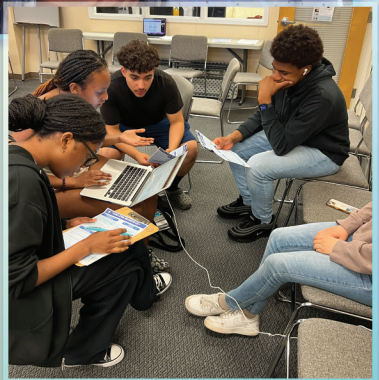




# COLLEGIATE DIRECTIONS

## 14th Annual Spring Benefit



**Wednesday, May 8, 2024 • 6:00 p.m.**  
The Madison Hotel, Washington, D.C.

CDI would like to thank our corporate patrons for their generous support

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**Thank you to Allan Woods Flowers for its generous donation of tonight's floral arrangements.**





Dear Friends,

On behalf of Collegiate Directions, Inc. staff and Board of Directors, it is a pleasure to welcome you to CDI's 14th Annual Benefit. As we reconvene in person in the spring for the first time in more than four years, we are thankful that the seeds planted in 2005 by Nina and Jonathan Marks have continued to bear fruit in the form of nearly 500 Scholars who have matriculated at more than 112 selective four-year colleges and universities across the country.

Since those early years, the college access landscape has become more competitive, more exclusive, and more difficult to successfully navigate. These are the primary reasons why the work done by CDI's dedicated counselors and staff is as critical as ever. Our Scholars, all first-generation-to-college students from households of limited financial means, face obstacles, barriers, and challenges that can put college out of reach. Without CDI, it is unlikely these Scholars would be able to successfully navigate the often opaque admissions process, be prepared for the academic rigor of college, and graduate without being saddled with crushing debt.

With CDI, 100% of our Scholars are admitted to four-year colleges annually and receive an average of \$44,734 in grants and scholarships versus the national average of \$14,800. But CDI does not just drop our Scholars off at the college steps. Our unique high-touch model allows us to stay with Scholars for six years, resulting in an astounding 90% of CDI Scholars graduating from college vs 16% of their peers from similar backgrounds.

And our work doesn't stop there. Our Career Mentoring Initiative offers 1:1 direct mentorship to Scholars and instruction in core career competencies aligned with employer needs. Our Wellness Program provides individual and group wellness/mental health sessions for Scholars and their families, a demographic that disproportionately experiences higher rates of mental health challenges and has unmet needs. Through CDI's School Support Program, we extend our institutional knowledge and best practices to high school counselors and staff to improve college advising and college selection to an additional 6,500 students.

The work we do is important and life-altering, allowing Scholars to fulfill the promise of their talent and rewarding their effort with the opportunity to reach heights that once seemed impossible.

Your belief in our mission is of paramount importance to level the playing field and allow deserving, talented, qualified students to reach beyond circumstance to achieve what is possible.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

Warmest regards,

Amma Felix  
President and CEO

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## BENEFIT COMMITTEE

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|                                        |                                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Katherine and David Bradley            | Ellen and Ed Howard                |
| Jena and Matt Carr                     | Evelyn and Michael Kitay           |
| Kim and Alec Chester                   | Melissa and Tom Loughney           |
| Cristina and Aaron Cooper              | Kara and Joseph Petrosinelli       |
| Claudia de Colstoun and Roberto Werebe | Michael Rankin and Mark Green      |
| Erin and Miki Deric                    | Elena Ritchie and Todd Sullivan    |
| Brooke and Eddie Fernandez             | Rebecca Carr Rizzo and James Rizzo |
| Maxine and Jeff Freund                 | Julie Ronhovde                     |
| Kate and Jim Garland                   | Nisha and DJ Sardella              |
| Rachel and Peter Goulding              | Liz and Bob Shorb                  |
| Elise Hoffmann and Chris Niemczewski   | Aggie Underwood                    |

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| G. Anand Anandalingam                   | Ann Marie Etergino | Maryanne Lavan      |
| Shellon Blanchard-Clarke                | Gihan Fernando     | Melissa Welch       |
|                                         | Lisette Garcia     |                     |

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| Nancy M. Carr | Elizabeth W. Galvin | Jonathan B. Marks | Nina W. Marks |
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Maxine and Jeff Freund  
Lisette Garcia and Craig Bennett  
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Kenneth M. Jones II  
Evelyn and Michael Kitay  
Levy Restaurants  
Lumina Foundation  
Annie Jihyo Park and Sarah Park, Sarah's Handmade Ice Cream  
Elena Ritchie and Todd Sullivan



## JASON WRIGHT

*President of the Washington Commanders*

As President of the Washington Commanders, Jason Wright is responsible for leading the organization's business divisions, including operations, finance, sales, and marketing. In addition to leading a historic transformation of a sports franchise, he is the first Black team president in the history of the NFL and currently is the youngest team president in the League. He is the fourth former NFL player to become president of a team.

Prior to joining the Washington Commanders, Jason was a partner in McKinsey & Company's Washington, DC office. His work focused on expanding the value of large, complex organizations through operations and culture transformations. Jason specialized in steering companies through their toughest moments - in crisis and turnaround scenarios. Jason's tenure at McKinsey supported a range of multi-national, corporation-specific challenges, while also leading the company's global inclusion and anti-racism strategies.

His deep passion for intentional change that profoundly expands opportunities for historically marginalized populations resulted in his work co-founding McKinsey's Black Economic Institute. A research entity that analyzes the racial wealth gap, the Institute today serves as a prominent voice in public discussions regarding racial equity in corporate America.

Jason spent seven years as a running back in the NFL and was team captain and NFLPA player representative for the Arizona Cardinals during the 2011 NFL lockout. He has a B.A. in psychology from Northwestern University, where he was an Academic All-American student athlete, a two-time All-Big Ten football selection, and the president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He received his M.B.A. in Operations and Finance with honors, from the University of Chicago-Booth School of Business.



## JESSICA AGUILAR RIOS

*CDI Class of 2018*

Jessica Aguilar Rios is a first-generation Latina who was born and raised in Maryland with familial ties to El Salvador and Guatemala. She completed her undergraduate education at Trinity Washington University (2022) where she graduated with a major in Developmental Psychology and minor in Sociology. Jessica is currently completing her Master of Social Work degree with a specialization in Behavioral Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. A BHWISSE-Lifespan fellowship student, Jessica is a part of the Research Scholars Program.

Her experiences revolve around working within an interdisciplinary team serving youth in educational and healthcare settings. Jessica will be graduating in May 2024, and will continue to pursue her career in school-based mental health as a social worker. Her interests lie within education, school social work practice, youth mental health, helping underserved communities, particularly immigrant families, and continuing to raise mental health awareness through community engagement and advocacy.



## COLLEGIATE DIRECTIONS

# 14TH ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

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### PROGRAM

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#### Welcome

Wendy Ayala  
*CDI Scholars Program Director  
CDI Class of 2011*

#### A Conversation with

Jason Wright  
*President of the Washington Commanders*

*Hosted by*  
Amma Felix  
*CDI President & CEO*

#### Scholar Alum Speaker

Jessica Aguilar Rios  
*CDI Class of 2018*

#### Closing Remarks

Gihan Fernando  
*CDI Board Member*



# CDI College Acceptance and Matriculation List, 2007 – 2023

Albright College • Allegheny College • American University\* • Amherst College • Arcadia University\* • Babson College • Barnard College • Barry University • Boston College\* • Boston University • Bowdoin College • Bowie State University • Brandeis University • Brigham Young University • Brown University\* • Bryn Mawr College\* • California State University Long Beach • Canisius College • Carnegie Mellon University\* • Case Western Reserve University • Catholic University of America • Cedar Crest College • Clark University\* • College of the Holy Cross • College of William & Mary • Colby College • College of Wooster\* • Colgate University\* • Colorado College • Columbia University\* • Dartmouth College • Connecticut College • Cornell University\* • Daemen College\* • Denison University • DePaul University • Dickinson College\* • Drexel University\* • Duke University • Elon University • Emory University\* • Fairfield University • Florida International University • Franklin & Marshall College • Frostburg State University\* • George Mason University • George Washington University • Georgetown University • Georgia Tech • Gettysburg College\* • Goldey-Beacom College • Goucher College\* • Guilford College • Hamilton College • Harvard University • Harvey Mudd College • Haverford College\* • Hofstra University • Hollins University\* • Hood College • Howard University\* • Ithaca College\* • James Madison University • Johns Hopkins University\* • Juniata College\* • Kalamazoo College • Kean University • Kenyon College • Lafayette College\* • Lehigh University\* • Loyola University\* • Marymount University\* • McDaniel College\* • MIT\* • Michigan State University • Middlebury College • Morehouse College • Mount Holyoke College • Muhlenberg College\* • New York University\* • North Carolina A&T • Northwestern University • Northeastern University\* • Notre Dame of Maryland University\* • Oberlin College • Occidental College • Ohio State University\* • Ohio Wesleyan University • Old Dominion University\* • Penn State University\* • Pitzer College • Pomona College • Princeton University\* • Randolph-Macon College\* • Rensselaer Polytechnic • Rice University • Rutgers University • Saint Joseph's University • Salisbury University\* • Scripps College\* • Shepherd University • Simmons College • Smith College\* • Spelman College • Stanford University • St. Mary's College\* • Stevenson University\* • Suffolk University • SUNY Oswego • Swarthmore College\* • Sweet Briar College • Syracuse University • Temple University\* • The New School • Towson University\* • Trinity College (CT) • Trinity Washington University (DC)\* • Tufts University • University of California-Irvine • University of Chicago\* • University of Delaware\* • University of Mary Washington • University of Maryland-BC\* • University of Maryland-CP\* • University of Maryland-Eastern Shore • University of Miami\* • University of Michigan • University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill • University of Notre Dame • University of Pennsylvania • University of Pittsburgh\* • University of Richmond\* • University of Rochester • University of Texas at Austin • Vanderbilt University • University of Vermont • University of Virginia\* • University of Wisconsin Madison • Villanova University • Virginia Commonwealth University\* • Virginia Tech University\* • University of Virginia\* • Washington Adventist University • Washington & Jefferson College • Washington University in St. Louis\* • Wellesley College • Wesleyan University • West Virginia University • Wheaton College (MA) • Williams College • Xavier University of Louisiana • Yale University

*This list is a representative sampling. Bold text indicates colleges at which CDI Scholars have matriculated. Asterisks highlight colleges at which two or more CDI Scholars have matriculated.*

*Achieving What's Possible!*