2023 ANNUAL REVIEW

American Experience Foundation
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.
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 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.
AEF IS GROWING WITH YOUR HELP.

As a hospitality stakeholder in Washington, DC, you should feel proud of the important work that educators, city leaders and organizations like the American Experience Foundation are doing to help prepare young people to take on college and their careers with confidence.

**IN 2023, AEF**
- Created work-based learning experiences for 350 students with hospitality industry partners
- Hosted 5 year-round and 11 summer high school interns
- Involved students in Destination DC events including the Member Holiday Celebration and Member Open House
- Led students behind the scenes both in Washington, DC and in New York City
- Amplified alumni’s leadership through the AEF Student Advisory Board

**AEF’S IMPACT WILL GROW EVEN MORE IN 2024 BY**
- Welcoming AEF’s second full-time employee, Brittany Anderson brings a wealth of industry and education expertise, including eight years as College & Career Coordinator at Ballou High School
- Welcoming a new Academy of Culinary Arts at Francis L. Cardozo Education Campus and Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at IDEA Public Charter School
- Sharing the wonders of Washington, DC with students through the return of Backyard Bound and Rite of Passage field trips
- Creating educator and industry professional development opportunities
- Celebrating over $130,000 in scholarships awarded since 2015

AEF has emerged as a national leader. It is an efficient organization with remarkable impact.

Students are the real stars of this story. Read more about their achievements here. Join us to support them by donating your time, expertise or resources.

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

Claire Carlin  
Executive Director  
American Experience Foundation  
Senior Vice President of Partnerships & Alliances  
Destination DC
IN 2023

AEF served over 575 students, including:

- 75 Students on FIELD TRIPS
- 35 Students involved in Destination DC EVENTS
- 16 INTERNS placed with hospitality employers
- 340 Students on EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
- $18,500 Awarded in SCHOLARSHIPS

SINCE 2015

AEF has served over 3,600 students, including:

- 630 Students on FIELD TRIPS
- 450 Students invited to special industry EVENTS
- 530 INTERNS placed with hospitality employers
- 144 INTERNS hosted by AEF
- 1,300 Students on EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
- $130,000 Awarded in SCHOLARSHIPS
Through unforgettable field trips, AEF INSPIRES students to think big about their futures. Students meet executives and managers and have hands-on experiences.
River Terrace students are both economically disadvantaged and have special needs which often results in their being not afforded the opportunities of their nondisabled peers. That makes programs like AEF’s so special to them. It is so important to their personal and professional growth to get the opportunity to travel to another city, experience places they may have only seen on TV and to meet executives who are excited to work with them in the future. As an educator, it makes me proud to know that there are so many people in the industry invested in our students’ success.”

Cynthia Privott
Director, Academy of Hospitality and Tourism,
River Terrace Education Campus
It was exciting to be a part of exposing my younger classmates to different careers in the hospitality industry and expanding their understanding of what the future could hold. I also learned a lot about my own future opportunities.”

Declan Bianchi
Senior, Jackson-Reed Academy of Hospitality and Tourism & AEF
Year-Round Intern 2023
AEF explored the Big Apple with 55 students and staff who learned about hospitality industry careers and heard personal stories from professionals at partner businesses in Times Square and beyond.

- New York Marriott Marquis
- W New York — Times Square
- Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
- SUMMIT One Vanderbilt
- Battle’s Transportation
- Pod Hotel Times Square
- Landry’s & Bill’s Bar and Burger New York

Facing page: A student takes a photo of Mark Bradford’s Pickett’s Charge at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Students are treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of The Duck & The Peach from Executive Chef Kat Petonito before lunch at La Collina. Students from Coolidge High School dream of a new luxury car at the 2023 Washington Auto Show.

This page: Javits Convention Center CEO Alan Steel greets students in New York City before their tour. Executive Chef Niko Marinos explains how food and beverage offerings at Javits incorporates the Center’s own honey made in rooftop hives. Students take a photo from Le Petit Chef on top of the New York Marriott Marquis looking next door to the W New York. Educators and students find themselves immersed in the artwork of Kenzo Digital at SUMMIT One Vanderbilt.
I have been honored to volunteer as a weekly presentation judge for AEF’s Career Ready Interns since 2020. It’s a joy to get insight into what young people are thinking about, how they perceive the world and our industry and be able to play a small role in helping them hone their professional skills. I’m always surprised by the level of thoughtfulness and creativity that goes into their presentations. These are the kinds of qualifications that our industry needs and that will set these young people apart as they begin their career journey.”

Diana Mayhew
President, National Cherry Blossom Festival

Left: Students learn about the aviation industry from airline partners at National Airport during the Careers at the Airport Expo. Facing page: Culinary students practice making an omelet at the Conrad Washington, DC during Destination DC’s Member Holiday Party.
AEF helps ensure that 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 their professional skills and networks.
CAREERS AT THE AIRPORT

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), led by Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Social Impact and AEF Board Member Tanisha Lewis, welcomed over 150 students to three events this spring including a day-long career fair, behind-the-scenes tours and networking with over 50 professionals across the organization.

“I thought the airline industry was pretty simple. But after my experience, I compare airports to a small city. There are so many different areas and roles, and everyone works together to make things run smoothly.”

Daniel
Coolidge High School

Like all employers, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is looking to attract new talent from a variety of backgrounds and abilities, especially from our own backyard! As a parent of an Academy alumna, I know firsthand how important it is to translate the lessons of the classroom into real life experiences. We were proud to work with AEF to introduce students to the hundreds of careers in the aviation industry and help them see themselves represented in our colleagues. We know it is vital to make sure they feel welcome, wanted and included.

Tanisha Lewis
VP for Diversity, Inclusion and Social Impact, MWAA
IN & OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

Year-Round Learning

FEBRUARY & MARCH  AEF volunteer professionals went to schools to help students create resumes and practice interview skills. They gave feedback on presentations and shared what career journeys really look like.

APRIL  To celebrate Hyatt’s Global Month of Service, students went behind-the-scenes at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill for a tour and shared lunch with hotel executives.

JUNE  The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Middle School CTE Expo introduced students from Browne, MacFarland and Kramer Middle Schools to AEF. They imagined how to advertise Washington, DC and share their hometown with the world!

AUGUST  AEF Student Advisory Board leaders and staff members shared their expertise through workshops in personal branding, etiquette in the workplace and maximizing your high school experience at Jackson-Reed’s Summer Bridge freshman orientation.

THANK YOU TO THESE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

- Aleatra Dimitrijevski – Cake-wich Craft Bake Shop
- Alex Wilson – (Retired) Jackson-Reed High School
- Alison Ricketts – Destination DC
- Alissa Stone – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Austin Palmer – Destination DC
- Brittany Edlow – Destination DC
- Calvin Morgan – Destination DC
- Cayla Lewis – Destination DC
- Charlie Ross – Destination DC
- Christen Miller – Destination DC
- Claire Carlin – Destination DC
- Darien Wright – Hospitality and Private Equity Executive
- David Kasprzyk – Embassy Suites by Hilton Washington, DC-Convention Center
- David-Shaun Daley – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Elliott L. Ferguson, II – Destination DC
- Emily Vecchioni – Destination DC
- Gail E. Smith-Howard – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Gerald Vuille – Republic Bank
- Hanane Nafidi – Carmine’s DC
- James Moore – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Jenna Wiese – Destination DC
- Jennifer Rodrigues – Destination DC
- Jerry Joseph – Destination DC
- Kelly Fitzpatrick – Destination DC
- Kimberly Newman – Event Contractors Lab
- Kirsten Olean – Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Lane Hartley – Omni Shoreham Hotel
- Laura Calhoun – Destination DC
- Lauren B. Brown – Award Winning Makeup Influencer & Beauty Content Creator
- Lee Callicutt – Visit Montgomery, MD
- Marcia B. Lee – UPO
- Maria Skrobacz – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Musa Kamara – Deen Ent LLC
- Nathalie Caillon Rytting SHRM-CP – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Nick Price – Destination DC
- Randy Thompson – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Rauf Shakir – USA Guided Tours
- Ray Cajudoy – Amadeus
- Raymond Messina – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Rico Ashab – Destination DC
- Ryan Covitt – Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Susan O’Keefe – Destination DC
- Taren Bradley – Dufour Collaborative
- Taylor Hartley – Capital Turnaround
- Terri Carter – Destination DC
- Tiffany Elum – Choose Chicago
- Valerie Sumner – VRS Meetings & Events Inc
- Yair Fraifeld – Destination DC
- Zoe Roberts – Destination DC
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Events with Destination DC

Sixteen Academy students helped execute our partner Destination DC’s December Member Holiday Celebration. They prepared omelets to order, registered guests and emceed the program. Students worked alongside professionals at Destination DC and host Conrad Washington, DC to spread holiday cheer and raise over $6,000 for AEF.

“Creating a positive workplace culture at Destination DC is a top priority for me. I know our team is our greatest asset and I’m always proud to host members and clients in our offices. Having high school interns as part of our mix is an important way our team can share their expertise, model professional conduct and learn from students, too. I make it a priority to connect with each intern and recognize their participation. I regularly encourage our interns to participate and practice public speaking by sharing their work in our team meetings.”

Elliott L. Ferguson, II
President & CEO,
Destination DC
**Events with Destination DC**

Six students from Coolidge’s Academy of Mass Media hosted an AEF Recording Studio at Destination DC’s February Member Open House.

The young media specialists interviewed, filmed and edited professionals who shared how they started in the hospitality and tourism industry and provided career advice. You can see the results at AEF’s YouTube channel.

**Facing page:** Academy students from Coolidge, Jackson-Reed and Roosevelt High Schools help with the execution of the Destination DC Member Holiday Party, including helping professionals navigate the event, leading the program and cooking behind the scenes in the kitchen.

**This page:** The team from Coolidge High School’s Academy of Mass Media interview and film industry professionals during Destination DC’s Open House event.
The Career and Technical Education Advanced Internship Program (AIP) is a mayoral initiative that places eligible high school seniors into paid and credit-bearing internship opportunities. These school-year-long internships are paid by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and connect students with professionals to help them build their skill sets and resumes.

AEF welcomed five AIP interns who developed new TikTok and Instagram pages for the Foundation. Interns shared their day-to-day experiences, discoveries of new places in DC and what it’s like being a high schooler in 2023.

This year’s AIP hospitality and tourism host employers included

- Concord Hospitality
- FishScale
- Fava Pot
- Health & Joy Services
- Hotel George
- Pebblebrook Hotel
- Founding Farmers
- Multicultural Intern Program

Declan Bianchi
Jackson-Reed 2023
Temple University 2027

Jordan Goings
Jackson-Reed 2023
Old Dominion University 2027

Mattison McDonald
Coolidge 2023
Washington & Jefferson College 2027

Aya Shaw
Jackson-Reed 2023
Morehouse College 2027

Kymberly Walker
Coolidge HS 2023
North Carolina Central University 2027

My internship gave me an opportunity to see many things that I could do in my career. Presenting to professionals every Thursday helped me become more comfortable with my public speaking, and connected me with interesting people. I became quite ambitious during my internships because the American Experience Foundation can connect you to anything in the hospitality field and give you the support to make it happen.”

Mattison McDonald
AEF AIP Intern 2023
AEF Career Ready Intern, 2021 & 2023
Coolidge High School, Class of 2023
Washington & Jefferson College, Class of 2027
This summer, AEF and Destination DC welcomed eleven interns to the team. They met with hospitality executives, explored the city and considered how the Washington, DC hospitality industry can help make our city welcoming and safe for everyone who visits and lives here.

- Damari Smith, Jackson-Reed 2025
- Destiny King, Roosevelt 2023
- Dyamond Timmons, Ballou 2024
- Elsy Salvador-Jimenez, Jackson-Reed 2023
- Jazmyne Pring, Jackson-Reed 2023
- Kaden Johnson, Coolidge 2024
- Keiree James, Coolidge 2023
- Mattison McDonald, Coolidge 2023
- Milan Beverly, Coolidge 2023
- Nakyia Wimbish, Roosevelt 2024
- Thailan Robinson, Coolidge 2023

I learned that just because you live somewhere doesn’t mean you know everything about what goes on there. I learned about the BIDs (Business Improvement Districts), and that I like exploring new places and taking walks around the city just to see new things.”

I learned that it’s normal to have multiple career changes and that most people wouldn’t have their job without networking. The hospitality industry is just cool in general.”

I learned there is way more to hotels than just the rooms everyone sees. There’s an entire team of people behind the scenes that make sure everything works together.”

—AEF Career Ready Interns
CAREER READY INTERNSHIPS (CONTINUED)

To celebrate this successful 6-week internship, AEF and the Omni Shoreham Hotel hosted a networking luncheon for Hospitality & Tourism, Culinary Arts, Mass Media and Information Technology Career Ready Interns and their host employers from across the city.

Interns were treated to lunch and an exclusive tour of the historic hotel. Jon Armstrong Photography provided professional headshots for all in attendance.

Weekly, interns practiced their public speaking and creativity skills by presenting to a room full of industry leaders on topics ranging from marketing to knowing your audience and proposing policy changes.

Thank you to all the professionals who volunteered their time and expertise during these weekly presentations and the Texas A&M Bush School of Government & Public Service for hosting the final presentation session at their downtown DC campus.

THANKS TO OUR WEEKLY PRESENTATION JUDGES

- Alex Wilson, [Retired] Jackson-Reed High School
- Allison Johnson, Destination DC
- Angela Kramer, Friends of Peirce Mill
- Bianca DeStout, Caesars Entertainment
- Brittany Anderson, Ballou High School
- Brittany Edlow, Destination DC
- Carlie Smith, Destination DC
- Casey Paul, Destination DC
- Charles Williams, Expedia Group
- Charlie Ross, Destination DC
- Christine Faiman, CMP, Marriott International
- Claire Carlin, Destination DC
- Courtney Scott, Destination DC
- Diamond Hunter, Destination DC
- Diana Mayhew, National Cherry Blossom Festival
- Eunique Davis, Eaton Hotel
- Grace Kelleher, Destination DC
- Jennifer Rodrigues, Destination DC
- Julian Hipkins, Roosevelt High School
- Laura Calhoun, Destination DC
- Laura Mandala, Martin's Tavern
- Lauren Brown, Entrepreneur & Beauty Influencer
- Lee Callicutt, Visit Montgomery, MD
- Lindsey Wahowiak, American Public Health Association
- Meili Liu, Concord Hospitality
- Michael Akin, LINK Strategic Partners
- Mona Thomas, FDIC
- Natalie Walker, Eastern Point Collective
- Rauf Shakir, USA Guided Tours
- Rico Ashab, Destination DC
- Shelby Luzzi, Destination DC
- Tara Miller, Destination DC
- Taylor Hartley, Capital Turnaround
- Tony Scurry, 7 Pointe Planning, Inc
- Valerie Sumner, VRS Events
- Victoria Alfieri, Destination DC
- Zakiya Edens, Coolidge High School
- Zoe Roberts, Destination DC
THANKS TO OUR WORK-BASED LEARNING PARTNERS

AC Hotel by Marriott Washington DC Convention Center
★ Mark Namdar, General Manager
★ Jessica Suess, Director of Sales

Anacostia Business Improvement District
★ Kristina Noell, Executive Director
★ Ashley Templeton, Marketing and Arts & Culture Program Manager

Art Museum of the Americas
★ Adriana Ospina, Director

ARTECHOUSE
★ Joshua Feldman, Director of Marketing & Sales

Capital One Café Anacostia
★ Sandra Padilla, Associate

Capital Pride Alliance
★ Ryan Bos, Executive Director
★ Marquia Parnell, Marketing & Media Chair
★ Mike Alexander, Development Director
★ Tiffany Lyn Royster, Celebration Chair

Council of the District of Columbia
★ Brooke Pinto, Councilmember for Ward 2 (photo at bottom left)
★ Victoria Casarrubias, Communications Director
★ Zoe Ades, Communications Director

Craig Kraft Studios
★ Max Taylor, Studio Assistant

Darien Wright

DC Public Library
★ Stacey Lucas, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator
★ Linnea Hegarty, Director of Events, Exhibits & Development
★ Barbara Cornell, Docent

Destination DC
★ Bill Adams, Director of Sales
★ Brittany Edlow, Talent Acquisition Manager
★ Charlie Ross, Partnerships & Alliances Assistant
★ Danielle Davis, VP of Communications
★ Darren Gan, Global Tourism Development Manager
★ Shelby Luzzi, Senior Manager, Sustainability
★ Zoe Roberts, Membership Manager

DowntownDC Business Improvement District
★ Cecily Mendie, Franklin Park Manager
★ Latalsha Stiger, Events and Strategic Partnerships Associate
★ Melanie Nwosu, CMP, Director of Events and Partnerships

Gallaudet University
★ Danny Himes, Administrative Support Specialist
★ Christopher Hoffmann, Director, Campus Design and Planning
★ Kiran Mapes, Associate Architectural Designer

Holiday Inn Washington — Central/White House
★ David Kusnetz, Assistant Director of Sales

International Spy Museum (photo at top left)
★ Michael Kruelle, VP of Operations
★ Afua Anokwa, Marketing and Communications Director

Jon Armstrong Photography
★ Jon Armstrong, Owner

Marriott International
★ Skye Curry, Manager for Global Quality

Omni Shoreham Hotel (photo at middle left)
★ Mark Roche-Garland, General Manager
★ Lane Hartley, Director of Sales and Marketing
★ Adedoyin Siwoniku, Catering Sales Manager
★ Belinda Alcoser, Junior Associate
★ Evelyn Consolla, Summer Intern

Selina Union Market
★ Maria Bastasch, Experience Manager

Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
★ B Doug (Brandon) Douglas, Activator

Texas A&M Bush School of Government & Public Service
★ Jay Silveria, Executive Director
★ Robyn Small, Communications Director
★ Brenden Chaney, Program Manager of Events and Donor Relations
AEF invests in DC high school students through educational opportunities to cultivate the next generation of hospitality industry professionals. Since 2015, AEF has provided 58 scholarships totaling more than $130,000 in awards to deserving students and alumni who have demonstrated success, leadership and service at school, at work and in their communities.
2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

DAVID ISELIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE
Jean-Pierre Roberts*
Eastern Connecticut State University
(Jackson-Reed High School 2022)

RAY BENNETT SCHOLARSHIP FOR LEADERSHIP
Mattison McDonald
Washington & Jefferson College
(Coolidge High School 2023)

AKIRA WILSON SCHOLARSHIP FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Jennifer Rivera-Martínez
Marymount University
(Jackson-Reed High School 2023)

AEF SCHOLARSHIP
Francisco Hernandez-Pineda
Catholic University
(Columbia Heights Educational Campus 2023)

AEF ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP
Cenaria Fells-Watson*
Towson University
(Columbia Heights Educational Campus 2021)

AEF HONORARIUMS
Abide Kao
Columbia Heights Educational Campus 2024

Milan Beverly
Louisiana State University
(Coolidge High School 2023)

Orion Williams
Ohio University
(Coolidge High School 2023)

*Multiple year winner

Left: Alumni, scholarship winners, and educators gather at Clyde’s of Gallery Place for the annual AEF Alumni Celebration in June.
REMEMBERING

This year, we tragically lost two members of our community.

Talented student Akira Wilson attended Jackson-Reed High School, where she was a member of the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, and dual-enrolled at Trinity University. Akira interned with Concord Hospitality at the Wharf and planned to attend Florida State University. She hoped to study mortuary science to one day open her own funeral home to help families honor their loved ones.

We continue her legacy through the Akira Wilson Memorial Scholarship Fund for future Academy students at Jackson-Reed.

To contribute, please visit bit.ly/akirawilson.

Joe Shymanski was a beloved photographer and artist by trade. He was also a teacher, mentor and friend to many. The work of Joe and his business partner and former mentee, Alton McDougle, is familiar to Eastern Market and Downtown Holiday Market customers and now appears in homes and offices across Washington, DC and beyond.

The Joe Shymanski Scholarship Fund supports students studying photography and media in his adopted home of Washington, DC.

To contribute, please visit bit.ly/joeshymanski.
CELEBRATING

CENARIA FELLS-WATSON is a three-time winner of the American Experience Foundation Scholarship.

A 2021 graduate of the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at the Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Cenaria was also an AEF intern. She is now a nursing student at Towson University.

“My desire to go into nursing was sparked during my tenth-grade year. I realized there were disparities and major issues in the medical field involving people of color and women.

The skills I learned in the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism and my AEF internship — the power and importance of communication, how to effectively work as a team and, of course, customer service — are very important in my future nursing career. Making people feel welcome and cared for are the keys to both my and my patients’ success, especially in a hospital.”

CELEBRATING

BRITNEY RIVERA-MARTINEZ is a three-time winner of the American Experience Foundation Scholarship.

A 2019 alumna of Wilson [Jackson-Reed] High School’s Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, Britney recently graduated from the renowned Nolan School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University with a degree in Hotel Administration & Management. In addition to a high school internship at the Aspen Institute and working in the Diversity & Inclusion Program at Cornell, Britney also founded the first organization for Central American Cornell students (Asociación de CentroAmericanos Unidos).

“As the first in my immediate family to complete college and the first woman in my family to pursue higher education, this milestone represents not only my personal achievements but also those of my loved ones. I’m deeply grateful for their sacrifices and support. I am immensely thankful for the greater support system that helped me reach this point, including the American Experience Foundation.”
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**AEF at the Destinations International Conference** The American Experience Foundation, the Travel & Sports Legacy Foundation (Arlington, TX) and the Choose Chicago Foundation shared best practices on how destination marketing organizations can work more closely with local communities through affiliated foundations.

They showcased successful strategies for advocacy, workforce and youth development and how these strategies help to build sustainable workforce pipelines, community pride and economic health.

*From left to right:*
- **Mary German, CMP, CDME**
  Founder & Executive Director, Travel & Sports Legacy Foundation
  Chief Operating Officer, Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **Lisa Waldschmitt**
  Associate Director, American Experience Foundation
- **Roz Stuttley, CMP, CDE**
  Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Choose Chicago
  Executive Director, Choose Chicago Foundation

**AEF featured in Meetings Today** AEF and Destination DC were featured in Meetings Today as a national model of the ways destination marketing organizations and local nonprofit organizations can partner to make a difference.

“Many people in the meetings and hospitality industry describe their career journey as non-linear, some not knowing what those in the world of meetings and destination marketing did – or that they even existed at all. DDC and AEF are just one example of organizations doing the oftentimes tricky work of helping educate and expose the youth of today to jobs in hospitality tomorrow, creating a roadmap for other CVBs across the country.”
ALUMNI PROGRAMS

In June, AEF and Clyde’s of Gallery Place welcomed scholarship winners and DC Career Academy alumni to the annual Alumni Celebration! To start the party off, guests were treated to a professional mocktail class. The AEF Student Board of Directors hosted the program. NAF Manager of Alumni Engagement, Susan Climan, made the trip from New York to attend.

Members of AEF’s Student Advisory Board work to connect with their peers in the classroom; this year, they brought pizza party hospitality to Academies at Jackson-Reed, Ballou and Coolidge High Schools and talked about their own experiences in the Academies as well as their transitions from high school to career.

AEF looks forward to expanding our programs and events for alumni in 2024!

“This year, I’ve had the privilege of visiting three high school hospitality, tourism, and mass media classrooms to share top tips on networking and personal branding. Returning to the classroom where I first learned these principles was a full-circle moment!”

Zoe Roberts
AEF Student Advisory Board Chair & Membership Manager, Destination DC

At right, top: AEF Student Advisory Board Members Zoe Roberts, Diamond Hunter and Lauren Brown speak at their alma mater, Jackson-Reed High School, about their college and career journeys. Bottom: AEF Board Member Skye Curry speaks with Diamond at the AEF Alumni Celebration at Clyde’s.
**EVENT PARTNERS**

**JULY 4TH CELEBRATION**

**Financial Partners**

- Alto
- Ampa Events
- Bialek's Music
- Bidwell Restaurant
- Blue Duck Tavern
- Brian Curry The Good Liar
- Broadway at the National
- Capitol Hill Hotel
- Christophe Fox
- Courtyard by Marriott Washington, DC Dupont Circle
- District Winery
- Dumbarton Oaks Museum
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Convention Center
- George Washington’s Mount Vernon
- Here’s The Scoop
- Hotel Washington

**In-Kind Partners**

- APhA
- Alto
- Ampa Events
- Bialek’s Music
- Bidwell Restaurant
- Blue Duck Tavern
- Brian Curry The Good Liar
- Broadway at the National
- Capitol Hill Hotel
- Christophe Fox
- Courtyard by Marriott Washington, DC Dupont Circle
- District Winery
- Dumbarton Oaks Museum
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Convention Center
- George Washington’s Mount Vernon
- Here’s The Scoop
- Hotel Washington

- Hyatt Regency Crystal City
- Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
- Jo Malone London
- Morton’s The Steakhouse New York
- Moxy Washington, DC Downtown
- National Cherry Blossom Festival
- New York Marriott Marquis
- NTD 360
- Olivia Macaron
- Park Hyatt Washington DC
- Plants Alive!
- PMI Parking
- Professional Image Photography
- Right Proper Brewing Company
- SUMMIT One Vanderbilt
- Swingers Navy Yard
- The Phillips Collection
- Thompson Hotel
- VIDA Fitness
- Washington Nationals
- White House Nannies
- Willard InterContinental Washington, DC
- Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

**MEMBER VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT** (photos at right)

**In-Kind Partners**

- Bikram Yoga Works
- Convive Brands
- Extraordinary Entertainment
- Kick Axe Throwing DC
- Professional Image Photography
- Swingers Navy Yard

**Volleyball Teams**

- Booking.com
- Concord Hospitality
- Destination DC
- The Dupont Circle Hotel
- Embassy Suites Washington DC Convention Center
- EventsDC
- Freeman
- Get Plated Catering
- Grand Hyatt Washington
- Highgate Hotels
- Homewood Suites DC Convention Center
- Hosts DC
- LINK Strategic Partners
- LRA PR
- Residence Inn Capitol Hill/Navy Yard
- Reston Limousine
- Rochambeau
- Thompson DC Navy Yard
- Washington Hilton
- Willard InterContinental Washington, DC
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

In-Kind Partners

Alto
American University
Arena Stage
ARTECHOUSE
Big Bus Washington DC
Broadway at the National
Cake-wich Craft
City Experiences
DC Ghost Tours
Downtown Holiday Market
Escape Game DC
Fava Pot
Fogo de Chão Washington, DC
George Washington’s Mount Vernon
Hard Rock Cafe
Holistically Original
Hook Hall
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
Jo Malone London
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Kraken Axes
Morton’s The Steakhouse Washington DC
National Cherry Blossom Festival
National Geographic Museum
Pupatella Neapolitan Pizza
Royal Sonesta Washington DC Dupont Circle
Seize The App
Schlow Restaurant Group
Swingers Navy Yard
Uncle Chip’s
Westin Washington DC City Center

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

This February, our partners at Capitol Hill Volleyball Classic hosted the 7th Annual Destination DC Member Volleyball Tournament to Benefit AEF. Teams from across the city came together for a night of friendly competition and raising funds for AEF’s scholarships.

We thank Capitol Hill Volleyball and Events DC for their many years of partnership.
OUR PARTNERS

Financial Partners

★ Alto
★ Ben’s Chili Bowl
★ Booking.com
★ Clyde’s Restaurant Group
★ Donohoe Hospitality Services
★ Encore
★ Jon Armstrong Photography
★ LINK Strategic Partners
★ Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
★ NFP
★ Westin Washington DC City Center
## 2023 AEF ANNUAL REVIEW

### DONORS

**Inspirational**  
Elliott L. Ferguson, II & Telesa Via  
Gail Smith-Howard

**Leaders**  
Alexander Wilson*  
Arne Baker  
Eric Kincaid  
Greg Casten  
James MacGregor  
Rauf Shakir  
Ronald Bracco  
Zhihao Liu

**Mentors**  
Anastasiya Schreiner  
Marissa Schlaifer  
Michael Akin  
Misty Knack  
Rico Ashab

**College Ready**  
Anasia Hines  
Claire Carlin  
Claire Marble  
Darya Bullock*  
Jennifer Rodrigues  
Patricia Blake  
Robin A. McClain  
Ruthie Walker  
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*Donated to the Akira Wilson Memorial Fund  
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**Pictured at left, top:** DDC staff at Columbia Heights Educational Campus’ Career Day: Tiffany Elum, Erica Riddle O’Neill, Erika Jones, Cayla Lewis and Jared Kollehe.

**Bottom:** Destination DC Director of Convention Sales Bill Adams and Videographer Robert Urteaga chats with students from Coolidge High School’s Academy of Mass Media during the Open House event.
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