

2022 ANNUAL REVIEW





The American Experience Foundation (AEF) enriches the lives of students through inspirational travel experiences and educational opportunities to cultivate the next generation of hospitality industry leaders. AEF invests in young people in our community, supporting their college and career readiness.



photo by Dani Fresh

AEF

WHAT WE DO:

1 INSPIRE through free field trips to the treasures of our nation's capital for students from DC and across the country

2 TRAIN through internships and educational opportunities to connect students with industry professionals

3 EDUCATE through scholarships to qualified students and alumni from DC's ten high school Academies of Hospitality & Tourism, Culinary Arts, and Mass Media

By leveraging our partner, Destination DC, and its nearly 1,000 member businesses, AEF is uniquely positioned to open doors for students, fill a need for career exposure and create pathways to success.



-  **ACADEMIES OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM**
-  **ACADEMIES OF CULINARY ARTS**
-  **ACADEMIES OF MASS MEDIA**

For 20 years, the American Experience Foundation has been dedicated to supporting the hospitality industry in Washington, DC. After September 11, the affiliated charity of Destination DC was created to support tourism recovery. In 2015, AEF's mission narrowed to focus on student career development.

AEF inspires the next generation of hospitality professionals. It has grown as a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for the hospitality workforce, youth development and pandemic recovery.

Challenges surrounding uncertainty in in-person schooling remained this year. AEF adjusted to a hybrid internship to match a new workforce structure, and proudly supported the Academies of Hospitality and Tourism and Culinary Arts. On our 20th anniversary, we celebrate resurgence.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- ★ AEF celebrated over \$100,000 in scholarship awards since 2015.
- ★ Our partners at Destination DC welcomed Academy graduates Zoe Roberts (Jackson-Reed, '18), Diamond Hunter (Jackson-Reed, '18) and Cayla Lewis (Columbia Heights, '19).
- ★ We welcomed Christen Miller, Partnerships Manager. Christen brings a wealth of knowledge from both the destination marketing industry from her time at VisitPITTSBURGH and non-profit development at Junior Achievement of Greater Washington.
- ★ Field trips were reinstated.
- ★ We led by connecting education to real-world experiences in the industry and through professional development opportunities for educators.



Michael Akin
Chair, Board of Directors
American Experience Foundation
President, LINK Strategic Partners



Claire Carlin
Executive Director
American Experience Foundation
VP of Partnerships & Alliances, Destination DC

AEF'S PROGRAMS AND IMPACT GROWS IN FY2023 BY:

- ★ Welcoming a new Academy of Hospitality and Tourism at River Terrace Education Campus
- ★ Working closely with the Academies of Mass Media at Ballou, Coolidge and Jackson-Reed high schools
- ★ Launching a new mentorship program to connect industry professionals to future leaders
- ★ Restarting overnight field trip programs to share the treasures of our incredible city with young people

Finally, we're expanding communication. In addition to subscribing to our monthly newsletters, please connect with us on LinkedIn and Twitter. We'll also be launching student-run, student-focused Instagram and TikTok accounts to better connect with young people in our community. We look forward to the year to come together and thank all our partners for making our 20th year one of growth and success.

20 YEARS



Through unforgettable field trips to DC, AEF **INSPIRES** students to think big about their futures, make connections, have hands-on experiences and grow in the hospitality industry.

INSPIRE

“ When I was a kid, I loved to spin my globe and dream of exploring the world. Through travel, I’ve met remarkable people, had incredible experiences and enjoyed lifelong friendships. Early mentors helped me understand that I could also build a career in travel and tourism. I am incredibly proud of how the American Experience Foundation introduces tourism to students. The industry has given me many opportunities to excel, and I’m committed to creating experiences that inspire young people to think beyond their communities and enjoy the world of travel, too.”



Elliott L. Ferguson, II
President & CEO
Destination DC

Photos: Students from across the Mid-Atlantic region gather at Ben’s Chili Bowl in August for the Global Citizens Challenge. The trip was captured by photographers from the Academy of Mass Media at Coolidge High School.



THANK YOU TO OUR INSPIRATIONAL PARTNERS:



- ★ Yardbird
- ★ Conrad Washington DC
- ★ Events DC
- ★ Hard Rock Café
- ★ International Spy Museum
- ★ LINK Strategic Partners

“This was the first time I was hired to photograph something outside of my school. I was able to use the skills I learned in the Mass Media Academy to capture the tour and got to help students from other cities learn more about my city.”



Thomas Jones
Coolidge High School
Academy of Mass Media

This page, top: Virginia State University experiences Washington, DC hospitality at the Conrad Washington DC. *Bottom:* SYTA Youth Foundation and Your Big Year bring teens to DC for the Global Citizens Challenge. Two students from Coolidge's Academy of Mass Media recorded photography and video of the trip.



INSPIRE

The Student Youth Travel Association and Your Big Year brought their Global Citizens Challenge to Washington, DC this summer. In partnership with AEF, student participants tackled global issues while experiencing the best of DC, including visits to our partners Ben's Chili Bowl, Hard Rock Café, Le Pain Quotidien and the International Spy Museum. Briana Thomas, author and historian, took us on an incredible mural tour of U Street.

“My experience was great! We learned new things, stayed in a nice hotel and tasted new foods from different restaurants. Being from DC, I was able to teach the other teens on the trip important facts about my city.”



Kieree James
Coolidge High School
Academy of Mass Media

This page, top: DC engineering students meet NASA's Crew-1. *Bottom:* AEF hosted hospitality students from Virginia State University including a tour of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center with Destination DC's Melissa Riley and Events DC's Dennis Carew.



TRAIN

AEF is helping to ensure diverse voices become part of management and c-suite teams in the hospitality, tourism and culinary industries. When AEF creates work-based learning opportunities for students with industry partners, students meet role models and build professional networks.

“As an educator, it makes our jobs easier to know we have the staff of the American Experience Foundation on the other end of the phone. You know that you’re always going to have someone supporting you and whatever they bring to the table is going to be something special. We wish that all our partners were like AEF.”



Julian Hipkins
Director, Academy of Culinary Arts
Roosevelt High School

Photos this spread: Students from Ballou and Roosevelt Culinary Academies faced off last December at the Willard InterContinental Hotel, who entrusted their annual gingerbread displays to these teams. Their creations were judged by a panel of local industry leaders — Chef Rochelle Cooper, Chef Danny Lledó, Chef Luca De Marchis and Michael McCarthy of DC Modern Luxury.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This year AEF explored the vast array of opportunities in the hospitality and tourism industry – everything from sports management to hotels to large public events.

“Learn as much as you can. Keep your eyes and ears open. Pay attention. Meet people. Show up and be open. Coming from Houston, I had no idea I would be a professional football player in Washington, DC. When you’re 17, 18, 19 years old, you have no idea what can happen or where you’ll be at 20 and 25.”



Darrell Green
Associate Athletic Director,
George Mason University
& Pro Football Hall of Fame Cornerback

THANK YOU TO OUR TRAINING PARTNERS:



This page, top: Academy students pose with staff from Concord Hospitality after a behind-the-scenes tour of their Wharf properties and snacks on the rooftop at Whiskey Charlie.
Bottom: Touring the Canopy and Hyatt House during Concord Hospitality Share Day.



TRAIN



Thank you to all the professionals and leaders who volunteered their time and expertise with students:

- ★ **Andy Finn**, Director of Sales & Marketing, Conrad Washington, DC
- ★ **Angela Carrick**, Director of Sales & Marketing, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Ben Deane**, Dual General Manager, AC Hotel Washington DC Downtown and Hampton Inn White House
- ★ **Chef Danny Lledó**, Owner and Executive Chef, Xiquet
- ★ **Chef Luca Marchis**, Executive Chef, Willard InterContinental
- ★ **Chef Rochelle Cooper**, Executive Sous Chef and Pastry Chef, The Duck & The Peach
- ★ **Darrell Green**, Associate Athletic Director, George Mason University; Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee
- ★ **Elliott L. Ferguson II**, President & CEO, Destination DC
- ★ **Ernie Arias**, Director of Sales and Marketing, Willard InterContinental
- ★ **Hristiyana Ralinova**, Hotel Manager, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Jen Montgomery**, Executive Director of Development, George Washington University Athletics
- ★ **Jose Pujols**, Hotel Manager, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Lacey Bruins**, Director of Facilities and Events, Capital One Arena, Monumental Sports
- ★ **Leslie Sanchez**, Award-winning commentator, analyst & author
- ★ **Lindsay Falk**, Sales Manager, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Maria Bezdenezhnykh**, Senior Marketing Manager, Willard InterContinental
- ★ **Maria Skrobacz**, Human Resources Manager, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- ★ **Mark Hyman**, George Solomon Chair in Sports Journalism, University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism
- ★ **Martha Valenzuela**, Dual Director of Sales, AC Hotel Washington DC Downtown and Hampton Inn White House
- ★ **Meili Liu**, Dual Director of Human Resources, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Michael Anderson**, General Manager, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Michael McCarthy**, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief, Modern Luxury Washington DC
- ★ **Nathalie Caillon Rytting**, Director of Human Resources, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- ★ **Sean Velazquez**, Dual Executive Chef, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Sean Kearney**, Associate Commissioner for Men's Basketball, Atlantic 10 Conference
- ★ **Socrates Cala**, Owner, The CALPRO Group
- ★ **Theresa Belpulsi**, Vice President of Tourism, Sports and Visitor Services, Destination DC
- ★ **Tiffany Barrett**, Dual Event Meetings Manager, Concord Hospitality
- ★ **Tiffany Elum**, National Account Director, Destination DC
- ★ **Zach Wendel**, Area Director of Food and Beverage, Concord Hospitality

This page, top: Students Explore the Behind the Scenes Logistics of the Auto Show with the Calpro Group. *Bottom:* Students attend the Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Championships after learning from industry experts on the array of careers in the sports industry.

TRAIN

INTERN SPOTLIGHTS

The hospitality industry interests me because of its broad nature, it can be found in many sectors of work, including my passion for computer science and data. During my internship, I was able to work with the team on data analysis and management projects that had real-world impact. It was exciting to gain experience and insights into the industry with the help of AEF!



Nana Sissoko

AEF Intern—Advanced Internship Program 2021-22,
Jackson-Reed High School, Class of 2022,
George Washington University, Class of 2026

This internship was my first introduction to hospitality and tourism. I made it my mission to learn as much as I can to raise Washington, DC's popularity. I'm excited to see what I can offer to people who have never been to or heard of DC. I hope to take what I learned from this experience and apply it to my daily life as I go into digital media at the University of the District of Columbia.



Diamond Myles

AEF Intern — Urban Alliance 2021-22,
IDEA Public Charter School, Class of 2022
University of the District of Columbia, Class of 2026

I loved learning about what jobs are available but often not known. I also learned that if you love a particular thing and want to make it your career, you can turn your passion into one. I am an entrepreneur and hope to start several businesses. I worked with Partnerships and Alliances, where I tracked and organized data on Destination DC members, helping those members get the most out of their experience. It helped me experience the basics of how to run a business.



Tenielle Parker

AEF Summer College Intern 2022,
Career Bridge and Career Ready Intern 2021,
Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Class of 2021,
North Carolina A&T University, Class of 2025

CAREER BRIDGE INTERNSHIPS

From March until May, DC Public Schools' Career Bridge Internships showcase the limitless possibilities that are available to high school seniors looking to solidify their plans after graduation and help build their career skills. Hotels are a perfect spot to explore careers and get hands on experience in the workplace; AEF is proud to work with local hoteliers to give students these opportunities.



“It has been a rewarding experience for all of us and now Christell is part of our family. We embrace the partnership with AEF in developing new talent with an interest in hospitality to showcase the many career opportunities our hotel has to offer new candidates. We love helping young people find themselves and build a career within our industry.”

Martha Valenzuela
Director of Sales, AC Hotel by Marriott
Washington DC Downtown

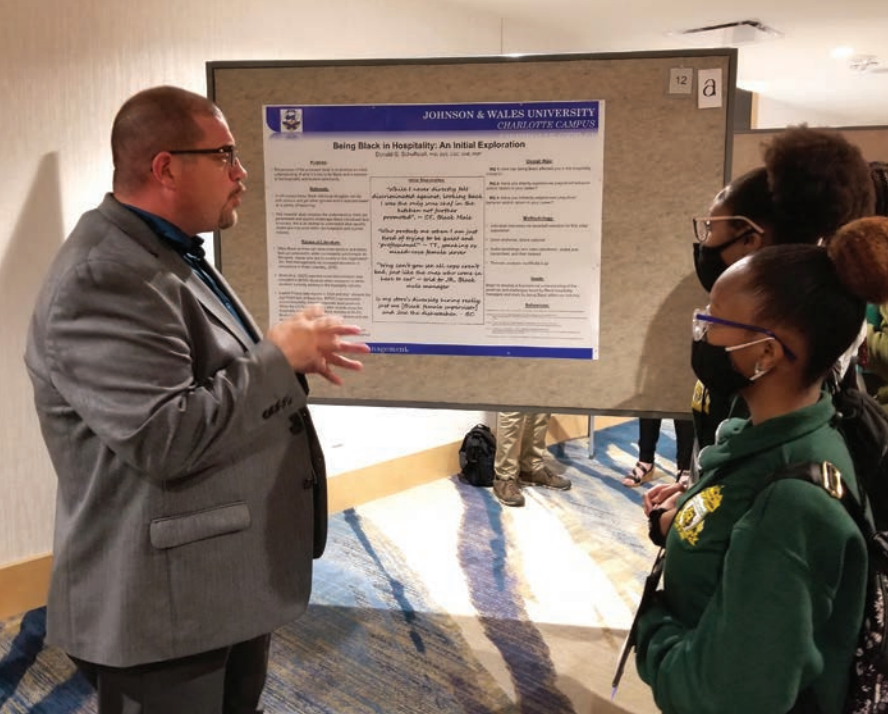


I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after graduation, but this internship opened my eyes and motivated me to work hard to be part of the hospitality industry. I appreciated how everyone was so kind and welcoming. I now plan to go to school and hope to keep working with them during my time off. I really love being part of the AC Hotel family!



Christell Miranda Lopez

Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Class of 2022



CAREER READY INTERNSHIPS

Who: Nine students from the Academies of Hospitality & Tourism at Ballou and Jackson-Reed High Schools and the Academy of Mass Media at Coolidge High School

Theme: Sustainability and industry responsibility

- ★ How an organization's decisions impact the workforce, customers and communities
- ★ How workplaces foster a diverse and inclusive environment

Format: The hybrid internship included online speakers and in-person site visits to various businesses and organizations across the city.

- ★ Interns gave creative weekly-themed presentations to local industry leaders.
- ★ Hospitality professionals provided feedback, highlighting strengths and areas of improvement.

Student Participants:

- ★ Marcella Carroll
- ★ Destanie Coleman
- ★ Nia Diggs
- ★ Samuel Grand
- ★ Kori Johnson
- ★ Charity Jones
- ★ Jahmiya Mosley
- ★ Camiyah Price
- ★ Heaven Taylor
- ★ Erick Torres Flores
- ★ Dominga Trice

“I learned so much about sustainability and taking hospitality to another level. There's so much to think about when beginning a successful business: how to cater to your clients and balance the needs of your business with the needs of being sustainable.”

“I gained new knowledge that I haven't learned in school. We learned skills about careers, college and moving forward. We have practiced and learned from our mistakes. Everyone was respectful, helped each other and made us all feel like real professionals.”

“The best part about this internship was the site visits and the weekly presentations. The site visits were hands-on learning experiences, while the presentations allowed us to showcase our knowledge and creativity. I got to meet professionals who gave us advice on public speaking and careers.”

This page, clockwise: Interns learn from Dr. Donald Schoffstall, Johnson & Wales University, at the 2022 ICHRIE Conference; Interns visit the DC Department of Energy and Environment about careers in the green economy and city initiatives to improve our impact on global climate change; Interns explore Food for the People at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum; Interns learn about food supply chains and production at Profish's Ivy City facilities.

THANK YOU to all the professionals and leaders who volunteered their time and expertise with interns.

Guest Speakers and Site Visits

ARTECHOUSE

- ★ John Feldman

American Society of Landscape Architects

- ★ Lisa J. Jennings
- ★ Katie Riddle

- ★ Darien Wright

DC Department of Energy & Environment

- ★ Daphne Arko-Dadzie
- ★ Laura Miller
- ★ Oana Leahu-Aluas
- ★ Robera Tasissa

Destination DC

- ★ Bobby Urteaga
- ★ Cayla Lewis
- ★ Christen Miller
- ★ Claire Carlin
- ★ Danielle Davis
- ★ Diamond Hunter
- ★ Elliott L. Ferguson, II
- ★ Emily Vecchioni
- ★ Kara Johnson
- ★ Lindsay Hill
- ★ Shelby Luzzi
- ★ Susan O'Keefe
- ★ Zoe Roberts

DMV Black Restaurant Week

- ★ Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole

Eaton Workshop

- ★ Harvey Thompson
- ★ Sebi Medina-Tayac
- ★ Sheldon Scott

International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education

Profish/Ivy City Smokehouse

- ★ Greg Casten

Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum

Studio ATAO

- ★ Chef Jenny Dorsey

UNITE HERE Local 25

- ★ Benjy Cannon

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

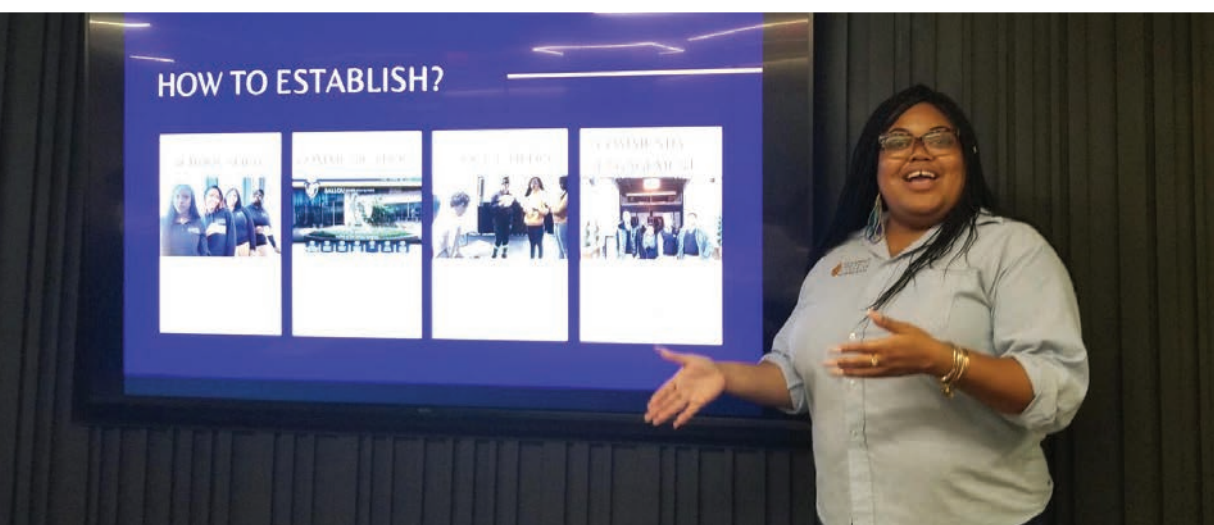
- ★ Christina Mortensen

Presentation Judges

- ★ Allison Johnson, *Destination DC*
- ★ Ana Martinez Chamorro, *Ana Isabel Photography*
- ★ Charles Williams, *Expedia Group*
- ★ Claire Carlin, *Destination DC*
- ★ Danielle Davis, *Destination DC*
- ★ Elizabeth Sheridan, *Destination DC*
- ★ Emily Vecchioni, *Destination DC*
- ★ Erich Hosbach, *Remington Hotels*
- ★ Felicia Ruffino, *Hakan Ilhan Restaurants*
- ★ Jessica D. Williams, *NAF*
- ★ Lee Callicutt, *Visit Montgomery*
- ★ Letizia Sirtori, *Destination DC*
- ★ Martha Valenzuela, *AC Hotel by Marriott Washington DC Downtown*
- ★ Michael Akin, *LINK Strategic Partners*
- ★ Molly Szmak, *Destination DC*
- ★ Rico Ashab, *Destination DC*
- ★ Stephanie Adams, *Pinstripes*
- ★ Susan O'Keefe, *Destination DC*
- ★ Terri Carter, *Destination DC*
- ★ Valerie Sumner, *VRS Meetings & Events Inc*
- ★ Zaid Abdullah, *NJI*

This page, clockwise: The 2022 class of AEF Career Ready Interns; Interns watch international travel and hospitality leaders on the keynote panel at the 2022 ICHRIE Conference; Interns hear from the American Society of Landscape Architects about the impact of the built environment on sustainability; Interns take in the Ase: Afro Frequencies exhibit at ARTECHOUSE





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a trusted partner of DC's educators and leaders, AEF is expanding its role by informing educators on trends, knowledge and opportunities in the hospitality and tourism industries. Building on the success of the high school Academies, DC Public Schools asked AEF to help expand career exploration into key middle schools across the city.

AEF expertly helps young people connect with employers and career opportunities and we have shared this expertise with other stakeholders both locally and nationally.

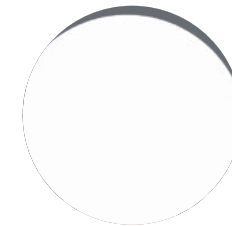
THANK YOU to our partners who helped us host four professional development opportunities:



- ★ Anacostia Riverkeepers
- ★ Destination DC
- ★ Eaton Workshop
- ★ The Escape Game DC, Downtown
- ★ Fogo de Chao Washington, DC
- ★ Georgetown Heritage
- ★ Selina Union Market
- ★ Hargrove from Encore
- ★ Marriott Marquis Washington, DC
- ★ Moxy Washington, DC Downtown
- ★ Pinstripes

This page, clockwise: Academy educators plan for the 2022-23 school year with AEF at the Cambria Cambria Hotel Capitol Riverfront; Educators and AEF staff explore the river watershed with the Anacostia Riverkeepers; Brittany Anderson, College & Career Coordinator for Ballou High School, presents best practices for Academy culture to DCPS middle school teachers; AEF staff and Academy educators spend an afternoon team building at The Escape Game DC.

“Thank you to AEF for providing resources for our NAF retreat, for middle school educators expanding their career and technical education programming and helping Academy of Hospitality & Tourism and Culinary Arts leaders connect in person for the first time since 2019.”



Brittany Anderson
College & Career Coordinator
Ballou High School

“On a panel at the Department of Employment Services' Level Up Conference, my colleagues Lisa Waldschmitt, Zoe Roberts and I discussed the best ways to support young people who are transitioning from internships into successful careers, focusing on the skills training and support systems for early career professionals to be successful. Words cannot describe how grateful I am for these full circle moments. Advocating for young people like me has been extremely rewarding.”



Cayla Lewis
Convention Sales Assistant, Destination DC
& Columbia Heights Educational Campus
Class of 2019

This page: Zoe Roberts and Cayla Lewis, Academy alumnae, present on helping students transition from intern to colleagues at the Department of Employment Services Level Up Conference.



TRAIN

AEF's support does not end at graduation—whether a young person's path takes them to college or directly into building their career.



EDUCATE

Since 2015, the AEF Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$100,000 to deserving students. The AEF Student Advisory Committee keeps Academy alumni engaged and brings a student voice to decision-making.

“ I chose to apply for the scholarship because I knew I wanted to go to school and pursue hospitality. I used the scholarship to buy health insurance and expensive books! What I learned in my Academy, in my internships with AEF, and in college – thanks to the help of the AEF scholarship – has changed me and helps me in so many aspects of my life.”

Deranique Graydon
Five-time AEF-scholarship winner,
Ballou High School Academy of Hospitality and Tourism,
University of the District of Columbia, Class of 2021

Left: AEF Scholarship winner and Student Advisory Board member Anura Sharma (right) stands with Columbia Heights Educational Campus Academy Director Dr. Patrick Jackson and AEF Senior Manager Lisa Waldschmitt during their senior awards ceremony in May. Anura is currently a freshman at Georgetown University. *Right:* Elliott Ferguson, Destination DC President and CEO, stands with Anthony Headspeath and Antonio Newton of Maya Angelou PCS Academy of Hospitality and Tourism.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Support the fund at AmericanExperienceFoundation.org/donate



The AEF Scholarship Fund achieved a huge milestone in 2022, surpassing over \$100,000 awarded in scholarships to current students and alumni of the Academies of Hospitality and Tourism and Culinary Arts. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

AEF SCHOLARSHIPS



Damek Bennett

Maya Angelou Public Charter School, 2022
Morgan State University, 2026



Kaiya Lewis

Maya Angelou Public Charter School, 2022
Bowie State University, 2026



Antonio Newton

Maya Angelou Public Charter School, 2022
Morgan State University, 2026



Anura Sharma

Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC), 2022
Georgetown University, 2026



Nana Sissoko

Jackson-Reed High School, 2022
George Washington University, 2026

AEF ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS



Cenaria Fells-Watson

Columbia Heights Educational Campus, 2021
Towson University, 2025



Britney Rivera-Martinez

Wilson [Jackson-Reed] High School, 2019
Cornell University, 2023

DAVID ISELIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Jean-Pierre Roberts

Jackson-Reed High School, 2022
Connecticut State University, 2026

EDUCATE

ALUMNI PROGRAMS

In June, AEF reunited with Academy alumni, scholarship winners and interns. We're so proud of everything they have accomplished and look forward to celebrating their future successes. Thank you to our hosts, John McDonnell, President of Clyde's Restaurant Group, and the entire team at Clyde's of Gallery Place.



"I am honored to be awarded the AEF Scholarship for Community Service a second time. I have been serving others because I truly enjoy supporting my community around me. Now to see my love and care for the community come back around and support me in my college education is beautiful. I couldn't be more grateful." — **Jean-Pierre Roberts**

This page, top: AEF intern alumna Tanielle Parker shares updates from her college journey at AEF's Alumni Celebration in June. She is joined by alumnus Demontray Pollard and Clyde's Restaurant Group President John McDonnell. *Bottom:* AEF Alumni gather with AEF staff and Board of Directors members.



CONNECT

Connect with AEF to read about the incredible future leaders of Washington, DC.

Subscribe to:



AEF In Action Newsletter (monthly)
bit.ly/aefnewsletter



AEF Alumni in Action Newsletter (bimonthly)
bit.ly/aefalumninewsletter



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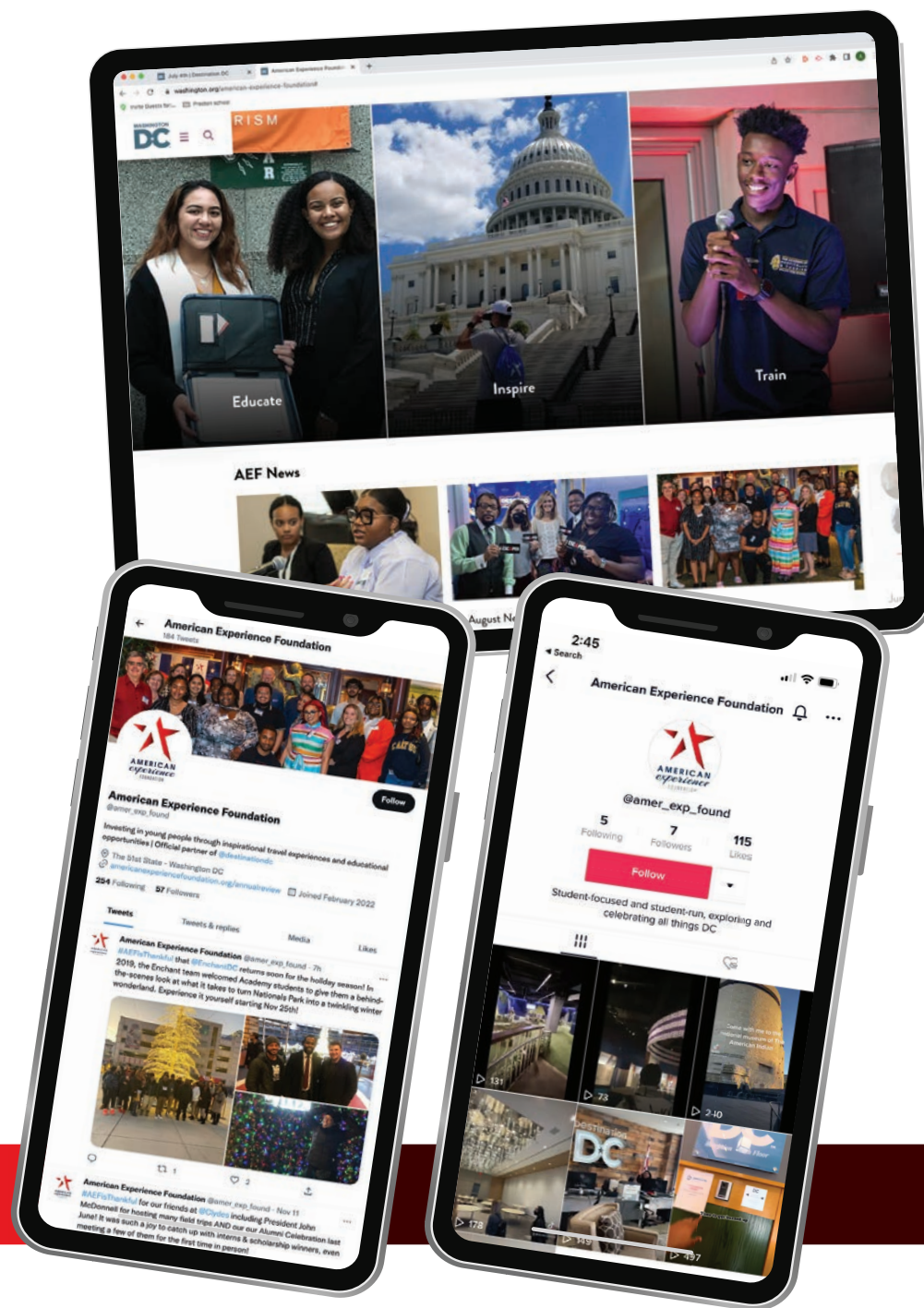


photo by EPNAC

EVENTS

Events allow us to celebrate the extended AEF family and raise necessary funds to support our work. Thank you to our partners who make them possible:

Holiday Raffle Partners

- ★ Arena Stage
- ★ ARTECHOUSE
- ★ Barkhaus
- ★ Brasserie Liberte
- ★ Buca di Beppo
- ★ Canopy by Hilton Embassy Row
- ★ Dacha Beer Garden
- ★ DC Ghosts
- ★ Downtown Holiday Market
- ★ Five Iron Golf
- ★ George Washington's Mount Vernon
- ★ Hook Hall
- ★ Hotel Zena
- ★ KNEAD Hospitality
- ★ Medieval Times
- ★ National Aquarium
- ★ National Building Museum
- ★ RPM
- ★ Sightseeing Pass
- ★ White House Gifts
- ★ Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts
- ★ Woodrow Wilson House

July 4th Partners

- ★ American Pharmacists Association
- ★ Ampa Events
- ★ Bialek's Music
- ★ Christophe Fox
- ★ District Winery
- ★ Encore
- ★ NFP
- ★ Perfect Settings
- ★ PMI Parking
- ★ Red Bear Brewing Co.
- ★ Ridgewells Catering
- ★ Something Vintage
- ★ Table Manners
- ★ Uncle Chip's Cookies
- ★ The Washington DC Auto Show



This page: top: Jashawn Evans, AEF intern, speaks at the 2019 July 4th VIP Celebration. Bottom: AEF Executive Director Claire Carlin speaks at the 2019 Member Holiday Celebration.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION



“The American Pharmacists Association is proud to partner with AEF as the host of their July 4th VIP Celebration event for almost a decade. Our two organizations share a mission to help future leaders and changemakers thrive in their careers and we’re excited to support our local Washington, DC community on this marquee holiday.”



Ilisa Bernstein, PharmD, JD, FAPhA
Interim CEO and Executive Vice President,
American Pharmacists Association

ARTECHOUSE



“ARTECHOUSE is proud to support and partner with AEF. Our goal as an innovative leader in the field of digital and experiential art is to expand the possibilities of art and how we experience it. Built in is a mission to empower and fund the limitless potential of creativity of young people. We are proud to support AEF’s aligned efforts over the last 4 years and look forward to the future.”



Josh Feldman
Senior Manager of Sales & Marketing
ARTECHOUSE

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Financial Support

ARTECHOUSE
American Pharmacists Association
Willard Intercontinental
America 250
The Baskin Group
Ben’s Chili Bowl
Big Bus Tours
The Campbell Consulting Group
Clyde’s Restaurant Group
DC Department of
Employment Services
Donohoe Hospitality Services
Encore
Herron Printing and Graphics
Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill
IncludEquity
LINK Strategic Partners
Metropolitan Washington
Airports Authority

NFP
ProFish
Washington Business Journal
Washington New Area Automobile
Dealers Association
White House Gifts

In-Kind & Expertise Support Educational Programs

AC Hotel by Marriott Washington DC
Downtown
Clyde’s of Gallery Place
Washington Nationals
Atlantic 10
Willard InterContinental
Ben’s Chili Bowl
Briana Thomas
Concord Hospitality
Conrad Washington, DC
Destination DC

Enchant Christmas
Events DC
Le Pan Quotidien
Yardbird
Washington Auto Show

Career Ready Internships

ARTECHOUSE
Profish/Ivy City Smokehouse
Association of Landscape Architects
Chef Jenny Dorsey / Studio ATAO
DC Department of Energy
& Environment
Destination DC
Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole
Eaton Workshop
International Council on Hotel, Restaurant,
and Institutional Education

Smithsonian Anacostia
Community Museum
UNITE HERE Local 25

Professional Development

Carr Properties
Puttery
Donohoe Hospitality Services
Anacostia Riverkeepers
Destination DC
Eaton Workshop
The Escape Game DC, Downtown
Fogo de Chao Washington DC
Georgetown Heritage
Selina Union Market
Hargrove from Encore
Marriott Marquis Washington, DC
Moxy Washington, DC Downtown
Pinstripes

REMEMBERING RAY BENNETT

In May, Washington, DC lost a tireless champion for its young people. Ray Bennett, President of U.S. and Canada Franchising and Managed by Marriott Select Brands for Marriott International, tragically passed away at the age of 53. AEF worked closely with Ray as a fellow member of the DC Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Industry Advisory Board. He believed that to whom much has been given, much is expected, so he made opening doors for others a priority.

We will miss him deeply but will work to honor his legacy of service, servant leadership, mentorship, curiosity, and a commitment to help young people achieve their dreams. In his memory, a memorial fund was jointly created by Marriott, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and AEF.

You can contribute to the Ray Bennett Memorial Fund at bit.ly/raybennettmemorialfund.





DONORS

Inspirational

Elliott Ferguson & Telesa Via
Darien Wright

Leaders

Claire Carlin
Ernie Arias
Gail E. Smith-Howard
Germaine Lutman Schaefer
Greg Casten
Hospitality Ventures
Management LLC*

Mentors

David Willard
Gary Walbridge*
Jimmie Paschall*
Melissa A. Riley
Peter Scholl
Robin McClain
Sunny Sumter

College Ready

Carla Hall
Chelsea & Ryan Kaiser
Lisa Waldschmitt
Merike Henneman
Thomas Vecchioni

Workplace Learners

Anasia Hines
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Opposite page, top: A member of Roosevelt's Academy of Culinary Arts receives her apron from Willard InterContinental Executive Chef Luca De Marchis at the Gingerbread Display Contest in December.
Opposite page, bottom: Academy students inspect the newest models of cars at the 2022 Washington Auto Show. *Above:* Sebi Medina Tayac, Marketing Manager and Editorial Director for the Eaton Workshop, gives a tour to AEF's 2022 Career Ready Interns.



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Antonio Newton
Maya Angelou Public Charter School, 2022
Morgan State University, 2026

Left, top: Briana Thomas explains the significance of the Lee family and Lee’s Flower and Card Shop to the history of U Street and DC’s Black Broadway to Your Big Year attendees. *Bottom:* Makayla Cruz, a 2019 AEF intern, AEF Scholarship winner, and current North Carolina A&T Junior, shares what her internship meant to her during AEF’s Alumni Celebration in June.

This page, clockwise from top: An Academy student studies sculpture at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden during a 2020 Backyard Bound field trip; A student from Puerto Rico snaps photos of the U.S. Capitol during a 2019 Rite of Passage field trip; AEF Senior Manager Lisa Waldschmitt chats with students during Columbia Heights Educational Campus’ Career Day; Your Big Year students had the chance to directly network with and get to know attendees of the 2022 Student & Youth Travel Association’s Conference and Expo.

photo by Dani Fresh





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