



JILL MELMED-BUZZEO

AWARD

A LEG UP | 2015-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

THE PROGRAM

JMB Award started with a simple design: recognize students with demonstrated agency, resilience, ambition, and commitment to their communities, and provide them with mentoring and a financial award to buffer the overwhelming transition to and expense of college. That was 2015. Every year since, we've added more services and supports—and we don't expect to stop. Read our goals for 2018 and beyond on page 7.



	2015	2016	2017
Students awarded	1	2	4
Mentor provided	✓	✓	✓
SAT/ACT prep		✓	✓
\$300 travel stipend		✓	✓
Winter dinner		✓	✓
Financial empowerment meetings		✓ (optional)	✓ (required)
Summer retreat			✓
College care package			✓

THE NUMBERS

33

Nominations
received

21

Philadelphia
high schools
represented

7

Recipients
named

\$10,100

Awarded

WHO WE SERVE

- Students from Philadelphia public, private, charter, and innovation schools
- Students who identify as female
- Students who have faced barriers and have been resourceful and steadfast in their efforts to overcome them
- Students committed to their communities



THE IMPACT

JMB Award exists to help level the playing field for our students. Here are some of the ways we've done so over our first three years.

College Selection

Visiting colleges to find the right one should be possible for every student. While fly-in programs serve many, they don't serve all. **That's why Nina McPhaul (2016) used her travel stipend to see her "dream" school.** Her onsite tour convinced her it actually wasn't her dream school after all, and a different school she also traveled to with our travel stipend was.

College Success

Transitioning from high school to college is an eye-opening experience for all first-year students and even more so for first-generation students. **Refathun Momo (2016) anticipated this hurdle and applied her award and travel stipend money to the cost of attending her university's summer success program,** a three-week program that introduces students to college-level studies and campus life.

Momentarily escaping from campus life is another tactic for success. **Angie Ortiz (2017) returned home over fall break for a little TLC*, a trip made easier with her travel stipend.**

Jobs and Career Readiness

Securing jobs and internships can make the difference between paying for books or not, getting a leg up on one's chosen career or not. **Mentors help with the fundamentals: generating ideas, reviewing applications and essays, suggesting referral sources, monitoring deadlines.** They then turn to our extended network for the extra benefits only a network can provide, like informational interviews, sourced jobs, and help elevating a student's (successful) application for a coveted summer internship.

*TLC = tender, loving care. A trademark-if-she-could-make-it-happen acronym of Jill Melmed-Buzzeo.



Financial Empowerment

Making the financial pieces work so dreams aren't derailed is a greater challenge for those without a safety net. **Vicktoria Phanthavong (2017) and Amy Chen (2015) used their award money to minimize tuition-related loans.** Not all costs are school-related, however. **When Qyideera Pasture (2017) faced the loss of medical insurance because of cost, her mentor tapped our network for someone knowledgeable about the health care Marketplace.** This individual was able to help her find and enroll in an affordable option.

Our financial empowerment cheerleader, Stephanie Malsbury, also works with students as a group and in customized one-on-one sessions to build basic financial literacy and set and achieve financial goals.

Peer and Intergenerational Relationships

Our program is designed to foster peer and intergenerational relationships, recognizing the importance of each. **At our 2017 summer retreat, incoming first-year college students learned from their sophomore and junior peer sisterhood how to acclimate to new expectations and new environments.** At this same retreat, all students heard stories of risk-taking, failure, and mentoring from our "elders" community. This storytelling made students realize that "Everyone hits rock bottom in their life, and it's okay. It's about how you pick yourself back up," as one student put it.

"One of the most amazing parts of this scholarship is the network of women rooting for you. As a recipient of the Jill Melmed-Buzzeo Award, I felt like I was a gift to them and they were a gift to me."

MENTORING HIGHLIGHTS

Mentors play a pivotal role—or roles—at JMB Award. They act as counselor, cheerleader, challenger, connector. The success of these relationships begins with careful matching and ongoing monitoring to be sure the fit is right.

My mentor:

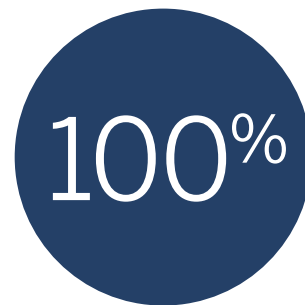
Takes the time to get to know me



Is approachable



Focuses on what's important to me



I asked for my mentor's help with:

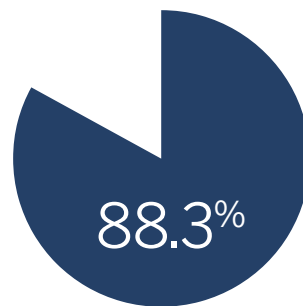
Academics



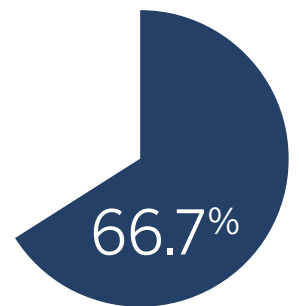
Finding resources



Transition advice



Time management



Mentors and mentees talk about items big and small, academic to personal.



Angie Ortiz

“My mentor listens to my concerns. She was very understanding and supportive when I wanted to take biology another semester.”

**2017 honorable mention
Fairfield University**



Qyideera Pasture

“My mentor hears what I have to say, no matter how personal, and understands.”

**2017 recipient
Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College**



Vicktoria Phanthavong

“I texted my mentor about receiving a bad grade on my first college paper. She told me not to stress because it was my first college paper. I can only improve.”

**2017 recipient
Dickinson College**



Khanique Cowans

“My mentor gives me real-life advice from her own experiences.”

2017 honorable mention
Bucknell University



Nina McPhaul

“Coming into this award, I had no idea what a mentor-mentee relationship looked like. At first I was embarrassed to talk with my mentor about my SAT score or how poor my family was. As we built trust, talking about these things became effortless.”

2016 honorable mention
Howard University



Amy Chen

“As a first-generation student, I was unaware of what to expect in college. Having a mentor who went through college helped me survive my first year.”

2015 recipient
Juniata College



Refathun Momo

“The JMB Award provided me with an amazing mentor. She not only helps me with academic advice but also to become a better person.”

2016 recipient
Saint Joseph's University

2018 and Beyond

Goal 1: Capacity Building

- **Secure fiscal sponsorship.** Coming under the CultureWorks fiscal sponsorship umbrella allows us to share tax-exempt status with donors and seek institutional support to fund our planned growth. Through this agreement, JMB Award also retains CultureWorks' HR staff support, marketing and fundraising expertise, legal tools, and insurance.
- **Define strategic goals.** We'll hold a strategic retreat in February 2018 to map our planned growth and the shape of our program and related services over the next three to five years.

Goal 2: Mentoring Program

- **Recruit a diverse, talented group of mentors.** In anticipation of granting awards to more students in 2018, we've recruited mentors from diverse personal and professional backgrounds. These women come from within education, the arts, and journalism.
- **Provide necessary training.** As part of our 2018 cycle, we'll institutionalize onboarding training for new mentors and mentees and expand our summer programming with service projects and workshops on risk-taking, networking, and career building.
- **Benchmark our current mentoring program.** JMB Award secured free technical assistance from MENTOR Independence Region to review and enhance our mentoring program using established, evidence-based standards.

Goal 3: Intergenerational Support

- **Expand our network and community.** A priority for us is detailing the process and related tools that will enable us to systematically identify and tap into our community for college insights, informational interviews, shadowing and internship opportunities, referrals, and general networking.

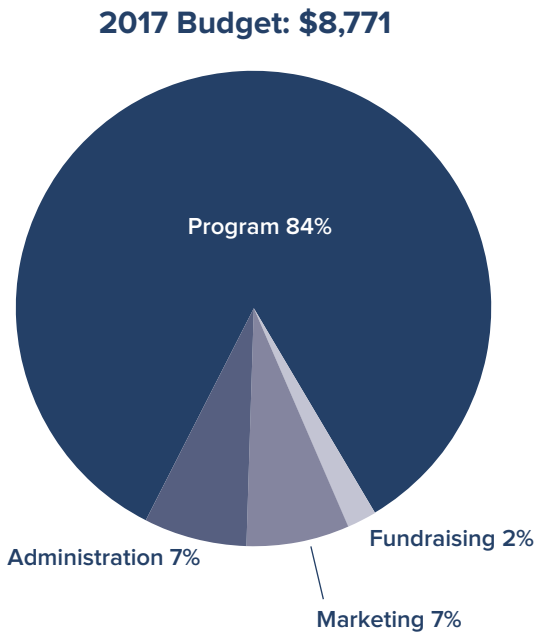
Goal 4: Financial Empowerment Curriculum

- **Build on our approach to financial empowerment counseling.** Whether it's helping students understand their loans or feel confident about achieving their future plans, JMB Award is committed to students building a foundation of basic financial knowledge. The next few years will be dedicated to expanding our counseling and curriculum.



FINANCIAL PICTURE

JMB Award is a lean, 100% volunteer-powered organization. We operated exclusively on private funds for our first two cycles and held our first fundraising campaign in 2017. This campaign powered our ability to support twice the students and deliver more programming to them.



Giving Levels

Your gift provides a meaningful leg up to each student.

\$12

Purchases a journal to encourage writing, daydreaming, reflecting, and the tracking of small—and big—wins

\$40

Sends a college care package to a student in an unfamiliar environment

\$150

Covers the cost of food and drink for our annual summer retreat

\$300

Sponsors a student's travel stipend

\$2,000

Provides crucial funds to pay for tuition, room and board, or books

“All my life, I have battled to protect my siblings from the street, made time to go to appointments to help translate for my mother, fought for my education, fought to end gun violence, and worked as hard as I can so I may have a successful future. This award rewarded my hard effort and motivated me to continue to fight.”

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE

I'm grateful to the board of directors who helped me win this award into being and to our community and partners who tirelessly give of their talent and time to our students. The results of their efforts are visible throughout this report.

Jill, the woman who inspired this award's formation, believed in education, mentoring, fiscal responsibility, making things happen and making things better. If you believe in these things, too, I invite you to join our community.

JMB Award seeks to raise \$8,000 to support our programming in 2018. These funds will make it possible for us to support more students and provide richer programming. With an individual donor committed to covering all of our non-programmatic expenses, your individual gift will go directly to a student and give her the leg up she deserves.

Warmly,
f

Fran Melmed

Donate: jmbaward.com

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CultureWorks
MENTOR Independence Region

PHOTOS: Art+Life Photography
Conrad Benner (Photos of
Amy Chen and Refathun Momo)

DESIGN: Scott Allison

