



COLLEGE SUCCESS SCHOLARS

A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS. A BROTHERHOOD FOR LIFE.

A Commitment to Personal, Academic and Professional Excellence

New Parent Handbook

*CSS Program Orientation
1400 Marie Mount Hall
University of Maryland
July 22, 2017*

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Welcome

Dear Parents of the 2017 Cohort:

Congratulations! It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the College Success Scholars Program (CSS Program) As a minority undergraduate entering the University of Maryland, your son has an opportunity to participate in the CSS Program which represents a uniquely cooperative effort to transform the lives of young men.

The CSS Program provides comprehensive, structured ongoing personal, academic and professional support to Black and Latino Male students with a primary emphasis on retention and graduation of the University of Maryland. The curriculum is centered on supporting the brilliance of the scholars in developing resiliency, agency, purpose and brotherhood.

Under the leadership of Dr. Christopher Lester, Executive Director of the Office of Multi-Ethic Studies, the CSS Program has developed a 10 year, proven track record of producing outstanding minority graduates at the University of Maryland.

Your Scholars will be asked to establish their very own roadmap to success at the beginning of their college career. They can participate in study groups and take advantage of tutoring to ensure academic success. The CSS Program also establishes strong, brotherly bonds and lifelong friendships among Scholars which can ease the transition to college life.

As parents you can be kept informed of your Scholar's academic standing. The CSS Program requires Scholars to report their grades on an ongoing basis. This information will be shared with you so you can track your son's academic success.

Also, as parents, you are encouraged to support your Scholar and participate in CSS activities. CSS Activity support can range from service on a committee to offering new ideas for fundraising. Every month parents and Scholars gather to inform parents of the CSS Program's objectives. These meetings often feature a potluck luncheon to provide a good way for parents to get to know one another.

We look forward to fun and fellowship as we work together in the CSS Program. It is a unique opportunity to transform the lives of our young men.

Sincerely,

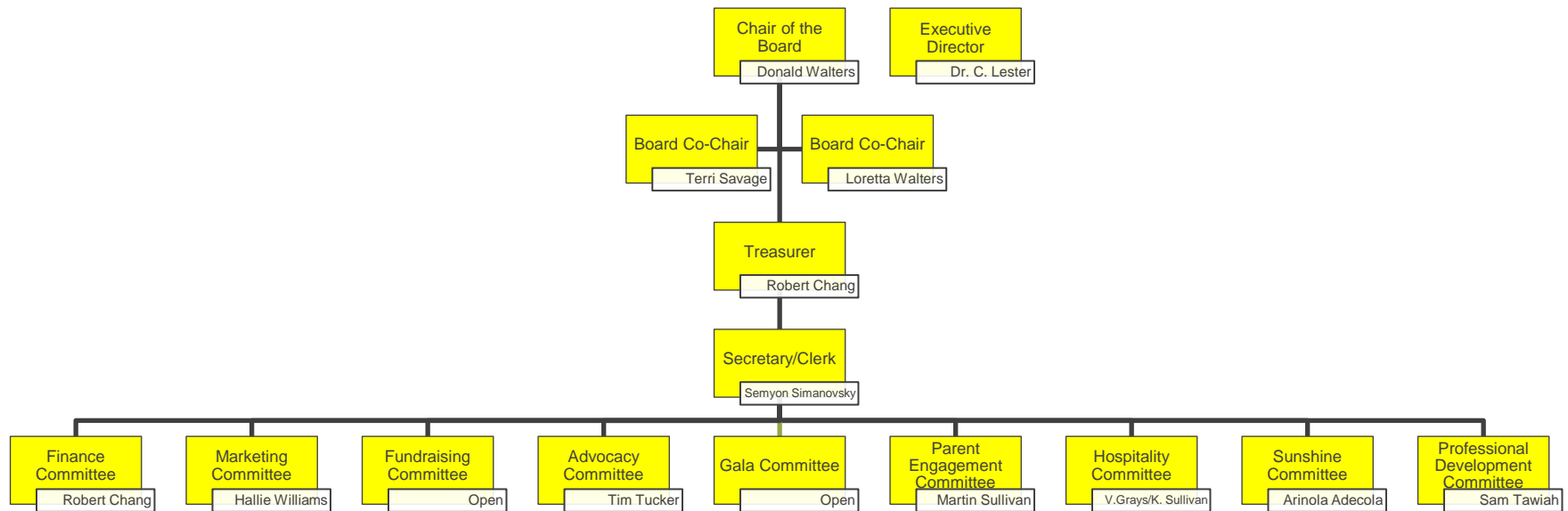
The CSS Program Parents' Board of Directors



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CSS Program -- Board of Directors

The “Board” is comprised of the Chair of the Board, the Executive Director and the Chairs of all Board Committees.



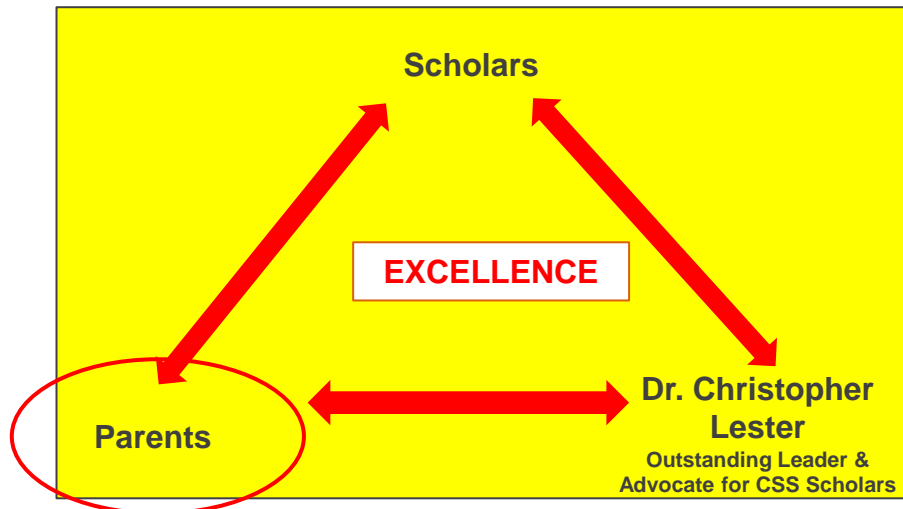
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Scholar Success: Parents Play a Key Role

CSS relies on a three-pronged approach to ensure the success of its participants: Scholars, Parents, and CSS Program Leadership.

Research has shown that parent involvement, even throughout college, plays an important role in student achievement.

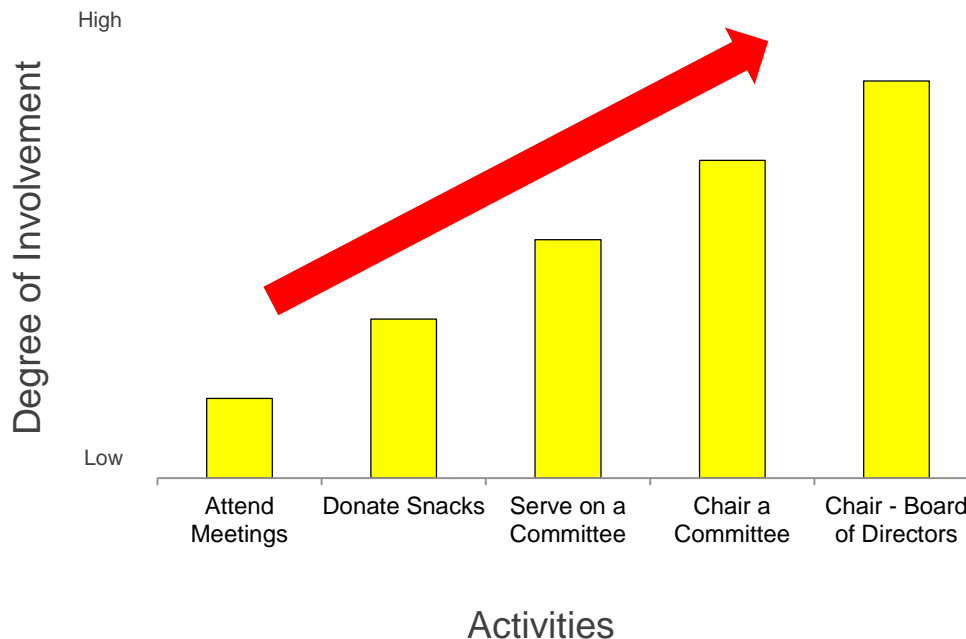
- Monitoring academic progress and maintaining consistent communication with your Scholar concerning his participation within the Program will contribute to your Scholar's success.



CSS Program Success: Parents Play a Key Role

Get involved. The benefits of the CSS Program do not come without collective commitment on the part of all parents.

There are many ways to get involved depending on your availability and current commitments.



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CSS Parent Mentors Will Help Guide You

You will be contacted by a current CSS Parent Mentor.

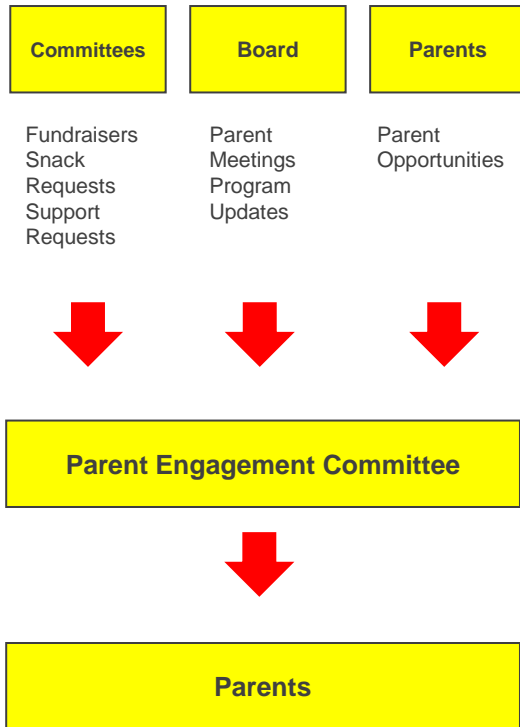
CSS Parent Mentors can answer your questions about the CSS Program and can describe the variety of different ways you can become involved in supporting the CSS Program.



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Information and Communication Flow

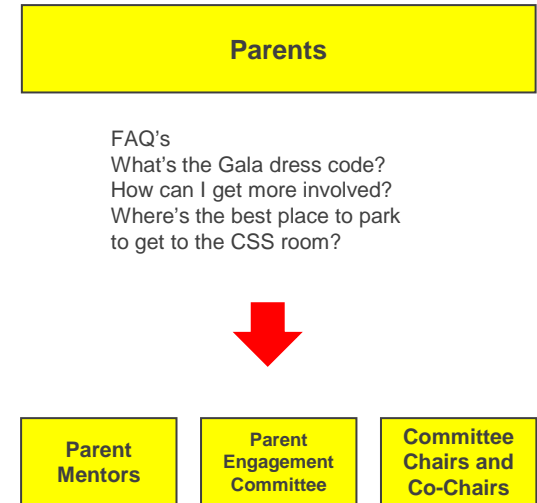
The Parent Engagement Committee leads communication to parents.



Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs are responsible for communication to Committee members.



Parent communication can begin with parent mentors, the Parent Engagement Committee or Committee Chairs.



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Committees

Finance Committee (Chair: Robert Chang)

- The Finance Committee supports the Treasurer and maintains records of the CSS Program Parents' financial activities.

Marketing Committee (Chair: Hallie Williams)

- The Marketing Committee develops and coordinates the use of all CSS Program brands and communications.

Fundraising Committee (Chair: Open)

- The Fundraising Committee identifies strategies to raise revenue in support of CSS Program activities.



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Committees

Advocacy Committee (Chair: Tim Tucker)

- The Advocacy Committee pursues activities designed to promote greater awareness of the CSS Program with University Administrators and federal and state governmental leaders.

Gala Committee (Chair: Open)

- The Gala Committee organizes all aspects of the CSS Program Annual Gala.

Parent Engagement Committee (Chair: Martin Sullivan)

- The Parent Engagement Committee encourages volunteer participation by all CSS Program Parents.



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Committees

Hospitality Committee (Chair: Valerie Grays/Kammie Sullivan)

- The Hospitality Committee ensures that all CSS Program Parents' activities are conducted in an open, friendly and hospitable manner designed to accommodate all CSS Program Parents.

Sunshine Committee (Chair: Arinola Adicola)

- The Sunshine Committee identifies opportunities to support CSS Program Scholars and Alumni in the event of extraordinary life events.



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Committees

Professional Development Committee (Chair: Sam Tawiah)

- The Professional Development Committee identifies appropriate activities to provide professional development opportunities and to serve as male role models and mentors for CSS Program Scholars.



Financial Support

All CSS Parents will be asked to make a financial contribution to support the CSS Program. Contributions are tax deductible.

Summer, Fall and Spring contributions of \$50 per period.

You can also support the CSS Program through Gala sponsorship and direct financial contributions at monthly Parent Meetings or at

<http://www.omse.umd.edu/donate.html>



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Scholar Snacks

CSS Scholars have exclusive access to a 24/7 study room to study on a group or individual basis.

CSS Parents provide snacks so Scholars have access to appropriate food items to “fuel” their studies.

We encourage all CSS Parents to provide snacks for the study room.



2017 Calendar – Save the Date

Jul

- **Saturday, July 22, 12-2 PM.** Incoming CSS Parents/Cohort Orientation Meeting. 1400 Marie Mount Hall.
- **TBD.** CSS Parents' Board of Directors FY 17-18 Summer Planning Retreat.
- **CSS Summer tax deductible contribution: \$50 / Family**

Aug

- **Saturday, August 12, 12-2 PM.** Summer Seminar Recognition/Enrollment Celebration. Location TBD.

Sep

- **Saturday, September 30. 12 – 2 PM Parents' Meeting**

Oct

- TBD

Nov

- **Saturday, November 4. 12 – 2 PM Parents' Meeting.**

Dec

- **Sunday, December 10. CSS Program Gala Retreat and Family Day 2 PM-5 PM**



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2018 Calendar – Save the Date

Jan	•TBD	}	From Jan - Mar, two or three Parent Meetings will be scheduled.
Feb	•TBD		
Mar	•TBD		
Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Saturday April 7, X-X PM. 2018 Annual Gala. Location TBD.•CSS Spring tax deductible contribution: \$50 / Family		
May	•TBD	}	From May - Jul, two or three Parent Meetings will be scheduled.
Jun	•TBD		
Jul	•TBD		



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FAQs

Why should my son join the College Success Scholars (CSS) Program?

- A. A key goal of the CSS Program is to close the achievement gap and help each Scholar “stay the course” and graduate from the University of Maryland (UMD) with a successful launch into a professional career and/or post graduate studies. The Program is structured to provide consistent academic, personal, and professional support from the summer program before entering as a freshman until graduation from UMD.

How does the CSS Program support its Scholars?

- A. CSS offers a six-week summer seminar for incoming freshman, a CSS first-year weekly seminar, a professional development series and mandatory study sessions (for Freshman). Free tutoring is also available to assist Scholars to achieve academic success in more difficult subjects but also to strengthen comprehension and applied learning for successful course completion and exam results.

What are CSS Graduates doing now?

- A. CSS Scholars have an opportunity to participate in internships, research opportunities and study abroad while attending UMD. Upon graduation, CSS Graduates are sought by employers at some of the nation’s top organizations. Many others are pursuing graduate education at elite universities in fields of business, medicine, engineering, and education.

Is there a cost to join the CSS Program?

- A. No. However, there are activities Scholars have the option to participate in where there are associated fees such as a Winter Retreat at a local ski resort. The CSS Program supplements the cost for these activities to ensure the fees remain nominal. The CSS Program is affiliated with the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education (OMSE). The CSS Program however, does not receive any special funding or financial appropriation. Therefore, parents are asked to make a nominal tax deductible donation of \$50 in the summer, fall and spring.

If I would like to provide financial support for the CSS Program beyond the donation threshold, may I do so?

- A. Absolutely. All donations to the CSS Program are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated. Donations can be made at monthly parent meetings and also via our website at <http://www.omse.umd.edu/donate.html>

I have more questions, who can I ask?

- A. CSS Parents are available to answer any additional questions you might have. Reach out to your Parent Mentor, Board Chair & Co-Chairs, or Committee Chairs. Board and Committee Chair names are listed in this handbook on page 4.



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FAQ's

My son is in college now and expected to be independent. How does the CSS Program involve me as a parent?

- A. CSS relies on a three-pronged approach to ensure the success of its participants: Scholars, Parents, and CSS Program Leadership. Research has shown that parent involvement, even throughout college years, plays an important role in student achievement. Attending CSS meetings regularly, volunteering for CSS Committees, monitoring academic progress, and maintaining consistent communication with your Scholar concerning his participation within the Program are just a few ways that CSS Parents can get involved!

Are parents only allowed to serve on one Committee?

- A. Parents may join multiple Committees and may choose to participate in various CSS Parent activities throughout the year.

What does CSS expect from parents?

- A. CSS expects active participation and involvement in CSS Program activities. For example, CSS conducts an Annual Gala to raise funds to support the Program. Many CSS Parents support the Gala through serving on a Gala Committee, purchasing tickets to attend the event and buying ads in the Gala Program.

How do I sign up for a Committee?

- A. Parents may sign up for any CSS Committee at any of the parent meetings or by contacting a Committee Chair.

How can I get involved?

- A. There are currently 9 Committees that enable parents to participate and contribute to the success of the Scholars in the CSS Program. Parents are expected to participate in at least one Committee annually.

Are parents only allowed to serve on one Committee?

- A. Parents may join multiple Committees or choose to participate in various activities throughout the year.

My schedule is very busy. Will CSS take a lot of time?

- A. CSS conducts periodic parent meetings. Meetings are generally scheduled on Saturdays and last 2-3 hours with light refreshments and/or lunch. Parents have an opportunity to contribute for potluck lunches as well. All CSS Parents are strongly encouraged to attend every meeting even if you can only attend for a portion of the time. In addition, there are various volunteer opportunities that can also be geared towards parents who are challenged due to conflicts with personal and work schedules. If you have concerns about the time commitment involved, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Parent Engagement Committee.



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