

THE BOSS REPORT

BUSINESS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

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Congrats to the
Class of 2024

New Program Director

We're excited to announce that Ryan Tolan has joined BOSS as Program Director! In this position, Ryan will play a pivotal role in guiding our innovative programs designed to move BOSS scholars from being mere spectators to becoming drivers of their own life's journey. The Program Director will be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive curriculum that instills the core values of academic excellence, leadership, persistence, proactiveness, resilience and community engagement through our foundational pillars.



Before joining Team BOSS, Ryan taught AP Computer Science, Applied STEM and led a College Prep Seminar at Alliance Bloomfield High. Since 2016, Ryan has led Glad Academics LLF, providing coaching to educators and school districts with solutions-focused PD training, in-person and online enrichment courses in computer science, math standards with finance & CAD modeling, and ELA/STEM tutors and teachers focused on cross functional learning.

[Read the press release](#)

Strategic Plan Completion

After seven months of working on and completing a strategic plan, we continue to make forward progress with BOSS. The plan, which will guide fiscal and other management decisions, was developed in concert with our external partners to ensure buy-in to program goals and directions and includes how we will address the issues that impact our ability to develop resources to sustain BOSS and scale our impact. The plan includes strategies to improve program activities, services and outcomes and ultimately increase our impact. This will help BOSS move from success to significance!

LIVING THE BOSS PILLARS

Economically BOSS

BOSS alum, **Rafael Gomez**, has created his own clothing line. From the Rafa Rare website: Rafa Rare was created by a young 18yr old athlete, Rafael, who overcame a rare chest and heart condition. After undergoing major surgery, Rafa battled his way back to health, competed in high level basketball, won a CIF Championship, and continued his athletic fashion modeling career by launching his own clothing brand. Visit rafarare.com to check it out.



Emotionally BOSS

Elijah Jackson Bond was the 5th grade winner for the California Association of American Mothers contest with his essay, "What my Mother means to Me." He was then entered into the competition with each state winner and was selected as the national winner. He flew with his family to Omaha, Nebraska where he led the attendees of the National Convention of American Mothers in the Pledge of Allegiance and read them his award-winning essay. You can read his essay [here](#).

Angelo Santos and **Josh Torres** both played the violin at the Season Finale for the Musique Sur La Mer Youth Orchestras on May 19th. The concert, at the Pacific Coast Center for Spiritual Living in Seal Beach, featured pieces by Tchaikovsky, Strauss and Mascagni among others. Watch Angelo play the violin: [Video 1](#) - [Video 2](#) - [Video 3](#)

Mentally BOSS

The December BOSS workshop, How to Become the Boss of Your Brain, focused on mental health and wellness for teen boys. Led by BOSS parent and the founder of [Positive Note Consulting](#), **Kim Faulkner-Camacho Ed.D**, the workshop highlighted the difference between mental health and mental illness, equipping participants with strategies for daily stress management and overall well-being. More importantly, they learned how to build resilience and identify trusted adults for support.

The workshop revealed valuable insights. An anonymous survey showed a significant need for deeper mental health awareness among teens. Additionally, 29% of respondents reported experiencing depression within the past six months. These findings emphasize the importance of open communication and access to supportive adults for BOSS boys.



Socially BOSS

In June, **Justin Favorite** joined other students from Loyola High School of Los Angeles for a week of volunteering in New Orleans in the Lower 9th Ward building houses. This service immersion pushed students to consider how the challenges facing New Orleans are an avatar of the challenges facing cities around the world. Service activities were anticipated to include working with the poor through various organizations. *You can check out the students' journey on Instagram: @loyolanola2024*



Spiritually BOSS

Daniel-Xavier Brown, a BOSS alum and college student attending Lincoln University of Missouri, shares the experience of his recent one-week trip to Brazil:

I just came from a Mission Trip to Brazil to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who lost their way within the faith. With this trip, many cultural shocks happened that opened my eyes to the reality of living in the God-given purpose that our Father in Heaven has planned for us. Our goal was to bring sisters and brothers of Christ to know our Father in heaven and help them as well as ourselves to have a relationship with him and only him. During the mission trip, I was able to witness firsthand the power of faith and how it can transform lives. It was a humbling experience to see the impact of our outreach efforts and the joy it brought to those we encountered. The cultural differences I encountered in Brazil challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and embrace new ways of thinking and living. It was a reminder that God's love knows no boundaries and that we are all connected as children of God. I returned from the trip with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of the importance of living a life guided by faith and love.

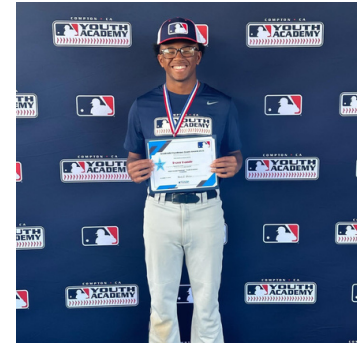


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Dylan Ballard leveraged his four-year Posse Foundation scholarship into a six-year program that will include Cornell Law School after earning his undergraduate degree from Hobart and William Smith College.

Tyzer Handy was selected for the MLB YA Compton student-athletes Academic Excellence Team for 2023-2024. He was honored at an event hosted by Hall of Fame basketball legend, Rocky Gholson. Tyzer was also the recipient of Rod Dedeaux scholarship. Every year, the Rod Dedeaux Foundation awards a \$7,500 college scholarship to one male baseball player and one female softball player from the Compton Youth Academy.



While in the BOSS program, **RJ Jenkins** improved his GPA from 2.5 to 4.3 in high school. He recently obtained his Associate of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts (Track 1: Science & Math), Magna Cum Laude. He's on his way to Morehouse College to further his education in engineering and continue his baseball journey.

At his 8th Grade Promotion Awards assembly, **Evan Pinkwasser** was awarded the Long Beach School District Lyman Lough Award for Newcomb Academy K-8. This award is not based on academics or athletics. Instead, it recognizes the same qualities that are instilled through learning and living the BOSS pillars.



Kaleb Tate finished 3rd in the region at the SkillsUSA Engineering Technology – Design competition held in April. In this competition, participants engaged in a series of tasks that demonstrated their technical and creative abilities. Some specific tasks included: project proposal and planning, conceptual design, detailed design, material selection, prototyping and testing, documentation and presentation to the judges.

If you have a student achievement you'd like to share, please email Jennifer Alexander at jalexander@bossprograms.org

BOSS WEEKEND 2024

BOSS Showcase

Over 200 LBUSD middle school boys and BOSS hopefuls joined us for our 7th Annual BOSS Showcase at the Walter Pyramid at Cal State Long Beach on May 24th. The boys enjoyed a day of speed mentoring, career exploration, and exposure to the year-round and multi-year "process" that is BOSS.

The day's mentors represented careers in accounting, banking, business, finance, entertainment, law, media, real estate, sports and tech. They detailed how they were once in the boys' shoes, how they achieved success in their chosen fields and how timeless and universally applicable leadership and personal development imperatives helped them overcome the challenges and obstacles in their paths. Keynote speaker and L.A. native Johnathan Franklin shared how a career-ending neck injury in his NFL rookie season put him on an unexpected career path to find his purpose as the current Director of Social Justice and Football Development for the L.A. Rams.

[View the BOSS Weekend 2024 Photo Gallery](#)

BOSS Gala

Our BOSS community—families, staff, coaches, board members, donors, volunteers and more—came together to celebrate on May 25th. The evening's festivities, held at the Long Beach Marriott, honored the six scholars who epitomize our foundational pillars. Hosted by the dynamic Ramsey Jay Jr., the night was filled with moving speeches and punctuated by standing ovations.

Click on each of the photos below to learn about our honorees' journeys.



[View the BOSS Weekend 2024 Video](#)

Career Exposure & Networking

Blacks at Microsoft

BOSS Scholars were part of over 50 registered Southern California high school students in attendance at Microsoft's Blacks at Microsoft (BAM) Minority Student Day 2024 on March 1st. These students were treated to a day full of impactful programming that included: engaging with panelists on a Careers in Tech panel, experiencing the Microsoft Technology Center (which delivers immersive experiences with technology and shows how technology solves real world issues), exposure to how to responsibly use AI with Prompt Engineering, working in groups to alter Blizzard games they played, and learning from the Dean of the Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine. The students walked away with some "keys" to success: Awareness, Access and Ambition.



Just Like Heaven Fest

On May 16th, an AEG Futures initiative gave BOSS scholars **Koby Thurmond** and **Mateo Venegas** a behind-the-scenes look at the music and entertainment industry. The event took place at Brookside at The Rose Bowl, the home of the Just Like Heaven festival. They got an exclusive look at the festival grounds and had the unique opportunity to engage with industry professionals and special guests through speed mentoring rounds and panel discussions.

Rams Career Lab

A group of 10 BOSS scholars took part in an L.A. Rams Career Lab on June 5th where they learned about professional opportunities off the football field. They were able to watch a Rams practice which was followed by a Q&A with one of the Rams' vice presidents who spoke about his career and the adversities he had to overcome to make it in his position. There was also a career panel of Rams' employees who discussed what it takes to have a career in sports.

Read the latest article about BOSS!

[Meet Everett Glenn - CanvasRebel Magazine](#)

The 2024 Summer Shadow Day Program

The program, sponsored by TiE Orange County (a non-profit group with a mission to foster entrepreneurship in our community), offers high school students a way to introduce them to career opportunities in a particular industry. The idea is to connect them with and allow them to learn from successful entrepreneurs across various fields such as STEM, law, finance and more. Through job shadowing, students get an opportunity to observe the professionals from the field they aspire to work in. After an application process, these BOSS scholars were accepted to attend the following shadow days:

Nasir Aldonza – Real Estate Investment Day

Mikey Cortez – SetPoint Medical

Marcus Ricard – Real Estate Jouney, Real Estate Investment Day, Altai Capital

Oliver Roberts – Real Estate Jouney, Real Estate Investment Day, Altai Capital

Kaleb Tate – L.A. Gauge Company

**Thank you to these amazing organizations
for the grants that help us grow!**

NBA Foundation
Miller Foundation
Munzer Foundation
Play Equity
US Bank

A Word from Our Leader

Many times, decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States have supported great leaps in social justice: the unconstitutionality of separating children in public schools on the basis of race (*Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954), the constitutional right to abortion (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973), marriage equality for LGBTQ+ couples (*Obergefell v. Hodges*, 2015). Rulings like these have narrowed inequality between people and uplifted underrepresented communities. They have helped spur progress across America and the world.



But sometimes, the Supreme Court undergoes an ideological shift and pulls us all deeper into inequality. This felt especially true in 2023, after the Court released a slew of decisions that undid decades of civil rights advancements, from deciding that race cannot be considered as a factor in college admissions to overruling the constitutional right to abortion one year shy of its 50th anniversary. With these rulings, the Court dismantled several long-established tenets of American society and added barriers in the paths of many people, including women and people of color.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!



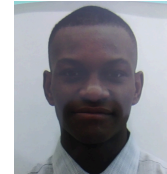
Dylan Ballard

Andrew Johnson



Marley Barrow

Peter Nwala



Dorian Blackshire

Marcus Ricard



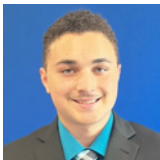
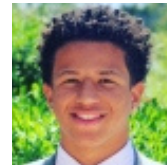
Donovan Crump

Chauncey Sylvester



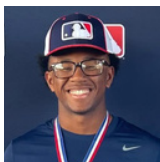
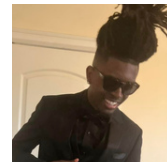
Cade Gravett

Koby Thurmond



Tyrone Greenlee

Jason Tillman



Tyzer Handy

Mateo Venegas



Zakai Hunter

Chandler Young

