

2023 4th Quarter Sponsorship



We are honored to share the story of PFS' Client Allahna Brathwaite of Cedar Rapids, IA.

I joined the board of the Academy in 2018 after moving home to Cedar Rapids after almost 20 years on the East Coast. I was invited and encouraged by Dr Ruth White, the founder, to join. I was admittedly hesitant, never having served on a board before; however, I knew the importance of giving back to my community and just how important The Academy programs are to the greater Cedar Rapids community. You see, my Academy journey began at the organization's inception. I am a proud alum of the first Academy class that began over 34 years ago.

The Academy is designed as an academically rigorous program of math, science, and Black history and literature. I was always a good student and knew that I would go on to a post-secondary education. The first summer, my parents enrolled me, I was unsure of my purpose in joining the program. At the time, I can say that I didn't think I "needed" The Academy. Little did I know or understand.

Every summer after, for the next 4 years, I excitedly returned. I would spend 6 weeks with other Black and brown students, Black teachers, and community members. I formed relationships with other students and their families that I know still, almost 30 years later. I was able to see and experience my community and travel to other predominantly Black communities of Atlanta, Chicago and see everything I was learning reflected in other communities.

I learned the importance of Black history and literature to understand my own place in the world. I came to understand and appreciate how the contributions of people who looked like me contributed to the greater American experience. I made friends from other schools and grew in both confidence and self-assuredness. The Academy changed me, for the better.

While the program has grown and changed over the years, the core mission of The Academy remains the same: To instill pride in and understanding of African American culture as a tool to encourage academic achievement and positive behaviors, toward post-secondary matriculation and productive citizenship.

My journey with The Academy has come full circle. Last year, I was elected as the President of the Board of The Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success. I am proud to be an advocate for the program that did so much for me and continues to do so much for the community. I look forward to steering The Academy toward an even better future.

Please consider supporting this amazing program, making a positive and impactful difference in the lives of many students.

[Make a Personal Donation to The Academy](#)

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