

July 2019

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

VALLEY
Scholars

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Senior Edition

Welcome and Congratulations

*Valley Scholars
Seniors!*

Coat check is available

Take a look inside to reminisce the final events with our very first cohort - The Class of 2019!



THE DREADED GOODBYE

And that's a wrap on the 2018-2019 school year in the Shenandoah Valley. The Valley Scholars program would like to extend an enormous thank you to each one of our scholars for your continuous dedication to all of our programming. We would also like to extend thanks to our donors, community partners, school partners, families, and staff members that contribute their efforts to ensure that our program runs efficiently and effectively.

This year has been a tremendous one as we embarked on a phase of the program that has been long awaited. Five years ago, the very first cohort of Valley Scholars was formed. At the time, the eighth graders were apprehensive but excited to embark on a journey with us - the journey to college.

Five years later and each of the scholars' feelings remain the same but with additional feelings of pride and gratitude because they were able to persevere and successfully complete the program. Therefore, this newsletter is dedicated to the Class of 2019!

We are proud beyond measure of our first cohort and we are thankful to have been trusted by them and their families to beat the odds. The entire Valley Scholars Class of 2019 will be First-Generation first-year undergraduate students this fall with tuition assistance provided to most.

Seniors - You have not only graduated from high school, you have graduated into adulthood. Continue to make us proud.

- Valley Scholar's Team

2018-2019 Senior Programs

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A.P. PREP SESSIONS

2

COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

3

SCHOLARSHIP FAIRS

4

COLLEGE TOURS

5

FAFSA WORKSHOPS

6

ACADEMIC COACHING SESSIONS

7

SENIOR CELEBRATION



Senior Celebration Ceremony

FINAL PROGRAM DAY FOR THE CLASS OF 2019

On May 15th, 2019 the Valley Scholars program hosted an evening-to-remember for our graduating seniors. The seniors were taken to an undisclosed location for a formal dinner and were happy to learn that they would be dining with James Madison University's Mr. and Mrs. Alger at their home. Additional guests included Valley Scholars current and former staff. The students were able to mingle with each other and guests while experiencing a formal dining experience with a twist.

The second half of the evening included a reception in Madison Hall then transitioned to the Grafton-Stovall Theatre to present the scholars with individual recognition. Families, school partners, and community members joined in this ceremony, creating an atmosphere filled with true joy and love. Scholars Kaitlyn Good and Noah Buracker were chosen to deliver motivational and light-hearted speeches to their peers during this ceremony.





THE VALLEY SCHOLARS "IMPACT"

"I would describe Valley Scholars as life-changing. I can do whatever I put my mind to with the strong support that Valley Scholars has provided me over the past five years. This program gave me an open mind to the future, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of it."

- *Precious Carper*

"Valley Scholars is enabling. Valley Scholars has pushed me to always do my very best and has given me the skills and resources to be successful in the academic and social world. I will forever be thankful for the opportunity I was given to be apart of the Valley Scholars program."

- *Jenna Souder*

"Valley Scholars is a community. Valley Scholars means so many things to me. It is a family for those with dreams who are willing to work for them."

- *Lily Robinson*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as supportive. The Valley Scholars program means a way for me to further my education through the support they have given. It also gives me a sense of identity and pride."

- *Amy Cortes*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as impactful. Valley Scholars has been a major part of the last five years of my life. It has taught me invaluable information that will be useful for years to come."

- *Joshua Morris*

"The program is challenging. Valley Scholars, to me, means family. I've formed many friendships and connections that can potentially be of use in my future. VS also means hard work. If you work hard for something and you strive to get it, then you'll have it. It all depends on yourself."

- *Geselle Ramos*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as beautiful. This program pushed me to be the best I can be by always providing me with a helping hand."

- *DaMillion Williams*

THE VALLEY SCHOLARS "IMPACT"

"I would describe Valley Scholars as life-changing. Valley Scholars has given me a chance to have a better life; a life that my parents dreamt for me to have."

- *Oscar Moreno-Tenorio*

"Valley Scholars is remarkable. Valley Scholars, to me, means opportunity. The program has opened numerous doors for me and has created so many ventures that I never dreamt possible."

- *Karleigh Meadows*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as rewarding. Valley Scholars, to me, is a life changer and saver. Without Valley Scholars, I would not be the person I am today."

- *Angelina McCauley*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as amazing. The Valley Scholars program is an experience that has taught me lifelong lessons. It gave me an opportunity to grow within myself and the community."

- *Leslie Guevara*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as magical. VS has done more for me than I would have ever imagined. Not only has it given me the opportunity to grow academically, but it has also given me the opportunity to grow as a member of society."

- *Brianna Kirby*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as eye-opening. I feel that VS has helped open the door to show me what college is like because if I was never exposed to this, I may have never wanted to attend college. Valley Scholars was a great opportunity to meet people and build friendships that have lasted for the last 5 years."

- *Patrick Cubbage*

"I would describe Valley Scholars as generous. It is a program that brings people all over together and a program that offers opportunity."

- *Noah Buracker*

NEXT STOP: HIGHER EDUCATION



**ALL 32 SCHOLARS WILL BE FURTHERING THEIR
EDUCATION IN THE FALL OF 2019**

Ayam Ali	James Madison University
Noah Buracker	James Madison University
Precious Carper	James Madison University
Signira Chisley-Strickler	James Madison University
Amy Cortes	James Madison University
Eleazar Cortes	University of Virginia
Casey Crigger	Blue Ridge Community College
Patrick Cubbage	Lord Fairfax Community College
Timothy Custer	James Madison University
Kaitlyn Good	James Madison University
Leslie Guevara	Virginia Commonwealth University
Brooklyn Kier	James Madison University
Brianna Kirby	James Madison University
Jerome Li	James Madison University
Pierre Mbala	James Madison University
Angeline McCauley	James Madison University
Whitley McCoy	James Madison University
Karleigh Meadows	James Madison University
Dakota Mitchell	James Madison University
Oscar Moreno-Tenorio	James Madison University
Joshua Morris	James Madison University
Alexia Munoz-Moctezuma	James Madison University
Geselle Ramos	James Madison University
Kristin Rhodenizer	James Madison University
Alexandria Richardson	Old Dominion University
Lily Robinson	James Madison University
Raven Rogers	James Madison University
Hannah Ruffner	James Madison University
Jenna Souder	James Madison University
Nigel Stewart	Virginia State University
Charlene Tanner	James Madison University
DaMillion Williams	James Madison University

Poem to the Seniors

BELIEVING IN YOU

Catherine Pulsifer

Never stop believing in yourself.
When others doubt, don't you.
Do what you love to do,
No one knows better than you.

Life is too short to live others' dreams
Follow your own dream
Push yourself to reach your goals
And live the life you once dreamed.

Trust your instincts.
Be true to yourself.
You know what is right for you.
Never give up or give in.

Forget the words "I don't know how".
You can learn,
You can research,
You can do.

Your mind is powerful.
When you believe you can.
You will find a way
You won't waste a day.

Persist and persevere
Do not fear
Because if you believe in you
You will find dreams can come true.

May all your dreams turn into goals,
Believe in yourself.
And remember, all of life is a choice.
The decision is up to you.

Believe in Yourself, Dare To Be
Whatever You Want To Be!





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