



**High Expectations,  
High Standards,  
Excellence**

**ANNUAL  
UPDATE  
2024-2025**



OFFICE OF  
MULTI-ETHNIC  
STUDENT EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

## ABOUT US

OMSE is proud to offer services and programs that enhance the learning experience and promote academic success for undergraduate students.

As an academic unit under Belonging and Community at UMD, OMSE recognizes the value of the multiple histories, beliefs and ethnic backgrounds of our students and works with faculty and staff to support high expectations, high standards and excellence for every student at the university.

## OMSE MISSION

To serve undergraduate multi-ethnic students to increase rates of matriculation, retention, graduation and overall GPA.

OFFICE OF MULTI-ETHNIC  
STUDENT EDUCATION  
1101 Hornbake Library  
College Park, MD 20742  
301.405.5615 | [omse.umd.edu](http://omse.umd.edu)



# A Message from the Director

I'M PLEASED to share that OMSE had a banner year in 2024–25. We served more students than we've ever served previously. We led more activities, both collectively and collaboratively, across all our programs. And we had higher participation rates. All these efforts have been in service of our commitment to high standards, high expectations and excellence.

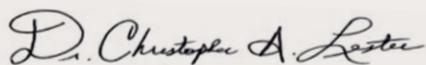
Indeed, excellence is the driving force in everything we do, every day. We continuously assess our programs and results, raising the bar each year. Our mission, which is aligned with the overall mission for the University of Maryland, elevates all aspects of the university community.

This commitment to excellence and our mission are demonstrably effective. The data support us: students who participate in OMSE's programs are more likely to remain at the university, excel and graduate. Because we provide leadership development opportunities, help connect students with internships and education abroad, and teach them through tutoring how to develop their learning skills, they're also more likely to thrive after graduation.

This profound impact resonates deeply, as evidenced by OMSE having significantly more donors than any other campus group on Giving Day 2024. People don't donate their hard-earned dollars to something that doesn't have worth. For us to have such a large number of engaged supporters means that OMSE is highly valued for the power of our model of academic support.

Woven into our approach is an emphasis on building community, and it has been wonderful to see a high level of collective engagement. At our events, people come together from different organizations, different backgrounds and from across the political spectrum to connect with our programs in service to their sons and daughters.

Reflecting on our achievements—and more importantly, the remarkable achievements of the students we serve—I take great pride in the work we are doing and in our unique approach, which is laid out in the following pages. We're looking forward to next year, steadfast in our plan to do our best and be our best, even in the midst of disruptions in higher education and state budget challenges. We owe it to the next generation of leaders to continue nurturing their talents.



Dr. Christopher A. Lester  
Director, Office of Multi-ethnic Student Education



# OMSE Points of Pride

## 2023–2024 Academic Year



### ENROLLMENT

**351**

students enrolled  
in OMSE programs



### TUTORING

**1,132**

College Success  
Scholars tutoring  
sessions

“It has been helpful to know that I am supported in this academic journey of mine, and knowing that I have help in case I need it gives me the confidence to continue to try and achieve my academic goals.”

—COLLEGE SUCCESS SCHOLAR

## 2024–2025 Academic Year



### TUTORING

**1,856**

College Success  
Scholars tutoring  
sessions

“It’s great because people there understand our lived experiences.” —LA FAMILIA PARTICIPANT

### ENROLLMENT

**319**

students enrolled  
in OMSE programs



### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

**7,829**

students invited to  
spring academic  
achievement ceremony



ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT

6,948

students invited to  
spring academic  
achievement ceremony



GIVING DAY DONORS

1,252

individual donors  
on Giving Day

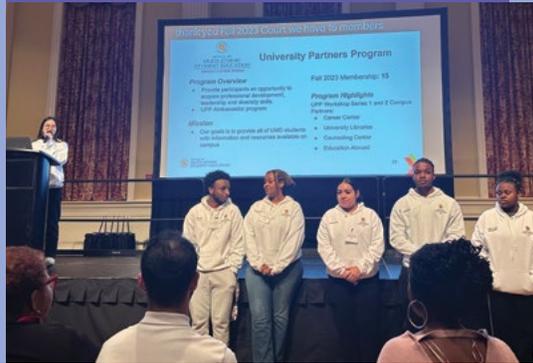
“I have felt like I had a community,  
and it made my UMD experience  
feel a bit more meaningful and  
like I actually fit in.”

—SISTER TO SISTER PARTICIPANT

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS PROGRAM (UPP)

108

students earned University  
Partners Program certificate



“It helped me see that  
there are people out  
there that can really help  
me in my time of need.”

—ACADEMIC TUTORING PARTICIPANT

GIVING DAY DONATIONS

\$100,000+

raised on Giving Day



“It provided great resources  
for individuals that are  
considering studying abroad  
that may not have been  
known.”

—UNIVERSITY PARTNERS  
PROGRAM WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

GIVING DAY DONATIONS

\$95,000+

raised on Giving Day



UNIVERSITY PARTNERS PROGRAM (UPP)

123

students earned University  
Partners Program certificate

“The organization  
helps me feel more  
included in the UMD  
community.”

—SISTER TO SISTER  
PARTICIPANT

GIVING DAY DONORS

1,399

individual donors on  
Giving Day—more than  
any other University of  
Maryland department!



# Introduction to OMSE's Offices

**WHEN STUDENTS WALK** through the doors of OMSE's offices on the ground floor of Hornbake Library, they are entering a very special community within the larger university campus. Within these walls, they can relax and learn in the company of others who understand their experiences, confident in the knowledge that they'll be accepted, respected and supported.

Staff, students and even parents are committed to the success of ALL who are part of OMSE. While our efforts focus on excellence, our team also works to build a sense of community that creates an essential foundation for student success. This strong, vibrant community leads to friendships that last well beyond graduation.

## MEET OUR TEAM

**DR. CHRISTOPHER LESTER**, director

**HARITA PATEL**, assistant director

**TUNJI SAWYER**, assistant director

**DR. DASHIELLE HORN**, assistant director

**DUSTIN CHIN**, business manager

**RACHEL DOWNS**, administrative assistant

**JOVANY JOYA**, coordinator

**VIVIAN TUNG**, coordinator

**NHAYA VAIDYA**, coordinator

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTS** play integral roles in the success of OMSE programs by providing mentorship and guidance, connecting people and programs, encouraging student participation in activities, helping undergrads get acclimated and simply spending time with them. We deeply appreciate their leadership.

2024–2025 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS:

Dilorom Akramova, Winston Broadbell, Claudia Castillo, Xin Chen, Nyah Conway, Laurel Chidubem Eze, Saul Flores, Leticia Ramirez Granados, Sarahi Villasenor Hernandez, Anthony DeNeal Jones, Lei Mao, Imani Mayo, Samiha Amin Meah, Maxwell Morris, Zam Mozumder, Colin Roberts, Jafari Aasim Wilson Townsell, Emmanuel Wanjala, He Wen, Katherine Ellis Whatley

## Welcome, Dr. Dashielle Horn

Dr. Horn joined OMSE in January 2025 to lead the Tutoring Services program, the Sister to Sister program and the tutoring component of the Service Learning Certificate (SLC) program. With 15 years of experience supporting students in higher education, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge related to tutoring and student retention. She sees OMSE's free tutoring services as a "hook" that draws in students who are nervous about a class—but the benefit to them goes well beyond that. "It's really providing them the long-term skills of understanding how they learn and how they process and retain information," she said. "It's setting them up to be more successful in both their time at UMD, and at whatever careers they choose."

## Parent Spotlight

### MEET CYNTHIA LITTLE

Cynthia Little, parent of senior Correy Little, exudes energy and enthusiasm. A working mom, she's been involved with OMSE's College Success Scholars (CSS) since Correy joined the program as a freshman.

She believes in what the program stands for and appreciates that OMSE's effectiveness is backed by hard data. It's more than enough motivation to keep her energized to work with other parents on sub-committees to build strategy, support Giving Day fundraising and provide snacks for the hungry young men. She especially enjoys being part of the hospitality committee, for which she initiated the Greeters sub-group to connect with parents and caretakers to help them feel welcome.

And Cynthia appreciates being able to get a glimpse into her son's academic life. "I'm not a helicopter parent," she said. "But I do appreciate him having a mentor. I love the fact that parents have the opportunity to meet with the student and mentor, as they have insights to grades and it provides a way to seek additional help through tutoring."

She notes that several families continue coming back to support the CSS program even after their sons graduate, a powerful testament to the program's value. She and her husband may just do the same!



**Cynthia Little, parent and CSS volunteer**

## OUR PILLARS: Personal

**OMSE'S APPROACH** is built on three pillars that form the foundation of our programs and services. The first of these is personal, in recognition that feeling personally accepted and supported within a community is essential to move from simply meeting expectations to truly excelling.

Our **College Success Scholars (CSS)** program serves the student populations who statistically graduate from college at the lowest rates, with the understanding that they benefit significantly from being part of a brotherhood. The overall six-year graduation rate for males in the U.S. is 60%, but participants in our CSS program have consistently achieved graduation rates upwards of 90%.

The CSS curriculum emphasizes resiliency, agency, purpose and brotherhood—qualities that provide a strong foundation for success. In addition to a six-week seminar for incoming freshmen, each student is assigned a mentor to provide guidance and support throughout the course of their studies.

Tutoring services, leadership workshops, professional development opportunities and an annual retreat further contribute to students' resilience. An active parent group helps support the students as well.

With a focus on advocacy, education and connection, the **Sister to Sister** program supports multi-ethnic undergraduate women. Members mentor freshmen students, which gives them opportunities to develop valuable leadership skills while helping their university "sisters" manage academic and personal matters.

*"Sister to Sister gave me a community when I didn't have friends. I really enjoyed my time and I felt I was a part of a community."*

—SISTER TO SISTER PARTICIPANT

Our peer mentoring program **La Familia** also assists members in transitioning to college life and thriving within the university setting. Qualified sophomores, juniors and seniors are paired with mentees, typically in the same major, who nurture their academic and personal growth. Mentors quickly reach out to offer practical support when a mentee shows signs of struggling.

La Familia also holds workshops, community service events and social gatherings to create a safe, supportive space for members. Participants benefit from access to a welcoming group of students who share their experiences.

*"When you're a freshman trying to navigate your way through such a vast community, this is a place that's comfortable and where they are supported. You can always get the resources and help you need."*

—CYNTHIA LITTLE, PARENT AND CSS BOARD MEMBER

For women who crave connection with others on campus who share their experiences and interests, Sister to Sister is an invaluable resource that helps foster a sense of community within the larger sphere of university life.

## Alum Spotlight

### MEET BRYANT RIVERA CORTEZ

Bryant Rivera Cortez remembers meeting fellow students at OMSE's first event of the year back in 2021, when he was unsure of how he'd fit into university life. "I remember being nervous but also excited," he recalled.

Four years later, he believes community has been the most valuable aspect of OMSE for him. "I think the community is absolutely wonderful, and you will find your people even if you think you might not fit in," he explained. "It was always really supportive. People want to see each other succeed as people."

Although he was drawn to more than one OMSE program, he chose to join College Success Scholars (CSS), which includes a strong mentorship component.

"My mentor helped me through so many things. How to be a student, and how to just be a person," he said. Bryant's mentor was there if he needed to vent to someone, needed help figuring out financial aid issues, and even for advice on friendships and relationships. "Just having someone who was willing to listen" made a difference, he shared.

Originally, he wasn't sure that CSS would be the best choice for him, but that concern was quickly alleviated. "Overall, it has been so much support. It's a brotherhood," he said. "These are people who will be at my wedding."



**Bryant Rivera Cortez,**  
Class of '25, College  
Success Scholar

## OUR PILLARS: Academic Excellence

**THE SECOND OF** OMSE's three pillars is academic excellence, a driving force behind all we do. We don't allow students to settle for mediocrity; we expect and inspire them to reach higher, providing support and resources to help them pursue their goals and exceed expectations.

Students who are worried about passing an exam or course become discouraged, and discouraged students are at risk. OMSE's three tutoring programs complement our mentoring programs, providing practical assistance to help students stay on track.

Our general **Tutoring Program** serves as a first line of defense against academic struggles. The tutors often come from similar backgrounds as the students, and weekly sessions provide the opportunity for them to get to know their students and build on shared experiences. Mastery of the subject matter is necessary, but excelling as a tutor requires an additional skill set.

"People tend to think the most important qualification for tutors is that they're smart and good in the class," explained Dr. Dashielle Horn, assistant program director for academic outreach and student development. "Tutors bring not only academic achievements to

"The tutoring has been my biggest resource on campus."

—TUTORING PARTICIPANT

their sessions, but also a strong drive to empower their peers to build their own lasting academic skills."

The CSS program has its own tutoring component that is structured similarly to OMSE's general tutoring program. Built around student demand, the **CSS Tutoring Program** hires tutors as needed for specific classes and subjects. Tutors are always students, although not always members of OMSE. They are carefully matched with tutees based on coursework and often major. The programs benefit tutors as well, providing training and leadership opportunities that enrich their university careers.

Members of OMSE's Service Learning Certificate also serve as **Peer Tutors** for CSS and OMSE tutoring, helping to bridge the education gap for multi-ethnic students and enabling them to build competencies and confidence. There's no better way to solidify learning than by teaching others.

The effectiveness of OMSE's tutoring model, which is grounded in learning science, is borne out by student feedback: students who attended tutoring sessions every week or almost every week reported the most significant increases in grades and confidence in their own abilities.

And unlike the tutoring programs on many college campuses, OMSE tutoring staff proactively reach out to students who miss their assigned sessions, helping ensure that anyone who is struggling gets the support they need to succeed.

## Tutor Spotlight

### MEET HOLDEN ZEIDMAN

Recent grad Holden Zeidman has a passion for education. As an OMSE tutor, he found the perfect opportunity to gain experience and develop his skills while helping fellow students pursue academic excellence.

Holden's roommate was the president of CSS in spring 2024 and suggested Holden apply to be a tutor. A week later, he was starting in his new role; he says that he was eager to work with students from diverse backgrounds. As a double major in math and education, he was a great fit for students who needed help with math and physics courses.

Although he had tutored before, this was Holden's first experience working with the same students over a long period of time. He relished the opportunity to get to know them and see their progress. "We had a great rapport, a ton of fun," he said. "Building those connections over a semester or two and seeing each other as more than students was great."

Holden's time as a CSS tutor helped jump start his career—he'll begin teaching high school math in September—but it also left a lasting sense of connection and community.

"It's about so much more than academics," he said of the CSS tutoring program. "It's such a strong community of people to interact with and grow with. That's what turns it from a helpful program to a truly special community."



**Holden Zeidman,**  
recipient of OMSE's  
**2025 Outstanding  
Tutor Award**

## OUR PILLARS: Professional Excellence

**THE LAST OF OMSE'S** three pillars is professional excellence. We are committed to providing students with opportunities that will help them develop skills beyond academic proficiency. Not only do these experiences enrich university life, they help prepare graduates for civic service and fulfilling careers.

OMSE's **University Partners Program (UPP)** nurtures students with a series of annual workshops that are offered in partnership with the University Career Center, University Counseling Center, Education Abroad and University Libraries.

The workshops are designed to fill in knowledge gaps, teaching attendees about practical matters like how to pay for study abroad, participate in national and international scholarship opportunities, network and craft a stellar résumé. We encourage UPP participants to experience at least one study abroad experience before graduating.

In addition, student management of UPP workshops represents a valuable opportunity to develop leadership skills.

We're proud to offer students the opportunity to qualify for membership in our honor society, the **OMSE Academic Excellence Society (OAES)**. OAES celebrates multi-ethnic students who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete professional development and community service milestones.

Membership also confers opportunities to serve, including leadership positions on the society's board.

Our **Student Leadership Advisory Council (SLAC)** aims to foster relationships among the executive board members from OMSE's many programs, offering students opportunities for regular communication and collaboration in support of mutual goals and priorities. These student leaders represent OAES, La Familia, Sister to Sister, CSS, UPP and the front desk/tutoring program.

By meeting monthly to discuss updates and establish a schedule of activities, Council members are able to drive progress, as well as learn skills from one another that will serve them well after graduation.

*"I kept the packet for the future when job seeking. It provided really helpful and necessary tips for success."*

—STUDENT

## Alum Spotlight

### MEET EMILY FERNANDES DE OLIVEIRA

Following an internship at IBM last summer, Emily Fernandes de Oliveira is looking forward to starting her post-grad career in August. She has accepted a full-time role at IBM as a business transformation consultant for federal clients, an exciting step for this graduate of the Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Emily credits OMSE for helping prepare her for professional life after graduation. "I think OMSE opened me up to a strong sense of community and a strong support system, and that's important in the professional world," she said.

Emily became active in OMSE, specifically the University Partners Program, as a freshman. She progressed from program coordinator in her sophomore year to vice president in her junior year and president as a senior. During her four years at the University of Maryland, she has coordinated OMSE program events, supported social media channels, helped facilitate webinars and more.

Having those leadership experiences led her to consider many other opportunities, such as working with the College Prep Excellence Roadmap Academy, an organization that helps middle and high school-age Black and Latino males. "I love helping other people," she said.

She also loves finding individuals who share her commitment to promoting the benefits of embracing people who represent a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

"I am first-generation and Latina. I really just wanted to find a space within the larger community with like-minded individuals and similar people," she explained. "I've been able to find that. OMSE reinforces the importance of equality and having a safe space for everyone."



**Emily Fernandes de Oliveira, Class of '25**



**Eboard at  
OAES Pinning  
Ceremony 2025**

## Celebrating Excellence

Congratulations to these OMSE students and graduates who have demonstrated leadership, service and academic achievement. They are true ambassadors, and their pursuit of excellence is a source of pride for our entire university community.

### **Matthew Adjodha '26**

**CSS** | Presenter at The National Human Genome Research Institute Conference, NIH; Incoming President, Asian American Student Union; Incoming Vice President, Omicron Delta Kappa

### **Michael Amasi '26**

**UPP** | Summer finance internship at Bank of America

### **Ashna Balroop '28**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Accepted to the UMD 4+1 Master's of Information Management program

### **Joel Bannerman '25**

**CSS** | Presented prototype at University of Maryland Capstone Engineering Expo; Published Gemstone honors thesis

### **Zachary Braunstein '25**

**OAES** | Joe Vogel for Congress Campaign intern; UMD Athletic Concessions worker; UMD Residential Life-Community Assistant; UMD Semester Academic Honors, Dean's List (Fall 2023–present); Phi Beta Kappa (Spring 2024–present), UMD Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar (Spring 2024–present)

### **Alex Chacona '27**

**SLC** | Paid physical therapy aide with McLaughlin Physical Therapy

### **Sierra Chapman '26**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Environment, Technology, and Economy (ETE) Scholars Program: 2024 Citation Award recipient; Tommy Scholl Study Abroad Scholarship; Student Success Service Leadership Scholarship; UMD Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering (CMSE) Student Recognition Award

### **Divya Chiplunkar '25**

**OAES** | **SLC** | Latin Honors Recipient in 2025 (cum laude); Accepted internal medicine medical assistant job offer

### **Hailey Cho '25**

**OAES** | Minuteman scholarship 2021–2025; Job offer: Orthopedic technician, commissioning as 2LT in Army - branching medical services

### **Renée Christie '28**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Accepted into the UMD Research Equity and Access in Communication and Hearing (REACH) summer program

### **Bryant Rivera Cortez '25**

**CSS** | Spirit of Maryland Finalist; Maryland Medallion Society; College of Education Undergraduate Commencement Speaker

### **Ana Cunningham '25**

**OAES** | **SLC** | Accepted to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill doctoral program in biological and biomedical sciences

### **Kyree Day '25**

**CSS** | Contributed to article for the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

### **Emily Fernandes de Oliveira '24**

**UPP** | Full time job at International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) as an associate consultant in Federal Data Technology Transformation

### **Christina Fatusin '28**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Immersive Research Internship with the Office of Undergraduate Research

### **Zohneseh Fopenawoh '25**

**OAES** | **UPP** | Master of Arts in international relations (MAIR) through the UMD Graduate School's 4+1 program; Accepted to study abroad program in Costa Rica focused on human trafficking; Awarded the DACOR Bacon House Foundation Fellowship

### **Yury Franco '24**

**OAES** | **SISTER TO SISTER** | Pursuing Masters of Science in Medical Science, IU School of Medicine

### **Francis Fynnwilliams '26**

**UPP** | Software engineering intern at Publicis Sapient, Chicago

### **Briana Garcia '25**

**SLC** | McNair Scholar; UMD Presidential Medalist finalist; Awarded five-year scholarship to U. of Michigan to pursue PhD in political science

### **Tasfia Haque '25**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Accepted to the UMD 4+1 Master's of Information Management program

### **Jonathan Jimenez '25**

**LA FAMILIA** | Peer advisor position for Summer Health Professions Education Program at Western U Dental; Research article accepted for publication in the Journal of Occupational Health

### **Alyssa Martinez '25**

**LA FAMILIA** | Accepted into master's program for criminology and criminal justice at UMD

### **Zachary Metellus '26**

**CSS** | Cyber and fraud internship at American Bankers Association

### **Charvika Minna '24**

**OAES** | **SLC** | Senior Marshal for the May 2025 campus-wide commencement ceremony; Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society; Adele H. Stamp chapter of the Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society

**Khaymar Moe '27**

**OAES** | Linh-Thing Huh Nguyen Memorial Scholarship, 2024–2025

**Diego Moreno '27**

**CSS** | Mission systems engineer internship at Northrop Grumman

**Estelle Mosaso '28**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Prince George's County Government Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) internship

**Ryan Nguyen '27**

**UPP** | Full time job at Cooperative Education Program for the Department of Defense, Fall 2025 semester

**Esohe Owie '25**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Accepted to the UMD School of Public Health's Health Equity (HLEQ) 4+1 master's program; Finalist for the 2024 Spirit of Maryland Award and Dean's Outstanding Senior Scholar

**Adira Rajesh '27**

**UPP** | Summer internship at Genpact, a technology consultancy in New York City

**Samira Raoufi '25**

**UPP** | Full time job as the area manager for Amazon

**Victoria Reddig-Leiman '28**

**UPP** | Summer research fellowship at the University of Michigan's Cardiovascular Center

**Simone Robinson '26**

**SLC** | Amgen Scholars Program at Columbia University; Engineering abroad scholarship

**Sachitha Rupasinghe '27**

**OAES** | Dean's List (2023, 2024); Clinical Biomedical Engineering Intern; OMSE Award (2024)

**Sanjana Sankar '25**

**OAES** | David C. Saunders '81 Current Use Scholarship from Robert H. Smith School of Business; Keith S. McKenzie Scholarship (BN34) from Robert H. Smith School of Business; Software Engineer Intern, UMD Applied Research Lab for Intelligence & Security (ARLIS); RISC Data Scientist, UMD ARLIS; Financial crimes SWE intern, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Job offer, financial crimes associate,

PricewaterhouseCoopers; Accepted to master's programs at Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Columbia University (New York)

**Sumona Srinivasan '26**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Accepted into Cell Ex Stream in the UMD Fire Program

**Janasia Thomas '27**

**OAES** | OMSE Academic Excellence Awards (2024, 2025); REACH (Research, Equity, and Access in Communication and Hearing) Research Program; Summer Health Professions Enrichment Program (SHPEP) at Howard University; Senatorial Scholarship; Eta Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

**Ryan Tran '27**

**SLC** | Internship offer from the Army Research Lab

**Lily Ureta '25**

**SISTER TO SISTER** | Accepted into App Dev Bootcamp; Junior full stack developer for a startup partnered with App Dev

**Yomyra Villatoro '25**

**OAES** | **UPP** | Full time job as a medical assistant at the Montgomery Health Center

**Ryan Wang '25**

**OAES** | Master of Arts in Information Systems through the UMD Graduate School's 4+1 program.

**Xiao-Lian Warren '25**

**OAES** | Manager Aid Scholarships; Phi Alpha Epsilon; Adele H. Stamp Chapter of Mortar Board; OMSE Academy of Academic Excellence Award; Scholarships from Robin Mockenhaupt Endowed Award for Public Health Practice, Guerzon Tablang Jimenez Family TerpStart Endowed Scholarship in Asian American Studies and Culture, Manager Aid Scholarship; Internships: School of Public Health: Office of Public Health Practice & Community Engagement, The University of Maryland Alumni Association, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of National Capital Region Coordination, MyVisionFirst, Suburban Hospital Community and Wellness Division - Do Good summer intern; Maryland Medallion Society Member; OMSE Academy of Academic Excellence Award; National Society of Leadership and Success

**Jillian Wimbush '24**

**OAES** | Accepted into master's programs in urban planning at New York University, the University of Southern California, the University of Virginia, Rutgers University, George Washington University and Virginia Tech University; Annual Merit Scholarship to University of Virginia

**Joanna Zhang '27**

**UPP** | Summer sales and marketing intern at Malden Solutions in Baltimore



**AAEA AWARDS**

Each spring, we are delighted to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the academic and personal outcomes of OMSE students.

	2024 AWARDEES	2025 AWARDEES
OUTSTANDING STAFF	Pierre Yanda	Shom Tiwari
OUTSTANDING FACULTY	Elias Gonzalez, M.Ed.	Dr. Jessica Diaz McKechnie
OUTSTANDING MENTOR	Stephanie Grissom	Dr. Marcus Johnson
OUTSTANDING TUTOR	Sierra Hall	Holden Zeidman
DIRECTOR'S AWARD	Maria Olmeda	Emmanuel Simiyu Wanjala



## Giving Day

On Giving Day in 2024, OMSE received more than \$95,000 in gifts from 1,399 individuals, a record number of donors. We are truly grateful for this support. On behalf of the students we serve, thank you!

“I was very proud of having the highest number of donors [among university departments] last year. To be at the top of the donor list communicates that we are highly valued for the work we do.”

—DR. CHRISTOPHER A. LESTER  
*Director, Office of Multi-ethnic Student Education*



OFFICE OF  
**MULTI-ETHNIC  
STUDENT EDUCATION**

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Join OMSE in driving student excellence at the University of Maryland! Please visit [omse.umd.edu](https://omse.umd.edu) to learn more about how you can help support the students we serve.