

HIGH SIGHT

A BETTER EDUCATION.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

HighSight Alumni in College Leveraging Lessons Learned at HighSight

Berenice Perez '19

De La Salle Institute | St. Olaf College

Since 2020, **BMO Harris Bank** has hosted seven HighSight alumni for college internships in banking. Berenice Perez '19 had a successful experience there last summer, tapping her intelligence and networking skills. As a result, this July Berenice will be the first to take on a full-time position with BMO Harris, joining their 2023 Commercial Analyst Development Program, an introduction to commercial banking for recent graduates.

Berenice credits HighSight for helping her achieve this opportunity. "HighSight taught me the critical skill of developing a strategic plan to get the things I want. All these gave me a head start – setting priorities, time management, networking, study skills," she reflected. "I wouldn't be graduating from St. Olaf College or heading to BMO without HighSight. I did the heavy lifting, but HighSight gave me the tools and opened the door."



HighSight alumni
Berenice Perez '19,
Josue Raygoza '21, and
Amarii McCray '21 (at
right) with BMO Harris
Bank staff and mentors.



HighSight helps our scholars
achieve life-changing outcomes:

3.74 GPA

25% higher than other students
at their high schools

100%

(yes, all) earn full-tuition
college scholarships

\$225K+

for each in higher education
scholarships in 2022

7x

4-year graduation rate of
their socio economic peers

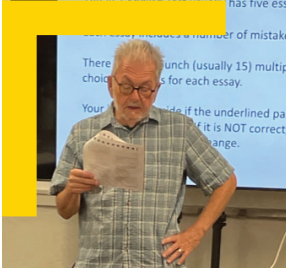
70%

less college debt than other
low-income Illinois students

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Tutor Spotlights

Bob Blythe



When Bob started tutoring in 2015, he quickly saw HighSight was a place he could belong. **“I found HighSight to be a true community, where scholars, families, staff, and volunteers work closely,”** Bob remembers.

A retired historian from the National Park Service, Bob has helped dozens of HighSight scholars with history, geography, and government, while also helping them with their writing.

“HighSight is committed to building both life and academic skills,” Bob added. “The experience of watching scholars mature during four years of high school has been tremendously rewarding for me. Of all my volunteer gigs, HighSight has been the most satisfying.”

Rob Mrkonich



During the height of the pandemic, a co-worker at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) invited Rob to join an online tutoring session for HighSight scholars. He thought that Rob, a graduate school instructor for six years when working on his

doctorate in economics at the University of Minnesota after he graduated from Harvard, would enjoy tutoring at HighSight. He was right.

“I love every second of it,” Rob shared. **“The scholars appreciate the help...and the results speak for themselves, with HighSight’s success helping them get into great colleges.”**

“While some are really gifted, it is most rewarding to work with scholars who aren’t ‘naturals’ but who really want to do well,” Rob reflected. **“Without help, they would likely be C or D students, but the tutoring makes things click for them – and suddenly they’re getting Bs and higher. That makes it worth it for me.”**

Leslie Garfias ‘18

De La Salle Institute | St. Olaf College



After graduating from St. Olaf College last year, Leslie returned to tutor scholars, feeling that she “just had to” return to help at HighSight.

“I’ve been given so much,” Garfias shared, **“and I needed to come back to the place where it was given to me. The things I learned at HighSight prepared me more than other students at college, and I want to give the same leg up to the current scholars.”**

Leslie will begin dental school at the University of Minnesota this fall – and HighSight helped shape that journey, too. Before her senior year in high school, Leslie traveled to Jordan as part of an international program HighSight helped arrange for her, where she learned about the culture and history of the Middle East and took part in public health projects.

Leslie saw how the basic care dentists provided refugees who hadn’t had dental care in years relieved so much pain and distress. She then knew she wanted to be a dentist. **“HighSight helped me fall in love with science and with art. I now saw I could combine those through dentistry.”**

Brianna Barrett



When Brianna moved to Chicago last summer to work in real estate client services after graduating from Indiana University, she found HighSight – and has been a faithful tutor every week since.

Mathematics was her favorite subject in school, so Brianna was happy when a HighSight scholar reported acing a recent exam using a visualization technique Brianna had shared. “I’m glad that I remembered more algebra than I thought and that the approach actually worked,” she reflected.

Brianna is happy she found HighSight. **“The support that HighSight provides is important and insightful. It helps the scholars with better access to resources and quality education – something that, sadly, isn’t a given for all students.”**

For details about tutoring at HighSight, please e-mail info@highsight.org.

A Thank You to Our Donors

Priscilla Badu '21

Josephinum Academy | University of Notre Dame



Thank you for everything that you do to support HighSight!

As an alum, I credit HighSight for most of my achievements during high school and even now at Notre Dame. At HighSight, I learned leadership, independence, discipline, teamwork, and focus. I

received help academically and socially to succeed in high school and at a prestigious university. I make a conscious decision to practice the things I learned at HighSight every day in college.

Without HighSight's support I believe my life would have gone in a different direction. Your support will help other scholars with their high school education and beyond – just like it helped me. Again, thank you!

Layla Brown Clark '19

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts H.S. | DePauw University



Before her senior year in high school, Layla had a summer abroad in a rural Japanese village, co-sponsored by HighSight and AFS Intercultural Programs, an experience that shaped her course in life.

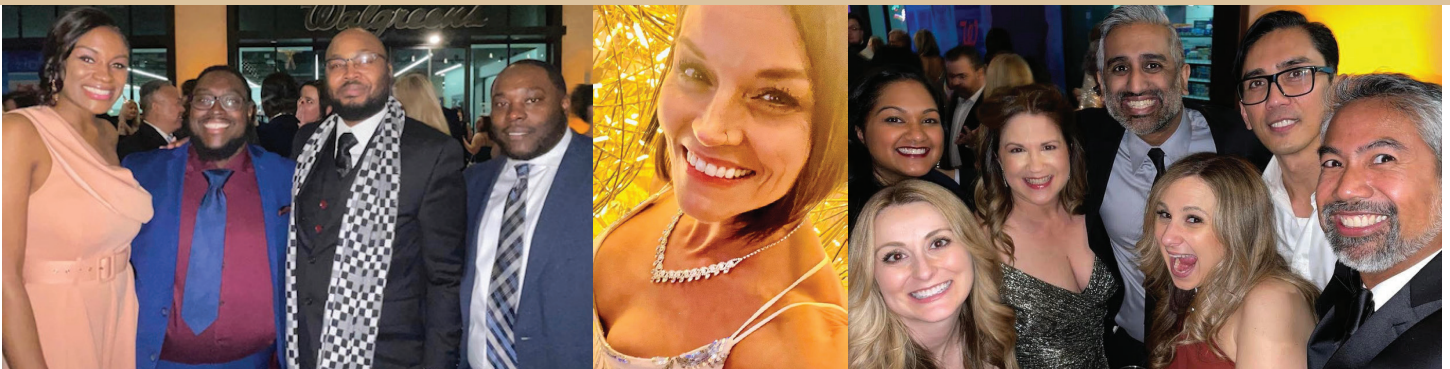
Being a stranger in a strange land – and only one of two Americans in her summer cohort – made Layla more open to the tales she heard from her host family and other villagers. This helped clarify her life mission: to share people's stories.

As a first year student at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, Layla joined the student newspaper, starting as a features writer and arts and culture reporter. Layla excelled and now serves as editor-in-chief. **"The skills I learned in prioritizing and time management at HighSight have been a major benefit, as a student and especially as a journalist,"** Layla shared.

Last year, Layla received a Carnegie-Knight News21 internship at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University which brings together top journalism students. Layla is leveraging these experiences to take on graduate studies in journalism this fall. "I've been accepted at Northwestern and Syracuse, and I'm still waiting to hear from Columbia and others. The J-Schools are reaching out, trying to convince me to enroll," said Layla. "I feel like an NBA free agent."

EVE of the EVE

The first Eve of the Eve celebration since 2019 brought together a thousand revelers at a new venue for the gala: The Old Post Office in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood. While helping to raise funds for scholarships for HighSight scholars at private Chicago high schools, the evening also reinvigorated this 30-year tradition, promising to be even bigger and better this year. **Mark your calendars for December 30, 2023!**



HIGH SIGHT

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HighSight provides scholarships, tutoring, mentoring, leadership development, and college-readiness programs that create new possibilities for Chicago high school students from low-income families. The HighSight experience empowers our scholars to excel in high school and graduate from selective colleges across the country.

highsight.org      YouTube

Return Service Requested

HIGH SIGHT ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

*An evening to benefit the
HighSight Scholarship Fund
and celebrate the Class of 2023*

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023
5:30-8:30 P.M.

Wintrust's Grand Banking Hall
231 South La Salle Street

Event and ticket information at
highsight.org/gala

SAVE THE DATE



GOLF OUTING

Friday, September 22, 2023
9:00 AM

**George W. Dunne National
Forest Preserve Golf**

16310 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL

*George W. Dunne National is recognized
by Golf Digest as one of the top
public courses in the country*

Early-Bird Foursomes on Sale June 1

**For details and Event & Hole Sponsorship,
visit highsight.org/golf**