

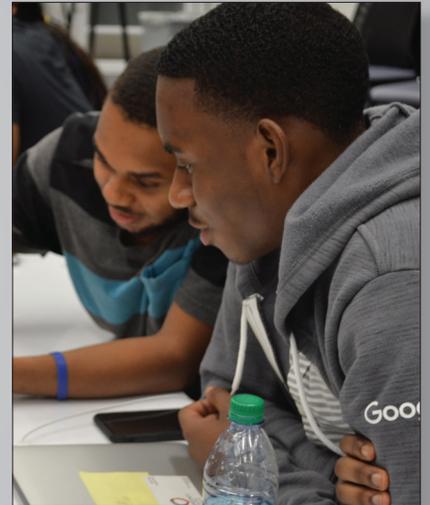
2016-17 IMPACT REPORT



Olufikunayo participating in a summer program at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

(University of Southern California Class of 2020)

Mohammad interning at Harlem Grown
(Grove School of Engineering Class of 2021)



Jeffron studying computer science at Google this summer

(University of Rochester Class of 2021)

For more highlights of our students' summer 2017 experiences, see pages 6-7.



SAVE THE DATE!

Please join Gala Co-Chairs **Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz** at the
2018 Night of Opportunity Gala – Monday, April 9th
at Cipriani Wall Street, New York City

ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

The Opportunity Network (OppNet) works with students from historically and systemically underrepresented communities in developing their skills, knowledge, and passions to achieve their college and career goals.

We honor the identities and embrace the power of each member of our community.

While nationally less than 10% of students from low-income communities will graduate college, and fewer will be prepared for careers,

- 100% of students in our six-year OppNet Fellows program graduate from college, and

- 85% secure meaningful employment or graduate school admission within six months of college graduation.

CAREER FLUENCY® IN ACTION

Fellows learn about different careers and meet professionals at our industry-specific **Career Panels and Roundtables**. Here, students learn about careers in social change.



Board Member **Chet Wood** and the team at **Deloitte** host Fellows for a field trip as part of Summer Institute, our orientation for incoming 11th graders.



Career Awareness and Exposure:

Students set college-to-career goals, learn how companies work, and gain knowledge of an array of jobs and the academic/professional training required for those careers.



OppNet Fellows network with former NYC Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, other notable guests, and investment professionals at **BTIG's Charity Day 2017**. OppNet is grateful to BTIG for providing our students with an opportunity to participate and including OppNet!

Each year, hundreds of professionals join us for volunteer events. At our signature **Speed Networking** sessions, students get a chance to practice their elevator pitches, network, and exchange business cards, helping them to develop strong communication skills and grow their networks.



Fellows practice interviewing with volunteers at one of our **Mock Interview Workshops** in preparation for applying for summer internships. To read more about our internship program, please see pages 6-7.

In our **"Marketing Your Assets"** lesson, high school Fellows learn to identify their assets—the skills and experiences they have that can be valuable in professional contexts.

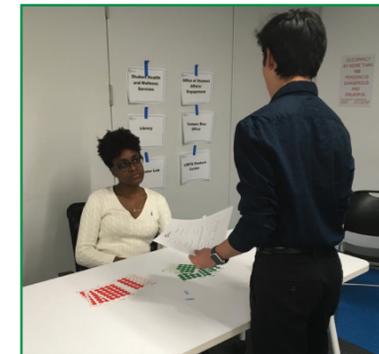


Professional Skills and Etiquette:

Students learn standards of excellence in professional settings, including workplace norms, resumes, cover letters, interviewing, professional e-mail and phone communication, internship preparedness, public speaking, active listening, and mentoring.

College Access, Transition, and Success:

OppNet provides one-on-one guidance, and students participate in a robust set of activities to ensure they matriculate at a best-fit college, thrive once on campus, and graduate.



In our **"Anatomy of a College Campus"** lesson, rising freshmen practice navigating the various offices they will encounter and potential issues they will face when arriving on campus.

OppNet staff conduct phone, video, and in-person check-ins with Fellows throughout all four years of college, in addition to workshops and networking events hosted during winter and summer breaks. Here, an OppNet staff member visits Fellows at Queens College.



We achieve our remarkable results through our **Career Fluency® curriculum**, which we deliver through two programs that guide students to college and career success:

OppNet Fellows:

Our intensive six-year program that works with **770** students from the summer after 10th grade through to college graduation, and into careers.

Career Fluency® Partnerships:

Our work to build capacity for schools and youth-serving organizations to integrate our curriculum into their programs and amplify college and career readiness for their students.

See page 8 for more details.

OPPNET FELLOWS PROGRAM

OppNet works with students in our Fellows program for six years—from the summer after 10th grade through to college graduation, and into careers.

During high school, Fellows participate in weekly after-school sessions and special workshops covering all four pillars of our Career Fluency[®] curriculum.

OppNet is committed to not only supporting our students to college, but *through* college.

OppNet conducts in-depth check-ins with Fellows during the semester, holds workshops during summer and winter breaks, and helps to connect Fellows to one another through our peer mentoring program.

OppNet also works intensively with our students to prepare for and find substantive summer opportunities, like internships or enrichment programs, over the course of five summers (see pages 6-7 for more details).

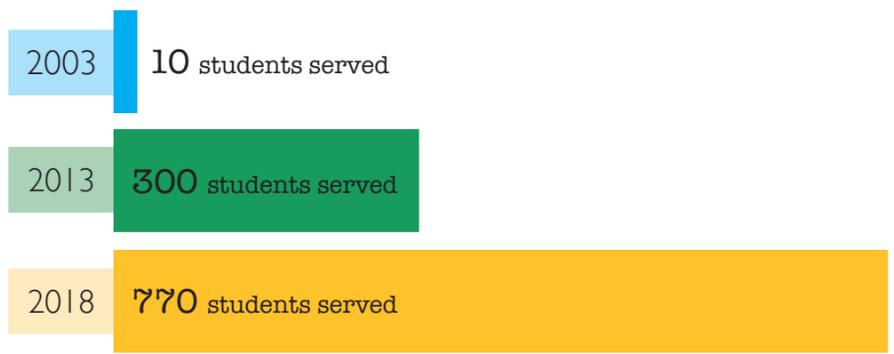
Since 2003, the OppNet Fellows program has grown from serving 10 students recruited from one public high school to 770 recruited from 180+ schools and organizations across NYC's five boroughs.

FELLOWS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

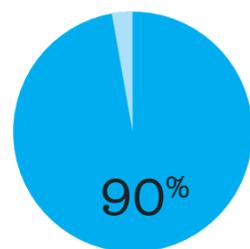
Demand for OppNet's Fellows program continues to grow. We again received nearly 600 applications for just 145 spots in our newest class of 11th graders, and have grown our Fellows program year after year to meet this demand.



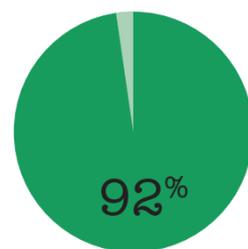
FELLOWS PROGRAM GROWTH



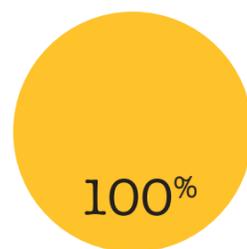
WHO WE SERVE



90% of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch programs. Their median annual family income is \$25k.



92% will be the first in their families to graduate from college.



100% of our students are accepted at best-fit, four-year colleges, and more than half ultimately attend schools they discovered through OppNet.

COLLEGE GUIDANCE

The average public school student receives just 38 minutes of college guidance in one year. An OppNet Fellow receives 100+ hours through personal and group guidance sessions, college essay coaching, and financial aid counseling for students and their families, in addition to visits to 10+ college campuses throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

100+ HOURS

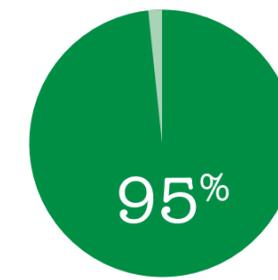


OppNet's Class of 2021, who just began their freshman year of college, are attending 58 campuses across the country, including:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Babson | Lehigh |
| Barnard | NYU |
| Bowdoin | Pomona |
| Columbia | Skidmore |
| CUNY | St. John's |
| Dartmouth | SUNY |
| Emory | Swarthmore |
| Fordham | Trinity |
| Georgetown | UPenn |
| Howard | Williams |



Over \$4M has been awarded to the Class of 2021 in scholarships and grants.



95% of the Class of 2021's demonstrated financial need has been met through non-student loan aid.

100%

of our Fellows graduate from college, well-equipped with the skills, expertise, and personal and professional networks to maximize their potential.

85%

of our Fellows secure meaningful employment or graduate school admission within six months of college graduation.

Almost 90% of our Class of 2016 achieved this target, and our Class of 2017 college graduates are off to an equally impressive start with early job placements at CIBC, Ernst & Young, Goldman Sachs, Google, New York College Advising Corps, and other companies, organizations, and graduate programs.

OPPNET FELLOWS: FIVE SUMMERS OF INTERNSHIPS AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Central to our unparalleled results is our Fellows' participation in five summers of paid internships or enrichment programs.

Through these experiences, our students are able to build a robust resume of work experience and develop an early network of professionals across a broad range of industries.

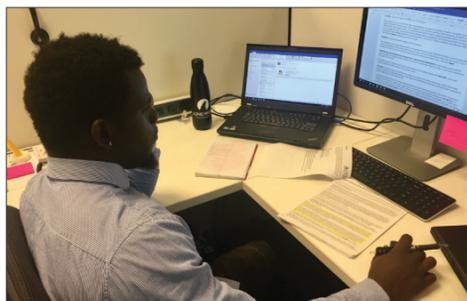
OppNet develops and maintains partnerships with hundreds of companies and organizations and works to ensure that each summer experience is positive for both our students and our partner sites. We:

- Work closely with students to connect them to and prepare them for opportunities that align with their goals;
- Conduct resume, cover letter, and interview preparation;
- Coach students on workplace norms and expectations and how best to navigate different professional settings;
- Ensure students' success through check-ins with students and employers throughout the summer; and
- Conduct follow-up and evaluations with internship supervisors.



*"This summer, I participated in the **Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program**. I assisted a judge with administrative tasks and sat in on a trial—a once in a lifetime experience for me. I networked with multiple judges from criminal and family courts, as well as attorneys and law students. Each person had their unique experiences, and as a result they gave me so much advice and insight. I even had the opportunity to attend a ceremony where we got to see and hear from Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor."*

— Rocio, High School Senior
(second from the right in the photo above)



*"This summer, I interned at **Lone Wolf Technologies** in Dallas. I valued this internship tremendously because it not only showed me that I am ready for the real world, but also a few career paths that I can pursue."*

One day during my internship, I conducted an informational interview with the CEO. He gave me great advice. He told me to keep smiling and engage in conversations with strangers. He also told me that taking risks at the start of my career will only make me better in the long run."

— Vashane, Ithaca College Class of 2018

2017 Summer Internship and Enrichment Partners

A+E Networks
Abbe Clubhouse
ACTIVE Network
AHRC New York City
Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.
Airtime
All Star Code
Amalgamated Bank
Ambac
American Museum of Natural History
Amistad Research Center
AOL
ArtsConnection
Artwrl
Asiatech Study Abroad Program
Atlantis Project
Atlas:DIY
Baccalaureate School for Global Education
Barnard College Summer in the City
Bellevue Hospital
BFC Partners
Bloomberg Arts & Culture Internship Program
BlueStamp Engineering
Bottom Line
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
Broadway Video
Brooklyn Museum
Bungalow Media+Entertainment
The Campaign for Better Schools
Carleton College Summer Academic Program
Carnegie Mellon Summer Academy for Math & Science
Center for Architecture
Center for Excellence in Youth Education at Mount Sinai
City College London Study Abroad Program
James Cohan Gallery
College Now
Columbia University Girls in STEM
Columbia University Summer Program for High School Students
Community Service Alliance Program
The Comprehensive Rural Health Project
The Cooper Union Summer STEM Program
Cornell University Pre-College Program
Coro New York Leadership Center
Corporate Council on Africa
Creative Sportswear
CVENT
Czech Academy of Sciences
Deloitte LLP
Deutsche Bank
Discovery Guide Summer Program
DREAM
East Harlem School
ECPAT International

Embrace Her Legacy
Ernst & Young International
Executive Monetary Management
Extraordinary Journeys
Facing History High School
Federal Reserve Bank
Field Research Program at Columbia University
Fudan University International Summer School
Futures and Options
GE Digital
Girls Who Code
Global Leaders Program
Global Potential
Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
Google Inc. Computer Science Summer Institute
Grand Street Settlement
Habitat for Humanity
Hakluyt & Company
Hanyu Chinese School
Henry Street Settlement
Highsnobiety
Hope Domino
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Internship
Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth
Robert Jones Memorial Shelter
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Kadmon Corporation
KCD Worldwide
Kibo Commerce
KPMG
Lamont-Doherty's Secondary School Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA)
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Lincoln Medical Center
Lone Wolf Technologies
Maimonides Medical Center
Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program
Mekong NYC
MetLife
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Munawar & Andrew-Santillo LLP
Museum of American Finance
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship
New Museum
New York Center for Child Development
New York City Department of Design and Construction
New York City Department of Education
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
New York City School Construction Authority
New York Life Insurance
New York Police Department Police Cadet Program
New York Post
The New York Times
New York University Hartley Lab
New York University Langone Medical Center
New York University Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine
New York University Shanghai Study Abroad Program
Oberlin College Foresight Prep
Omni New York LLC
Omnitracs
One To World
Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
Palante Harlem Inc
The Partnership for After School Education
Permira Advisers LLC
Phyt Cares
The Poses Family Foundation
PR Consulting
Princeton University in Beijing Travel Program
The Resource Foundation
Rockefeller University Summer Science Research Program
Salvation Army
Savannah College of Art and Design Rising Star Program
Sculpture Center's Public Process High School Summer Program
Select Equity Group
Siegel+Gale
Sonia & Celina Sotomayor High School Judicial Internship Program
South Bronx Performing Arts Conservatory
Sponsors for Educational Opportunity

Stanford University Pre-Collegiate Summer Institutes
STREB Extreme Action Company
Student Diplomacy Corps
Studio Museum
Sweet Generation
Switch Inc.
Syracuse University Summer College
TamKang Senior High School Program
Terese Sydonna
Texas Southern University Paris Noir Study Abroad Program
Trident Fantasy Films
Trucked Out
Uncommon Charter High School
United States Air Force Academy Summer Seminar
Upperline Code
University of Massachusetts – Amherst Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project
University of Michigan Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania Summer Workshop for Young Writers
University of Rochester Pre-College Program
The Urban Assembly
Urban Leadership Fellows Program
Vassar College International Studies Program
Viacom
VinGardeValise
Vinson & Elkins LLP
VJ Associates
Wave Hill
Wildlife Conservation Society Project TRUE
Williams College Summer Science Program
WiscAMP
World Learning Study Abroad Program
Yale Young Global Scholars Program
Year Up
YMCA
Young Chefs Academy
Youth Communication Summer Writing Workshop

THANKS!

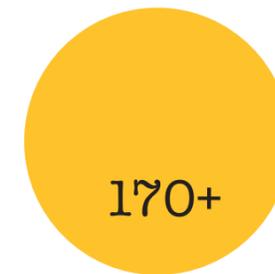
OppNet is deeply grateful to 2015 *Night of Opportunity* honoree **Robert F. Smith** and **Vista Equity Partners** for again providing summer internship opportunities and housing stipends to our students at Vista portfolio companies in Dallas, TX!



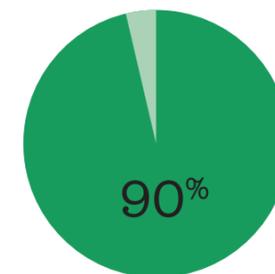
*"This summer I participated in the **Center for Excellence in Youth Education Program at Mount Sinai Hospital** where I shadowed a specialist, observing her work in the clinic, performing endoscopies and conducting lab research. In addition, I was able to see how she facilitated administrative tasks in the office."*

Thanks to this experience I've reaffirmed my pursuit to study medicine and become a health professional. After one particularly long day of seeing patients, the doctor and I were chatting about the long hours, lack of sleep, and commitment that is necessary in this profession. She shared that being a health professional is one of the most rewarding professions there is. Becoming and being a doctor is no easy task, but it is very rewarding. I knew that this was the profession I needed to pursue, a profession of hard work and gratitude."

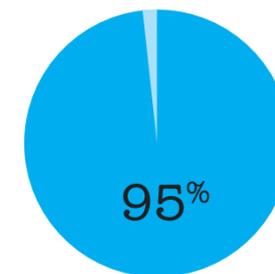
— Faysal, High School Senior



170+ companies and organizations partnered with OppNet in 2017 to provide students with substantive summer internship or enrichment program experiences.



90% of Fellows earn 4s and 5s (on a 5-point scale) on their supervisor performance evaluations.



95% of Fellows share that their summer experiences have made an impact on their academic and career choices.

Career Fluency® Partnerships

We believe that all students can increase their potential to graduate from college ready for careers, and we know that organizations across the city and country are working hard to achieve this goal.

In response to steady inquiries from urban public schools, youth-serving nonprofits, and funders, three years ago, OppNet began piloting Career Fluency® Partnerships. We work closely with Partners to train their teachers, guidance counselors and/or staff to adapt and deliver our curriculum, building each Partner's own institutional capacity to achieve superior college and career results for the students they serve.

This past year, thanks to a transformative investment from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, and with additional support from The Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund, ECMC Foundation, Gray Foundation, Charles Hayden Foundation, and The Heckscher Foundation for Children, we launched a formal program area dedicated to this important work.

Are you a school or youth-serving organization interested in learning more about OppNet's Career Fluency® Partnerships? Please contact Sarah Donnelly, Director of Partnerships and Training, at sarah@opportunitynetwork.org.

College Access and Success Symposium (CASS)

For the fourth year in a row, OppNet convened admissions officers from 30+ top colleges—including Amherst, Boston College, Carnegie Mellon, CUNY Macaulay Honors College, MIT, Pomona, Skidmore, Swarthmore, UPenn, University of Rochester, Vassar, and Yale, among others—for a hands-on strategy session on how to best support students from underrepresented communities. OppNet has taken the lead on finding ways youth-serving nonprofits, colleges, and other stakeholders can ensure that graduation rates for these young people improve and we connect these students with the resources they need to succeed.

In April 2017, OppNet convened admissions officers for our annual College Access and Success Symposium.



"I think everybody is born with dreams. I think everybody is born with some level of drive. But the thing that separates people who reach the highest levels, who we laud for being so successful and so amazing from those we never hear of—too often that one thing is opportunity. So that's why this is so important. That's why I'm so honored to receive this [award] and why each of you is so important."
—Honoree Will Packer



Founder and CEO Jessica Pliska, Board Member Elizabeth Nieto, and Chairman Dan O'Keefe

More than 800 guests gathered at Cipriani Wall Street on April 24, 2017, to celebrate OppNet's outstanding Fellows and the leaders who inspire them at our annual *Night of Opportunity* gala.

The event raised a record-breaking \$2.1 million for OppNet's work and celebrated the achievements of the evening's incredible honorees:

David H. McCormick,
Co-CEO, Bridgewater Associates, LP

John F. Megrue, Jr.,
Chairman of Apax Partners U.S.

Will Packer,
acclaimed film and television producer

OppNet is deeply grateful to all of our supporters for making the evening such a tremendous success for our work, as well as for the leadership and efforts of our **Board of Directors**, **Associate Board of Directors** (see page 15), and **Night of Opportunity Committee**:

Anurag Bhartiya,
Universal E-Business Solutions, LLC

John Cryan,
EA Markets

Brandon Levin,
JANA Partners LLC

Sam Powers,
UBS Investment Bank

Michael Psaros,
KPS Capital Partners, LP

Rowan G.P. Taylor,
Liberty Hall Capital Partners

Oliver Wiener,
BTIG LLC



OppNet Fellow and Barnard College Class of 2021 Maesha presenting the Opportunity Award to Honoree David H. McCormick

"It's so important to be with people who want to bring you up, and feel like their success is your success—a community. I feel so amazed every time I speak with other Fellows at OppNet who are developing projects that they're passionate about. . . You'll search everywhere for that same sense of camaraderie."
—Dylan, OppNet Fellow and Oberlin College Class of 2021



Jason Wright, Chairman Emeritus, with Honoree John F. Megrue, Jr.



NETWORK OF PARTNERS

OppNet's ability to serve our students and have the impact we do would not be possible without the generosity and support of our community of donors and partners. We are proud to recognize the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that invested in our work during our 2017 Fiscal Year (9/1/16 – 8/31/17). **Thank you for your incredible commitment to our students.**

\$100,000+

Altman Foundation
Apax Foundation
Booth Ferris Foundation
Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
Deloitte LLP+
ECMC Foundation
Gerstner Family Foundation
Gray Foundation
Charles Hayden Foundation
The Heckscher Foundation for Children
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
John F. Megrue, Jr.+
Sarah and Dan O'Keefe+
Price Family Foundation
Rocking Moon Foundation
Shippy Foundation
The Paul E. Singer Foundation+
Amanda and Jason Wright+

\$50,000-\$99,999

The Jeffrey H. and Shari L. Aronson Family Foundation
Bridgewater Associates, LP+
BTIG LLC+
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Strada Education Network+
Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, Inc.
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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The Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund
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\$10,000-\$24,999

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EY+
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Richard Salomon Family Foundation
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP+
The Slomo & Cindy Silvan Foundation, Inc.
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Sony Pictures Entertainment+
The Ethel and Joseph Spatz Foundation§
Stax+
Bob and Ann Beth Stebbins+
Jane and Frances Stein Foundation
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\$5,000-\$9,999

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Ian Woods and Gigi Stone Woods*
Ziffren Brittenham LLP+

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Peter Allan and Laurie Atkins
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Susan and Alan Patricof+
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VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

This year, hundreds of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds and professional fields—from business and finance to the arts and media—joined our Fellows for fun and dynamic volunteer engagements. With the help of professionals, students practiced their elevator pitches during **Speed Networking sessions**, received valuable advice during **Career Panels and Roundtable Discussions**, refined their resumes and interviewing skills during **Resume Review and Mock Interview Workshops**, edited their personal statements as part of our **College Essay Coach Program**, and more.

We strive to recruit an inclusive volunteer base whose experiences and backgrounds can help our students navigate their college and career paths. Our volunteers truly helped introduce our Fellows to new careers, provided them with guidance and feedback, and served as early members of their networks.



OppNet Fellows exchanging business cards with professionals at our fall 2016 Speed Networking session

500+

Over the course of six years in our Fellows program, students will meet 500+ professionals through volunteer events and summer internships.

OppNet is deeply grateful to all of our volunteers for their time and commitment to our students, as well as to the partners below for hosting our students for field trips, recruiting volunteers, partnering with us on workshops, and so much more in the past year:

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HOST AN INTERN

Provide an OppNet student with a summer internship at your company or organization.

Contact: Amanda Smith, Program Manager, at amanda@opportunitynetwork.org

SUPPORT OPPNET

Make a donation to support OppNet's work, arrange for a matching gift from your employer, or reach out to discuss planned giving options. Some of the ways you can make a difference for our students include:

- **Year of Opportunity** – By making a gift of \$5,000 you join a growing group of Opportunity Sponsors and receive personalized student updates throughout the year.
- **Summer of Opportunity** – A gift of \$2,000 funds a scholarship for a student to participate in an unpaid internship, enrichment program, or study abroad program.
- **Night of Opportunity** – Save the date for OppNet's annual gala on April 9, 2018! Reserve your sponsorship, table, or ticket today.

Contact: Kierstyn Thayer, Chief Development Officer, at kierstyn@opportunitynetwork.org

VOLUNTEER

Sign up to receive information about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Visit: www.opportunitynetwork.org/volunteersignup

Host a volunteer event for employees of your company or organization.

Contact: volunteers@opportunitynetwork.org

MORE ON OUR STUDENTS' SUMMER 2017 EXPERIENCES!



*"This summer, I interned at **Harlem Grown**. I facilitated farm tasks and activities for corporate volunteer groups and kids ages 7 - 14, researched and engineered projects to improve irrigation and pest management systems, and spearheaded chicken coop renovations.*

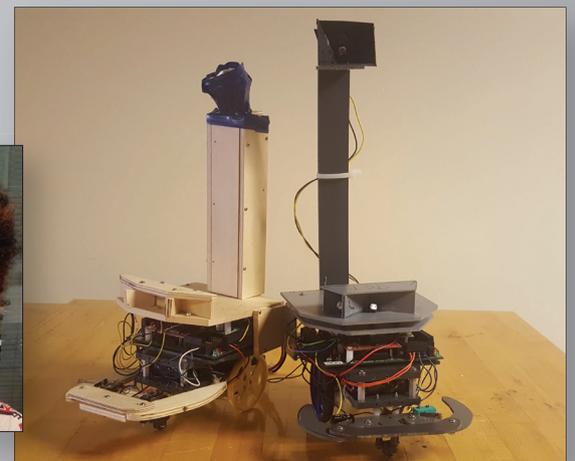
Thanks to this experience, I was exposed to sustainability initiatives, which will be helpful as I study mechanical engineering in college."

– Mohammad, Grove School of Engineering Class of 2021

*"This summer, I designed and constructed a light seeking, obstacle avoiding autonomous robot at the **NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies**. To demonstrate the robot's functionality, I programmed it to compete in a "Capture the Flag"-esque speed competition with light sources serving as the flags.*

I have always been interested in robotics and engineering. This experience helped reaffirm my passion."

– Olufikunayo, University of Southern California Class of 2020



CONTACT US

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