

Achieve Newsletter February 2023

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A Message from the Director

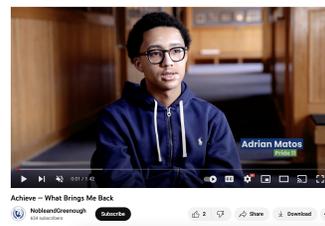
Last month, we had the opportunity to come together with friends of Achieve and members of the Nobles community to celebrate the launch of our 15th year. As our team is busy preparing for our 2023 summer session we also wanted to share the remarks from the 15th Anniversary event with all of you.

We are so grateful for the community of students, families, school partners, and supporters we have developed since our program's inception in 2007.

In partnership,
Reginald Toussaint



Neandra & Tiauna, Achieve Graduates (Pride 3)



Watch our latest video!



Achieve is hiring!

Do you know any phenomenal teachers? College students looking to pursue a career in education? A registered nurse or mental health professional?

Please suggest they apply to Achieve! Job descriptions can be found at our website.

University with a degree in business management and I now work as a client sales associate at MFS Investment Management.

Tiauna: My name is Tiauna Walker, I am an alum of the achieve program, and a member of pride 3, I graduated last year from Bates College with a degree in psychology and currently serve as an Achieve fellow here at Nobles.

Neandra: My mom told me about Achieve as we were looking for a new summer program. She mentioned that our former METCO director Ms. Horner heard about the opportunity. I did not want to leave the summer camp I had been attending since I was very young and I was honestly afraid to start something new but after learning more about the program, I eventually got very excited.

Tiauna: During my 6th-grade year my parents mentioned the opportunity to me, I remember being a bit hesitant because I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. Knowing that Neandra was also applying set my mind at ease. I just remember questioning this idea of homework in the summer, plus a three-year commitment at the time, which was quite scary. But I grew to completely fall in love with the space, people, and opportunity.

Neandra: As a middle school student, Achieve was an opportunity to not only grow academically but another way for me to connect with my community and my peers. I was able to meet other kids who are from the same neighborhood as I am and was able to build genuine, long-lasting friendships with them. As a METCO student at the time, that meant so much to me.

Tiauna: Achieve served as a space I could be myself, and continue exploring it freely. It was a space I could

ACHIEVE DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT!

Achieve depends on the generosity of its supporters. Contributions will be put to use immediately and will help cover the costs of the upcoming summer session.

Thank you for your consideration!

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ACHIEVE Website

theachieveteam.org



ACHIEVE MISSION

Achieve partners with families from Boston to empower motivated students and close the opportunity gap. We provide transformative

nervous to do so at school. Activities such as Word of the Day and being involved in performance-based enrichments helped me further develop my confidence.

Neandra: Achieve was life-changing for me. Not only did I do the 3 summers, I even took the opportunity to do a 4th and later became a teaching assistant. Achieve was and still is a safe space and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to not only be a student but give back as a TA. I am beyond grateful for the relationships I've made and the support I have received from this program. I would not be who I am today without the Achieve program.

Tiauna: While I did have a break from Achieve after graduating from 8th grade. Neandra re-sparked my interest, after informing me about the TA position the summer of our sophomore year in college, and ever since I have yet to leave. I was very much a sweet student, but school was always difficult for me and after finding my own ways to love learning and the ways I can best understand it, it feels rewarding to be in a position where I can now provide those same resources to our current scholars.

from middle school to their first year of college. We foster enduring confidence and agency in our scholars through a supportive and joyful environment.



Dana (Pride 11) shares her "Word of the Day" at Achieve, Summer 2021.

Good evening all, my name is Tanaysha Howell and I am the mother of Dana Howell (Pride 11). Let me just say it's an honor to be here tonight to speak on the amazing journey my daughter and I have been on with the Achieve program.

I first learned about Achieve when Dana was in 6th grade at Roxbury Prep Dorchester. Nora, who was then the director of Achieve, went out to the school to speak to students and staff that might be a fit and Dana was one of the students that the teachers were sure would love the experience. Dana wanted to join primarily for the community & family feel and academic support. She was so shy and to herself that her hope was the community would help her open up and thrive as a student and friend.... It did!

I have to speak to the help and love we felt during COVID! Dana, her older brother, and I were both home for a bit over a year, and during that time, I was laid off twice! There were so many food baskets and things offered to us from Achieve. Dana was sent books to read, tutoring and of course, the Zoom calls to keep everyone connected. During what was such a hard time for my family, Achieve put a lot of light into our lives, and for that, we are forever appreciative.

During this time, Achieve was invaluable in their work with Dana and her high school applications, fees, and essays! Achieve held group sessions as well as working with Dana in the evenings individually with applications, essay questions as well as financial aid paperwork! They were tireless in the time and effort they put into Dana's process even including "mock Interviewing" to prepare her for what was to come from the schools she applied to. Dana ended up applying to 13 schools and was accepted to 9 of them!

Dana is now a sophomore at the Cambridge School of Weston with amazing grades, she is the head of Black Student Union on campus and has just planned her first "Black Legacy Gala" and she also plays volleyball.

The support from Achieve has continued with her simple day-to-day life at school. The check in's, and just her knowing she has people in her corner has been so refreshing. As a mom of a boarding student, it's hard, so the more hands in, the easier for me! However, she transitioned just fine and is doing awesome things throughout the CSW campus! "I love my life" is what she says!

Now, as an Achieve Graduate, she is there a few Saturdays a month, helping with younger students as well as taking advantage of extra help with her own classes. She's always happy to be a part of anything

because she loves the program, all she's learned and continues to learn, the new faces as well as the old!

I really want to send a heartfelt THANK YOU to the Achieve program for everything they've done, not only for Dana but for my family as a whole! The support and the PUSH... all so needed and embraced over the years. I look forward to many more years to come. Thank you.



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