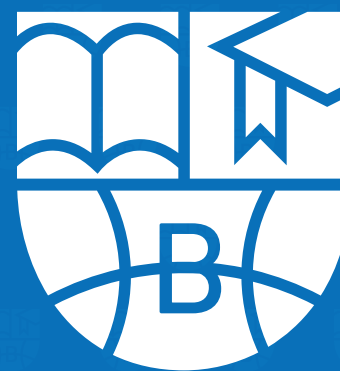


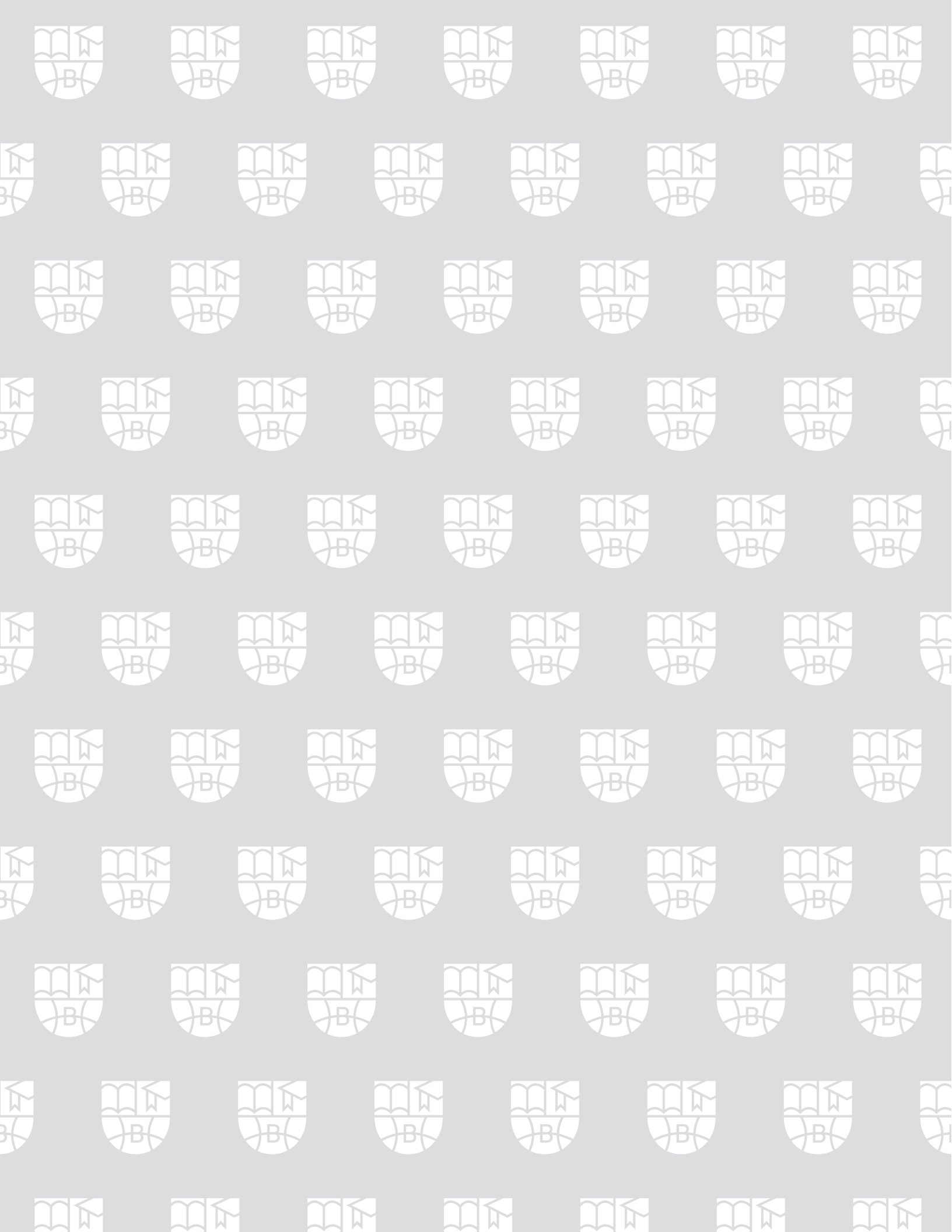


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BATTIER
**TAKE
CHARGE**
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Letter from Shane



2020 gave us an opportunity to step away from the hustle of catching flights, shuttling to practices and endless business meetings, and instead to focus on the people that mean the most to us. The people who give us reason to push through the tough times.

Family.

We also acknowledge that during this year, many of us did not get to see our family members, and some tables had fewer seats at them. The last year was undoubtedly tough on all of us for various reasons, yet it also served as a timely reminder that family is the bedrock of it all.

2020 was also about much more than the pandemic. The events of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor sparked a renewed call for social, economic, and racial equality for all across our nation. I’m sure your family dinners were like ours, grappling with the emotions and rawness of the news cycle. It hit home for many of us, but our Scholars were especially affected in ways we would soon come to learn through numerous Zoom calls and emails. **Now, more than ever, The Take Charge Foundation stood for more than educational opportunity. It stood for family.**

The Battier Take Charge Foundation is dedicated to providing resources for the development and education for underserved youth. While many mission statements ring hollow or theoretical, we are very proud of the way we amplified our mission by supporting our Take Charge family — our Scholars — throughout the last year.

Whether it was helping to store belongings after being locked out from dorm rooms; providing groceries for loved ones and extended families; helping to secure scholarships; reaching out as racial unrest intensified; or simply sharing a laugh (or cry), we were always here for our family.

Our young people are going through an amazing time of transition in their lives, alongside profound societal transition. There are so many difficult questions and emotions with which they are grappling. To bring these to light and encourage conversation, we established monthly coaching sessions that brought together our Scholars and our team. We talked about the stresses each faced and ways to navigate through the adversities of the pandemic, the movement underway, and life in general. I wish all of our supporters could have been on these calls as the authenticity, love, and sense of community heartened us. We are inspired to help even more students who want what all of us want: a sense of purpose and people to share it with.

I want to thank you for helping us provide a beacon of hope for our students during these turbulent times. Because of your commitment, we provided countless resources and comprehensive support for a group of tremendous young people when it mattered the most.

As we begin to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, please know that we are even more dedicated to strengthening and growing our Take Charge family. If we can make it through a global pandemic, together, we can do anything.

Semper ad Meliora,

Shane





MISSION

The Battier Take Charge Foundation is dedicated to providing resources for the development and education of underserved youth and teens. The Battiers' charge is to encourage and inspire a new generation of potential leaders through educational opportunities and the cultivation of effective leadership skills.

ETHOS: Do Well. Do Good.

This simple phrase not only describes the heart of the Battier Take Charge Foundation, it serves as a motto for the Battier family. Both Shane and Heidi strongly believe it is their responsibility to use their platform for the betterment of the communities that have touched them: their hometown of Detroit, Michigan; their former home of Houston, Texas; and their current home of Miami, Florida.

The stories, experiences, and successes of the Battier and GUIDE Scholars inspire Shane and Heidi, and move them to do more and give more ... especially in 2020 — a year like no other.

ABOVE: TakeCharge founders Shane and Heidi Battier join Executive Director Newell Fleming, Director of Communications Beth Sobus, and Battier Scholars at Cabernet with Battier event

2020 Year In Review

NEW EVENT LAUNCHED: CABERNET WITH BATTIER

On Saturday, January 25, the Battier Take Charge Foundation hosted our first ever Cabernet with Battier event at Byblos Miami. Guests enjoyed a multi-course dinner paired with memorable wines from eight incredible Napa Valley vineyards and (in true Take Charge fashion) karaoke in the Byblos lounge following the main event. The night proved a huge success, raising over \$170,000 to fund college scholarships for incredibly deserving young leaders. Additionally, the participating vineyards generously donated back to Take Charge a portion of proceeds from wine sold.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM FORMALIZED: GO BEYOND PROGRAM

Since our inception, we have pledged to provide a comprehensive level of support for our Scholars to reach their goals. In 2020, we formalized our Go Beyond Program, extending our commitment to include not just scholarships, but summer Leadership Retreats, the Battier Grant Initiative, and,

particularly relevant throughout 2020, our COVID-19 relief assistance. As college campuses nationwide closed, we provided financial, logistical, and emotional support to help our Scholars overcome whatever unique challenges each faced due to the pandemic. Our assistance included facilitating online workshops, focusing on strategies for navigating uncertainty and difficult emotions; assisting with grocery and other necessity purchases; securing storage units and transportation for those handling temporary displacements; and helping with living expenses as campus jobs and other employment was interrupted.

A SUCCESS STORY EXPANDED: GUIDE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

As the GUIDE (Giving Underserved Individuals Direction in Education) Program neared its fifth anniversary, we sought new opportunities to grow the reach and impact of this offering for high school students. The provision of educational opportunities, tools and support for students to earn their high school diploma and achieve the dream of a post-secondary education will now be extended beyond our pilot high school into multiple high schools throughout central Miami. We are excited to expand this program and, in doing so, expand our Take Charge family.

BOTTOM LEFT: A moment of laughter and fundraising at Cabernet with Battier | **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Battier Scholars gather at a foundation-funded Leadership Retreat



By the Numbers



~600

College credits
EARNED BY BATTIER
SCHOLARS SINCE THE
START OF THE PANDEMIC

*Our students took advantage
of the virtual setting to earn
more credits than they would
have in a normal year*



65

**UNIQUE HOLIDAY
GIFTS PURCHASED**

AS PART OF
THE INAUGURAL
YEAR-END VIRTUAL
GIFT EXCHANGE

*A White Elephant event kept
us laughing and conversing,
forging a new annual event for
the Take Charge family*



20

**Hours of
Zoom seminars**

HOSTED BY TAKE
CHARGE AND ONCOURSE
INTERNATIONAL FOR THE
BENEFIT OF OUR SCHOLARS

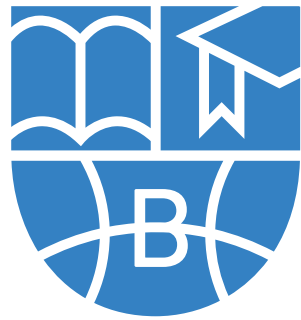
*The virtual setting of our Scholars
afforded opportunities to gather
more frequently and expand on our
leadership and development offerings*

2

NUMBER OF TIMES

WE HAVE HAD TO
POSTPONE OUR
LEADERSHIP RETREAT

*Putting the well-being of our
Scholars first, we rescheduled
our Leadership Retreat twice,
now planning for a bigger and
better event than ever when we
can safely host it in 2022*



\$25,000

**COVID-SPECIFIC
RELIEF**


PROVIDED
TO OUR SCHOLARS
*Helping with
pandemic-related expenses
became a priority*



9

**NUMBER OF MANTRAS
REPEATED**

ONCOURSE SHARED
MEANINGFUL PHRASES
FOR THE ENTIRE TAKE
CHARGE FAMILY TO
REPEAT AND BELIEVE
(SEE PAGE 12)



100%

**OF PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS**

MET BY GUIDE
SCHOLARS IN 2020

*The GUIDE program
continues to demonstrate
its impact*



34

DOZEN

HOMEMADE COOKIES

*This year proved especially
important to maintain the
tradition of sending Scholars
handwritten notes and
cookies — baked by
the beloved “Aunt Suz”
(Heidi’s mom!) — to
acknowledge life’s moments*

PARTNER PROFILE

ONCOURSE INTERNATIONAL

As the pandemic unfolded and racial unrest increased, the foundation quickly prioritized reaching out to each Battier Scholar for frequent updates on whereabouts and well-being. In doing so, we identified an opportunity for an outlet to explore the complicated feelings and emotions that accompanied the challenging topics spring of 2020 presented. The significant disruption to our Scholars' daily lives and schedules from COVID-19, partnered with these complex issues, created a need for tools to consider and plan a course of personal action.

Enter OnCourse International, led by Jim and Paul Warner, who hosted a series of virtual seminars with the Battier Scholars and Take Charge Foundation team. Together, we explored ways to “Unpack & Act” on feelings, navigate emotions, listen reflectively, and pursue true commitments. The seminars sparked insightful discussions and provided a platform not only to be heard and explore our challenges, but strategies to carry the practices into our everyday lives.



ABOVE: Jim Warner converses with Battier Scholars during a Leadership Retreat

This was not the first time OnCourse positively impacted the Take Charge family. Jim Warner, having connected with Shane on a personal level years ago, generously offered his services for the benefit of our Scholars for the 2019 Leadership Retreat. Jim and a colleague organized interactive experiences and multi-day workshops for the retreat that made a lasting impression. Jim's work has continued on a one-on-one basis with Scholars and by bringing in Paul, who has certainly augmented this incredible OnCourse International / Take Charge partnership.

“THE FREQUENT SEMINARS WITH ONCOURSE DURING THE YEAR WERE A REMINDER OF THE POWER OF COMMUNITY. THEY SERVED AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT UPON THE CHALLENGES CREATED BY THE PANDEMIC. JOINING AND LISTENING TO SOME OF MY FELLOW SCHOLARS’ CONCERNS, I KNEW I WASN’T ALONE IN MY STRUGGLES. I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL TO THE FOUNDATION FOR PROVIDING US WITH THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES TO NAVIGATE SUCH DIFFICULT TIMES.”

— JULIO R. BURGOS



BATTIER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

IN 2020, TWO TAKE CHARGE FAMILY MEMBERS JOINED THE RANKS OF COLLEGE GRADUATES WITHIN THE SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

TWO UNIVERSITIES. TWO MAJORS. TWO PATHS. TWO FUTURE LEADERS. ONE INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENT.



BATTIER SCHOLAR MALIK

For Malik, graduating from the University of Michigan in May 2020 meant not having a graduation ceremony in accordance with mandates due to the pandemic. While disappointed to receive his diploma via mail and not have the symbolic walk across the stage as a memory, Malik says “I am grateful nonetheless.”

Grateful is a term that this Scholar uses often when discussing both his academic career and the Battier Take Charge Foundation. “I am grateful for the opportunity to have the foundation support my college career. I am grateful to have their help and friendship as I navigate adult aspects of life. I am grateful to attend retreats and learn to be open and vulnerable and receptive.”

To talk with Malik at the conclusion of his college career is to learn just how impactful his Battier scholarship is to him. He acknowledges the monetary value and its significance, but also that it is not just tuition. It is the continuity and the layers of support.

“During college, the foundation sent me care packages and cookies. They helped me select flights and buy luggage before studying abroad. They supported my move back home during the pandemic last spring. They just continued to take the extra step, making sure that I was doing well in all aspects of life.”

One of these aspects in which Malik succeeded during college was deciding on a major in an area of which he is passionate — political science. He aims to learn more in the coming years about political processes to round out the theory-based pedagogy of his degree program. In the meantime, Malik is enjoying his first job post-graduation. And when asked if he might consider using his degree to run for office someday, Malik simply says “perhaps!” This incredible Battier Scholar would undoubtedly get our vote.



BATTIER SCHOLAR NAHARAI

At her limited-capacity graduation ceremony in December 2020, Naharai asked herself “Is this real? Am I truly here? Because I didn’t see myself graduating from college when I was growing up.”

Yet graduate she did, with a degree in environmental science from Texas A&M University.

Naharai’s path to degree holder was a circuitous one. As a Houston-based Scholar, she chose Texas A&M according to her plan to become an engineer. She began to doubt engineering during her sophomore year, however, as she discovered that she did not enjoy coding and found herself no longer loving to study engineering concepts.

Naharai connected with Take Charge Executive Director Newell Fleming, who gave her advice and an action plan for changing her academic trajectory. This one simple call deepened Naharai’s appreciation for the foundation and its support of Scholars. “I realized we don’t just share our highs, but we also share our lows. And I knew that the foundation would not let me feel alone in the process.”

Naharai then reached out to an academic advisor and learned that her coursework transferred into a multitude of other options, including the College of Geosciences. She applied to the school, was accepted, and enrolled in the regulation and policy track of environmental science. It was the exact right fit. “I enjoyed studying again,” notes Naharai. “I enjoyed talking with professors. I felt like I belonged.”

Her college trajectory once again took an unexpected turn in spring 2020. Naharai’s family, faced with difficulties of navigating COVID-19, needed her to return home to help. So she left College Station, with the understanding that she would still study remotely for the rest of the semester and then return to complete her degree.

With extra tuition aide from Take Charge, Naharai did just that. Now, as a college graduate and several months into her job as an Account Specialist with US Ecology, Naharai credits the foundation with supporting — and accompanying — her to this momentous point. “Because of the foundation, I know I never walk a path alone.”



GUIDE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

WHO: Driven young leaders from Miami-Dade County Public Schools

RESOURCES: Well-trained mentors, a college success coach, numerous college-readiness workshops, and countless additional resources and benefits

ACCOUNTABILITY: Scholars sign a contract committing to maintaining a minimum GPA, meeting regularly with mentors, and graduating with a high school diploma

GOAL: Successfully completing the program and earning a full, four-year Florida Prepaid Scholarship to cover college tuition

KEY PARTNER: Take Stock in Children Miami, with over 20 years of experience in mentor programming and college preparation for at-risk students in Florida

2020 HIGHLIGHT: All of our GUIDE Scholars kept their academic footing despite school closures and restrictions, seamlessly transitioning to online learning and virtual mentor sessions

GUIDE SCHOLAR

PIERRE

Innovative technology. Coding research. Data podcasts.

While these may sound like the latest products of a tech company, they are actually the extracurricular activities of GUIDE Scholar Pierre.

“I have always been a curious person, always asking questions” says Pierre, member of the 2021 GUIDE program graduating class. “I’ll spend hours on one thing, which leads to another, landing in an area where we don’t yet know the answers. Science is like that — it is full of areas we don’t know, and I find that fascinating.”

To pursue this profound interest in science beyond high school, Pierre created a list of universities he considered applying to that fit his criteria of offering engineering, technology, and computer science. When he shared this list with his GUIDE mentor Hernando Lalinde, with whom Pierre had been partnered since the tenth grade, he was met with a challenge to think beyond the local or even state level. Hernando recalls telling Pierre “you have the grades and the potential to shoot high. Pick two or three big-time universities and add them to this list.”

Pierre heeded this advice, with Stanford University becoming a goal. Hernando served as a resource throughout the application process, reviewing Pierre’s essays and support materials. Hernando also continued to cultivate Pierre’s passion for science, bringing him to his office

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 2016, THE GUIDE (GIVING UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS DIRECTION IN EDUCATION) PROGRAM HAS EXPOSED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, PROVIDING THE TOOLS AND SUPPORT STUDENTS NEED TO EARN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND ACHIEVE THE DREAM OF A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

in downtown Miami to expose Pierre to technology in the workplace and encouraging Pierre to learn coding basics as applicable to his future studies.

Kamal James, a tutor through the GUIDE program, further supported Pierre in his college pursuit by working with him to prepare for the ACT. “I’ve never met a kid who is harder working or more intellectually curious” says Kamal. Pierre brought this drive and curiosity to his ACT studies and credits the experience with raising his scores. “Kamal helped me to refine the skills I already had, to learn to prioritize questions, to pace, and to not make easy mistakes. I know I wouldn’t have scored as high without him.”

Yet for both Pierre and Kamal, the most memorable moment of their tutoring experience was not the tutoring at all. It was the email that Pierre opened at the conclusion of their session on December 1, 2020. Pierre had received an email from Stanford and, sharing his screen with Kamal, he read what proved to be an acceptance letter. “It was one of the happiest experiences of my life” says Pierre.

When Hernando received the call from Pierre sharing the good news, he says he was “just as surprised, amazed, and happy as Pierre was. I got chills.”

With Pierre now an entering member of the Stanford University Class of 2025, he remains full of gratitude for the GUIDE program. He appreciates the amount of support;



ABOVE: Stanford-bound Scholar Pierre connects with his mentor Hernando

the meaningful touch points during his experience; a mentor like Hernando to make sure he was staying on track and preparing for the future; and the community of individuals with such a strong interest in his success.

And while the entire Take Charge community is proud of Pierre and his role as the first Scholar to attend Stanford, the foundation also deeply concurs with Kamal’s sentiment that, “Pierre is not special because he is going to a fancy school. He is going to a fancy school because he is special.”

“BEING ABLE TO INVOLVE MY FAMILY HAS ENABLED ME TO REALLY DEDICATE MYSELF TO THIS EXPERIENCE, AT THE SAME TIME MAKING IT THAT MUCH MORE POWERFUL. TAKE CHARGE HAS SUCH A PERSONAL TOUCH, AND WE ALL BECOME FAMILY. THAT ‘FAMILY’ VIBE IS WHAT MAKES TAKE CHARGE SO UNIQUE.”

— **BECKY McCARRON**
Take Charge mentor and Board member



LEADER SPOTLIGHT

BECKY McCARRON

2016

Becky is introduced to the foundation and joins Take Charge as a mentor



2016

Ra'Shawna and Becky connect as mentee/mentor

2018

Becky involves her immediate family with Take Charge; husband and sons participate in a car wash to raise funds for senior night for a GUIDE cohort



2019

Ra'Shawna takes advantage of her two-year community college | two-year university scholarship and enrolls in Tallahassee Community College

2019

Becky's husband Doug, inspired by Becky's love of her role as a GUIDE mentor, joins Take Charge himself as a GUIDE mentor



Wadley and Doug connect as mentee/mentor

2019

Becky remains committed and continues her mentorship role

Kiera and Becky connect as mentee/mentor



2020

Kiera and Becky, Doug and Wadley stay in touch virtually throughout the pandemic via text, email, and phone

Kiera and Wadley accepted to college for the 2021–2022 academic year

TOMORROW

The GUIDE program and the connections it forges continue to positively impact the lives of GUIDE Scholars, mentors, and the entire Take Charge family



Our Community

PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

The incredible impact of the Battier Take Charge Foundation is due in large part to the unwavering support of those who comprise the greater Take Charge community — our family.

Since its initial partnering with KIPP Academy in Houston, the foundation has forged additional partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami and Horizons Upward Bound in the Detroit metro area. Each of these remarkable nonprofit organizations assists in the identification of future leaders selected as Battier Scholars.

Additionally, since 2016, the foundation has greatly benefited from its strong partnership with Take Stock in Children, joining our efforts to help deserving students in Florida escape the cycle of poverty through education.

LEADERS

An exceptional 2020 for the Battier Take Charge Foundation would not have been possible without the leaders who commit resources and share expertise for the betterment of educational programming.

Mentors, success coaches, tutors, professionals in their field, programmatic volunteers, and countless others play a pivotal role as the Battier and GUIDE Scholars transition to unprecedented leaders of tomorrow.

DONORS

The generosity of community partners, individuals, corporations, and friends who continually step forward with donations of both in-kind and philanthropic gifts is transformational. This incredible commitment ensures that the outreach and programs of the foundation not only continue, but grow and amplify as we empower deserving youth from all walks of life.

These simple yet meaningful mantras bolstered much of the Take Charge family during 2020. Originated by OnCourse International, the intent — for our Scholars to find grounding in this time of uncertainty — will likely continue to underpin the narrative for our promising leaders as we look ahead.



MANTRAS

MANTRAS OF AUTHENTIC LEADERS

I ACCEPT “WHAT IS,” INCLUDING MYSELF, WITH GRACE AND GOOD HUMOR.

I AM AN ENTHUSIASTIC MOTIVATOR.

I AM FULLY PRESENT EACH MOMENT, BRINGING MY GIFTS TO THE WORLD IN ACTS OF LOVE, GOODNESS, BEAUTY, HOPE, AND TRUTH.

I FACE AND GO THROUGH MY FEARS AND PAIN WITH COURAGE, CONFIDENCE, AND LOVE.

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED RIGHT NOW. I HAVE ENOUGH. I AM COMPLETE.

I EXPERIENCE AND ACCEPT ALL OUTCOMES — GOOD OR “BAD” — WITH GRACE.

I PLAN WELL, PLAY HARD, AND RELEASE ATTACHMENT TO OUTCOMES.

I AM DIRECT, DECISIVE, AND EMPOWERING.

I AM ENOUGH — RIGHT NOW JUST AS I AM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF THE BATTIER TAKE CHARGE FOUNDATION.

WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WAYS TO VOLUNTEER, GIVE, AND ADVANCE OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF UNDERSERVED YOUTH AND TEENS.

IN THE MEANTIME, DO WELL, DO GOOD.

BATTIERTAKECHARGE.ORG

