

Options Through Education Scholars

"The Covid class"

2020 Boston College







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Fr. Michael Davidson, S.J.

Congratulations on completing the OTE Scholars Transitional Program and on your accepted to Boston College. In addition to celebrating your successful completion of the Options Through Education (OTE) Scholars Transitional Program, we are also celebrating your academic achievements amid these challenging times. It has been an honor to be involved in reading your applications, selecting you to participate in the program, and getting to know you over the summer. It's a joy to witness your growth throughout the summer program. I am so proud to call you scholars, and diamonds in the rough.

To the (COVID-19) Class of 2024 - as you journey in these next four formative years on the Heights it is my hope that you come openminded and be your authentic selves. You may encounter failures and challenges along the way but keep steadfast and always move to greater heights.



Let me tell you a story about a pencil. The pencil maker put the pencil aside just before putting it into the box. "There are five things you need to know", he told the pencil, "before I send you out into the world." "Always remember them and you will become the best pencil you can be".

You will be able to do many great things but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone's hand.

You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time but you will need to become a better pencil.

You will always be able to correct any mistake that you might make.

The most important part of you will always be what's inside.

On every surface that you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter the condition you must continue to write.

My dear OTE Scholars, BC's diamonds in the rough, the same applies to each one of you. You must undergo the process that the pencil did.

You will be able to do many great things but only if you allow yourselves in God's hand and allow other human beings access to your gift that you alone possess. You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time by going through various problems in your life. You will need the pain to become a stronger person. Remember you will always be able to correct any mistakes that you might make. The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside. On every surface that you walk upon, you must leave your mark. Regardless of the situation, you must continue to do your best.

Thank you for trusting and believing in BC and the BAIC as you commence your sojourn here. Remember you are now a part of legacy. Please ensure that no matter what life hurls at you, no matter how many hurdles you encounter, no matter how overwhelmed, outnumbered, inadequate or intimidated you may feel, always remember to believe in yourself. Believe in God and trust yourself always. Remember with God all things are possible. Remember to always chase your dreams, no matter what happens or what people may think or say. Take heed in Michelle Obama's clarion call "When they go low you go high". Never allow problems to get you down or to dimmer the light, God has given to you. Respect yourselves! Be your authentic selves! Listen and never be afraid to state your opinion. Speak truth to power! Never allow anyone to put you in a box and to define you. You are meant to be here. Own it and cement yourselves.

New BC Scholars, the power is within you to be who you want to be. You have come so far, and today's milestone is a testament to your grit and determination. It reminds you of your intellectual fortitude. This milestone is a sign of the significant impact that you will make on your respective communities. With each of you bringing so many unique perspectives, diverse skill sets, different identities and varying horizons of expectation, I am honored to be standing before an amazing cadre of model human beings who overcame myriads of socio-economic, cultural, academic, emotional, physical and financial challenges to get here today. This is your space. This is your place. And you have joined a long tradition of successful students and alumni who graced Boston College, and made our campus better.

With All my love for the next four years and beyond

One love,

Fr Michael Davidson, S.J.

Director



Danielle Date

OTE Coordinator



Dear OTE Scholars,

This has been a summer to remember! The first and hopefully last virtual OTE. I would like to commend you all for your perseverance and grit during the program. You successfully completed 6 weeks of long days in your math, english classes, preceptor group meetings, community meetings and the infamous study hall. It wasn't easy but you all made the best out of it. I am so proud of each of you. The 35 of you will always hold a special place in my heart as my first OTE cohort. You all come from different walks of life from California, Nebraska, Colorado , Texas, Alabama, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, now in Chestnut Hill ready to set the world aflame. Over these next few years, I encourage you to be men and women for and with others. Do not ever hesitate to ask for help as we are all here to support you on this journey. I look forward to watching you grow over these next 4 years!

- Danielle Date



Tabi Arrey

Residential Coordinator



Living Monuments of a Future Worth Fighting For

Dear BC OTE Class of 2024!

The year 2020 has been a year like no other in more extraordinary ways than one. First came a global health pandemic that has changed the trajectory of life as we know, not just for the year but for the near foreseeable future. With COVID-19, we have had to reimagine how we navigate life and daily endeavors, adapting to new ways of living, and letting go of some previous practices that we held dear and near to our hearts. The global health pandemic has changed work environments, academic milieus, and even the fundamental ideals of friendships and relationships in general. As this pandemic cast a gloomy dark cloud over our heads, You, our stars on the Heights, pioneered a new way of doing the OTE program that not only ensured its survival but also served as a testament that with true grit, dedication, and hard work, the values and ideals we stand for always endure. I witnessed you forging long lasting and genuine relationships, even though you did so only virtually; without necessarily putting any extra emphasis on the relevance of community you were able to, in your own unique way, create an intentional community that will last. You are, indeed, a living testament to the truth and values of the OTE scholars program. And as you journey through your four years at Boston College, I invite you to not lose sight of that initial excitement, spark, and sense of wonder you exhibited on your first days during the first ever virtual OTE experience. Yours will be an experience for the books, yours will be an experience to remember; in years to come many people will look back to 2020 and marvel at your determination and your willingness to experience.

Tabi Arrey, M.T.S. Residential Coordinator



Ashley Yung

Preceptor



To my amazing scholars,

I am so proud of all that you have accomplished this summer! Each and every single one of you has worked extremely hard in both your english and math classes. During the OTE program it was clear that you all took this extremely seriously to make sure you would succeed in your classes. I am fully confident that you will do so well at Boston College in the fall semester. I also wanted to take the time to thank you for being so vulnerable and willing to share your stories with one another. Your willingness to speak about your personal lives allowed us to create a small community in OTE. I have loved being able to get to know each and every one of you during our small group meetings on Sunday! Our Sunday meetings truly made my day better and I have loved seeing how close you all are. I hope we all continue to stay as close as we are during the upcoming school year. It has been an absolute privilege to be your preceptor and I know that you are going to be so successful and thrive during your four years at Boston College. I will continue to be here to support you in any way you can. You can always count on me for academic or personal support. Continue to be the wonderful, intelligent, and caring individuals you all are! Again thank you to, Jennifer, Christopher, Maosuf, Jonah, Abdul, Angie, Jonah, Justyn and Wade! I cannot wait to see you on campus :)

With love, Ashley





Ethnicity Pakistani

Fun Facts I love to hike

Favourite quote

"You will never know the value of a moment,
until it becomes a memory."

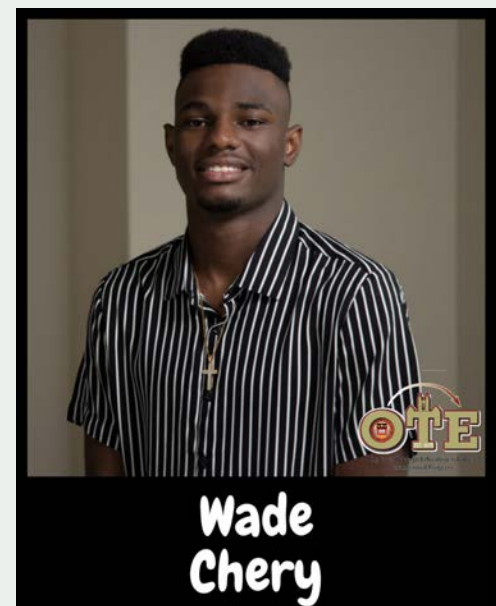
One thing I have learned from this program is organization, because in the beginning of the program, I started to understand that I had to become organized around my time management skills. Before I would push back my work during the day to night and eventually fall asleep. However, after the program I started to understand that I should schedule and push back any distractions that appear during my daily routine of classes. I began to understand what my weaknesses were and strengths in terms of organizing such as my exams or my next paper. This has shown me that even the brightest kids still struggle and that you're not necessarily the best at everything and that there are going to be downfalls during your academic years

Ethnicity Haitian

Fun Facts I like to cook but I can't cook

Favourite quote

"Trust the timing of your life."



By doing this OTE summer program, I had the chance to learn new skills and how to be a responsible student. OTE taught me that sometimes things will get hard and complicated but don't let it take me down. Because of OTE when I walk in Boston College this fall I will feel prepared for the college life. I want to thank the ones who saw the potential in me and gave me the opportunity to be part of the program. I learned so much about how to be a responsible college student during this 7 weeks that I wish there were more programs like OTE to give other students the opportunity to learn what it's like to be a college student before walking into college. Also by doing this OTE program I met some great people who became my friends and mentors to guide me during my 4 years at Boston College. Thank you OTE it was hard at first but at the end I realized that all the hard work and the effort I put in paid off.



Ethnicity Dominican

Fun Facts I'm 4'11. / I grew up horseback riding on a farm in the Dominican Republic.

Favourite quote

Don't be afraid, Just Believe. Mark 5:36

Participating in OTE virtually was very difficult and challenging. I went through a very personal loss in the middle of the program. Nevertheless, my professors, fellow scholars, and all OTE staff were very supportive and understanding. I learned how to manage my time and communicate effectively. I made friendships that you know is going to last. I have a support group that I can trust because we struggled through OTE together. Professors Marla De Rosa and Amy Doherty were extremely helpful and supportive. My OTE experience prepared me for the next 4 years at BC.

Ethnicity Vietnamese

Fun Facts My dream car is a Nissan GTR R34

Favourite quote

"The best revenge is massive success" Frank Sinatra



I am very appreciative of the entire OTE experience. OTE forced me to take my education seriously, furthered my knowledge of what a college education looked like, and showed me that if I apply myself and tried my very best, my efforts will be worth it. The opportunity to make friends and getting credits prior to even starting my freshman year was a blessing in disguise. Despite the stressful nights through these past weeks I have made friendships that will last a lifetime and taught myself to take control of my education. I have learned how to balance both the school and social aspects of my life. I have taken on better habits of time management and studying which I wouldn't have done if I was not participating in the program. I have recognized how the program has prepared and given me the reassurance I needed for when the fall comes. Although it is a bittersweet end, I am happy my work has paid off and I am ready to begin the next chapter of my education.



Ethnicity Black/African American

Fun Facts I love to crochet, draw, and paint!

Favourite quote

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." ~C.S. Lewis

I am very grateful for the OTE Program! I gained more than I could've ever hoped for. Through the OTE Scholars Transitional Program I've been introduced to the structure and style of classes that I will be taking throughout my college career, as well as a plethora of different resources that I will have access to assist me in my journey. I've also had the pleasure of receiving firsthand advice from upperclassmen, alumni, faculty, and staff at BC which I can use as a guide to help me along the way. Most importantly, OTE also gave me many opportunities to interact with and build relationships with fellow peers that I can relate to and confide in, I was even able to gain a best friend that I will definitely cherish for the remainder of my college journey and beyond. Thanks to the OTE Program I will surely be starting off my college career not only on the right foot, but with a strong foundation, as well!

Thank you OTE!

Ethnicity Latino/Hipsanic

Fun Facts

I make tons of art. I created a few magazines.

Favourite quote

"The more you seek the uncomfortable, the more you will become comfortable"



The summer of OTE was quite the experience, especially being 100% virtual. I gained many new relationships, not only with professors but with the entire OTE community including my peers. I truly enjoyed getting back to structure and getting myself prepared for the upcoming semester. I have a true idea of what the coursework and load will look like and could help prevent me from suffering this upcoming semester. OTE showed me what a true community is and I am beyond excited to meet my new family here in a few weeks.



Ethnicity Caucasian

Fun Facts I'm part Japanese

Favourite quote "Let it all work out" -Lil' Wayne

OTE taught me a lot of what Boston College was going to be like in the Fall. I was able to learn and understand what I need to work on to be the best college student that I can be. I discovered that I need to work on time management and asking for help. OTE also gave me the chance to meet fellow scholars that are just like me. Thanks to OTE I am going into the fall semester with a lot of friends and mentors.

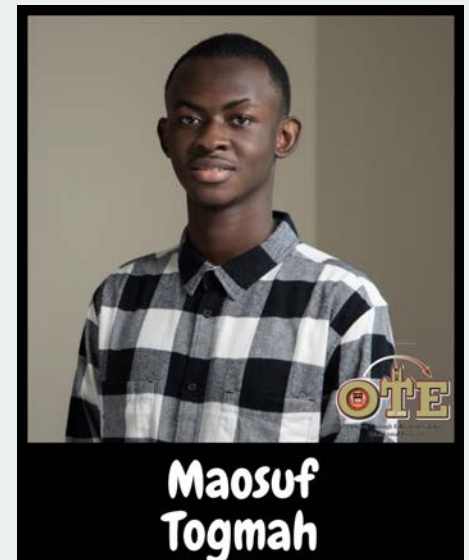
Ethnicity Ghanaian

Fun Facts

I went zip-lining over a waterfall in Ecuador.

Favourite quote

" Life is a movie, pick your own role, climb your own ladder or dig your own hole" - J Cole



At the beginning of OTE, I was unsure of what exactly I was going to walk away with from the program. Coupled with the fact that our classes were virtual, I actually did not think that it was possible to take away anything other than some new math skills from my statistics class and better analytical skills from english class. Although walking away with those things wouldn't have been a bad thing, I'm glad that I was able to walk away with much more. Thanks to our weekly preceptor meetings, I was able to build a closer bond with some of my fellow OTE scholars beyond the classroom. Sharing our life experiences and future expectations with each other made me realize how lucky I am to be spending the next four years with these people. Through OTE, I was able to develop a community that I know I can always fall back on when times get tough in the coming years. I am very thankful to be a part of this year's OTE group and I look forward to meeting everyone in person in the upcoming weeks.



Ethnicity Latino

Fun Facts I am the youngest of three.

Favourite quote

There's no comparison between the sun and the moon, they shine when it's their time.

Don't compare your life to others. There's no comparison between the sun and the moon, they shine when it's their time.

My major takeaway from OTE was that in order to succeed I had to be willing to put in the work and time into what I was being taught, to truly grasp the concepts. Throughout the program I was constantly met with adversity in the assessment category; not doing as well as I expected because of various factors. However, OTE taught me first hand that with my dedication and numerous resources they made available, I had no other choice but to come out on top. They taught me it's okay to rely on others and as long as I am putting in all my effort into understanding, I will have the knowledge that is necessary to not only do well but strive.



OTE MISSION

The mission of the Options Through Education Transitional Summer Program is to prepare a select group of diverse students who have demonstrated potential and leadership in spite of challenging educational and financial circumstances for their transition to Boston College. The summer residential program nurtures student's academic, social, cultural and spiritual development



Leonard Brown

Preceptor



Sup Everyone,

First and foremost, I want to congratulate you all for almost finishing the Virtual OTE Summer Program! Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated and you should all be proud of what you have accomplished over these six weeks. It was a pleasure being your preceptor and getting to know you all through our preceptor meetings. However, this is not the end (I'm still around for another two years!). I want to remind you all that OTE last for all your four years as undergrads and even beyond that. The bonds, friendships, mentorships, and other connections that you have created and strengthened throughout these six weeks will help you with your transition to life as a college student at BC and will also help you in making new connections while you are on campus. Now, bear with me as I try to give you some advice. Reach out for help when you are struggling because the longer you keep it in, the more you will hurt yourself. Also, don't try to do everything on your own. There is nothing wrong with working alongside others. Remember to always be true to yourself and don't force yourself to be who you are not in order to fit in because when you are your authentic self, the right people will eventually gravitate towards you. Make sure that you always believe in yourself and know your self-worth. Always remember that you belong at BC and you are capable of doing whatever it is that you set your mind to, so don't limit yourself! You will face some challenges throughout your time at BC but they only serve to make you stronger. Also, remember that you have people that believe in you and support you. Nosa, Rayne, Brandon, Laurie, Whitney, Muthee, Justin, Zulmary and Steven, I want to thank you all for sticking with me throughout these six weeks and welcome to Boston College!

Best, Keno.



Ethnicity Caribbean/ African American

Fun Facts I speak 3 languages

Favourite quote

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -MLK



Throughout the 6 weeks of Option Through Education I learned so much and enjoyed so many opportunities. The program doesn't only give us a chance to get early classes and credits, it also prepares us for college entrance in term on what to expect while entering college. Through our community meetings we got the chance to listen to alumni and other people about their experiences and advice. This program gave all its students the opportunity to make friends, get helpful connections and advisors that could help them during the entire academic years at Boston College. I learned about friendship in college, relationships, clubs, decisions making and classes. All the advice heard from prospectors and other people were very helpful.



Ethnicity Cape Verdean

Fun Facts Money makes me happy

Favourite quote

"Always remember you not ugly, you just broke"

Being a part of OTE helped me realize that time management is an important factor to success. I am glad I got to develop friendships through OTE because it showed me that I work better in groups. Being able to connect with other OTE students really helped me get through this program. It made me realize that no one is on this journey alone. OTE is my family; we are all in it together. Although everything was on zoom, I feel like we all connected and made this situation normal.

Ethnicity Hispanic

Fun Facts Summer is the season I enjoy the most.

Favourite quote

"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter if you are a lion or a gazelle, when the sun comes up, you'd better be running" (Anonymous).



Being a part of the OTE program has been a whole different experience for me. I appreciated getting to know this diverse group of people. I'm glad I was able to build friendships that I know are going to last me my four years of college. Being an OTE scholar allowed me to be exposed to the workload and rigor that I would see once I arrive on campus. Being an OTE scholar allowed me to practice time management and good studying habits. I was also able to develop my critical thinking and writing skills. I appreciate all the support offered by the BAIC staff in our transition from this program to life at Boston College.



Ethnicity Puerto Rican

Fun Facts Ralph Lauren is my favorite brand ever and I have a huge collection of their products.

Favourite quote

"God placed the best things in life on the other side of fear." - Will Smith

Going into this program, I did not feel very excited. Like I am sure many of my peers were, I was not happy that my summer vacation was being cut short and that I had to go back to class. Thankfully, as time went on, I became more comfortable with both the schedule and my classmates. Being a part of this program has been a great time because of how much it has prepared me for BC. The long nights of studying and writing essays prepared me for the workload, and spending time with my classmates has prepared me for the amazing relationships I will make at BC. Truly, the best part of this program was the people. It made every struggle easier, and every good moment great. Overall, I am very grateful to be an OTE scholar, and cannot wait to be at BC!

Ethnicity Dominican

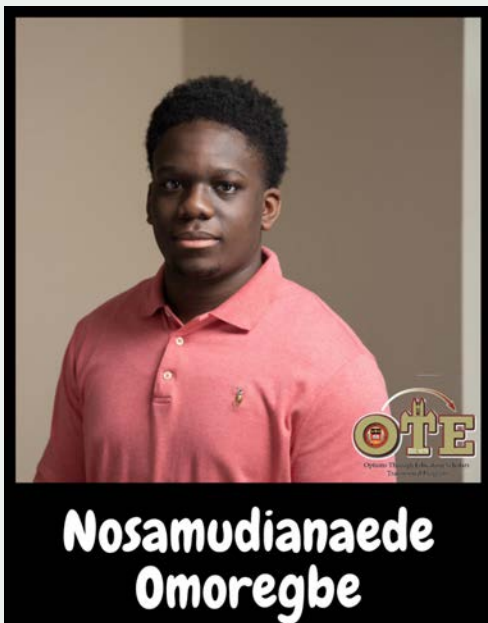
Fun Facts I love cars and motorcycles!!!

Favourite quote

“Its okay to be a glow stick: sometime we have to break before we shine”- Jadah Sellner



My major takeaway from being an OTE scholar is determination. I have learned how to become more focused and motivated on my studies. I had struggled with my classes, but by reaching out to peers and professors, I have been able to strengthen myself. I have enjoyed the challenges that OTE has brought my way, and I am very thankful for the amazing experience.



Ethnicity Nigerian

Fun Facts My favorite color is blue

Favourite quote "I feel good sometimes I don't"

From the OTE summer program I am thankful for the people I met and the friendships I made during the program. The english class I was in improved my writing and gave me the confidence to know I can continue to write at a high level when I get to college. Even though we were on zoom I was able to receive a lot of great feedback from my Math and English teachers to improve myself as a student. I felt the program was great in preparing me for what's ahead for the next four years.

Ethnicity Black (African-American)

Fun Facts I love to eat and talk about politics!

Favourite quote "I feel good sometimes I don't"



The OTE Program allowed me to grow educationally, think independently, and learn how to use all resources available to me. I strongly believe I am a much better person thanks to the resources afforded to me by the Option Through Education Program. My study habits have improved, I was able to join a huge community of scholars, and I now know that it IS possible for me to succeed at Boston College! The one-on-one time I spent with my professors, tutors, writing fellow, and BAIC staff members really showed me that there are so many people that believe in me and want me to do good in school and in life after school. Looking forward to the next four at BC and on to the White House!! #2040"



Ethnicity Asian

Fun Facts I've been playing guitar and tennis since I was 6 years old

Favourite quote

"Kill them with success, and bury them with a smile"

I am very grateful that I was able to be a part of the Options Through Education program this summer. Although it was very challenging (especially with the circumstances in the world today), the OTE program helped prepare me for the rigors of academic life in college. This program helped me develop great study skills and to become a better writer through my Intro to Literary Studies course. I've also met some wonderful people through this program that have made me smile and helped me get through the struggles of completing a difficult assignment. This program has also given me great advice through the guest speakers that join us for our community meetings every week. Thank you for giving me such a wonderful opportunity, and I'm so happy that this program exists for students like myself! I hope to be able to carry along these skills as I begin my journey at Boston College!

Ethnicity Kenyan

Fun Facts Lived in three different cities, Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles.

Favourite quote

"You only need to prove yourself to yourself"



OTE was an amazing part of my summer before heading to Boston College. I was under the impression that OTE would be very academically rigorous and not a social environment yet I was proven wrong immediately. Through OTE, I took two classes that will hopefully give me credits for my freshman year and give me insight into how Professors and students function at BC. Although I was at first reluctant to communicate with my peers within the program we were provided spaces to communicate with one another and learn more about Boston College. The moment that I loved the most during the program was most likely the study halls that featured Tabi accidentally singing to the entire program while under the impression that he was muted and witnessing the comedic reactions of all of the students in the program.



OUR MISSION | STRONGER TOGETHER

The Thea Bowman AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American) and Intercultural Center (BAIC) supports the Boston College undergraduate community, with a particular focus on students of AHANA descent, as well as multicultural, multiracial, and OTE (Options Through Education) students, in navigating college life. We strive to promote a welcoming environment that fosters holistic development. The Center seeks to form students of conscience, excellence, competence, and compassion who will make a difference in the world. Our goal is to retain, care for, and graduate our students by offering programs to facilitate their identity formation, build cultural competency, and create community across areas of difference. Our work promotes equity, builds community, and supports opportunity while caring for our students



Sara Papraniku

Preceptor



To my amazing preceptor group.

I am so beyond proud of each of you. Congratulations! You guys made it! You made it through the intensely packed schedules, zoom calls, disappointments, laughs, icebreakers, and last but not least, OTE with COVID-19. It has been a pleasure being your preceptor this summer. I am so grateful to have gotten to know each and every one of you on a deeper level. I always looked forward to our Sunday zoom calls, seeing your faces and hearing your voices. It's been beautiful watching you all grow, share, and be vulnerable; you all are inspiring. Talking to you all about your lives and experiences has been enlightening. William, seeing you break out of your shell has been such a highlight. Jonathon, sharing your experiences and pride within your culture has been phenomenal to listen to. Adani, you pushed through a lot during this time period being that your family is moving, I appreciate your persistence to be in our meetings despite the challenges you faced; I'll never forget when you borrowed your neighbors wifi! Anojan, my Jersey friend, your little dance in the don't rush challenge was awesome, thank you for all the laughs and always willing to speak for our group, and answering the group chat when no one else would! Jarvis, Eduardo, and Sam you guys never failed to have the group laughing, whether Eduardo was asking for a piano to play a song, or Jarvis was laughing uncontrollably at the screen, or Sam was giving A1 relationship advice on boys and their mothers, your smiles have been nothing but contagious. Rahama, your "period pooh" in the don't rush challenge was such a highlight, thank you for being you, being relatable, and vulnerable, you are amazing. Sally, you still need to teach us your rubix cube skills, thank you for being so outspoken and always sharing your ideas in our meetings, its been wonderful getting to know you. If you guys take away one thing from this summer, I want you guys to know that you deserve to be at BC! You all worked hard to get here, now own it. I can't wait to see all the places you'll go, all the impacts you will make, all the smiles you'll create. Although OTE is over, I will always be your preceptor, but also your friend. You all have my number, never hesitate to reach out, I will always be a resource for you. You guys can always come to me with anything, whatever it may be. Throughout your ups and downs, I will always be here with a shoulder for you to lean on. Support each other, be there for each other, nothing but love. Be your best selves, and live your best lives. I love you all, and I can't wait to continue making memories with each of you. Thank you for an unforgettable summer!

With Love, Sara Papraniku





Ethnicity Mexican

Fun Facts I am one of 8 National Recipients for the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. I also have a pet tornado

Favourite quote

"Hold up, wait a minute. Y'all thought I was finished?" - Meek Mill.

My experience with OTE has been quite pleasing. Although The OTE summer program was held virtually this summer, I still gotta have the experience to meet several people with different backgrounds from across the country. I got to meet several faculty members from OTE who show compassion and willingness to support their Boston College students. I already made friends who are sincerely supportive and the exciting part is that we have not yet met in person. The positive energy given from everyone thus far makes me really excited to meet everyone in person. I cannot wait to grow alongside this unified community for the next four years!

Ethnicity Arab

Fun Facts I have solved 7x7 rubrics cube before.

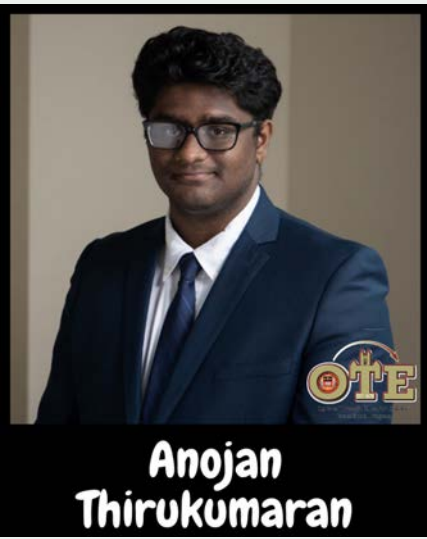
Favourite quote

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader"

- John Quincy Adams



As much as this summer was stressful, there were funny moments in classes. Challenging each other and questioning the real answer made class fun. Knowing that each scholar is going through something but is able to make it on time made it feel better. Getting to know people by looking at them was the better part so when I get on campus, I will be familiar with many scholars names. I appreciate all the supporting staff that cared on how we felt during this process.



Ethnicity Sri Lankan

Fun Facts Represented my community at the 2017 United Nation peace day event.

Favourite quote

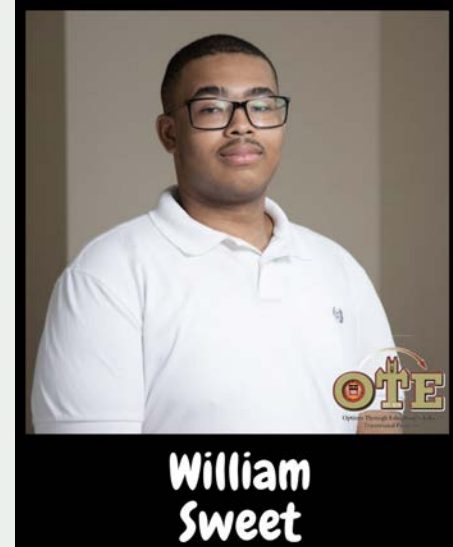
"I've set myself to become the King of the Pirates... and if I die trying...then at least I tried!"

The biggest highlight of the OTE summer program falls in between the people I have met and the activities we have done together. We, as a group, have learned a lot about each other in only a short 6 weeks through the computer screen. Although we were unable to meet in person and have a personal connection with each other, we were able to understand and become friends over a computer screen. This is the biggest plus of the 2020 summer OTE program. The community that we have built in such a short and harsh time is much greater than the ones I have formed in my school. I enjoy that we were able to connect with each other and create a bond before coming to Boston College. These bonds that were created through a computer screen will bloom into long-time friendships. It is clear to me that we have a community with high achieving scholars who all show signs of success in their life.

Ethnicity African American

Fun Facts I am a big Motorsports fan

Favourite quote I live my life a quarter mile at a time

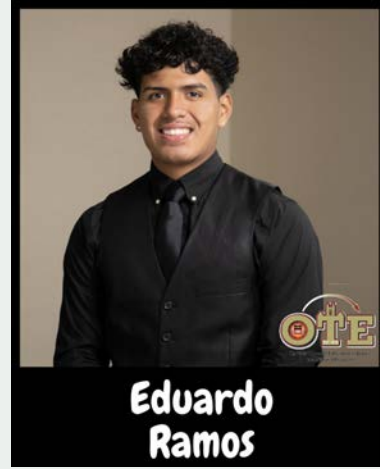


My experience in this year's OTE program is one that I will never forget. During this time I met some amazing people that not only opened my eyes more to the world but also made me even more excited to start my journey at Boston College. Furthermore, this experience has made me feel adequately prepared for my entrance into BC, for the fall semester. Going into this program, I never thought that this experience would be so fulfilling due to this year's online predicament but, I was pleasantly proven wrong. This program made me feel like I have a family even before going to BC. The sense of community that I felt during this summer was outstanding and as a result, this is a summer that I will cherish forever.

Ethnicity Ecuadorian

Fun Facts I love Nike and I love bacon.
I also love Fast and Furious.

Favourite quote "I live my life a quarter mile at a time."



To be honest, I had no idea the Options Through Education program could give me so much happiness and preparation all in one summer. I am really grateful and appreciative of this program because not only has it helped me academically and socially, but it has also helped me spiritually and mentally. I have made many relationships with other scholars within the program which is very fundamental as a first year student. I get to start off the school year fresh with knowledge and preparation, being that I took summer classes. Being that it was challenging, I was taught the importance of relaxation and how to cope with being overwhelmed. Through it all, I became a bit more confident in my academics and my overall potential. I saw what I am capable of doing and for that I am proud of myself, and give thanks to everyone OTE. Not to mention all of the aid and support they provide. Not just the staff and teachers, but the scholars as well. Within class, my peers were able to help not only me, but each other, as we created a bond between us all. As for the staff, they were able to provide us with resources, individual help, guidance, having guests, and so much more. Overall, this program is the best there is. There is no other program like this at any other college in the world. Which is why I truly am thankful for being accepted into this program and completing it to the very end.



Ethnicity Dominican

Fun Facts I love Ice Cream

Favourite quote It is what it is.

OTE has allowed me to learn more about myself throughout the program. I learned how to properly write and analyze readings on a more collegiate level. Another great takeaway from this summer program is that I was able to learn that it is okay to ask for help. I realized how Professors are willing to help only if you are willing to be helped. I grew to be more comfortable in speaking out in class despite having a different opinion from the class. The biggest takeaway of this program is how OTE helped me tremendously by providing me with more confidence about going into the fall semester as an incoming first-generation student.



**Jarvis
Goosby**

Ethnicity Black

Fun Facts I love Golf

Favourite quote "If it were easy, everyone would do it"

The idea of attending college this fall was scary. Moving away from home, not knowing anyone, and unsure if I was actually worthy of attending this institution; were all fears that came over me after committing to Boston College. However, the OTE program erased every one of my doubts and fears, while assuring me that through the BAIC's support, I could be successful here. Over the course of the program I was able to improve my writing skills, brush up on some math skills, and also meet some really important people with big roles on campus. I also learned about the resources available to me throughout my tenure at Boston College, and the importance of taking advantage of them. I cannot thank the OTE program enough for believing in me and showing me that I'm capable of being great here at Boston College even when I originally didn't see it.

Ethnicity Biracial black woman

Fun Facts I have two middle names and two last names

Favourite quote

"Someday, everything will make perfect sense. So for now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears, be strong, and keep reminding yourself that everything happens for a reason". – John Mayer



**Adani
Duguay-Webster**

Participating in OTE this summer showed me my own resilience, determination, and commitment to my education. I met so many amazing people whom I'm very excited to meet this fall. My major takeaway is that I am capable of more than I've ever imagined. Through every obstacle that came my way I found a way to get through it and continue to further my studies. I think this program has shown me to see beyond the surface of my abilities and inspired me to challenge myself more. Between having to adjust to this program being solely online and balancing life at home, I think I conquered it all greatly with the help of my teachers, new friends, and program leaders. I hope to carry this determination with me throughout my academic career at Boston College and am grateful for the opportunity I've been given.



Adam Sankarsingh

Preceptor



Dear Scholars,

I want to start by saying I am tremendously proud of all of you for completing the OTE program. This year was a new experience for everyone and I know the virtual setting could have made things frustrating. Nevertheless, all of you were able to persevere and make the best of the circumstances. Up to the point I am writing this, my favorite moments with you all was seeing the final product of our Don't Rush Challenge and listening to your life map stories. You all blew me away with your fun creativity in your videos and you were more than deserving of the victory! I sincerely can't believe the amount of talent we have in this OTE class and in classic OTE tradition, I know each of you will do exceptionally well in and out of the classroom. Beyond this, when you arrive at BC I want you to be your authentic selves no matter what. Never hesitate to speak your mind and share your perspective, especially when your point of view can educate someone else. Your life map stories alone have taught me a lot; this school and its students would benefit greatly from your background and experiences being shared on campus. Even though you might not have been excited going in, I hope you enjoyed these past six weeks and use OTE to the fullest once it is over. Us preceptors, the BAIC staff, and all the other scholars will always be a resource for you during your journey at Boston College. It has been my privilege to get to know all nine of you and I can't wait to chop it up in person!

One Love,

Adam



Ethnicity Asian

Fun Facts I'm a gamer

Favourite quote Perfection is the enemy of the good



The OTE program was an amazing experience. The students within the community were driven to do work which plays a major role in motivating me to excel in my classes. The amount of stress from the workload is reasonable which taught me a lot about time management and scheduling my week with finals or major exams and tests. Without the OTE program, I don't think I would be able to navigate or survive my freshman year in college because the lack of the experience of stress and workload expectation would overwhelm me for my first year if I didn't experience the stress I did in the program. Overall, I enjoy grinding the work in my classes with a community who is hardworking and supportive.



Ethnicity Ghanaian

Fun Facts I laugh a lot :)

Favourite quote

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful"

My biggest takeaway this summer was from the preceptor videos and the speakers we had at the community meetings each week. One thing that always circled back was how to be involved in so many things and still keep your social life alive. I learnt that to start a friendship, it has to be genuine, not based on a lie. We need to make time for ourselves so whenever friends ask us to hang out or do something else that goes against what we had already planned for ourselves, we should have the courage to decline and not feel guilty. If for this reason those friends no longer want to be in our lives, that's okay. The most important thing is that we stay true to ourselves, the people who love us for who we are will eventually find their way to us!



Ethnicity Albanian

Fun Facts I love to play soccer and do art. I can also do a really good Elmo impression.

Favourite quote

"If the young are not initiated into the village, they will burn it down to feel its warmth".

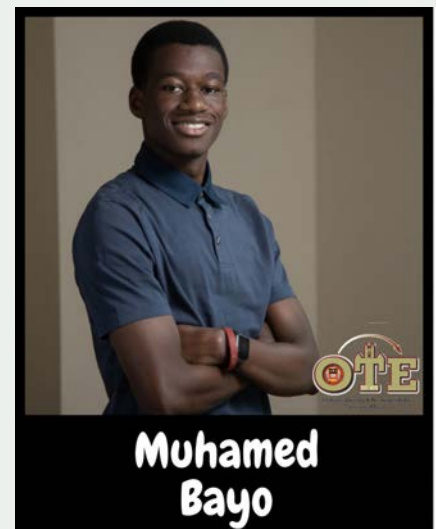
My major take away as an OTE scholar is not to be afraid to ask for help. I've always been pretty shy and afraid to ask for help or to do tutoring, because I thought people would perceive me as a failure. I found out that it was the complete opposite. The questions I asked in class were things my classmates were confused about too. We were in the same boat. Basically it's okay to not always know things.

Ethnicity Mandinka/Gambian

Fun Facts "I am a certified warrior in my town"
Kinda like knighthood but much smaller.

Favourite quote

"Everything works out in the end if it hasn't worked out it isn't the end"- John Lennon



It was an absolute privilege to have experienced the OTE summer program. I went in with no expectations and came out with tremendous growth both academically and personally. The atmosphere that was created by Professor Haddad and Professor De Rosa was extremely warm and welcoming, allowing me to focus on being the best student that I can be. I cannot emphasize enough how thankful I am for the confidence they've instilled in me through their impeccable teaching. Adam, my preceptor, imparted a lot of wisdom upon me in regards to how life might be over the next for years, and how I can go about navigating such. Rikelma and Chelsey were incredibly helpful and I genuinely looked forward to meeting them. At some points, the program was undeniably stressful but the community meetings served as a reset for me; Being in the presence of the entire program always revitalized my spirit. I came into the summer with a bit of an imposters syndrome, and this program all but confirmed that I belong at BC.



Ethnicity Argentinian/El Salvadoran/Native American
(Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes)

Fun Facts I can play trumpet!

Favourite quote

"Don't worry about the small things, but also don't worry about the big things either"- Mi Abuela

I will forever value and appreciate my OTE experience. OTE has allowed me to make long lasting friendships and bonds. One major takeaway from this program was realizing that, at Boston College, I will never be alone and someone is always willing to help. I realized that I thrive more when surrounded by others. Although this program was virtual, I still was able to establish study groups and receive additional help from my professors to succeed. I am grateful that my fellow scholars, professors, mentors and everyone involved with OTE were so supportive; I gained a new family.

Ethnicity African American

Fun Facts I play the piano and sing for my church.

Favourite quote

"On a mission your worst enemy is idle time"
- Nipsey Huddle



My name is Isiaah Clark, and there have been many positives and many things that I will take away from the OTE summer program. The first highlight of the OTE summer program would have to be the people that I have met. Although the program was virtual I felt that we were all able to build a community that I know we will continue to strengthen on campus. Another highlight from the OTE summer program would be the classes. The professors were extremely engaging with the students, and they made the classes interesting. From these classes I have taken away a lot of different study tips that I plan to utilize during my time at Boston College. Last but not least I took away the fact that during these next four years I will not be alone, but that there will be people who are there for me.



Ethnicity Mexican

Fun Facts I ran five Los Angeles Marathons

Favourite quote

"Every champion was once a contender who refused to give up." - Sylvester Stallone

My experience with OTE is one of a kind. I enjoyed every moment I spent with everyone in this program. In addition, I made new friends who helped me keep a positive attitude throughout the six weeks. The courses were challenging, but we were all going through it together and making sure none of us felt left behind. In other words, we were able to create a strong family that supports and encourages each other to do better. Overall, I am very grateful for this opportunity that helped me make new friendships and connections with the BC staff.



Ethnicity Jamaican

Fun Facts I did a 30 day backpacking trip in the Alaskan mountains.

Favourite quote

"Caught up in a popularity contest, bout to reach my dream and I ain't even got my arms stretched"

At the beginning of OTE, I was very worried about whether or not I belonged at BC. The journey to get here was long and although it was tedious, I benefited from it very much. OTE provided me with a foundation and allowed me to make meaningful connections with people before I even arrived at campus. I was able to create a community of people that I know will support one another.



Ethnicity African American

Fun Facts I'm also from Sudan so I speak Arabic!

Favourite quote

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't shoot."

OTE has given me so much and I couldn't be more grateful. Not only did I learn new things in my classes but it gave me peace of mind about what's to come. Living in such an ambiguous time, OTE has made it so that I'm not nervous about what's come. I am prepared and more knowing of what the next few months are gonna look like saving me from intense anxiety. OTE restored my confidence as a scholar and gave me a community to rely on for the next four years and beyond. Being able to have so many familiar faces when stepping foot on campus is something that not many students get to experience. I'm so happy to know that the OTE community has my back and I don't know where I'd be without this program. I'm really looking forward to this next chapter of my life and thank you to the amazing people who made it possible.



OUR INSPIRATION

Our work is inspired by the life and philosophy of Thea Bowman, a Catholic nun of the Franciscan Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration, who "helped people everywhere she went to explore their identity and to find their deepest humanity." (Smith & Feister, 1)

English Faculty



Rachel McIntosh



Alex Puente



Treseanne Ainsworth



Marla DeRosa

Math Faculty



Amy Doherty



Juliette Haddad



Chloe Voight



Gerry Lambert



ANDY PETIGNY

Associate Director

"I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom...I want to be remembered as one who tried"- Dorothy Height



JOANA MAYNARD

Senior Assitannt Director

If I can Help Somebody as I travel along, then my living will not be in vain."



DANIELLE DATE

Assistant Director

"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving". - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



FR. MICHAEL DAVIDSON, S.J.

Director

"Your legacy is every life you have ever touched" - Maya Angelou



RICHARD MAPEZA

Graduate Student

Social Media Editor

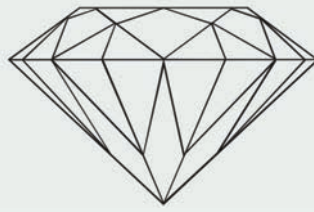
"A family is like a forest, when you are outside it is dense, when you are inside you see that each tree has it's place" - African Proverb

OUR PILLARS



Ingrained in our mission are the following:

- Promote equity
- Build community
- Support opportunity

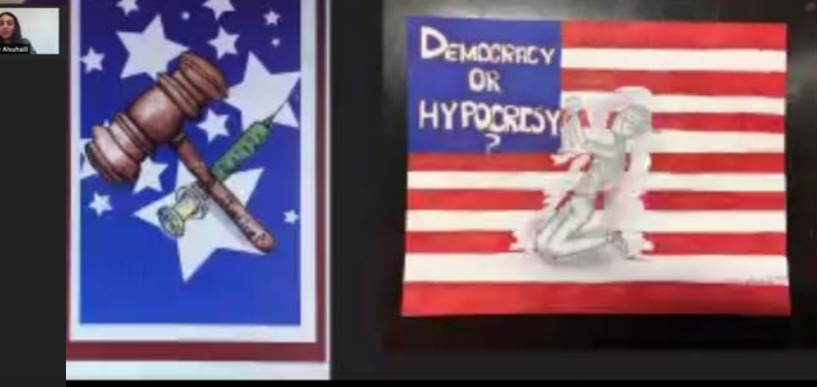
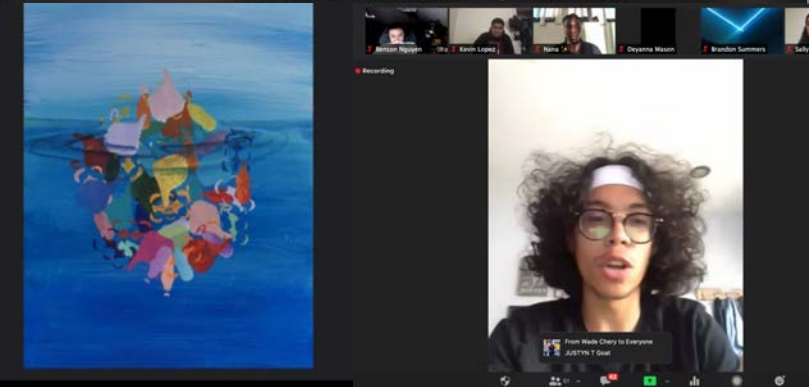
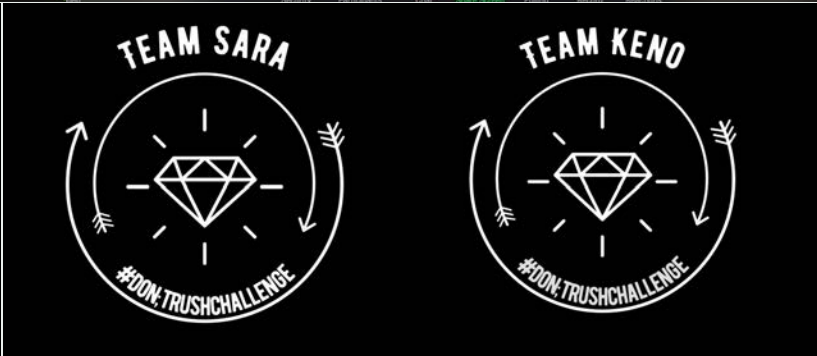
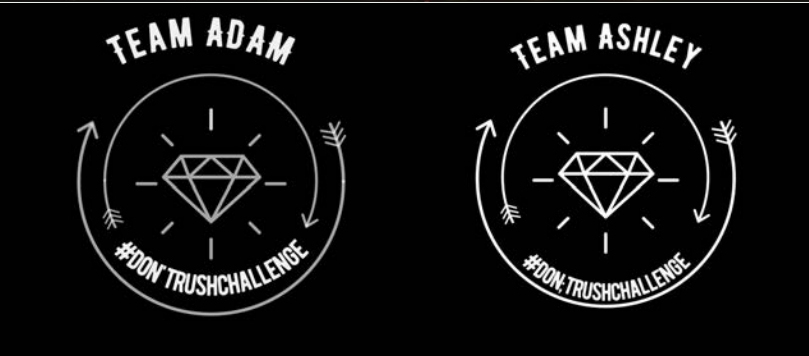
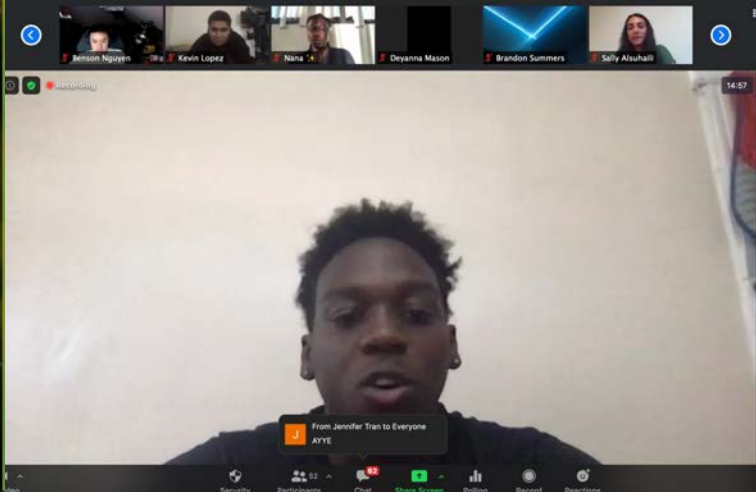


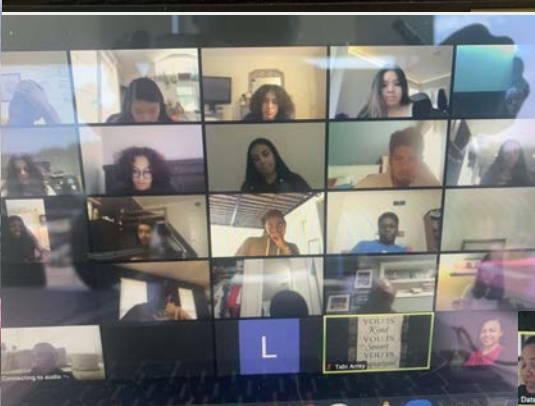
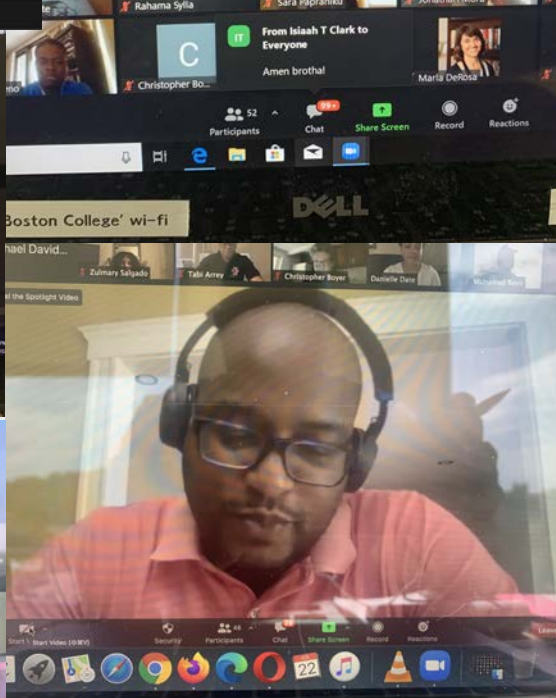
CLASS IS IN SESSION



ST★RS ON THE HEIGHTS

AN OTE SCHOLARS TALENT SHOW









Do not look at how long it will take you to accomplish those goals or how hard it will be, take it step by step and know that one day it will all be worth it.



Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle we'd have a tremendous light.

Servant of God
Thea Bowen





Options Through Education Scholars
Transitional Program

OTE SCHOLARS - CLASS OF 2024

Abdul Abbas

Mahana Abdalla

Sally Al Suhaili

Muhamed Bayo

Christopher Boyer

Nana Budu

Wade Chery

Isiaah Clark

Justyn De La Rosa

Adani Duguay-Webster

Steven Dumeng

Muthee Githara

Jarvis Goosby

Gjerovica Gosturani

Laurie Laurore

Kevin Lopez

Jonah Martinez

Deyanna Mason

Gabriella Mendoza

Jonathan Mora

Benson Nguyen

Whitney Nguyen

Kevin Nicholson

Nosamudianaede Omoregbe

Rayne Peralta

Eduardo Ramos

Angie Rosa

Zulmary Salgado Diaz

Justin Smith

Brandon Summers

William Sweet

Anojan Thirukumaran

Maosuf Togmah

Jennifer Tran

Samantha Villalona

Signatures