

Off to College!!!



This fall, six UP RVA students are off to their freshman year of college. They will be attending:

- **Bowie State Univ.**
- **Norfolk State Univ. (2)**
- **Radford University**
- **VCU**
- **Virginia Tech**

We wish them the best of luck in this new adventure!

Executive Director's Corner

As a former English teacher, the students know not to ask me for math help. But lately, math has been my best friend. That's because the data that UP RVA gathers each year on our students' academic progress is truly remarkable. Last year, UP RVA made the strategic decision to work more intentionally with our students during the school day at their school sites. This allowed us to capture challenges in the moment and also build a feedback loop with teachers and administrators. The result: the 9th grade median GPA jumped from a **2.71** in 2022/23 to a **3.06**! Our overall



median high school GPA was a **3.25**, the highest in our history. These important metrics prove our students are working hard and that UP RVA's strategies are working. I'm incredibly excited to see what achievements this year brings!

Greg McCandless

Summer Happenings...

UP RVA students were incredibly busy this summer investing in their futures.

Summer is the perfect time for UP RVA high school and college students to expand their horizons while gaining valuable academic and pre-professional skills that will prepare them for future success. Read on about a few of the amazing experiences our students participated in!



- **Jeremiah Hughes** (St. Chris '27) attended a computer science program at Temple University.
- **Davonte Hines** (Steward '25), **Ny'Keila Short** (Collegiate '26), and **Rocquel Wilson** (St. Cats '26) participated in the inaugural C.A.R.E. Lab at VCU's da Vinci Center Shift Lab learning prompt engineering skills and developing techniques to maximize humanized AI applications.
- **Eva Carson** (St. Cats '25) and **Issiah Noble** (TES '27) participated in the Partnership for the Future program.
- **Naomi Young** (Steward '24) was UP RVA's first Summer Institute Teaching Assistant.
- **UP RVA College Students** interned at dermatology, dental, and pediatric practices around the city of Richmond.

News and Updates

New to the Team

We are excited to introduce two new staff members who joined UP RVA this summer!



Caitlyn Carpenter is the Pathways Program Director. A former high school history teacher and UP RVA volunteer tutor, Caitlyn will be leading our new Pathways Program, which will support high school students through the college research and application process. Additionally, Caitlyn will work with our college students, helping track their academic progress and supporting pre-professional and career development.

Adam Mansfield is UP RVA's new High School Program Coordinator. Having most recently taught high school English, Adam will oversee UP RVA's after-school program and support our high school students in their academic endeavors. The after-school program is a hallmark of UP RVA's programming and we look forward to Adam putting his special touch on it.



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Academic Success!

Last year, UP RVA high school and college students excelled in the classroom!

3.25

Median High School GPA
(vs. 3.07 Median GPA in 22/23)

3.11

Median College GPA
(80% of student on track to graduate in 4 years)

2024 Summer Institute

UP RVA's Summer Institute for our rising 9th-graders was expanded from 3 to 5 weeks this summer. Held at the University of Richmond, SI is a time to onboard our new students, giving them a toolkit full of skills and strategies essential to their success in high school. The extra two weeks allowed more focus on growing students' critical thinking and writing skills during the morning sessions. We asked students to identify *why* they are joining UP RVA and *who* they are doing it for. We know that knowing their "*who*" and their "*why*" will serve as a source of inspiration in the coming years. Afternoons were spent on culture building and academic study time, featuring many guest speakers and mentors, as well as field trips that included calm water kayaking, a historical driving tour of Richmond led by the Valentine Museum, and a trip to the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington DC.

UP RVA Professional Mentor Program

This year, UP RVA will be launching our Professional Mentor Program. This is an opportunity for us to match UP RVA college students with professional mentors in their field of interest. Professional mentors will assist students in resume development, identifying job shadows and internships, as well as other networking opportunities- all in an effort to add to the student's marketability upon college graduation. If you are interested in becoming a professional mentor, please reach out to Caitlyn Carpenter at ccarpenter@uprva.org for more details.