



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2021

Contact: Jackeline Montalvo, jmontalvo@wearedream.org

Four DREAM Seniors Earn QuestBridge Match Scholarships

The DREAM Charter High School students were among just 10% of applicants across the nation to secure the prestigious award.

New York, NY — Four 12th grade students from DREAM Charter High School have been named 2021 QuestBridge Match Scholarship Recipients and will each receive full, four-year scholarships to their chosen colleges and universities.

Khalisah Abdul'Aziz (Colby College), Sheryl Avornu (Haverford College), Ceandra Hill (Haverford College), and Keyara Sims (The University of Chicago) were selected from a competitive national pool of 16,500 QuestBridge applicants. The cohort represents DREAM Charter High School's first-ever QuestBridge Match Scholarship winners.

"We are incredibly proud of our students for this achievement," said DREAM Charter High School Principal Jared Francis. "Their success is even more special in light of the challenges they have faced over the past two years. As our community continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic, moments like this are an inspiration, and a reminder of how opportunities can be life-changing for our students."

Founded in 2017, DREAM Charter High School prepares students for college and beyond by developing the critically conscious, culturally responsive skills needed for their success as professionals and as agents of social change. DCHS graduated its first 12th grade class in June 2021, boasting a 100% graduation rate, in addition to a 100% acceptance rate among seniors who applied to college. Including the four 2021 scholarship match recipients from DREAM Charter High School, six total DCHS seniors were named QuestBridge Finalists this year, a two-student increase from the school's first cohort of finalists in 2020.

"To have multiple finalists and winners in just our second application cycle is amazing," said Briana Avery, Director of College at DREAM Charter High School. "We teach our students that 'all kids can,' and this is a testament to what their hard work and the support of a community of people can accomplish."

The QuestBridge National College Match program connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to top colleges. The 1,674 high school seniors receiving match scholarships this year have earned an average unweighted GPA

of 3.93, while 92% are in the top 10% of their graduating classes. Financially, 95% of 2021 scholarship recipients come from a household with an annual income under \$65,000, and 87% qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. The majority of these new QuestBridge Scholars (81%) are among the first generation in their families to attend a four-year college in the United States.

“The achievements of our Match Scholarship Recipients are a culmination of their hard work and perseverance,” said Ana McCullough, Co-Founder and CEO of QuestBridge. “Thanks to the commitment of our college partners, these deserving students can tap into their full potential without worrying about the cost of a great education.”

ABOUT DREAM

Originally founded as Harlem RBI, DREAM traces its beginnings to 1991, when a group of volunteers transformed an abandoned, garbage-strewn lot into two baseball diamonds for the youth of East Harlem. Thirty years later, the organization serves thousands of children across East Harlem and the South Bronx through a network of free, extended-day, extended-year DREAM Charter Schools and community sports-based youth development programs. By developing a whole child model that is responsive to the unique academic and social needs of every child, DREAM is creating a future where all children are equipped to fulfill their vision of success.

For more information on DREAM and its mission, visit www.wearedream.org.

###

Press Contact:

Jackeline Montalvo

Managing Director of Communications & Brand, DREAM

jmontalvo@wearedream.org