



# COLLEGIATE DIRECTIONS

## *11th Annual Benefit*



Scholar Parent

Scholar Alumni

**Thursday, September 9, 2021**  
A Virtual Affair • 7:00 p.m.



# Congratulations CDI

**Ann Marie Etergino and The Etergino Group** congratulate Collegiate Directions for an amazing year of *Achieving What's Possible!*

We are honored to support your inspiring mission, your remarkable scholars and your incredible team.

Ann Marie Etergino and The Etergino Group



**Ann Marie Etergino, CIMA®**  
Managing Director – Financial Advisor  
(301) 907-2772 | [annmarie.etergino@rbc.com](mailto:annmarie.etergino@rbc.com)  
[www.eterginogroup.com](http://www.eterginogroup.com)



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21-WG-02222 (08/21)



On behalf of Collegiate Directions, Inc's staff and Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to CDI's 11th Annual Benefit. So much in our world has changed since we last had the opportunity to gather together in 2019, and we appreciate your presence tonight at our first virtual fundraiser.

While the pandemic has prevented us from being in the same physical space, it hasn't dampened our enthusiasm for this special event meant to celebrate the students we serve and the work we do. And considering the events of the past year and a half, tonight's celebration is more

warranted than ever.

Amid the seemingly constant change the pandemic has delivered, our commitment to our Scholars has only deepened. CDI's entire staff and tutors have continued to rise to meet new challenges and make adjustments to serve new needs.

In the best of times, our Scholars and their families rely heavily on CDI's guidance and expertise. For many CDI Scholars, the pandemic has created uncertainty that has exacerbated personal circumstances and made an already difficult journey towards college graduation all the more challenging. Knowing that, our commitment and focus have never been more intense.

For over 280 Scholars annually, our counselors are working diligently to stay atop a shifting college admissions landscape, altered standardized testing procedures, and financial aid changes, all while ensuring Scholars remain on course academically.

We are providing increased wellness counseling to Scholars to help them meet social and emotional challenges from dealing with isolation and depression to economic hardships and personal loss.

During the pandemic, our Verstandig Career Mentoring Initiative has held multiple virtual forums, webinars, and conferences to help Scholars entering the world of work in the most challenging job market young people have faced in generations.

Our School Support Program has continued working with our high school partners to reach over 3,000 local students and ensure their college counselors have the tools necessary to help them succeed.

All of this has happened because at CDI we are driven by our mission. We believe in our mission. Our work exemplifies our mission. Your generosity and support for CDI and our Scholars underscore your belief that the mission to help level the playing field and give deserving, talented, qualified students the opportunity to reach beyond circumstance, to dream bigger than preconceptions, and to achieve what is possible, is not just a noble goal, but a cause worthy of our best efforts.

We thank you again for your ongoing support.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Felix', written over a light blue circular background.

Amma Felix  
President and CEO

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## BENEFIT CHAIRS

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Nancy M. Carr • Cristina Ritchie Cooper • Kate Garland • Alicia S. Ritchie

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## COLLEGIATE DIRECTIONS

# 11TH ANNUAL BENEFIT

Thursday, September 9, 2021

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### PROGRAM

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#### **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Allison Seymour  
*Emmy Award-winning anchor  
WUSA9 Get Up DC*

#### **Remarks**

Amma Felix  
*President & CEO*

#### **Scholar Alum Speaker**

Dr. Nelson Almeida  
*Class of 2008*

#### **Keynote Address**

Wes Moore  
*New York Times Bestselling Author and  
former Chief Executive Officer of the Robin Hood Foundation*

#### **Parent Speaker**

Asrat Tenfeleh  
*Tsion Taye Class of 2016*

#### **Open Appeal for Wellness**

#### **Entertainment**

Hamilton Leithauser  
*Indie Rock vocalist, formerly of The Walkmen*

#### **Closing Remarks**

Allison Seymour



## ALLISON SEYMOUR

*Emmy Award-winning anchor  
WUSA9 Get Up DC*

Allison Seymour is an Emmy award-winning anchor who has been waking up viewers on morning news in her hometown of Washington, D.C. since 1999.

Allison started her career in television at the D.C. bureau of ABC News, behind the scenes, before earning her Master of Mass Communication from the University of South Carolina. She is a proud graduate of Hampton University, where she is enshrined in the Mass Media Hall of Fame.



## WES MOORE

*New York Times Bestselling Author and  
former Chief Executive Officer of  
the Robin Hood Foundation*

Wes Moore, a combat veteran, bestselling author, small business owner, Rhodes Scholar and former CEO of one of the nation's largest anti-poverty organizations, has devoted his life's work to a basic principle: no matter your start in life, you deserve an equal opportunity to succeed – a job you can raise a family on, a future you can look forward to.

Wes graduated with an Associate's Degree from Valley Forge Military College in 1998 and then Phi

Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in 2001. He earned a Rhodes Scholarship, which took him to Oxford University.

Wes went on to serve as a captain and paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne, including leading soldiers in combat in Afghanistan. He also served as a White House Fellow, advising on issues of national security and international relations.

During his tenure as CEO the Robin Hood foundation distributed over \$600 million toward lifting families out of poverty, including here in Maryland.



## HAMILTON LEITHAUSER

*Indie Rock vocalist, formerly of The Walkmen*

DC-native Hamilton Leithauser is an American singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. From 2000 to 2014, he was the lead vocalist of the American indie rock band The Walkmen, with whom he recorded seven studio albums.

Leithauser embarked upon a solo career in 2014, releasing his debut studio album, *Black Hours*. In 2016, Leithauser released *I Had a Dream That You Were Mine* to widespread critical acclaim later that year. He released the studio album *The Loves of Your Life* in 2020.



# SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# 488

Students enrolled in the CDI Scholars Program since 2005

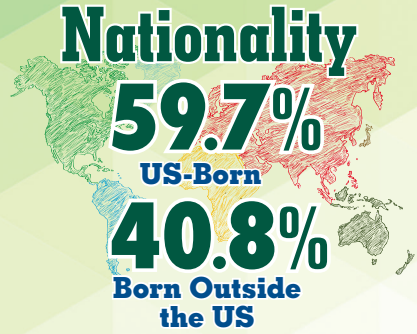
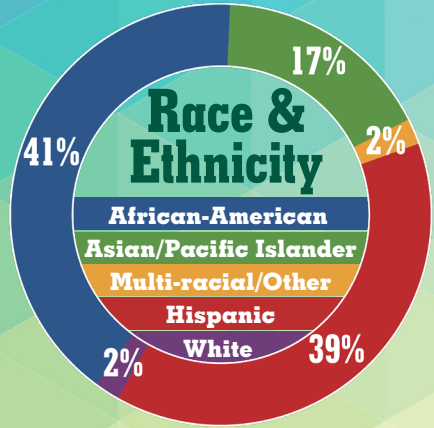


**62%**  
Female  
Scholars

2% Did not designate.



**36%**  
Male  
Scholars



## High-School Partners:

Montgomery Blair • Northwood  
District of Columbia International School  
Washington Leadership Academy



# 388

CDI Scholars have been accepted to more than 388 selective colleges and universities across the country.



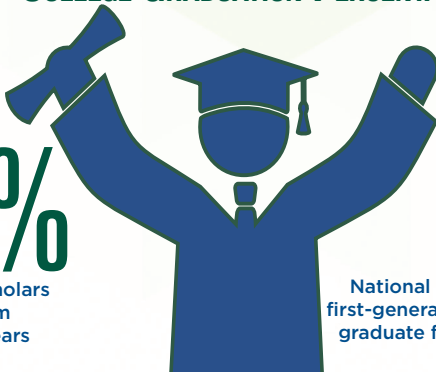
# 24.5%

Average ACT test score increase following CDI test prep

## COLLEGE GRADUATION PERCENTAGES

**CDI**  
**97%**

Percentage of CDI Scholars who graduate from college within six years



**NATIONAL**  
**16%**

National percentage of low-income, first-generation-to-college students who graduate from college within six years

— Pell Institute Fact Sheet 2020

# Mental Health

Like all students, CDI Scholars face a range of social and emotional challenges. Those challenges can range from academic-related anxiety and problems balancing family responsibilities with schoolwork to coping with the loss of a parent. Our mental health counselor meets with every high school student enrolled in the Scholars Program to help them address and work through these issues.



**37%** Only 37% of those who report symptoms of depression or anxiety say they have received counseling or therapy for mental or emotional health from a health professional in the past 12 months.

– The Healthy Minds Study 2016-17

**72%** 72% of students reported that obtaining mental health counseling services positively impacted their academic performance.

– Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors Annual Survey 2016-17



**\$36,000**

CDI Scholars receive an average of \$36,000 in college grants and scholarships vs. the national average of \$14,800



**FARMS**

**Free and Reduced Meals**

**85.9%**

of CDI Scholars qualify for FARMS

## SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM

CDI extends our work to high school college advising offices through tailored consulting focused on helping school counselors and staff improve college advising and supporting students to find their best-fit college. Our school partners are **Northwood High School, District of Columbia International School, and Washington Leadership Academy**

**3,011**

The number of area students who will receive more comprehensive counseling through CDI's School Support Program this year



**361:1**

The ratio of students to one counselor in DC

**369:1**

The ratio of students to one counselor in Maryland

# Mentorship

Through our Verstandig Career Mentoring Initiative CDI works with Scholars in college and beyond to focus on career coaching and access to workforce opportunities through experiential learning and connects Scholars with accomplished professionals in their chosen fields. The initiative includes a soft skills curriculum based on the following core competencies:

- Career Management
- Oral/Written Communication
- Leadership
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Digital Technology
- Intercultural Fluency
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving



CDI Connect is our new online portal that connects CDI College Scholars to a professional network of mentors, fostering purposeful relationships that aid in professional growth and development.

***Congratulations to  
the CDI Scholars  
on your***

***achievements this year***



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# CDI College Acceptance and Matriculation List, 2007 – 2020

American University\* • Amherst College • Babson College • Barnard College • Barry University • Boston College\* • Boston University • Bowdoin College • Brigham Young Univ. • Brown University\* • Bryn Mawr College\* • Canisius College • Carnegie Mellon Univ.\* • Case Western Reserve • Catholic University • Cedar Crest College • College of the Holy Cross • College of William & Mary • Colby College • College of Wooster\* • Colgate University\* • Colorado College • Columbia University\* • Dartmouth College • Connecticut College • Cornell University\* • Daemen College\* • Denison University • Dickinson College\* • Drexel University • Duke University • Elon University • Emory University • Fairfield University • Franklin & Marshall College • Frostburg State Univ.\* • George Mason Univ. • George Washington Univ. • Georgetown University • Georgia Inst. of Tech. • Gettysburg College\* • Goucher College\* • Guilford College • Hamilton College • Harvard University • Harvey Mudd College • Haverford College\* • Hofstra University • Hollins University\* • Hood College • Howard University\* • Ithaca College • James Madison Univ. • Johns Hopkins Univ. • Juniata College\* • Kalamazoo College • Kenyon College • Lafayette College\* • Lehigh University\* • Loyola University\* • Marymount University\* • McDaniel College\* • MIT\* • Middlebury College • Morehouse College • Mount Holyoke College • Muhlenberg College\* • New York University • North Carolina A&T • Northwestern University • Northeastern University\* • Notre Dame of Maryland University\* • Oberlin College • Occidental College • Ohio State University\* • Penn State Univ. • Pitzer College • Pomona College • Princeton University\* • Randolph-Macon College\* • Rensselaer Polytechnic • Rice University • Rutgers University • Scripps College\* • Simmons College • Smith College • Spelman College • Stanford University • St. Mary's College\* • Stevenson University • SUNY Oswego • Sweet Briar College • Syracuse University • Temple University\* • Towson University\* • Trinity College (CT) • Trinity Washington University (DC)\* • Tufts University • Univ. of Chicago\* • Univ. of Mary Washington • Univ. of Maryland-BC\* • Univ. of Maryland-CP\* • Univ. of Miami • Univ. of Michigan • Univ. of NC-Chapel Hill • Univ. of Notre Dame • Univ. of Pennsylvania • Univ. of Pittsburgh • Univ. of Richmond\* • Univ. of Rochester • Univ. of Vermont • Univ. of Virginia\* • Villanova University • Virginia Commonwealth Univ.\* • Virginia Tech Univ. • Washington College\* • Washington & Jefferson College • Washington University in St. Louis\* • Wellesley College • Wesleyan University • West Virginia Univ. • Wheaton College (MA) • Williams College • Xavier University of Louisiana • Yale University

*This list is a representative sampling. Bold text indicates colleges at which CDI Scholars have matriculated. Asterisks highlight colleges at which two or more CDI Scholars have matriculated.*

*Achieving What's Possible!*