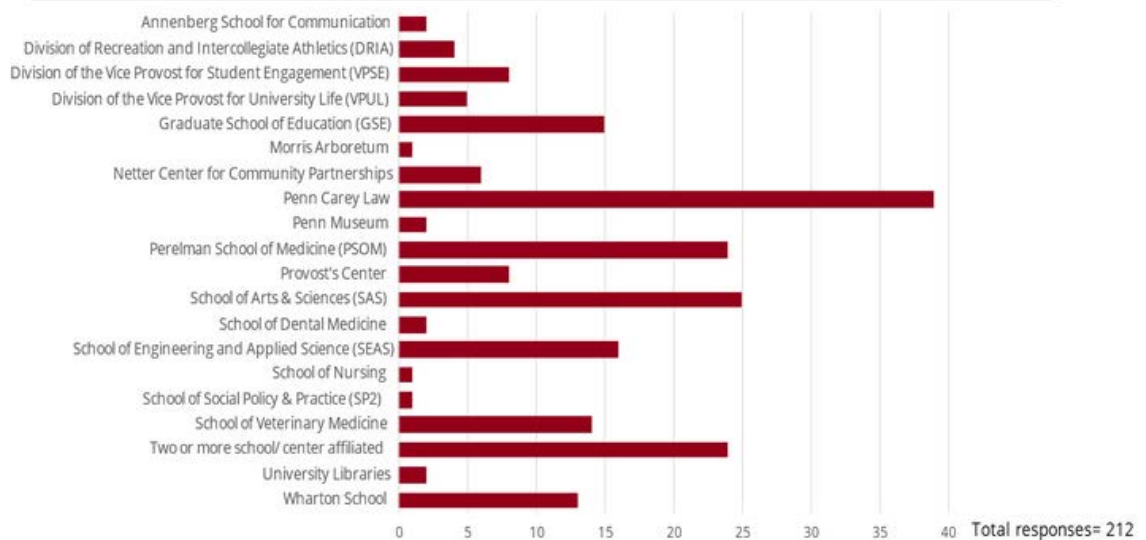
Total responses= 212



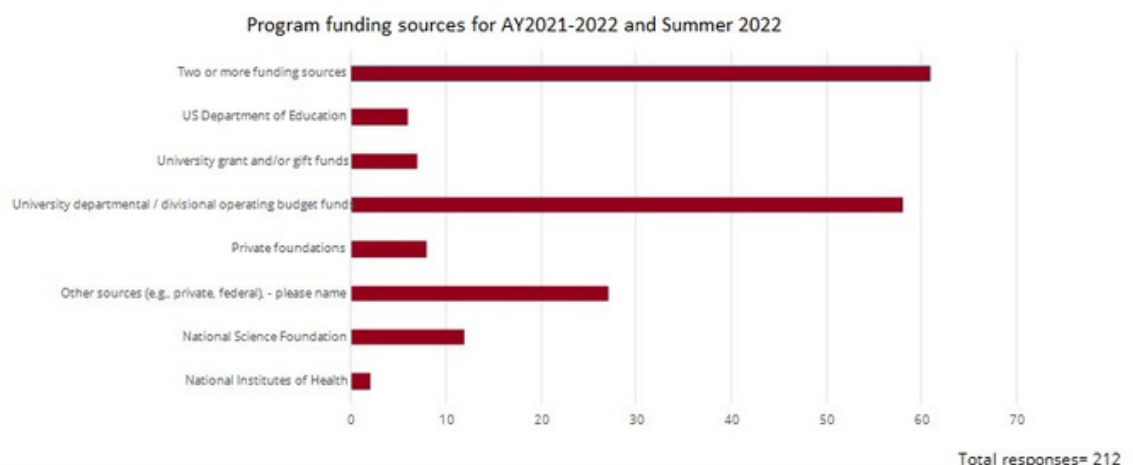
By the Numbers

Penn Pipeline Programs

Program School/ Center Affiliation



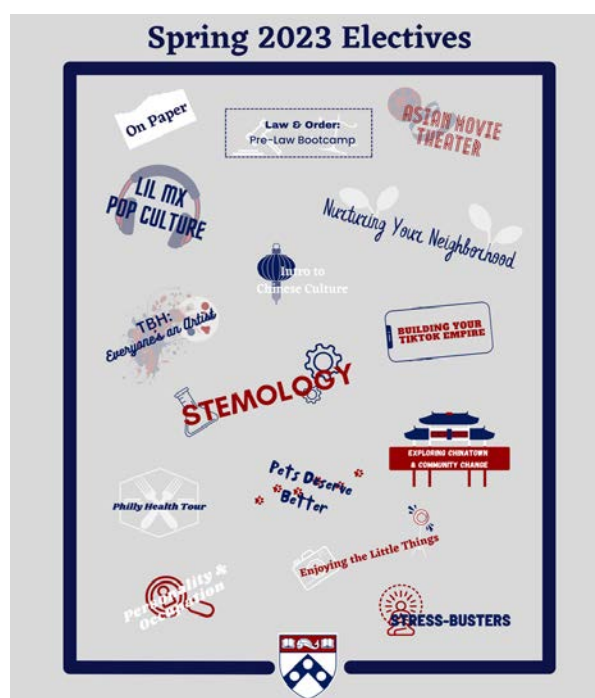
Program funding source(s)



Pennsylvania Graduation Requirements

Act 158

In 2022, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania put into place a graduation mandate called Act 158. This means that in order to graduate, high school students must meet graduation requirements that include the opportunity to have an experience (during grades 6-12) that qualifies as either a service-learning capstone project or an internship. In Spring 2023, the Division of VPSE provided 15 Act-158 capstone project/service-learning electives for School District of Philadelphia middle and high school students, led by Penn undergraduate and graduate students.





Section II

Our Programs





VPSE Departmental Summary Descriptions

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF)

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program, since 1989, has worked to increase access, participation, and outcomes for first-generation students, students who come from under-resourced backgrounds, and other students who have had limited opportunities critical to success in entering and completing Ph.D. degrees and joining the professoriate. The MMUF program also promotes the value of multivocality in the humanities and related disciplines, elevating accounts, interpretations, and narratives that expand present understandings. Penn MMUF has a 100% graduation rate with a 90% Ph.D. matriculation rate.

Penn Knowledge is Power Program (PennKIPP)

PennKIPP is an innovative partnership to recruit, support and train academically talented graduates of Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) charter schools nationwide. Our diverse community of scholars may also identify as first-generation and/or low-income. Since the partnership began in 2013, 82 students have participated in PennKIPP. More than 46 students have graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and 12 PennKIPP alumni are enrolled in Penn graduate or professional School programs.

PennRSSA

The Penn Rising Scholar Success Academy (PennRSSA) is a completely free, online program open to all 14,000+ rising seniors attending School District of Philadelphia public, parochial, and public charter high schools.

Provost's Summer Mentorship Program (SMP)

The Provost's Summer Mentorship Program is a summer college preparatory experience offered to Philadelphia rising 10th and 11th grade students. Admitted students are paired with one of five affiliate University of Pennsylvania graduate and professional School partners. Annually, 80 participants experience hands-on, experiential learning through creatively designed curricula developed to highlight and offer exploration into various career choices.

Talent Search

The Talent Search Program is designed to help 583 eligible students complete high school and enroll in postsecondary school. Talent Search provides students in grades 6-12 with support services that instill a college-going culture and promote the academic and personal development necessary for their entry into and success in postsecondary school.



Upward Bound (UB)

The University of Pennsylvania High School Upward Bound Program is a college preparatory program designed to motivate and prepare students for the successful pursuit of a four-year college education. The program provides 106 high school students with academic, career, and cultural enrichment resources. Access to these resources helps students to graduate from high school and increase the rate at which low-income, first-generation college students matriculate and graduate from postsecondary institutions.

Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS)

The Upward Bound Math Science program aims to strengthen the educational, scientific, and cultural foundations of 50 highly motivated high school students annually from low-income and/or first-generation-to-college backgrounds, thereby, enhancing their ability to matriculate into competitive college environments.

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

The Veterans Upward Bound program is a free, college preparatory program for 160 eligible veterans federally funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program offers college preparatory services to include academic assessment, advising, and counseling; non-credited academic classes and tutoring; college access; and educational support services. The program seeks to encourage, empower, and acclimatize college-bound veterans to the rigors of postsecondary education and training. The primary goal is to prepare eligible veterans to enter or re-enter the college of their choice and graduate from their selected postsecondary program.

VPSE STEM Program

Philadelphia middle school and high school students enhance their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) with the help of Penn graduate students. Each week students learn the basics of different STEM disciplines with exciting hands-on activities from building rockets to learning code.



By the Numbers

VPSE Programs

*** 98**

College and
University Visits/
Presentations

*** 6,890**

K-12, Undergraduate,
and Graduate Student
Enrolled Participants

*** 212**

Penn Pipeline
Programs

*** 272**

Philadelphia
Schools Served

*** 147**

Penn, Philadelphia,
Regional, and
National Partners

*** 4,565**

SEPTA Passes
Provided

*** \$1,904,369**

Total Participant Stipends Available

What is a Penn Pipeline Program? PIPELINE

PROGRAMS encompass those that are designed at all levels of education for groups under-represented in U.S. higher education professional programs, disciplines, and industries. These programs aim to recruit, enroll, retain, and support students to THRIVE—academically, socially, and emotionally—in their chosen ambitions, fields and careers.



Highlights From **VPSE Programs**



(Clockwise from top left) Students from **PennRSSA Summer Academy** visited the Penn Museum on June 30, 2023. **The VUB Program** launched an advertising campaign across the City of Philadelphia, which ran on SEPTA from August to October 2023. **UB Students** visited the New England Aquarium while on their Summer 2023 College Tour.





Highlights From **VPSE Programs**



(Clockwise from top left) Students and Staff from **Student Engagement Practicum: A Penn SNF Paideia Designated Course** visited the Morris Arboretum & Gardens on May 8, 2023. **PennKIPP Students** attended Penn Live Arts presentation of *Dorrance Dance – The Nutcracker* on December 8, 2023. **MMUF Scholars** attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference hosted at Cornell University on November 10, 2023.





Highlights From VPSE Programs



(Clockwise from top left) Students from the **Provost's SMP** attended the 4th Annual SMP College Fair on August 2, 2023. **TS Students** learned how to code their own Dash Robots on August 1, 2023.

During their Summer 2023 College Tour in Boston, Mass., **UBMS students** visited "The Embrace" sculpture, which honors Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King.





"At first, I didn't have a dream school, but participating in the program changed that. I now know that I love Penn and am working harder so that I can get into Penn."

Provost's Summer Mentorship Program participant
University of Pennsylvania

Section III Our Outcomes



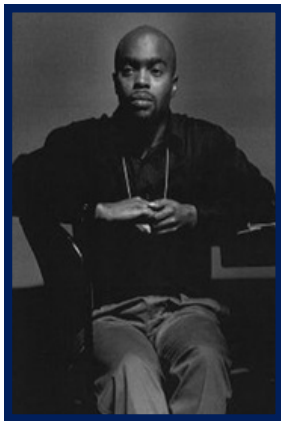



Penn

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)

Since 1989, the Penn MMUF program has a 100% Penn graduation rate, a 91% graduate matriculation rate, and already, 38 Penn MMUF fellows have earned their Ph.D.s and joined university faculties across the globe.

Penn MMUF Alumna, **Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar**, is an American historian at Rutgers University. She is a distinguished Charles and Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers. A historian of African American women and the antebellum United States, Dunbar is the author of *A Fragile Freedom: African American Women and Emancipation in the Antebellum City* (Yale, 2008) and *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* (2017). *Never Caught* was a National Book Award for Nonfiction finalist and winner of the Prize. In 2023, Dr. Dunbar launched a multiple-book publishing program with Simon & Schuster to produce seven books for adults and children. She is in her third year as the historical consultant and co-executive producer for HBO's "The Gilded Age."



Travis A. Jackson, Ph.D., is another Penn MMUF alumnus. Dr. Jackson is an Associate Professor of Music and Humanities at the University of Chicago. Jackson is an ethnomusicologist whose work centers on jazz, rock, and recording technology. His theoretical interests include urban geography, race/culture and identity, ethnographic method, performance, and aesthetics. He is the author of *Blowin' the Blues Away: Performance and Meaning on the New York Jazz Scene* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012) as well as a writer on topics ranging from the intersection of jazz and poetic performance to the interpretation of meaning in rock.

Ryan Cecil Jobson, Ph.D. is an anthropologist and social critic of the Caribbean and the Americas. His research and teaching engage issues of energy and extractivism, states and sovereignty, climate and crisis, and race and capital. Jobson is the Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, where he also holds faculty appointments in the Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization (CEGU), the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity. He is Associate Editor of the journal *Transforming Anthropology* and sits on the editorial boards of *Current Anthropology* and *Small Axe*. Jobson, a Penn MMUF Fellow alumnus, earned his PhD in African American Studies and Anthropology from Yale University.

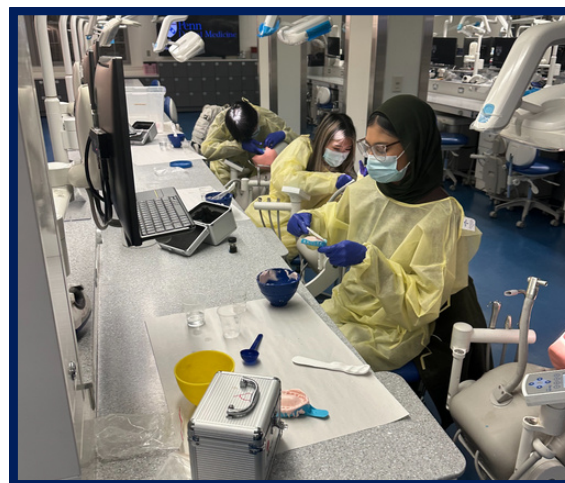


Penn

Rising Scholar Success Academy

More than 70% of students explored new career paths and expressed increased excitement about going to college.

To advance the futures of the children of our City, the University of Pennsylvania, in 2023, with approval from the School District of Philadelphia Board of Education, expanded the provision of free programming through VPSE PennRSSA—the Penn Rising Scholar Success Academy—to serve up to 5,000 students annually, attending School District of Philadelphia, public, and charter high schools, to a year-round initiative over the next 36 months. This hybrid initiative is the first of its type, scope, and scale in the United States. It is characterized by a high regard for the capabilities of students attending SDP public schools, exemplary program operations, and a curriculum that is both inclusive and nurtured by innovative pedagogy.



PennRSSA participants



A unique collaboration between all 12 Schools of the University, PennRSSA seeks to increase college access and career and work readiness for SDP student participants through world-class pedagogy; engaged mentoring from Penn undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, staff, and faculty; and innovative program support that will help students navigate the college application and financial aid processes, explore career options and experience capstone project/service-learning initiatives, and participate in exemplary, co-curricular engagement activities.

Penn

Provost's Summer Mentorship Program

“SMP has helped me understand what I want to become and the steps it takes to get there.”

Ivana L, former SMP participant

The 2023 Provost's Summer Mentorship Program (SMP) supported the career and educational interests of 100 Philadelphia-area high school students. Students participated in hands-on, experiential learning, through creatively designed curricula developed to highlight and offer exploration into various careers through Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Carey School of Law, and the School of Dental Medicine. SMP culminated in a city-wide college fair with more than 75 colleges and universities represented and more than 300 Philadelphia-area high school students in attendance.



SMP Summer 2023 College Fair



Above: SMP Summer 2023 Penn School Participant Internships



“The wealth of resources provided by this program is truly unparalleled.”

The Penn Talent Search program provides college-access and exposure opportunities for Philadelphia students in grades 6-12. Trips are a key feature of this initiative; in 2023, scholars toured area colleges, museums, and even Penn’s own GRASP Lab.



Participating in this program has afforded me invaluable insights into the college experience, exposing me to a diverse array of institutions. Moreover, it has been instrumental in preparing me for the SAT, offering support in the form of SAT prep resources, including a complimentary practice book. The wealth of resources provided by this program is truly unparalleled, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has granted me that I might not have otherwise received.

Jessica A.
Talent Search



The Penn Talent Search program has allowed me to experience new activities. I have been able to meet new people and visit different colleges and universities. I am still undecided as to where I would like to go to college, so having the ability to visit and experience different schools will help me to choose.

Jasen L.
Talent Search



Upward Bound was awarded a \$13,000 grant from Comcast's Jurassic World Rule Your Future STEAM Initiative.



Llulisa V.
Upward Bound

Through a Penn Upward Bound Comcast partnership, Upward Bound student Llulisa V. was selected to introduce Vice President Kamala Harris at a White House event celebrating Comcast's Affordable Connectivity Program. Llulisa was subsequently awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from Comcast to continue her studies.

**Scan to watch
Llulisa's introduction
of Vice President
Kamala Harris**



Left to Right: Nelson O., Rayonna G., Haoua T., Sukurat A., Kahlila T., Donovan D.

Upward Bound was awarded a \$13,000 grant to participate in the Council for Opportunity in Education and Comcast's Jurassic World Rule Your Future STEAM Initiative. Six Upward Bound students participated in the STEAM Symposium in Los Angeles, CA. Subsequently, students participated in a 10-hour paleontology course that offered them hands-on experiences in paleontology and introduced them to nontraditional careers in paleontology.



Penn

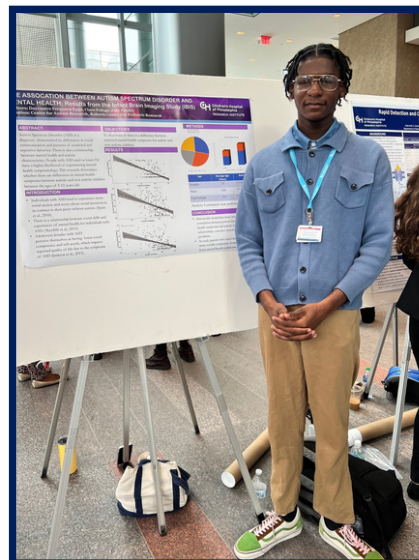
Upward Bound
Math Science Program

“

You've not only helped
[my son] reach this
milestone but have made
this proud parent's
dream come true.

”

During the summers of 2022 and 2023, one UBMS senior participated in the CHOP Research Internship for Scholars and Emerging Scientists Program (CHOP-RISES), an intensive, two-summer STEM-M internship program designed to build science confidence in high school students typically under-represented in research. One of the culminating projects was participation in a poster session. Dayvontre's poster was on The Association Between Autism Spectrum Disorder and Mental Health. Dayvontre entered La Salle University and plans to major in Biology.

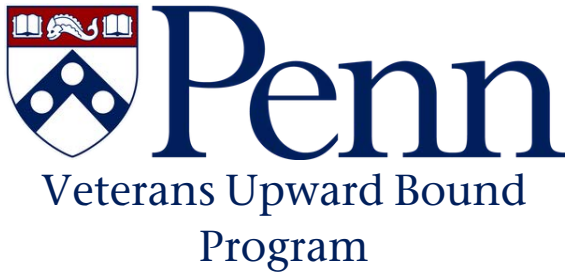


Dayvontre E.

Upward Bound Math Science Student



Over the past year, UBMS students participated in a number of activities, including academic workshops led by colleagues at the Weingarten Learning Resources Center (WLRC) and Career Services. UBMS also partnered with fellow VPSE programs to focus on cultural experiences at the Penn Museum and community service opportunities through volunteerism with MANNA.



...preparing veterans for college, transitioning veterans to college, and supporting veterans through college...



Visiting campuses is crucial for Veterans Upward Bound participants, as it provides them with exposure to the campus environment, helping them make informed decisions about their educational goals. Visits offer a tangible sense of the college atmosphere, allowing veterans to assess if a particular institution aligns with their preferences and needs. It helps demystify the college experience and builds confidence among those transitioning from military to civilian life.

Left: Veterans Upward Bound staff and participants posed for a group photo at Cheyney University.

Participant and current Community College of Philadelphia student, Norman Coley, being interviewed at a Memorial Day volunteer event in conjunction with the Travis Manion Foundation.



Penn

VPSE STEM Program


The VPSE STEM Program was inaugurated in Spring 2023, with a focus on School District of Philadelphia middle school students and a special outreach to middle school students living in the lowest income zip codes across the City. VPSE STEM participants received STEM digital instruction with an initial focus during the Spring and Summer of 2023 on game design, CAD, and coding. Students also visited sites and museums, including the Penn GRASP Lab, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, the Washington D.C. Spy Museum, and both Smithsonian Air and Space Museums in Washington, D.C., and Virginia.



During Fall 2023, VPSE STEM students participated in the FIRST® LEGO® League where they worked in teams to design and build robots using LEGO Education SPIKETM Essential, designed community innovation capstone projects, and competed in exciting, mission-based Robot Game challenges across Pennsylvania.



Above: VPSE STEM Team Lego Fall 2023 League Middle School Participants



Penn

Knowledge is
Power Program

“PennKIPP [turned] my doubts and discomfort into confidence and reassurance [during] time at the University of Pennsylvania.”

Zaynap S.

Jayla Rhodes is a fourth-year student from Atlanta, Ga., majoring in architecture with a concentration in history and theory. Her senior thesis titled “Walter Hood and the search for Black Radical imagination in Post-Civil Rights Architecture,” is her response to the 2021 MOMA exhibit “Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America,” which was inspired by renowned African American architect Walter Hood. Upon graduation, Jayla will further her work at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in their Infrastructure Department, while pursuing her Master’s Degree in Architecture or Urban Design/Planning.



At Penn, Jayla is a PennKIPP AP Scholar, Corresponding Secretary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Director of Publicity for the Intercultural Greek Council, tutor for Penn Reading Initiatives, and a member of Monoliths, a group that works to showcase and uplift Black visual art.



Above: Event, “Turkey Before the Turkey” provided an opportunity for students to gather and share a communal meal.


Fall 2023 programming for PennKIPP was driven by the goal of building community and fostering connections with community partners through important collaborations with the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowship (CURF), where students learned of research opportunities, and the Weingarten Learning Resources Center (WLRC) to more firmly establish their habits for success. The program also worked to foster relationships within the individual groups by sponsoring cohort pop-ups around campus. This was a chance for PennKIPP students to meet other students in their respective classes as well as identify the program as a source of support for their academic pursuits.



Above: Penn MMUF alumna Sophia Lindner, now a fourth-year Ph.D. student at Yale, poses with Hafsa R., a Philadelphia high school senior who has completed both SMP and PennRSSA, at the Summer 2023 SMP College Fair.



 vpse.upenn.edu

 St. Leonard's Court, Suite 110
3819 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA, 19104