

ELEVATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5
SEPTEMBER 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President	2
Foundation Update	3
Rebranding of the Scholars Program	4
Scholars' Summer Recap	5
Photos of the Summer	6
Student Reflections on Summer Events	7
Interview with a Horizon Event Host	8
Summer Coaching Recap	9
Upcoming Events	10

Achieving Greatness: International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Recipients



Three of the scholars who graduated from Maynard Evans High School and one scholar from Jones High School received their IB diploma this year. Students successfully passed seven IB exams and also completed a 4,000 word mini thesis and three-part school involvement project. Congratulations to Edna Ulysse, Woomy Michel, Samantha Lubin and Alyssa Wilson!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SCOTT LEE

Dear friends:

There is an old saying that goes "Be careful what you pray for...you may get it." At the May awards celebration, the class of 2017 announced they were attending so many amazing colleges. seventeen wonderful new students were also recognized as 2018 Scholars. Once the celebration ended, the work began, and the truth of that statement was realized. This summer has been so full! It included programming to prepare the 2017 class to transition well into college; we even had a staff member make the long road trip to Duke to drop one of the students off!

The 2018 students have been working hard under the direction of their college admissions coaches. Target college lists have been written, re-written and re-written again. Academic resumes and college admissions essays are taking shape! To join this excitement and see the depth of these students, please click on this link to see an essay written by a 2018 scholar!

But summer isn't just about college admissions. The students' favorite elements of their first summer are the Horizon Events. This year, Horizon Events included interactions with home building professionals, hospital staff, and professionals in the fields of financial services and marketing. Horizon Events also work on social exposure, including an etiquette event at a local country club and a lake party. The lake party required special courage since none of the students had ever been in a boat and over half cannot swim. As the students review their summer, these events are far and away their favorite benefits of being Elevation Scholars. They begin to experience the world opening up, both professionally and socially, and it is tremendously encouraging to them. The event hosts have consistently reported being surprised by the level of engagement shown and quality of questions asked by the students. It is a large financial commitment for the foundation...this summer over \$6,000 was spent on Uber and Lyft alone. But it is so worth it!

The foundation board is growing - two members have been added to the board. The board has also taken on a six-month project of evaluating the program's mission related to social enterprise. The board will spend the next few months improving how the foundation's Global Initiative can fulfill its mission.

This program is so grateful to all of the volunteers, Horizon Event hosts and others who helped make this summer so successful. Please keep every student and staff in your thoughts and prayers as they are adjusting to the new school year.

With a grateful heart,

Scott Lee, President
The Elevation Foundation



Elevation Academy continues to offer a high-level education in the midst of continued political instability. President Joseph Kabila has agreed to not seek re-election in the November election. This is two years overdue. The news is not all good, as he has designated a replacement who seems to be a similar style leader.

The school finished the school year with 300 attending and started a new school year with a new focus. As was stated in a previous edition of this newsletter, the school has made a strategic decision to focus on elementary and middle school students. The high school was only 1/3 of the students and tuition revenue, but represented 2/3 of the costs due to the need for subject-specific teachers. Pastor Gabriel and the school leadership recognized the need for financial sustainability. They also moved to a new location and are in the midst of a capital campaign, with the goal of purchasing a building that would allow them to strengthen their educational brand.

September brings the annual Nehemiah Conference, where entrepreneurs from all over the world interact with the Foundation; this will include five business people from Haiti, to continue to look for ways to spark economic development in that country.

The leadership development program at Limon Correctional Facility continues to grow and now has 106 offenders participating in the programming. It is always humbling to get their handwritten quarterly report. They do not let the limits of their circumstances hold them back from maximum impact.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW LOOK

REBRANDING THE ELEVATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

As the Elevation Scholars Program continues to expand, awareness of the marketing and image that accompanies this program is vital to ensure the target market is being reached. By being more intentional about the design elements, imagery and messaging that is sent out, Elevation Scholars will create a clear picture of what the program stands for, its mission and its program offerings.



**Elevation
Scholars**



**Elevation
Scholars
Program**



CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE:

<https://theelevationscholars.org/>

The goals of the new website are to:

- 1- Provide resources aimed at reducing the information deficit that exists among high-achieving, high-need students regarding college admissions
- 2- Invest in telling real student stories from students within the program
- 3- Be more proactive in educating parents and making them part of the process.



ELEVATION SCHOLARS' SUMMER



- 1-- Gearing up for College - Retreat for 2017 Scholars
- 2-- Business Etiquette Lunch & Learn - *Amy Alvarez and Kristen Welker*
- 3-- Financial Harvest Wealth Advisors - *David Witter*
- 4-- A New Way to View Those Who Help Me - *Scott Lee*
- 5-- Hanover Capitals Partners - *Steve Orosz*
- 6-- Social Media: A Blessing or a Curse? - *Elevation team*
- 7-- Working in the Legal Field - *David King*
- 8-- Orlando Health Information Sessions- *Dr. Ira Pinnelas and Karla Marzolf*
- 9-- Marketing and Industrial Psychology - *Jim Higgins*
- 10-- 2017 Scholars' Farewell Brunch and Dorm Gifts - *Mike and Kristen Welker*
- 11-- AndCo Job Shadowing Day- *Rachel Brignoni and team*
- 12-- End of Summer Lake Party- *Ryan and Jamie Smith*

"[This summer] I learned the importance of having a strong academic profile based on my interests. I was exposed to stress management tips and proper decision-making tools. Equally as important, I learned how to meet new people, to engage in conversation with others, and how to sell myself."
- 2018 scholar



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SUMMER



ORLANDO HEALTH SESSIONS



LUNCH & LEARN WITH JIM HIGGINS

END OF SUMMER LAKE PARTY



DAVID KING LAW FIRM VISIT

FINANCIAL HARVEST WEALTH ADVISORS



LUNCH & LEARN WITH DR. PINNELAS

ATTENDING A HORIZON EVENT



Several students jumped at the opportunity to explore the medical field this summer. Others were more intrigued by the business explorations. Everyone celebrated the end of summer together. No matter what event they attended, students had only positive things to say about the 2018 Horizon Events:

"[My favorite part was] the variety of subjects the events were about, also the attention and time given to us."

"I like to call these events 'Self-Reflection Events' because they cause me to think in ways I never thought of. I love how with each event I attend, so many new opportunities open."

"[I love seeing how] in some events, such as at Hanover, a few career fields collide with one another to make a harmonious relationship."

"The Horizon Events have impacted my thoughts by showing me that I need to do research on any field of interest that I may have in order to better comprehend it's purpose. I've also found in interest in business and more in law, through David King's event."

"[Orlando Health] exposed me to new environments and showed me the different paths I can take with my career. I am still firm on my career but I learned that I could maybe take it to a hospital, a place I didn't picture working."

E H
X O
P R
A I
N Z
D O
I N
N S
G

HOSTING A HORIZON EVENT



Steve Orosz is VP of Finance for Hanover Capital Partners, a Central Florida home building company that also has a strong philanthropic branch. For three years, this company has been offering an opportunity for Elevation Scholar students to come in and shadow the team for a day. And as Steve shares, this decision is mutually beneficial.

Why did you initially decide to host a Horizon Event?

When I was in high school, I never contemplated a degree in real estate, but now there are so many opportunities surrounding this field. This event is a great opportunity to share our passion with the students, who are exploring multiple career paths. Hopefully the students will take a greater interest in fields such as engineering, architecture, and construction.

What were you expecting students to understand or gain as a result of this event?

Our expectation was to enhance the students' knowledge of the real estate industry by generally speaking about how a project is acquired all the way through until it is completed. We wanted the students to understand the inherent risk associated with real estate, and while it can be lucrative, there is also a science to the locations we select and the product type that we build. In other words, we wanted to make sure they understand that the learning process never stops.

Was there anything that stood out to you while interacting with our students?

We have given many talks to other high school students in the past, and these students are substantially more curious and engaging. It's refreshing to see young people utilizing resources, such as our event, in order to better their long-term options.

How does a partnership with Elevation Scholars benefit Hanover?

Ultimately, our goal is to provide exposure to students. As a result of this, we hope these students will stay in touch, and that one day we can further assist their professional careers OR selfishly, we'll be able to hire them!!! We're always looking for top talent!



Coaching with Elevation



How has your college admissions coaching this summer impacted you?

"Coaching makes me feel more comfortable about the college admissions process because I know that if I run into something I don't know, I can always ask my coach."

"I feel so privileged to have a college coach to help guide me to more opportunities in which my family and myself didn't know about. I may have gotten lost in my college journey if I was by myself, and I'm so glad I have a mentor that cares about me and wants the best fit for me."

"I feel much more confident and secure in being able to attend a college that will challenge me and allow for personal growth; I am fulfilling my dream of going to a university without worrying about cost."

"I learned that colleges that will give out opportunities like study abroad and shadowing to enhance one's knowledge on a certain career. I learned about test-optional schools, which look at the applicants merit, not just their test scores. In addition, I learned that the net price is often cheaper than the sticker price."



What students accomplished

- Target College Lists Finalized
- Academic Resumes
- Common Application
- Coalition Application
- Fly-In Programs
- Personal Statements
- Supplemental Essay Requirements
- SSAR (Self-Reported Student Academic Record)

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 27-29th:
Wake Forest College Tour

October 4th (4:00-6:00):
FAFSA Night at Evans High School

October 18-19th:
Wake Forest Admissions Orlando Visit

October 20th (9-2): Writing Workshop Boot Camp

November 17th (9-2): Target College List Boot Camp

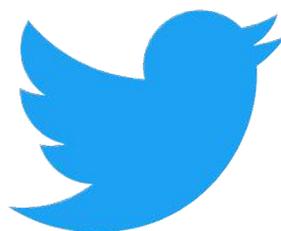
CONTACT US

Scott Lee, President:
SLee@elevationfinancialgroup.com

Aminah Harris, Program Manager:
AHarris@elevationfinancialgroup.com



[@elevationscholars](https://www.instagram.com/elevationscholars)



[@ElevationSchol1](https://twitter.com/ElevationSchol1)



[@elevationscholarsprogram](https://www.facebook.com/elevationscholarsprogram)