



# DETERMINED TO SUCCEED

SUMMER EDITION • AUGUST 2019



## COLLEGE NEWS

### DTS DIRECTORS

The DTS College Class of 2020 is just months away from graduation and completing their 8 year journey with us. From schools as close to home as UCLA and Claremont McKenna to as far east as Barnard and University of Pennsylvania, the hard work, dreams and aspirations of these thirteen students will culminate in bright futures full of opportunity. Read on and hear their stories.

*Determined to Succeed is a college access and success program for first generation, low income students in LA. Learn more about our program at [dtsla.org](http://dtsla.org).*

DETERMINED TO  
SUCCEED

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome • P. 1

Diana + Isaiah • P. 2

Katherine + DTS By The  
Numbers • P. 3

Mario • P. 4

# DIANA

## FUTURE PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER

Approaching her last year at Franklin & Marshall, Diana reflects back on the many experiences that led her to the decision to major in public health, "Last summer, I performed research during a study abroad course in China and India, and this summer I am enrolled in an intensive 10-week public health program at the University of Michigan. Both these experiences combined real-world field experience with seminars and workshops to help prepare me to be a future public health leader."

Asked how DTS has impacted her life, she said, **"I firmly believe Determined to Succeed dismantles the systemic barriers for first generation students of color so that we can be successful not just in education, but in all aspects of our lives."**



# ISAIAH

## FUTURE FILMMAKER

A senior at Claremont McKenna, Isaiah took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in Prague last semester, followed by a summer internship at Access Live! this year: "I usher guests to stage, help out the production assistants, go on shoots, and have had the opportunity to attend movie premieres for *The Lion King* and *Hobbs and Shaw*."

Asked how DTS has been meaningful to his college/life goals, he said:

**"IT HAS BEEN REALLY HELPFUL TO HAVE SUPPORT THAT IS SO INVESTED IN MY SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING, THROUGH BOTH THE HIGHS AND LOWS."**

Isaiah is planning to join Teach for America after graduation.

# KATHERINE

## ART HISTORY MAJOR

With a dual major in Art History/Visual Arts and a minor in Economics, Katherine looks forward to pursuing a museum career. After studying art abroad this summer in Venice, Italy through the Columbia Summer Program, this Barnard student remembers many hours immersed in college preparatory work:

**"Throughout high school I spent a lot of time at the DTS office working on exam prep, essay training, and lots of other college preparatory activities. Without DTS, I would never have had the resources or support to do those things on my own."**

But the work paid off, **"DTS has watched me grow up. They have helped me to navigate college by being there for me every step of the way, but have also given me the space and freedom to figure out things on my own."**



## DTS BY THE NUMBERS

Your donation makes a difference in these students lives.



**70 students  
enrolled in DTS**



**100% students low  
income, first  
generation**



**58%/42%  
female to male  
student ratio**



**8 years  
program duration**



**600 hours of  
programming per  
student, annually**



**100% high school  
graduation & college  
acceptance**



**100% college  
students on track to  
graduate in 4 yrs**



**\$6,000 cost  
per student,  
annually**



# DETERMINED TO SUCCEED

2525 OCEAN PARK BLVD, SUITE 116  
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405

**FACT: 89% of first generation, low income college students will never obtain their degree. Help DTS continue to defy these odds and create sustainable futures through education.**

## MARIO

### PSYCHOLOGY & ECON MAJOR

A senior at UC Santa Cruz, Mario had an internship with GHC Housing Partners for the third consecutive summer, as well as an internship in the accounting department of Mesa West Capital, a division of Morgan Stanley. He hopes to secure a job back in Los Angeles after graduation.

Reflecting on DTS' impact on his life, he said:

**"Although the programming and college readiness were incredibly helpful, what affected me the most was being surrounded by other students of color that are just as, if not more, ambitious than I am. Also the network DTS has provided has been essential to securing internships and accessing help where I have needed it."**

*"Education is deeply important to our growth as people and as a community. When I was a child, my family was poor. No lawyer or judges lived in my neighborhood. I knew nothing about the Supreme Court ..."*

**You cannot dream of becoming something you do not know about. You have to learn to dream big. Education exposes you to what the world has to offer, to the possibilities open to you."**

*- Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice*