

Oakwood Students Awarded

Education Fellowship

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



2016 Walton-UNCF
K-12 Education
Fellows

Prior to the conclusion of the Spring 2016 semester, three Oakwood University students were awarded the Walton-UNCF K-12 Education Fellowship. The Fellowship Program is a leadership and talent development initiative aimed at building a robust pipeline of high-achieving African Americans engaged in improving K-12 education in America. The program selects undergraduate juniors from historically black colleges or universities (HBCU) to participate in a leadership development and paid intern placement program that partners with innovative K-12 education enterprises.

Congratulations to Darren Daley, Deja Langston, and Jajuan Sanders for being selected as a 2016 Walton-UNCF K-12 Education Fellowship recipients. Read on to share their summer internship experiences.

Darren Daley

Internship Host Organization:
Gestalt Community Schools
Location: Memphis, TN

As a Walton fellow, my summer was well spent working with Gestalt Community Schools in Memphis, Tennessee. Gestalt, a college-preparatory charter school system, operates six schools in the



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Memphis community and services more than 2,000 scholars starting from kindergarten leading to 12th grade. In my short eight weeks with Gestalt, I saw how Gestalt provides strong academic outcomes for their scholars and core values - achievement, community, humility, innovation, and zeal.

I was able to work with the academic team specifically under the Managing Director of Professional Development, Bobbie Turner. One of Ms. Turner's major duties is to provide proper training for new

and returning teachers within the organization on the culture and curriculum of the school system. As Ms. Turner's assistant, I was able to help prepare various materials and assist her in the logistics of the two-week long training. I also maintained the functionality of the office, organized information with curriculums, and supervised a junior intern.

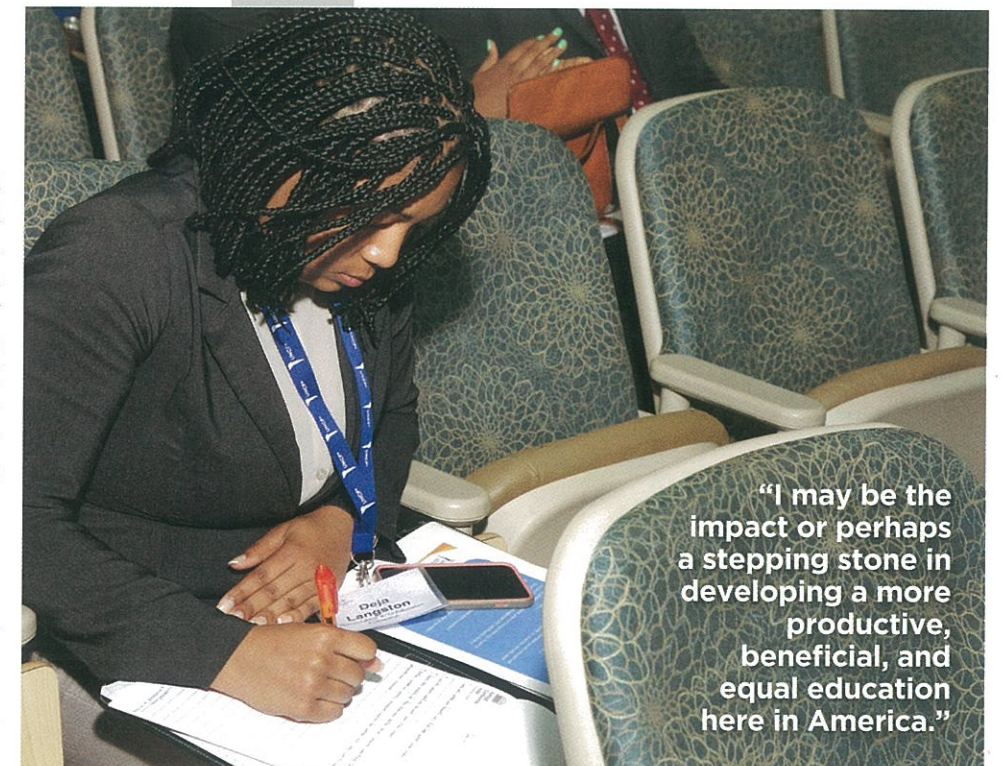
The eight weeks provided me with great vision and promise for my career as an educator. The strong history and vision instilled in their staff motivated me to continue on to become the best educator possible. I really cannot express the impact Gestalt as left on my life. This internship has helped me to gain knowledge and resources that will better my development as a future educator and administrator.

Due to the life-changing impact of Gestalt Community Schools co-founder Yetta Lewis and Derwin Sisnett, I, too, want to start my own branch of charter schools for inner city youth. This internship guided the development of my personal philosophy for teaching "touching one scholar at a time and preparing their mind for growth in learning."

Deja Langston

Internship Host Organization:
Black Alliance for Educational Options
Location: Memphis, TN

I had the privilege to intern with the Black Alliance for Educational Options, also known as BAEO, in Memphis, Tennessee. BAEO is a nonprofit organization that actively advocates to ensure that parents and low-income families of Black children have an equal choice in obtaining high quality education. The sector of education that BAEO works in is policy, which is an angle I never thought would interest me. Being enlightened to the hard work and the importance of knowing the policies and how they affect the education system as a whole gave me insight as to how involved I should be and how much more information there is for me to unravel so that I may be the impact or perhaps a stepping stone in developing a more productive, beneficial, and equal education here in America.



which was an amazing experience which taught me so much about the education system.

At the conclusion of my internship, I partic-