

THE BOSS™ REPORT

Business of Student Success



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BOSS WEEKEND

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The February 3-4 weekend marked our **6th Annual BOSS™ Weekend**

Black History Month Celebration

On Friday, February 3, we welcomed 250 area youngsters to The Pointe at the Pyramid at Long Beach State for our annual **BOSS Showcase**. The students were joined by 25 area professionals who served as mentors, representing career pathways in accounting, banking, You can get meet our Showcase mentors through this **picture piece** and click the link to view the **Showcase Journal**.

BOSS TALKS

Student Spotlight

On the evening of February 4, we welcomed 225+ guests to the beautiful Long Beach Airport Marriott for our annual BOSS **Awards**. The event is a celebration of accomplishments aligned with our 6 foundational pillars, highlighting area civic, business and sport industry professionals. This year, we decided to recognize our BOSS scholars, having them presented by a group of amazing professionals who set the example for the 6 BOSS scholars we recognized.

Word From Our Leader



We presented our Economically BOSS Award to Millikan (now Mater Dei) junior and 4 year BOSS vet, **Koby Thurmond** presented by BOSS entrepreneur, Michael Washington; our Emotionally BOSS Award to 2022 Wilson grad now LBCC freshman, **Manolo Montoya**, presented by long-time philanthropist, Wade Trimmer; our Mentally BOSS Award to St. Anthony junior and 5 year BOSS vet **Chandler Young**, presented by Sade Castro of Bella Canvas; our Physically BOSS Award to Orange Lutheran junior and 5 year BOSS vet, **Dylan Ballard**, presented by Michigan legend, Dennis Franklin; our Socially BOSS Award to Millikan senior, University of AZ commit and 7 year BOSS vet, **Jakob Brannon** presented by Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson; and our Spiritually BOSS Award to Mayfair senior and 5 year BOSS vet **Jaylen Baker** presented by Ministerial Alliance head, Pastor Gregory Sanders. You can click the link to view the **Awards Program** and click here for a **short video** that captures the excitement of the evening.



Career Exposure & Networking

Bella Canvas Site Visit

On January 5, 2023, a group of approximately 60 BOSS scholars spent the day at the 400,000 sf Commerce, CA warehouse of Bella Canvas/Alo Yoga, the go-to apparel company for top brands around the globe for everything from festivals to branding needs.

The BOSS/Bella Canvas partnership is the result of a relationship between BOSS mom and now Bella Canvas employee, Sade Castro, and Bella Canvas executive Levi Brailsford. Bella's match contribution support played a huge role in the results of 2022 Long Beach Gives campaign, helping BOSS place 1st among mid-sized nonprofits and 2nd overall.

The site visit is another step in growing the partnership, which we hope to follow up in the 3rd quarter with job shadow and similar opportunities for our BOSS scholars.



Lakers Mentor Night

The Lakers hosted their annual Mentor Night on January 20, 2023 from Crypto.com arena. January is National Mentoring Month, and to raise awareness about the positive power of mentoring youth in communities all over the country, the Lakers showed their support by inviting nearly 200 mentor-mentee pairs to the game.



BOSS was among the few mentor pairs given the opportunity to participate in pre-game activities, including high-fiving the players as they came out of the tunnel to prepare for the game and deliver the game ball! Following this, all mentor pairs enjoyed a very exciting game against the Memphis Grizzlies.

Football Officials Clinic

On Saturday, January 14, a group of BOSS scholar-athletes participated in the Southern California Football Officials Clinic from Monterey Park, CA sponsored by BOSS board member and Pac-12 VP of Officiating, F. David Coleman.

The clinic was hosted by Harold Mitchell, Sr., former Big 10 and SEC Referee (crew chief). Mr. Mitchell was the first Black Referee in the SEC, was the Supervisor of Football Officials at the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) and founded and operated the Harold Mitchell Football Officials' Camp in Houston, TX for many years. He is currently the Lead/Game Observer/Scout for the Pac-12 Football Officiating Development Program



Our BOSS scholars participated in classroom sessions with video review and rules, football officiating mechanics discussions along with observing the on-field activities. They were introduced to the basics of football officiating from experienced officials including:

- Learn how to move on the field to cover plays.
- Receive instruction on football rules.
- Become familiar with the uniforms and equipment that officials wear and use.
- Have the opportunity to meet officials and ask questions.

Black History Month Celebration

On February 4, 2023, a contingent of BOSS scholars led by CSULB senior Business Marketing major and BOSS academic coach Emmanuel Evans, joined the South Bay Lakers organization for a celebration of Black History from the UCLA Health Training Center in El Segundo, CA.

The South Bay Lakers, competing in their 16th campaign in the NBA G League, are led by head coach Miles Simon and two-way players Scotty Pippen Jr., and Cole Swider. The Lakers took on the G League Ignite, featuring projected NBA lottery picks Scoot Henderson and Leonard Miller and at half-time introduced BOSS to all those in attendance with BOSS Academic coach Emmanuel Evans accepting a uniquely designed BOSS/South Bay Lakers jersey.



BOSS TALKS

We're committed to engaging BOSS board members in our mission and on Saturday, April 8, 2023, Board member and John Hancock executive, Robert Gustavis II, RICP®, CRPC® shared his journey from Torrance, by way of Oakland, CA, to Arizona State and to his current position, touching on a host of BOSS pillars and Good to Great principles along the way, including going the extra mile; no excuses; 4Ds, the "who" piece and the teachability index.



Robert Gustavis II, RICP®, CRPC®

FORMER ASU FOOTBALL STANDOUT

COLLEGE ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

A LETTER FROM SUE SLOTNICK CEO and Chair, Board of Directors



Dear Donors, Partners and Volunteers,
Although the college admissions landscape is ever-changing, what remains the same is that students from low-income families still face many obstacles on their journey to receiving a post-secondary education. We know there are

thousands of students in Los Angeles and Orange Counties who can benefit from College Access Partnership services. This was true before COVID-19, and we observe that the need is heightened now. An untold number of young people are experiencing the profound emotional effects of the pandemic, which has impacted their schoolwork and access to services at school. Many students are still unable to receive sufficient in-person guidance from their high school counselors that would help them understand the formidable task of applying to college, especially if they are the first in their family to attend college.

Fortunately, the team at College Access Partnership was able to provide necessary services and guidance to over 170 students in 2022 through the College 101 Mentorship Program at Chapman University and Loyola Marymount University, the College Access Program, our virtual and in-person workshops, small group meetings, tutoring, one-to-one college counseling, and the *Funding Your College Education Virtual Conference*. This support enabled our students to successfully navigate the admissions process and find funding to pay for their education.

Looking toward the future, we know that no matter what the admissions landscape looks like in 2023 and beyond, College Access Partnership is equipped to assist even more students who need our help. We will continue to work with our partners and dedicated volunteers, enabling College Access Partnership to provide a full-range of college counseling services and guidance.

It is clear that our assistance is more necessary than ever and there is much work to be done. This is why we are so grateful for the support we receive from our generous donors, partners, and volunteers who make our work possible. This is a team effort and we are convinced that no matter how daunting the challenges may appear, we can make a difference when we work together.

With Appreciation,
Sue Slotnic

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CALEB



In an essay writing exercise, the students were thinking of symbols for themselves—a metaphor that might give a clue to who they are. Some were having fun, some were uncomfortable, and some weren't sure how a metaphor could apply to them.

But when we got to Caleb, he came right out with it like it was something he had known all his life. A diamond.

A diamond begins life as graphite, the same stuff that's in an ordinary pencil. But when it's subjected to huge pressure and temperature, it transforms into the hardest substance we know of.

"You know how diamonds are made?" we ask him.

"Yeah." He says. "I thrive under pressure."

His response was the most resolute we heard that day, and this is an excellent description of the Caleb we know—*resolute*.

Upon gaining entrance to his high school, he found himself drawn to sciences, particularly biology and veterinary medicine.

As a young child, Caleb would awaken early in the morning to watch animal documentaries before his sister woke up to ask him to change the channel. He's still a font of information on the *Growing Up Animal*/series, and has since moved on to *National Geographic*.

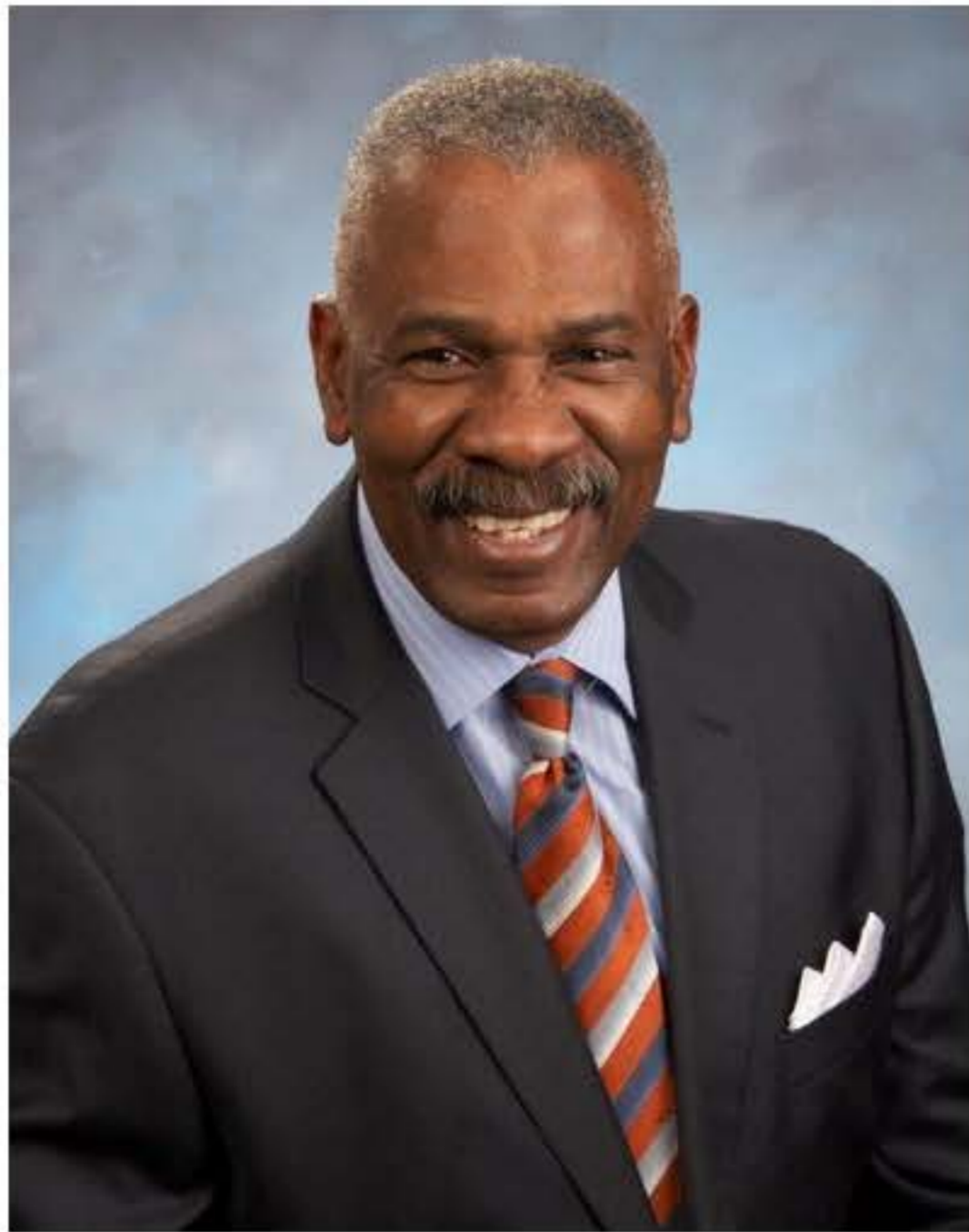
Exploring his love for veterinary medicine, Caleb volunteered at the Aquarium of the Pacific, where he was posted at the exhibits to educate guests about marine life. He went into this job as an introvert, but came out a confident public speaker.

But he wasn't done. Caleb joined a veterinary shadowing program in which he was able to observe up close surgeries performed on dogs, including a liver biopsy and the removal of a couple of infected lymph nodes. His friends thought this was gross. Caleb saw it as fascinating.

We have loved working with Caleb; not only is he tremendously mature and collected, but he is one of those students who makes the classroom through his generosity, his focus, and his leadership.

The next step will be getting on the veterinary medicine track. Caleb was accepted to several schools, including the University of Arizona, Colorado State University, Washington State University, and CSU Monterey. Caleb's ultimate goal? A large-scale practice in his own building—his name at the top—and maybe hosting his own version of the animal shows he always loved.

Big goals? No problem. No pressure.



Word from Our Leader

With our 6th Annual BOSS Weekend behind us, and with our 7th Annual BOSS Summer Camp around the corner, we continue to stay true to our mission of helping our boys develop the character, discipline, habits, mindset and skills to pursue success in spite of the inequities in education and in society laid bare by the COVID pandemic.

At BOSS, we understand that the work of tackling inequality is never done. But we're more committed than ever.

We are constantly learning to meet the challenges we face as an organization—and that involves hearing from members of our BOSS family, like yourself.

What issues are you most passionate about? What changes or improvements would you like to see us make in programming? We want to do all we can to deliver programming that transforms rather than simply touches the lives of the boys we serve.

We need our BOSS family members to give us 10 minutes of your time to complete the short survey:

Parents, click [here](#)

Students, click [here](#)

