For more highlights of our students’ summer 2017 experiences, see pages 6-7.
The Opportunity Network (OppNet) works with students from historically and systemically underrepresented communities in developing their skills, knowledge, and passions to achieve their college and career goals. We honor the identities and embrace the power of each member of our community.

While nationally less than 10% of students from low-income communities will graduate college, and fewer will be prepared for careers,

• 100% of students in our six-year OppNet Fellows program graduate from college, and

• 85% secure meaningful employment or graduate school admission within six months of college graduation.

We achieve our remarkable results through our Career Fluency® curriculum, which we deliver through two programs that guide students to college and career success:

**OppNet Fellows:**
Our intensive six-year program that works with 770 students from the summer after 10th grade through to college graduation, and into careers.

**Career Fluency® Partnerships:**
Our work to build capacity for schools and youth-serving organizations to integrate our curriculum into their programs and amplify college and career readiness for their students. See page 8 for more details.

### Career Awareness and Exposure:
Students set college-to-career goals, learn how companies work, and gain knowledge of an array of jobs and the academic/professional training required for those careers.

In our “Marketing Your Assets” lesson, high school Fellows learn to identify their assets—the skills and experiences they have that can be valuable in professional careers. Fellows practice interviewing with volunteers, or one of our Mock Interview Workshops in preparation for applying for summer internships. To read more about our internship program, please see pages 6-7.

### Networks and Social Capital:
Students engage in innovative training that drives home the undisputed role that networks and social capital play in achieving college and career success: how the world turns on personal connections and trusted relationships, how to build and leverage networks, and how to mobilize a support system for long-term success.

OppNet Fellows network with former NYC Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, other notable guests, and investment professionals at BTIG’s Charity Day 2017. OppNet is grateful to BTIG for providing our students with an opportunity to participate and include OppNet! Each year, hundreds of professionals join us for volunteer events. At our signature Speed Networking sessions, students get a chance to practice their elevator pitches, network, and exchange business cards, helping them to develop strong communication skills and grow their networks.

### Professional Skills and Etiquette:
Students learn standards of excellence in professional settings, including workplace norms, resumes, cover letters, interviewing, professional e-mail and phone communication, internship preparedness, public speaking, active listening, and mentoring.

In our “Anatomy of a College Campus” lesson, rising freshmen practice navigating the various offices they will encounter and potential issues they will face when arriving on campus.

### College Access, Transition, and Success:
OppNet provides one-on-one guidance, and students participate in a robust set of activities to ensure they matriculate at a best-fit college, thrive once on campus, and graduate.

OppNet staff conduct phone, video, and in-person check-ins with Fellows throughout all four years of college; in addition to workshops and networking events hosted during winter and summer breaks. Here, an OppNet staff member visits Fellows at Queens College.
OppNet works with students in our Fellows program for six years—from the summer after 10th grade through to college graduation, and into careers. During high school, Fellows participate in weekly after-school sessions and special workshops covering all four pillars of our Career Fluency® curriculum.

OppNet is committed to not only supporting our students to college, but through college. OppNet conducts in-depth check-ins with Fellows during the semester, holds workshops during summer and winter breaks, and helps to connect Fellows to one another through our peer mentoring program.

OppNet also works intensively with our students to prepare for and find substantive summer opportunities, like internships or enrichment programs, over the course of five summers (see pages 6-7 for more details).

Since 2003, the OppNet Fellows program has grown from serving 10 students recruited from one public high school to 770 recruited from 180+ schools and organizations across NYC’s five boroughs.

Fellows Program Applications
Demand for OppNet’s Fellows program continues to grow. We again received nearly 600 applications for just 145 spots in our newest class of 11th graders, and have grown our Fellows program year after year to meet this demand.

Fellows Program Growth
Since 2003, OppNet’s Fellows program has grown from serving 10 students to 770 students served.

Who We Serve
90% of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch programs. Their median annual family income is $25k.

92% will be the first in their families to graduate from college.

100% of our students are accepted at best-fit, four-year colleges, and more than half ultimately attend schools they discovered through OppNet.

College Guidance
The average public school student receives just 38 minutes of college guidance in one year. An OppNet Fellow receives 100+ hours through personal and group guidance sessions, college essay coaching, and financial aid counseling for students and their families, in addition to visits to 10+ college campuses throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

OppNet’s Class of 2021, who just began their freshman year of college, are attending 58 campuses across the country, including:

- Babson
- Barnard
- Bowdoin
- Columbia
- CUNY
- Dartmouth
- Emory
- Fordham
- Georgetown
- Howard
- Lehigh
- NYU
- Pomona
- Skidmore
- St. John’s
- SUNY
- Swarthmore
- Trinity
- UPenn
- Williams

Over $4M has been awarded to the Class of 2021 in scholarships and grants.

Almost 90% of our Class of 2016 achieved this target, and our Class of 2017 college graduates are off to an equally impressive start with early job placements at CIBC, Ernst & Young, Goldman Sachs, Google, New York College Advising Corps, and other companies, organizations, and graduate programs.

95% of the Class of 2021’s demonstrated financial need has been met through non-student loan aid.

100% of our Fellows graduate from college, well-equipped with the skills, expertise, and personal and professional networks to maximize their potential.
Central to our unparalleled results is our Fellows’ participation in five summers of paid internships or enrichment programs. Through these experiences, our students are able to build a robust resume of work experience and develop an early network of professionals across a broad range of industries. OppNet develops and maintains partnerships with hundreds of companies and organizations and works to ensure that each summer experience is positive for both our students and our partner sites. We:

• Work closely with students to connect them to and prepare them for opportunities that align with their goals;
• Conduct resume, cover letter, and interview preparation;
• Coach students on workplace norms and expectations and how best to navigate different professional settings;
• Ensure students’ success through check-ins with students and employers throughout the summer; and
• Conduct follow-up and evaluations with internship supervisors.

OppNet is deeply grateful to 2015 Night of Opportunity honoree Robert F. Smith and Vista Equity Partners for again providing summer internship opportunities and housing stipends to our students at Vista portfolio companies in Dallas, TX!
Career Fluency® Partnerships

We believe that all students can increase their potential to graduate from college ready for careers, and we know that organizations across the city and country are working hard to achieve this goal.

In response to steady inquiries from urban public schools, youth-serving nonprofits, and funders, three years ago, OppNet began piloting Career Fluency® Partnerships. We work closely with Partners to train their teachers, guidance counselors and/or staff to adapt and deliver our curriculum, building each Partner’s own institutional capacity to achieve superior college and career results for the students they serve.

This past year, thanks to a transformative investment from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, and with additional support from The Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund, ECMC Foundation, Gray Foundation, Charles Hayden Foundation, and The Heckscher Foundation for Children, we launched a formal program area dedicated to this important work.

College Access and Success Symposium (CASS)

For the fourth year in a row, OppNet convened admissions officers from 30+ top colleges—including Amherst, Boston College, Carnegie Mellon, CUNY Macaulay Honors College, MIT, Pomona, Skidmore, Swarthmore, U Penn, University of Rochester, Vassar, and Yale, among others—for a hands-on strategy session on how to best support students from underrepresented communities. OppNet has taken the lead on finding ways youth-serving nonprofits, colleges, and other stakeholders can ensure that graduation rates for these young people improve and we connect these students with the resources they need to succeed.

More than 800 guests gathered at Cipriani Wall Street on April 24, 2017, to celebrate OppNet’s outstanding Fellows and the leaders who inspire them at our annual Night of Opportunity gala.

The event raised a record-breaking $2.1 million for OppNet’s work and celebrated the achievements of the evening’s incredible honorees: David H. McCormick, Co-CEO, Bridgewater Associates, LP; Will Packer, acclaimed film and television producer; OppNet Fellow and Oberlin College Class of 2021 Maesha presenting the Opportunity Award to Honoree David H. McCormick.

“I think everybody is born with dreams. I think everybody is born with some level of drive. But the thing that separates people who reach the highest levels, who are the most successful and so amazing from those we never hear of—too often that one thing is opportunity. So that’s why this is so important. That’s why I am so honored to receive this [award] and why each of you is so important.”

— Honoree Will Packer

“It’s so important to be with people who want to bring you up, and feel like their success is your success—a community. I feel so amazed every time I speak with other Fellows at OppNet who are developing projects that they’re passionate about... You’ll search everywhere for that same sense of camaraderie.”

— Dylan, OppNet Fellow and Oberlin College Class of 2021
OppNet's ability to serve our students and have the impact we do would not be possible without the generosity of our community of donors and partners. We are proud to recognize the many individuals, corporations, foundations that invested in our work during our 2017 Fiscal Year (9/1/16 – 8/31/17). Thank you for your incredible commitment to our students.

**$100,000+**
- Ailtman Foundation
- Apex Foundation
- Booth Ferris Foundation
- Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz
- Michael and Sue Dell Foundation
- Deloitte LLP
- ECPI Foundation
- Gerstner Family Foundation
- Gray Foundation
- Charles Hayden Foundation
- The Heckscher Foundation for Children
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- John F. Megrue, Jr.
- Sarah and Dan O’Keefe
- Price Family Foundation
- Rocking Moon Foundation
- Shijoy Foundation
- The Paul E. Singer Foundation
- Amanda and Julian Wright

**$50,000-$99,999**
- The Jeffrey H. and Shari L. Aranson Family Foundation
- Bridgewater Associates, LP
- BTG PLLC
- Capital One Foundation
- CIBC World Markets
- Clinton Group, Inc.
- EON Productions, Ltd.
- Edwin Gould Foundation
- The Hearst Foundations
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- RBC Capital Markets
- Robert F. Smith/Vista Equity Partners
- Strada Education Network
- Mark Walhberg Youth Foundation, Inc.
- Debbie and Chet Wood
- Youth Villages

**$25,000-$49,999**
- A+E Networks
- Michael and Christine Angelakis
- Ramon Aras
- Catherine & Joseph Arents Foundation
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Broadway Video
- Jay & E.B. Butler Foundation
- Credit Suisse
- The Francis L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund
- Guggenheim Enterprises, Inc.
- William T. Grant Foundation
- Hirsch Family Foundation
- The Jenev Fund
- Meningoff Family Foundation
- Morgan Stanley
- Opike Partners LLC
- Jennifer and Scott Ostfeld
- The Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Robin and Michael Piacso
- Joanne and Paul Schmitt
- Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
- Universal E-Business Solutions, LLC
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

**$10,000-$24,999**
- Anonyounomous
- Todd and Jessica Aaron
- Advantage Solutions
- Ahrendts-Couch Foundation
- Aria Gurya Strauss Hauer & Sennett LLP
- Alex, Brown, a Division of Raymond James
- Avila & Mazda
- Aquatic Capital Partners
- Michael Archer and Elizabeth Nielsen Argath Group
- The Bank of New York Mellon Barcardi
- The Barker Welfare Foundation
- BBT Networks
- Brunswick Group
- Jennifer and Sean Cohen
- Comcast NBCUniversal
- Creative Artists Agency
- ET
- Friedman Family Foundation
- Mark Galkosky
- Goldman Sachs
- Hulak & Company
- HBO
- Investors Bank
- Jeferees LLC
- JP Morgan Chase
- Kelk
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- Leuitable
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- Newmark Greenwich Knight Frank
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- UBS AG
- VICI Media
- Vinson & Elkins LLP
- Jessica and Eric Wei
- Rika and Shota Weininger
- Norah and Brian Weinstein
- Zegar Family Fund

**$5,000-$9,999**
- Anonymous
- Stephanie Caso and Paul Hat
- Centerbridge Capital
- Chris Carol
- Andrew and Lynne Ekbl
- Fox Searchlight Pictures
- Fred Gehring
- Harvey Gettleson and Randy O’Conn

**$1,000-$4,999**
- A/N
- Brian Adams
- Peter Allan and Luftine Atkins
- Catherine & Joseph Arents Foundation
- Michael and Christine Angelakis
- Ramon Aras
- Catherine & Joseph Arents Foundation
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Broadway Video
- J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation
- Credit Suisse
- The Francis L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund
- Guggenheim Enterprises, Inc.
- Pacific First Capital
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Robin and Michael Piacso
- Joanne and Paul Schmitt
- Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
- Universal E-Business Solutions, LLC
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

**$500-$999**
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- Cole Harp
- Robert and Diana Hamme
- Dawn Hu
- Hide and Watson Foundation
- Infosys M&A Incorporated
- JANA Partners LLC
- LD Entertainment Foundation
- Rick Leaman
- Stephen and Sue Mandel
- Marubun America Corporation
- Luiz and Orrela Mattar
- David M. & Tricia McCauley
- Seth Meisel
- Metrol-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios
- Thomas J. Niedermyer, Jr.
- Brian Offutt and Neil Rhodes
- Alex Pellegrina
- Sam and Kaye Powers
- E. Price
- Prosek Partners
- Max and Randi Saffian
- Bharat and Ferha Sahgal
- Tray Chotuaron Senler and Eric Lee
- Alisa Shaver Foundation
- The Simon Family Foundation
- Weeden & Co.
- David Wedlin
- Victor and David Williams
- Ian Woods and Gig Stone Woods*
- Ziffren Brittenham LLP

**$500-$999**
- A/N
- Brian Adams
- Peter Allan and Luftine Atkins
- Catherine & Joseph Arents Foundation
- Michael and Christine Angelakis
- Ramon Aras
- Catherine & Joseph Arents Foundation
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Broadway Video
- J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation
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- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Robin and Michael Piacso
- Joanne and Paul Schmitt
- Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
- Universal E-Business Solutions, LLC
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
This year, hundreds of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds and professional fields—from business and finance to the arts and media—joined our Fellows for fun and dynamic volunteer engagements. With the help of professionals, students practiced their elevator pitches during Speed Networking sessions, received valuable advice during Career Panels and Roundtable Discussions, refined their resumes and interviewing skills during Resume Review and Mock Interview Workshops, edited their personal statements as part of our College Essay Coach Program, and more.

We strive to recruit an inclusive volunteer base whose experiences and backgrounds can help our students navigate their college and career paths. Our volunteers truly helped introduce our Fellows to new careers, provided them with guidance and feedback, and served as early members of their networks.

OppNet is deeply grateful to all of our volunteers for their time and commitment to our students, as well as to the partners below for hosting our students for field trips, recruiting volunteers, partnering with us on workshops, and so much more in the past year:

- Ally Financial
- The American Museum of Natural History
- Barclays
- Black Gotham
- BLDG 92: Brooklyn Navy Yard Center
- BuzzFeed
- Capital One
- Deloitte LLP
- Deutsche Bank
- Dropbox
- Facebook, Inc.
- Flatiron Health
- Google, Inc.
- iZone NYC
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Leathwaite
- The Lohman Laboratory
- Marubeni America Corporation
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- The New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- New York Genome Center
- New York Harbor School
- New-York Historical Society
- Salesforce
- SeatGeek
- ThoughtWorks, Inc.
- United Federation of Teachers
- Viking Global Investors
- Vinson & Elkins LLP
- WeWork
- Whitney Museum of American Art
- Year Up
- Zahn Innovation Center

Over the course of six years in our Fellows program, students will meet 500+ professionals through volunteer events and summer internships.

OppNet Fellows exchanging business cards with professionals at our fall 2016 Speed Networking session

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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HOST AN INTERN

Provide an OppNet student with a summer internship at your company or organization.

Contact: Amanda Smith, Program Manager, at amanda@opportunitynetwork.org

SUPPORT OPPNET

Make a donation to support OppNet’s work, arrange for a matching gift from your employer, or reach out to discuss planned giving options. Some of the ways you can make a difference for our students include:

• **Year of Opportunity** – By making a gift of $5,000 you join a growing group of Opportunity Sponsors and receive personalized student updates throughout the year.
• **Summer of Opportunity** – A gift of $2,000 funds a scholarship for a student to participate in an unpaid internship, enrichment program, or study abroad program.
• **Night of Opportunity** – Save the date for OppNet’s annual gala on April 9, 2018! Reserve your sponsorship, table, or ticket today.

Contact: Kierstyn Thayer, Chief Development Officer, at kierstyn@opportunitynetwork.org

VOLUNTEER

Sign up to receive information about upcoming volunteer opportunities.
Visit: www.opportunitynetwork.org/volunteersignup
Host a volunteer event for employees of your company or organization.
Contact: volunteers@opportunitynetwork.org

MORE ON OUR STUDENTS’ SUMMER 2017 EXPERIENCES!

“This summer, I interned at Harlem Grown. I facilitated farm tasks and activities for corporate volunteer groups and kids ages 7 - 14, researched and engineered projects to improve irrigation and pest management systems, and spearheaded chicken coop renovations.

Thanks to this experience, I was exposed to sustainability initiatives, which will be helpful as I study mechanical engineering in college.”

– Mohammad, Grove School of Engineering Class of 2021

“This summer, I designed and constructed a light seeking, obstacle avoiding autonomous robot at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. To demonstrate the robot’s functionality, I programmed it to compete in a “Capture the Flag”-esque speed competition with light sources serving as the flags.

I have always been interested in robotics and engineering. This experience helped reaffirm my passion.”

– Olufunayo, University of Southern California Class of 2020

CONTACT US

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