Message from the President

Recently, I was asked to speak at the dedication of a new charter school located in Ward 7 of Washington, DC, and named in honor of a dear friend's father, and also a benefactor to the Ron Brown Scholar Program, Mr. Norman Rales. My comments about Norman's legacy led me to think about our own journey over the past 22 years at the Ron Brown Scholar Program and about the life stories and accomplishments that our 440 Scholars are in various stages of creating; the building blocks of their own future legacies.

Damian Williams, a Ron Brown Scholar from the class of 1998 once said, “From the moment I became a Ron Brown Scholar, I've been keenly aware that this is far more than a four-year honor. It's a lifelong commitment to the Program's core values and critical mission. And it's recognition that while we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, we have a duty to lift up a new generation of leaders who will stand on ours.” It's Scholars like Damian who remind us all that what sets the Ron Brown Scholar Program apart, is the ongoing relationship it fosters with Scholars, and the support, encouragement, and career opportunities it continues to provide for these extraordinary young men and women. Once a Scholar, they are part of the Ron Brown family for life. We've seen how these bright minds have left their mark on the world and continue to implement Ron Brown’s mantra to “keep the door open and the ladder down for others to follow.”

As always, we’re open to new ideas, continue to look for ways to keep our scholars, donors, and friends engaged, and to encourage new suggestions and ideas to expand the Ron Brown Scholar Program. In the beginning of 2017, at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the Program embarked on increasing the endowment to $20 million by 2020. This would give us the opportunity to award a minimum of twenty scholarships annually to deserving young men and women. The endowment value at the start of the campaign was $14.88 million, our current value is $17.4 million. All of this has been possible due to the generosity and dedication of all of you, who have put your trust in us and continued to support our mission and vision.

Tony Pilaro, our program’s founder and initial benefactor, recognized the power of legacy-building through human interconnectedness as he envisioned a family of leaders dedicated to overcoming the effects of inequality in all its forms and manifestations. Our wise friend, Norman Rales, used to say that in life it’s not so important where you start, but where you finish. Norman knew that while talent is distributed equally, opportunity is not and that, sometimes, all that is needed is a fair chance, an inner drive, and the exposure to new ideas in order to thrive. Legacies allow communities and individuals to control their own narrative.

A legacy isn’t what is printed in an obituary or etched onto a tombstone. It is so much more than monetary inheritances and financial bequests. The important legacies are measured by the impact on those who will carry on our efforts to attain equality and justice long after we are gone.

Thank you beyond measure for your invaluable support of the Program and our Scholars over the years. Your continued commitment is appreciated.

We hope you will have a most wonderful holiday season and look forward to connecting in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Mallory
President and CEO
Update from the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association President

On behalf of the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association (RBSAA), thank you for your continued support of the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

I have had the privilege of serving as President of our Alumni Association for the past ten months now, and I am excited about where we are headed. Our newly formed executive level committees are providing Alumni with an opportunity to shape our organization in four areas of primary focus. These are: Fundraising, Data, Technology and Communications, Regional Chapters, and Strategic Planning.

On Fundraising, we continue to work to meet Robert Smith’s challenge of raising $1 million in alumni contributions by 2022 (see a report on our progress on page 11). We are pleased to announce that 100 percent of the funds raised this year as part of this challenge will go towards providing scholarships for the 2019 Ron Brown Scholars.

Our Data, Technology and Communications committee (chaired by Jim Cunningham, RBS 2013) is working to improve our technological capabilities supporting our other functions. We look forward to rolling out new platforms and tools over the next year that will allow Scholars and Alumni to more easily stay connected.

Our Regional Chapter committee (co-chaired by Angela Smedley, RBS 2000 and newly appointed Board member Leslie Turner, RBS 2013) empowers delegates for each of our twelve regional chapters to carry out activities that best meet the needs and desires of Scholars living in those areas. These local groups will provide opportunities for Scholars to come together to share a meal, volunteer with a local school, perform community service, or to discuss important topics around personal and career growth. We are excited to welcome Leslie to the board, who will play a key role in coordinating these regional events.

Finally, our Strategic Planning committee (chaired by Esther Owolabi, RBS 2011) is working to build and develop the RBSAA of tomorrow. This work begins with a comprehensive review of our current mission, activities, policies and structure. After this, we look forward to developing a strategic plan that will take the RBSAA to new heights.

We expect the result of all these efforts will be an Alumni Association that is thriving and sustainable, which connects, empowers and engages Ron Brown Scholars for life. Thank you again for all that you do to support the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

Marquise McGraw, PhD, RBS 2002
RBSAA President
Hope Jackson (RBS 2016) Interns at Anti-Defamation League

Hope Jackson (RBS 2016) is currently an undergraduate at Duke University. She is an optimistic and focused thinker. Like all members of her Ron Brown Scholar family, she is passionate about learning and serving those in her community. Seeing others realize their potential inspires Hope to continue realizing her own. Her professional goal is to become a physician (Obstetrics and Gynecology) and to serve patients across the developing world.

At Duke, Hope found the disparate academic views concerning justice and prejudice toward countries and people in the middle east both fascinating and disturbing. As someone who enjoys exploring controversial spaces and the culture of that region, she sought an avenue to pursue a deeper understanding.

Ron Brown Scholar Program Trustee, Jonathan Greenblatt, National Director and CEO of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL); a former Special Assistant to Barack Obama; and Director of the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation was apprised of Hope’s interests and her deep-rooted belief in empowerment through education. Jonathan facilitated a 2018 summer internship for her at the Anti-Defamation League in New York City where she could gain perspectives on, among other topics, the histories and oppression of both Jewish and Black identities in America. During her internship, Hope worked to improve the ADL’s young adult leadership program: The Glass Leadership Institute. She worked on formatting their application design and did research compiling data regarding minority professional leadership programs in the United States and abroad.

During her internship, Hope lived at the International House in New York City, which she describes as a community of intellectually like-minded young people hailing from everywhere, doing everything, and living under the same roof. Her second undergraduate major is Global Health, so this experience was especially valuable for her. She quite enjoyed being the youngest resident there and just soaking up the expertise from her peers.

Hope is looking forward to returning to the “amazingly crazy” atmosphere of Duke this fall where she will continue her studies in Biology and Global Health. She remains committed to her goal of becoming a physician.

The Program welcomed Bibi Rahim to the staff as Executive Assistant in October. Bibi has been a resident of Charlottesville for 15 years, and graduated from the University of Virginia in 2015 with a BA in Anthropology. Bibi values the importance of giving back and encouraging civic engagement among community members. She is passionate about making a difference and coming into contact with people of varying backgrounds and learning about the different cultures, religions, and ways of life around the world.

Bibi served as an Immigration Intern and as a Resource Development Intern with the International Rescue Committee, a global humanitarian aid and development organization that offers emergency aid and long-term assistance to refugees and those displaced by war, persecution, or natural disaster. Prior to joining the Ron Brown team, she worked as a Behavioral Analyst with Corporate Consulting, a business consulting company that has been in business for 30 years.

As a first generation college student, Bibi is familiar with the challenges of weaving through the college application process. She is passionate about furthering the Ron Brown Scholar Program’s mission because she sees the guidance and support that the Program offers. When we give our youth the guidance and tools they need, it’s amazing to see what they achieve.
Visionary Stance, Extraordinary Impact

Scholars connect, reflect and give back at Triennial Conference

At left: Scholars are greeted by Michael Mallory as they arrive at the University of Virginia’s Lambeth Field dorms. The UVA School of Law hosted the Triennial, held August 1–5 in Charlottesville, the home of the Program. Top right: Participants in Scholar Ty Moore’s (RBS 2002) breakout session “Real Power.” Bottom right: Members of the first class of Scholars reunite at a reception for Charlottesville friends and volunteers.

From left: Scholar Brennan Gould (RBS 2001), President & CEO of the Charlottesville Community Foundation, welcomed attendees to Charlottesville. Keynote addresses were given by Risa Goluboff, Dean of the UVA School of Law; Susan Bro, Founder of the Heather Heyer Foundation; Dr. Joseph Williams, Associate Professor in the Counselor Education Program at UVA’s Curry School of Education; and Dr. L. D. Britt, Henry Ford Professor and Edward J. Brickhouse Chairman of Eastern Virginia Medical School and member of UVA’s Board of Visitors.

Scholars shared wisdom with their peers during breakout sessions, including (from left) “Making TV: a Play by Play on Creating Your Own Show” with Crystal Boyd (RBS 2006), who is developing the TV show Downtown Girls for Warner Brothers; “Running Shoes: A Quick Guide to Political Engagement” with Chaz Beasely (RBS 2004), North Carolina State Representative; “Get Paid Doing What You Love: 5 Steps to a Successful Career Transition” with Eleanor Branch (RBS 2001), Corporate Strategist, and Caleb Franklin (RBS 2001, not pictured), Managing Partner of Matter Advisors; “Innovation and Disruption: Unconventional Problem Solving Through Medical Software” with Jon Piper (RBS 1998); and “What’s Good in the Hood? Researching Hip-Hop Culture and Its Influence on the Ethical Values of Youth” with Kalonji Nzinga, PhD (RBS 2002) writer and researcher in Cultural Psychology.
Scholars visited James Madison’s Montpelier for guided tours of the home’s exhibition on slavery, *The Mere Distinction of Colour*. The Triennial also included a day trip to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Top left: Jim Ryan, new President of the University of Virginia, joined Scholars and friends for a Q&A led by Dr. Travis Gayles (RBS 2007). Bottom left: President Ryan with Cordell Faulk, Assistant Dean and Chief Admissions Officer at the UVA School of Law and member of the Ron Brown Leaders Network Advisory Council; Vanessa Evans-Grevious, Ron Brown Scholar Program Vice President; Craig Littlepage, Special Advisor to the President and Director of Athletics Emeritus for the University; and Michael Mallory, Ron Brown Scholar Program President. At right: Ron Brown Scholars and Program leadership with President Ryan.

A Saturday night banquet provided a final chance to connect. From left: Megan Donovan (RBS 1997) and Michael Mallory. Jim Cunningham (RBS 2013) shares his vocal talents. At the close of the evening, Scholars took to the dance floor.
This summer I traveled to New York City to convene with the Ron Brown Leaders network—a community of driven, passionate people who connect and support each other in the goal to succeed in college and beyond. It was so inspiring to meet and learn from my peers.

The Summit kicked off with the Women in STEM Breakfast, where we listened to an amazing panel: Camille Wardrop Alleyne, EdD, NASA Rocket Scientist and Humanitarian; Ron Brown Scholar Eleanor Branch, Entrepreneur and Corporate Strategist; Nydia Clayton, Senior Manager at Deloitte; and Sharon Brickhouse Martin, Founder and President at Brickhouse Martin Healthcare Engineering. These women shared inspiring lessons and stories:

- **Speak up!** Get into the habit of speaking to be heard and also being an attentive, active listener. One way to develop this habit is to advocate for causes you are passionate about. Eleanor and I connected over our shared passion for women's economic empowerment and financial literacy.
- **Be a problem-solver.** This skill is invaluable as you navigate new experiences, roles, and challenges.
- **It is okay to ask your network (peers, professors, mentors, family, etc.) for help.** This is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness.
- **Have an abundance mentality and not a scarcity mentality.** There is room for everyone at the top. Pulling others down will not bring you up.

I asked the panel for advice for people like me who are starting their freshman year of college in the fall. The responses included:

- **Don't be afraid to ask for help and take advantage of resources,**
- **Be intellectually curious and say yes to new challenges and experiences,**
- **Try new activities on and off campus,** and
- **Be proud of and true to your authentic self.**

One thing I really loved was getting to answer really thought-provoking questions such as, “What is success to you?” My favorite response was from a peer who said that he will know he is successful when people around him are also successful, too.

I am already putting what I learned this summer to use, and I can’t wait for next year's Summit!

### Partnerships Yield Results

In 2017–18, the Ron Brown Leaders Network facilitated the placement of **53 exceptional students** in jobs and career development positions with our Partners:

- **30 internships**
- **17 career employment positions**
- **4 special events**
- **2 fellowships**

### Leaders Network Partners:

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<tr>
<th>Welcome new partner</th>
<th>CapitalOne</th>
<th>Deloitte</th>
<th>Farmers Insurance</th>
<th>Google</th>
<th>Lockheed Martin</th>
<th>OneSource Strategy</th>
<th>OTIS</th>
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<td>KCI</td>
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<td>Steptoe &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>Travelers</td>
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<td>Wake Forest University</td>
<td>Weber Shandwick</td>
<td>engage.moss</td>
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A Community Like No Other
by Ellen Manford, 2018 GPS Navigator, Penn ’22

Ellen Manford was an active participant on the GPS platform throughout her senior year. She submitted this essay reflecting on her experience as part of an application for the GPS Navigator of the Year Scholarship, of which she was one of 11 recipients. Now a first year student at the University of Pennsylvania, Ellen spoke about GPS to high school students at a College Access and Success Workshop co-presented by GPS and the University of Pennsylvania on October 27.

“Remember the STAR method,” I repeated in my head as I drove home from school, “Situation, Task, Action, and Result.” I have always been confident in myself and my abilities, but it was feeling a sense of support and preparedness provided by the students, alumni, and staff of the Guided Pathway Support Program that encouraged me to strive for success. On February 1, I drove home feeling more prepared than ever to “nail” my Penn alumni interview. Getting accepted to the University of Pennsylvania has been a dream of mine since before I can remember, and looking back, it was GPS that helped me turn this dream into a reality. I had spent the past week studying the slides from the “How to Nail an Admissions Interview” lecture posted on the platform, and whatever nerves I had regarding my interview disappeared. I was able to express to my interviewer how I can make a difference on their campus. This was not the first time I had reaped the benefits of being a part of such a supportive forum. I am extremely grateful for the resources GPS provides, especially amidst such a strenuous time like college application season. GPS staff provided me with monumental support with my application essays, helping me find the best possible way to tell my story of how my faith, culture, family, and struggles have shaped me into the woman I am today. I learned how to set myself apart and show my dream school why they should admit a student like me. The beauty behind the GPS community is that there are so many students who feel the way I do. I talked to many other members and constantly saw posts by members from all over the country who also attributed their college and scholarship successes to being a part of GPS. This past year, I have been extremely grateful to be a part of this community, one that gives students like me a platform to feel supported, encouraged, and like we can achieve anything we set our minds to.

GPS is funded by
Fund II Foundation

GPS Educational Partners:

GPS Kicks Off 2018–19 Cycle

September 20, 2018, marked the official start of the 2018–19 cycle of GPS, our third year of empowering African American high school juniors, seniors, their parents and counselors during the college preparation and selection process. This year’s class of Navigators is the largest yet, with 3,316 accounts on the GPS platform.

On kickoff day in Charlottesville, GPS hosted area educators at a College Counselor Appreciation Breakfast, where they learned more about the program and shared ideas on how to serve even more students in the years to come.

The GPS team welcomes Joanna Rudnick, who most recently served as the Dean of College Counseling at Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy in Chicago. Joanna has a BS in Dance from Northwestern University and a MA from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration.

Learn more and apply for GPS at rbsgps.com

GPS Educational Partners:

GPS In-Person Outreach

While the GPS online platform allows students across the country access to support and resources, the GPS team is also increasing the program’s in-person outreach. This August (above), as part of the Ron Brown Scholar Program’s Triennial Conference in Charlottesville, GPS staff and Ron Brown Scholars presented a College Prep Panel to local students. Earlier in the summer, GPS partnered with Ron Brown Scholar Marjada Tucker (RBS 2014) to present college access information to high school students attending Marjada’s Northeast Mississippi Student Leadership Conference at the Mississippi School for Math and Science.
What are Ron Brown Scholars Up To?

Periodically we check in with all of the Scholars to ask What are Ron Brown Scholars Up To? These are spring/summer 2018 updates from our Scholars in the classes of 1997–2009.

CLASS OF 1997
Myra L. Bean just celebrated five years with the Department of Defense working at American Forces Network. They provide television and movie programming to US troops, their families and government contractors in 191 countries. She acquires television and movie programming and also directs the Family and Movie channels. Myra and her partner just built a beautiful new house in the SoCal desert. They have two gorgeous daughters, Peri (5) and Ava (2). Peri has autism and their family has become very active in the special needs community through event participation, fundraising, and Special Olympics. They’ve launched an Instagram account (IG: @overperi) and will launch a YouTube channel in the fall to provide entertainment for kids with autism by a super special kid with autism.

CLASS OF 2002
Amber K. Johnson just finished her year as UCSF’s Internal Medicine Chief Resident for Quality and Safety. She took a few weeks to vacation with family in Cyprus before moving to New York at the end of July. In August, she started her role as Director of Primary Care Integration for New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She will continue to see patients in primary care clinic and the hospital in Harlem.

CLASS OF 2004
Crystal Paul moved to Seattle from Oakland, and started as the Travel and Outdoors Reporter for the Seattle Times. She’s staying busy traveling around the Pacific Northwest and covering stories about inclusivity in the outdoors.

CLASS OF 2005
Mondaire Jones recently left the practice of corporate law at Davis Polk & Wardwell in Manhattan to join the Westchester County Attorney’s Office, where he is a civil litigator. He’s enjoying being a full-time public servant and is excited about his new home of New Rochelle. In his spare time, Mondaire remains active in progressive Democratic politics. He also recently was elected to the boards of the New York Civil Liberties Union and Yonkers Partners in Education.

CLASS OF 2006
Kory Kantenga is currently doing a postdoctoral fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

CLASS OF 2008
Kani Keita has returned to New York after 3.5 years of splitting her time between London and Zürich. She looks forward to catching up with everyone.

CLASS OF 2009
Michael Mekonnen joined many of his classmates at his fifth year graduation anniversary at MIT (time is flying!). Michael has been working full time at Google as a software engineer for over four and a half years, lately working on projects in the Search organization, focusing on making it easier to push the product boundaries and test new ideas via live experimentation. Michael visited his home country Ethiopia this summer to help with a five-week Computer Science crash course for select high school seniors and college freshmen.
The Ron Brown Scholar Program wishes to thank all of the foundations, organizations and friends who have supported our mission.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  •  OCTOBER 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

**SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS**

Scholarship Sponsors are very special and generous people who have provided the funding to fully support a Ron Brown Scholar and without whom we could not award the number of scholarships we do, nor support our wonderful young Ron Brown Scholars in the unique way that is the foundation of our mission.

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Our Leaders Network Partners share valuable career advice with our young leaders while introducing them to professional opportunities within their organizations.

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Maya Torain’s Ron Brown scholarship was sponsored by Dr. Donald S. and Kim Orkand.

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Patrick Baker and Esme Howard
Enrique Ball
Tracy Banks

Generous support of the Program allows Ron Brown students to realize their dreams—from college graduation to fulfilling careers. This spring, our 2014 Ron Brown Scholars celebrated their graduations from colleges and universities across the country. From left: Sojourner Ahebee, Stanford University ’18; Devon Cash, Stanford University ’18; and Marjada Tucker, Rice University ’18.

I finished my clinical year at Duke last spring and am entering my research year. I’ll be the first student to work at the new Duke Center for REsearch to AdvanCe Healthcare Equity (REACH), and to have won the Eugene A. Stead Jr. Research Scholarship Award and Dr. Rose M. Green Thomas Academic Medicine Scholarship Award.

I wouldn’t be here without my Ron Brown family and I’m forever grateful!

—Maya Torain, RBS 2010
$20 Million by 2020 Endowment Campaign

At the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the Ron Brown Scholar Program embarked on bolstering our endowment to $20 million by 2020 in order to award a minimum of 20 Ron Brown scholarships annually.

**Overall Goal**
by Jan. 2020: $20M

**Target at Start in Jan. 2017:** $5.12M

Endowment value at campaign start | $14.88M
Deposits and growth since campaign start | $2.53M
Target goal at campaign start | $5.12M
Funds needed to reach goal | $2.59M
Robert F. Smith $1 Million Scholar Matching Challenge

At the 2017 American Journey Awards, Honoree Robert F. Smith pledged up to $1 million to match Ron Brown Scholar gifts over five years (by March 23, 2022).

Contributions as of September 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of Scholar donors</th>
<th>$136,747</th>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of total goal achieved</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
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Robert F. Smith announces his $1 million matching challenge as he accepts his 2017 American Journey Award.
THE JOURNEY | The Newsletter of the Ron Brown Scholar Program

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Our beloved friend, Chris Pilaro
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Ron Brown Scholar Program | 485 Hillsdale Drive, Suite 206 • Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

2018 HONOREE
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Ronald H. Brown
American Journey Awards
March 22, 2019 • JW Marriott, Washington, DC

Save the Date

Triennial Conference Photo Essay

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