

# Impact Report: 2017-2018



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2018 Night of Opportunity  
Co-Chairs  
Daniel Craig and  
Rachel Weisz with  
Honoree Van Jones

## Save the Date!

Please join us at our 2019 *Night of Opportunity Gala*,  
Monday, April 8th  
Cipriani Wall Street, New York City

To reserve a table/tickets or make a donation, please visit [www.opportunitynetwork.org/gala](http://www.opportunitynetwork.org/gala)

# About The Opportunity Network

The Opportunity Network (OppNet) works with students from historically and systematically 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 and underrepresented communities will graduate college, and even fewer will be prepared for careers, **92% of students in our six-year OppNet Fellows program graduate from college within six years, and 90% secure meaningful employment or graduate school admission within six months of college graduation.** Our results are anchored in our best-in-class **Career Fluency®** curriculum, designed to maximize college and career success for students through an emphasis on personal and professional networks, and the importance of social capital in navigating the college landscape and professional world.



Fellows learning about careers in tech, marketing, and business development, and getting advice on their mock business plans during a visit to Salesforce's NYC office.



OppNet Fellows honing their interview skills during a Mock Interview Workshop hosted by Capital One.

### Career Awareness and Exposure:

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

### Professional and Workplace Skills:

Students learn and apply fundamental skills and concepts to navigate professional settings successfully, including interviewing best practices, active listening, and diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

## Career Fluency®

### Networks and Social Capital:

Students engage in intensive, cutting-edge training to hone the skills and knowledge needed to leverage, activate, and build strong networks and social capital to achieve their college and career goals.

### College Access, Transition, and Success:

Students participate in a robust set of activities and experiential workshops to ensure they are prepared to matriculate at a "best-fit" college, thrive once on campus, and graduate ready to launch their professional next step.



OppNet President and COO AiLun Ku moderating a discussion with film and television producer Tonya Lewis Lee, who shared her background and effective business and leadership skills with OppNet Fellows at a C-Suite Speaker Series event.



Class of 2022 OppNet Fellows Daisy, Lizbeth, Benjamin, and Tanzim celebrating their college decisions at Michelle Obama's National College Signing Day in Philadelphia.

# OppNet Fellows Program: Growth and Impact

Since 2003, the OppNet Fellows program has been committed to equipping high school and college students with the skills and experiences to achieve their college and career goals. The Fellows program began serving only 10 students recruited from one public high school in NYC, to now supporting 870 in our 2018-19 program year, recruited from over 200 schools and organizations across the city's five boroughs.

### Fellows Program Applications

Demand for OppNet's Fellows program continues to soar with over 500 applications for only 160 spots in our newest class of 11<sup>th</sup> graders. We remain committed to growing our Fellows program year after year to meet this demand.

500+

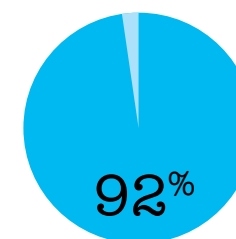
### Fellows Program Growth

2003 10 students served

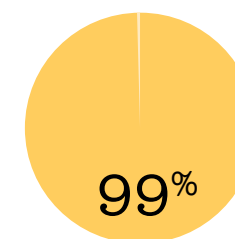
2013 300 students served

2019 870 students served

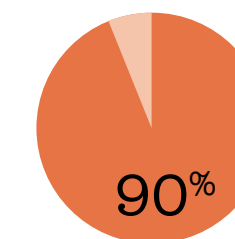
### Results



will be the first in their families to graduate from college



are accepted at "best-fit," four-year colleges, and more than half ultimately attend schools they discovered through OppNet



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

"One thing that stands out that I have learned from OppNet is learning about the power of networking and not just stopping there. We actually got to practice and use the skills we were taught. This ties in with learning to advocate for yourself when you're networking with people—it's a form of self-advocacy."

— Fatima, OppNet Class of 2023

OppNet's Class of 2022, who just began their freshman year of college, join OppNet Fellows at 120+ campuses across the country, including:

- Brandeis University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- CUNY (multiple campuses)
- Dartmouth College
- Franklin & Marshall College
- George Washington University
- Howard University
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- Middlebury College
- New York University
- Princeton University
- Skidmore College
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- SUNY (multiple campuses)
- University of Rochester
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Vassar College
- Williams College
- Yale University

Over **\$4.9M** has been awarded to the Class of 2022 in scholarships and grants and **94%** of the Class's demonstrated financial need has been met.

# OppNet Fellows Program: Five Summers of Internships and Enrichment Programs

Key to our unparalleled results in our Fellows program is **five summers of paid internships or enrichment programs for each student**. Through these experiences, students are able to hone in-demand skills, build competitive resumes in line with their professional passions and goals, and develop an early network of professionals across a wide range of industries and fields.

**OppNet develops and maintains dynamic partnerships with 200 companies and organizations**, working closely with each to ensure our Fellows are able to engage in a rewarding and meaningful experience each summer. We:

- Connect students to and prepare them for opportunities that align with their goals;
- Conduct in-depth resume, cover letter, and interview preparation sessions with students;
- Coach students on how best to navigate various professional settings and professional expectations;
- Train and support internship employers and enrichment organizations on practices and approaches to support student success and growth; and
- Continuously evaluate and reflect on ways to deepen the value of summer experiences for both Fellows and summer host sites.



Moazam, OppNet Class of 2023, during his summer STEM experience at The Cooper Union.

"I worked on various R&D projects to improve the performance of our race car for the Formula SAE student design competition. I wanted to pursue aerospace engineering as a career, and I am proud to say, because of this experience, that I enjoy mechanical engineering, too!"



Michael, OppNet Class of 2021, at his internship with Deloitte this summer on its acquisitions team.

"Interning at Deloitte gave me many unique experiences: traveling to Deloitte University in Texas, presenting to all my colleagues, and the opportunity to meet new professionals every day. Heading into my sophomore year at Skidmore, I am excited to apply the knowledge and skills I learned while at Deloitte to the classroom and clubs on campus."

**97%**  
of internship supervisors would re-hire their OppNet intern

## 2018 Summer Internship and Enrichment Partners

The Opportunity Network is grateful to our 2018 internship and enrichment partners, listed below:

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| A+E Networks   | Hope Reichbach Foundation  | Prudential Financial, Inc.                                       | The GO Project  |
| All Star Code  | IMG Agency & Records   | Publicis Media   | The John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth                                |
| Alvarez & Marsal   | ImmerQi  | Queens Animal Hospital   | The Leadership Center   |
| Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.                       | Informatics Transforming Science and Engineering                               | Relationship Abuse Protection Program                            | The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship                                 |
| Amalgamated Bank   | INGZ Curatorial Collective   | Rentah   | The New York Times  |
| Ambac Financial Group                                    | Institute for Applied Physics  | Robert Jackson Campaign  | The Office of the Manhattan Borough President                             |
| American Express   | Joy English School   | Room to Grow   | The Rockefeller University  |
| American Museum of Natural History                       | L'Oreal  | Scholars in Our Society and Africa                               | The STEM Collective   |
| Aon  | Lafayette College  | SculptureCenter's Public Process High School Summer Program      | The Summer Science Program  |
| Asia Society   | Latin American Venture Capital Association                                     | Seamless Auto  | Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program                           |
| Atlantis   | Leadership exCHANGE  | Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty                  | Tractenberg and Company   |
| Avigilon   | Legal Outreach   | Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP                         | Uncommon Schools  |
| Bank of America Merrill Lynch                            | Legros Law Firm  | Smith College  | Union College National Health Systems                                     |
| Barnard College Summer in the City                       | Lehigh Legal Outreach  | Smithsonian Latino Center  | United States Air Force Academy   |
| Bellevue Hospital  | Lenox Hill Neighborhood House  | Smithsonian Student Adventures                                   | United States Department of State   |
| Bloomberg L.P.   | Lettire Construction   | Socrates Sculpture Park  | University of Notre Dame London Summer Engineering Program                |
| Blueprint Summer Program                                 | Macquarie Capital  | Sonia & Celina Sotomayor High School Judicial Internship Program | University of Pennsylvania, Penn Undergraduate Research Mentorship (PURM) |
| BlueStamp Engineering                                    | Manhattan-Staten Island Area Health Education Center                           | South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association of New York City         | University of Rochester Pre-College Program                               |
| Broadway Video   | MasterCard   | Springboard Collaborative  | University of Vermont Event Planning                                      |
| Brooklyn Museum  | Mekong NYC   | St. Joseph's College   | Unqork  |
| Brooklyn Queens Long Island Area Health Education Center | MetLife  | Stanford University Pre-Collegiate Summer Institute              | Upperline Code  |
| Camp Ramapo  | Middlebury College StrongHer Girls   | StoryCorps   | Urban Assembly  |
| Cape Wildlife Center                                     | Montefiore Medical Center  | STREB Extreme Action Company                                     | Urban Leadership Fellows Program  |
| Carleton College Summer Academic Program                 | Mount Sinai Medical Center   | Student Diplomacy Corps  | Veripad Inc.  |
| Cause Strategy Partners                                  | Museum of Modern Art   | Studio Museum  | Viacom  |
| Center for Architecture                                  | NASA Goddard Space Flight Center   | StyleHaul  | Vienna University of Technology   |
| Center for Court Innovation                              | National Center for Law and Economic Justice                                   | Support Center   Partnership in Philanthropy                     | Vista Equity Partners   |
| Centro Internacional de Estudios Culturales              | New Line Structures  | Syracuse University Summer College for High School Students      | VJ Associates   |
| Child Mind Institute                                     | New Museum New York Cares  | The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences                  | Volvo Cars  |
| Chinatown Manpower Project                               | New York City Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education   | The Boys' Club of New York                                       | Weill Cornell Medicine  |
| Christodora  | New York City Department of Education, Summer Arts Institute                   | The Bronx Defenders  | Wells Fargo   |
| Citi   | New York City Department of Environmental Protection                           | The Cee Suite  | West Side YMCA  |
| City View Media New York City                            | New York City Department of Parks and Recreation                               | The Cooper Union   | Wildlife Conservation Society   |
| Columbia University Pre-College Program                  | New York City Department of Sanitation, Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability | The Experiment in International Living                           | Writopia Lab  |
| Coney Island Hospital                                    | New York City Department of Youth and Community Development                    |  | Yale Young Global Scholars Program  |
| Cornell University Pre-College Program                   | New York City Police Department  |  | YMCA of Greater New York  |
| Council on International Educational Exchange            | New York City School Construction Authority                                    |  | Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice                                    |
| Crossroads   | New York City Science Research Mentoring Consortium                            |  |   |
| CUNY Brooklyn College STEM Academy                       | New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute                    |  |   |
| Deloitte LLP   | New York Presbyterian Hospital   |  |   |
| Donnelley Financial Solutions                            | New York Public Library  |  |   |
| DonorsChoose.org   | New York University Hartley Lab  |  |   |
| DREAM (formerly Harlem RBI)                              | New York University Langone Medical Center                                     |  |   |
| Education First  | New York University Law School   |  |   |
| Elmhurst Hospital  | New York University Rusk Rehabilitation Center                                 |  |   |
| Embrace Her Legacy                                       | New York University School of Medicine   |  |   |
| End Child Prostitution and Trafficking                   | New York University Summer STEM Research                                       |  |   |
| ESRA Realty  | New Yorkers for Parks  |  |   |
| Extraordinary Journeys                                   | New-York Historical Society  |  |   |
| Faviana  | Oberlin College Foresight Prep Program   |  |   |
| First Workings   | Odyssey Sensors  |  |   |
| Ford Foundation  | Office of the New York Comptroller   |  |   |
| Franklin & Marshall College Summer Research Project      | Omni New York LLC  |  |   |
| Fresh Air Fund   | One Heart Source   |  |   |
| Futures and Options                                      | One To World   |  |   |
| Garnett Station Partners                                 | Pace University Counseling Center  |  |   |
| Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition                          | Permira  |  |   |
| Girls Who Code   | Pomona College Art Museum  |  |   |
| Global Justice Center                                    | Poses Family Foundation  |  |   |
| Global Scholars  | Power of Two   |  |   |
| Goldman Sachs  | Project Basta  |  |   |
| Great Jamaica Development Corporation                    | Project Horizon  |  |   |
| Guggenheim Museum  |  |  |   |
| Hakluyt & Company  |  |  |   |
| Harlem Grown   |  |  |   |
| Hartford Public Library                                  |  |  |   |
| History Lab  |  |  |   |
| Hola Magazine  |  |  |   |



Maria, OppNet Class of 2023, during her "Mini Med School" experience this summer at the University of Rochester

"I spent three weeks exploring what it would be like as a med student. This opportunity showed me how passionate I am about this field."

In response to a groundswell of inquiries and requests from youth-serving organizations and public schools on how to drive college and career outcomes for their students, OppNet launched **Career Fluency® Partnerships**.

To date, we have worked with over 50 partners—schools and youth-serving organizations—across the country. We train Partners’ teachers, counselors, and staff on how to best integrate our Career Fluency® curriculum and maximize their institutional capacity to support their students in charting paths toward college and career success. In 2017-18 alone, we provided over 440 hours of programming and support to Partner schools and organizations.

## Career Fluency® Partnerships Reach

In 2017-18, OppNet worked with 15 Partners in 14 cities across the country, including:



- East Palo Alto, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Oakland, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- Boulder, CO
- Denver, CO
- New Orleans, LA
- Boston, MA
- Newark, NJ
- New York, NY
- Providence, RI
- Stafford, TX
- Milwaukee, WI



OppNet Partnerships team facilitating an interactive workshop with NYC public school teachers as part of our Partnerships work with the NYC Department of Education.

This year was full of ardent work anchored in our evidence-based Career Fluency® curriculum and tailored to the goals and needs of each Career Fluency® Partner, who include:

- Boston Prep Charter School**
- College Crusade**
- College Track**
- LatinoU College Access**
- Henry Street Settlement**
- “I Have a Dream” Foundation**
- Minds Matter**
- NYC Department of Education**
- And more!**

“Career Fluency® has helped our organization think strategically about the mindsets and skills that our students need to succeed in college and beyond, how we measure our impact, and hold ourselves accountable to outcomes.”

— Justine Rosenthal, National “I Have A Dream” Foundation



OppNet Board Members and Gala Co-Chairs Rachel Weisz and Daniel Craig

Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus Brian Weinstein, Honoree Gabrielle Union, Chairman Daniel O’Keefe, and Chairman Emeritus Jason Wright



Board Member Ramin Arani with Gala Co-Chairs Alba and Thomas Tull



Board Member Scott Ostfeld and Jen Maxfield Ostfeld speaking on stage



Honoree Van Jones posing for a picture with OppNet Fellows and featured speakers Isha, Class of 2023, and Ashley, Davidson College Class of 2022.



OppNet Fellow and Ithaca College Class of 2018 Vashane presenting the Opportunity Award to Honoree Michelle Ebanks

“OppNet has been a consistent force of direction in my life. Through OppNet, I went to a leadership conference in France, interned at a law firm and two tech companies in Dallas, and met influential people. Looking back, I am amazed at my journey. In high school, I received this pin from Manny, my college counselor at OppNet. It reads: ‘I’m in. To finish.’ I wore this pin on my bag every day of college. And in a few weeks, I can say that I will be graduating, and my God, I am proud.”

— Vashane, Ithaca College Class of 2018

More than 900 guests attended this year’s *Night of Opportunity Gala* at Cipriani Wall Street on April 9, 2018, to celebrate OppNet’s history of continued student impact over the last 15 years. The evening celebrated the outstanding contributions of OppNet students and the distinguished leadership of each 2018 *Night of Opportunity* honoree and co-chair:

### Co-chairs

**Alba and Thomas Tull**  
**Rachel Weisz and Daniel Craig**

### Honorees

**Michelle Ebanks**,  
President of Essence Communications Inc.  
**Van Jones**,  
Host of “The Van Jones Show,” CNN  
**Gabrielle Union**,  
Actress and Author

The event raised over \$2.2 million to further OppNet’s work in driving access and opportunity for students.

OppNet is deeply honored by the level of support and generosity shown by our partners to make the evening such a groundbreaking success, and the steadfast leadership and efforts of our Board of Directors, Associate Board of Directors (see Page 1), and the 2018 *Night of Opportunity* Committee:

**Brandon Levin**,  
Head of Trading & Syndicate, JANA Partners LLC

**Michael Psaros**,  
Co-Founder and Managing Partner, KPS Capital Partners, LP

**Rowan G.P. Taylor**,  
Partner, Liberty Hall Capital Partners

**Oliver Wiener**,  
Managing Director, BTIG LLC

# Network of Partners

The Opportunity Network extends its deepest gratitude to our partners, without whom our work to ensure that all young people can access opportunity would not be possible. We are proud to recognize the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that supported our work during our 2018 Fiscal Year (9/1/17-8/31/18).

## \$100,000+

Altman Foundation  
Apax Foundation  
Booth Ferris Foundation  
Christie's  
Citi Foundation  
Daniel Craig\* and Rachel Weisz\*  
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation  
ECMC Foundation  
Gerstner Family Foundation  
Gray Foundation  
Charles Hayden Foundation  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Macquarie Group Foundation  
Sarah and Dan O'Keefe\*  
The Pinkerton Foundation  
Price Family Foundation  
Rocking Moon Foundation  
Shippy Foundation  
Tulco, LLC  
Tull Family Foundation  
Grant Verstandig  
Amanda and Jason Wright\*

Bank of America Merrill Lynch  
BTIG LLC  
J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation  
Deloitte LLP  
EY  
Goldman Sachs  
The Hirsch Family Foundation  
The Janey Fund  
Liberty Hall Capital Partners  
LionTree LLC  
Meringoff Family Foundation  
MetLife Foundation  
NIKE USA, Inc./Jordan Brand  
Okapi Partners LLC  
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PwC  
Richard Salomon Family Foundation  
Joanne and Paul Schnell\*  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

## \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (2)  
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Accenture  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
Aquiline Capital Partners  
Michael Archer and Elizabeth Nieto\*  
Catherine & Joseph Aresty Foundation  
Aston Martin  
Barclays  
The Barker Welfare Foundation  
BET Networks  
Cognizant  
Jennifer and Sean Cohan\*  
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Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc.  
ECi Software Solutions, Inc.  
Essence Communications Inc.  
Hakluyt & Company  
HBO  
Infor  
Investors Bank  
Kohlberg Kravis Roberts  
Leathwaite

## \$50,000-\$99,999

The Jeffrey H. and Shari L. Aronson Family Foundation  
Capital One Foundation  
CIBC World Markets  
EON Productions, Ltd  
George Hall\*  
The Keith Haring Foundation  
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Anna Kovner and Seth Meisel\*  
Jen Maxfield Ostfeld and Scott Ostfeld\*  
RBC Capital Markets  
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Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, Inc.  
Debbie and Chet Wood\*  
Youth INC  
A+E Networks  
The Arani Family\*

\* Board of Directors member

§ Associate Board of Directors member

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West Arrow/Nicky and James Rothschild§  
\$5,000-\$9,999  
Adrienne and Snehal Amin  
Aptos  
Zafar Asghar  
Shirley Brownrigg Charitable Trust  
Citi  
Comcast NBCUniversal  
Creative Artists Agency  
Andrew and Lynne Elcik  
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Henry E. Niles Foundation  
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Robyn and Seymour Sammel  
Tracy Chutorian Semler and Eric Semler  
Sony Pictures Entertainment  
The Stainman Family Foundation, Inc.  
Pat and Teresa Sullivan  
Daniel and Petra Switzer  
Jeffrey Wald

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous (3)  
AB Bernstein  
Mark Abbott and Marena Hamre  
Jay Abramson  
Brittany Adams§  
Chris Andrews  
Sanjay and Erzsebet Arora  
Bad Robot Productions  
Stacy Bash-Polley  
Josh and Dana Baumgarten  
BMO Capital Markets  
Lisa and Daniel Bonoff  
Lindsey Boylan and LeRoy Kim  
Bill Brady  
Amanda Bresler  
Brillstein Entertainment Partners  
Brooklyn Bowl  
Bulger Partners  
Paul Cabana  
Edward B. Carey  
The Carlyle Group  
John K. Castle  
Emma and Varun Chandra§  
Gary Claar  
Clarion Capital Partners, LLC  
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Lira and Jon Cohen  
Elin and Paul Collins  
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Cameron Lester  
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Marc Lowenberg  
Dennis Lynch  
Andrew J. Malik  
Talia and Jeffrey Mandelbaum  
Roy Martin and Joy Lindsay  
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Jonathan Miller  
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Nina Sanger  
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David and Melanie Schwartz  
Erika Serow  
Rebecca and Peter Shapiro  
Tod and Kelly Short  
Alyssa and Read Simmons  
Jarret and Sima Slepian  
Jordan and Julie Solomon  
Mike and Kemp Steib  
Anna and Michael Switzer  
Joe Tatelbaum

David and Susan Tunnell  
Jason Van Dussen  
Cynthia King Vance and Lee Vance  
John C. Vennema and Alexandra Neil  
Alan and Beth Waldenberg  
Candace Wang and Izaak Orlansky  
Weeden & Co.  
Matthew and Casey Weinstein  
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 Anonymous  
*In memory of Gareth Howell*  
 Amy Titus

\* Board of Directors member

§ Associate Board of Directors member

+ 2018 Night of Opportunity Committee member

# How To Get Involved

## Host An Intern

Every summer for five years, OppNet Fellows participate in summer internships or enrichment programs across the city, country, and the globe. From Fortune 500 companies to startups and coding boot camps to arts organizations, Fellows spend their summers building the skills, awareness of and exposure to varied careers, and networks to set them up for success after college.

**Does your employer offer internship positions to high school or college students?**

Please contact Keith Byam, Program Manager, at [keith@oppnet.org](mailto:keith@oppnet.org)

## Support OppNet

Each year, OppNet receives 500+ applications for just 160 spots in our incoming class of 11<sup>th</sup> graders. We have grown our Fellows program year after year to meet this need, and yet we know there are thousands more students who are hungry for the effective college and career supports OppNet provides.

There are a variety of ways partners can invest in OppNet's work—holding a workplace giving campaign, providing a scholarship to a student participating in an unpaid summer internship, or supporting OppNet's Annual *Night of Opportunity* Gala, to name a few.

**Are you interested in exploring opportunities to impact OppNet's work and students?**

Please contact Kierstyn Thayer, Chief Development Officer, at [kierstyn@oppnet.org](mailto:kierstyn@oppnet.org)

## Volunteer

The engagement of professionals from all industries and backgrounds is critical to OppNet's efforts to expose our Fellows to new career paths, connect them with mentors and opportunities, and help them build their professional networks. Over the course of six years in our program, Fellows will meet 500+ professionals through volunteer events and summer internships.

OppNet hosts volunteer events throughout the year for individual volunteers as well as employers seeking opportunities for their teams.



*Volunteers and 11<sup>th</sup> grade OppNet Fellows at Speed Networking, one of OppNet's signature volunteer events.*



*Each spring, OppNet brings in professionals from a range of industries for our Career Exposure Roundtables series. Here, a professional who works in public service shares his background and career path with Fellows.*


**Would you like to learn more or participate in an upcoming volunteer event?**


Please contact [volunteers@oppnet.org](mailto:volunteers@oppnet.org)

## Contact Us

The Opportunity Network  
85 Broad Street, 6th Floor | New York, NY 10004  
[www.opportunitynetwork.org](http://www.opportunitynetwork.org) | 646-237-4090 | [info@oppnet.org](mailto:info@oppnet.org)

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