



**“WE DID IT”**

**TEENSHARP 2020-21  
ANNUAL REPORT**



THIS IS A LIFE-CHANGING  
OPPORTUNITY THAT  
WILL SET ME ON THE  
TRAJECTORY OF LIVING  
A LIFE OF IMPACT DESPITE  
BEING BORN DEAF AND  
DESPITE THE TRAUMA  
I'VE ENDURED.

- Janae, TeenSHARP '21  
Macalester College C/O '25

*Janae*





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Going into high school, Daniela was used to other people doubting her capabilities.

Peers said that students like her—the daughter of immigrant parents, who were mushroom farmers in their home country of Mexico—shouldn't bother with college applications in the first place.

“But I just couldn't settle,” Daniela said. “I knew I would never be happy just settling. I felt like I had a calling, so I had to keep trying. I had to find a way.”

Daniela is among 89 high school seniors who graduated in June 2021 from TeenSHARP and are now headed to some of the top colleges in the country—like Cornell, where Daniela will study at their Industrial and Labor Relations School.

Five more SHARPIes are headed to Cornell University, too, with complete financial aid, in a year when the school received 17,000 more applications than usual and accepted just 8.7 percent of its hopefuls.

TeenSHARPIes are also headed to Princeton, UPenn, MIT, Pomona, Northeastern, Columbia, Howard, University of Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, Tufts, and many more.

In a year unlike any other, our students survived a pandemic, rose above challenging circumstances, applied to some of the best schools in the nation, and got in. We did it!

Interestingly, there is no ‘valedictorian’ at TeenSHARP. We take an abundance approach to excellence that fosters collaboration, rather than a deficit approach that engenders competition. And our programs go against the grain of the myth that Black and Latino excellence are rare.

What is unfortunately rare are the high expectations and extensive supports that we provide to students at TeenSHARP. This empowers them to reach their potential.

And we couldn't do this work without support from community members like you, who believe in our students as we do. Thanks for standing with TeenSHARP and the remarkable young people we serve.

Warmly,

Atnre Alleyne & Tatiana Poladko  
Co-Founders, TeenSHARP



*Atnre and Tatiana*



JOINING TEENSHARP  
WAS ONE OF MY  
BIGGEST BLESSINGS.

THIS IS WHERE I  
LEARNED HOW THE  
SYSTEM WORKED.

- Daniela, TeenSHARP '21  
Cornell University C/O '25



*Daniela*



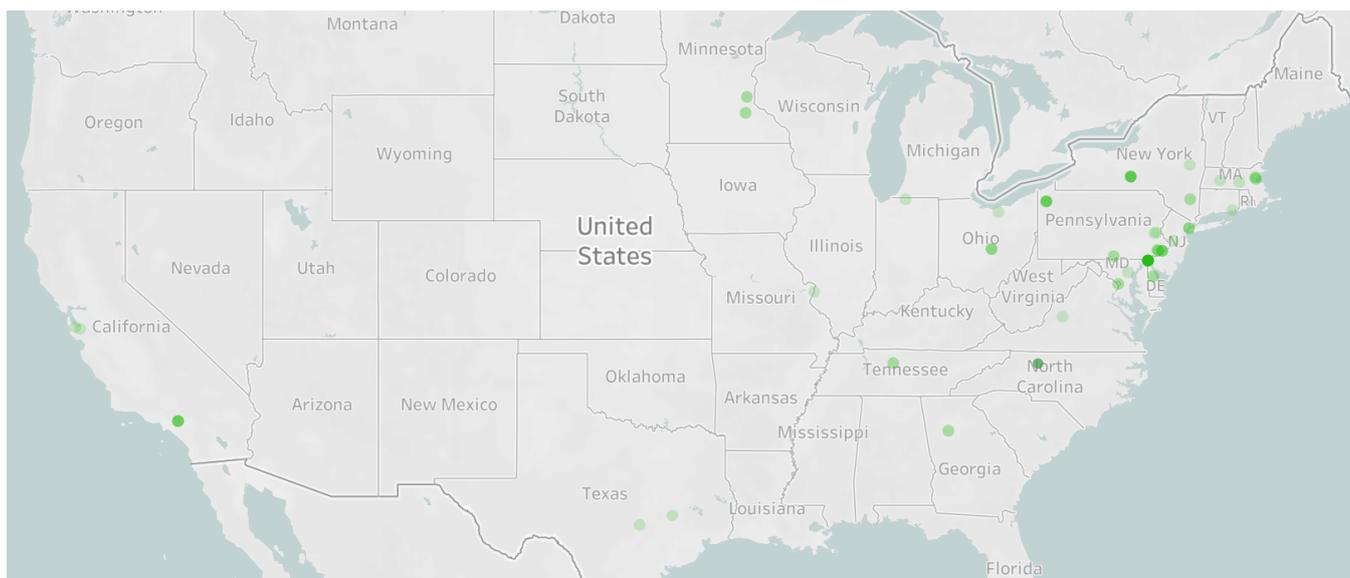
# MISSION & PROGRAMS

Founded in 2009, TeenSHARP prepares talented Black, Latino, and low-income students for top colleges and community-centered leadership. We do so in pursuit of a vision that, one day, the diversity of those occupying our nation's highly-skilled jobs and highest leadership positions will be as rich as the diversity of our population.

**1,000+**  
*students served through TeenSHARP initiatives in 2021*

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**89**  
*students graduated from TeenSHARP pre-college programs in 2021*



Dots on this map indicate where students from the TeenSHARP Class of 2021 are off to school.

Each year, TeenSHARP serves hundreds of students through high-touch, high-caliber pre-college, academic, and leadership development programs.

- **Striver Program** prepares students in full-day Saturday sessions throughout the whole school year.
- **Goes 2 College (G2C) Program** increases students' college awareness and access to advising.
- **Parent Network** is dynamic, year-round, and bilingual.

**From TeenSHARP, students go to and beyond college.** They start nonprofits; meet with lawmakers and rally for policy change at the local and state level; call upon their district administrators to diversify curricula; sit on leadership boards as student ambassadors with real stakeholder power; mentor their peers in college prep, and much more.

Our goal is to graduate 2,025 more students by 2025, bringing us to nearly 2,500 alumni.



David

*TeenSHARPie David applied to 20 of the country's top colleges—and got into all of them, including four Ivy League schools, CalTech, Carnegie Mellon, Johns Hopkins, and Tufts University. This fall, he's headed to his dream school: MIT.*

# OUR IMPACT

Year after year, we see: 100 percent of graduates attend a four-year institution (90 percent graduate within four years and all graduate within six); and 95 percent gain admission to one of the country's most selective colleges. The vast majority leave college with \$15,000 or less in student loan debt.

## STUDENTS FROM THE TEENSHARP CLASS OF 2021 ARE HEADED TO:

American University  
Babson College  
Barnard College  
Bryn Mawr College  
Carleton College  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
Cornell University  
Denison University  
Drexel University  
Emory University  
Gettysburg College

Harvey Mudd College  
Howard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Macalester College  
MIT  
Northeastern University  
Oberlin College  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Princeton University  
Smith College  
Spelman College

Stanford University  
Texas A&M University  
Tufts University  
University of Delaware  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Texas - Austin  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Washington & Lee University  
**and more!**



TEENSHARP HAS SHAPED  
ME, MIND, BODY,  
AND SOUL. I REALLY FEEL  
THE ORGANIZATION IS A  
BLESSING FROM GOD  
AND MY LATE FATHER.

*- Asquith, TeenSHARP '21  
Oberlin College C/O '25*

*Asquith*

Asquith

Clarke II



# OUR TEAM

TeenSHARP was founded by Tatiana and Atnre, a powerhouse wife-and-husband team named among the most influential Delawareans of 2020 by The News Journal and named American Graduate Champions by WHYY in 2016. From its humble church basement beginnings, TeenSHARP has emerged as a tremendous force in the Delaware Valley region for developing young leaders and helping students access and succeed at the most selective colleges. TeenSHARP's small but mighty team does whatever it takes to help students realize their college dreams.

**7**  
*full-time staff*

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**10**  
*part-time staff*

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**9**  
*AmeriCorps members*



**ATNRE ALLEYNE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER & CO-FOUNDER



**TATIANA POLADKO**  
CO-FOUNDER



**ANTHONY PHILLIPS**  
DIRECTOR OF  
PRE-COLLEGE  
PROGRAMS



**DANIELLE CAPALBO**  
DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
& DEVELOPMENT



**SHAQUONA MEYERS**  
PRE-COLLEGE SUCCESS  
MANAGER



**MAIJA HALL**  
DIRECTOR OF  
SPECIAL PROJECTS



**DEBORAH YANEZ**  
PARENT PROGRAMS  
MANAGER



Josh  
Cornell University, '25

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**KRISTIN MOORE, BOARD CHAIR**

Senior VP/Director Of Corporate Trust, WSFS Bank

**DR. NAVEED BAQIR**

Executive Director, Delaware Council on Global and Muslim Affairs

**YVONNE DEADWYLER**

Director Of Member Relations, New Castle County Chamber Of Commerce

**MARKEVIS GIDEON**

Founder/CEO, NERDiT NOW

**DR. ROSHNI T. GUERRY**

Director of the Outpatient Palliative Care Clinic, University of Pennsylvania

**IYANNA McCOY (TEENSHARP ALUMNA)**

Business Development Analyst, Microsoft

**ALBERT RODRIQUES**

Director, Bank Of New York Mellon

**MICHELE SAMPLE**

Vice President Late Stage Oncology Clinical Operations at AstraZeneca

**JAMES URSOMARSO**

Vice President, Union Park Automotive Group

**BRIAN WASHINGTON**

Senior Procurement Manager, Shelton House Products



METAL SHARPENS METAL.  
AT TEENSHARP, I'VE MET  
STUDENTS WHO INSPIRE ME  
TO DO MORE, TO DO BETTER.  
EVERYONE SUPPORTS EACH  
OTHER, WORKS TOGETHER,  
AND CELEBRATES  
EACH OTHER.

- Hasana, TeenSHARP '21  
Pomona College C/O '25

*Hasana*

I MATCHED



Pomona  
College

POMONA



Elijah  
Union College, '25

# NATIONAL ADVISORS

**KIRA ORANGE JONES, BOARD CHAIR**

Senior Vice President, Teach for America, and Co-Founder, Systems Learning Lab

**TRE JOHNSON**

DEI Partner, Catalyst ED, and author of Black Genius (2023, Dutton/Penguin Random House)

**DR. LINDSAY PAGE**

Annenberg Associate Professor of Education Policy, Brown University

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**DR. ANDREW J. SELIGSOHN**

President, Public Agenda

**PETER SHULMAN**

CEO, Urban Teachers

**XAN TANNER**

Co-Founder and Board Member, Panorama Education



*Amanda*

## 2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

**We go 100% virtual & host our first-ever virtual college tour.**

**The CEO of The Aspen Institute speaks at our Second Annual College Signing Day event.**

**We launch the Cyber SPARK summer program to offset pandemic learning loss for 100+ students.**

**We unveil our new website at [TeenSHARP.org](https://TeenSHARP.org) to highlight our students & their success.**

**We win a \$245,000 grant from New Castle County to serve 1,000 students via text message & email.**

**DETV airs our first broadcast show, called "College Knowledge," to support & educate families during COVID-19.**

**3 TeenSHARPIes are selected to receive the prestigious Questbridge full scholarship.**

**The Delaware News Journal names our co-founders among the state's most influential leaders.**

**We launch a National Advisory Board to help us scale and accelerate our work.**



# OUR COURSES & PROFESSORS

## FALL 2020 & SPRING 2021

### **Building Community (Story Telling for Social Justice)**

Professor Jinni Forcucci, Delaware Dept. of Education & Delaware Teacher of the Year

### **The Great Game (Understanding American Racism); The Lens Darkly: Race, Media, and Collective Memory in American History**

Professor Bill Bartleson

### **Making Better Futures (Developing Games to Foster Social Impact)**

Professor Mia Shaw

### **Intro to Africana Studies; Politics of Hip Hop**

Dr. Brandon Stanford, University of Delaware

### **Globalization, Development & Social Justice; Introduction to Sociology**

Dr. Esther Castillo

### **Elections & Campaigns**

Professor Jenese Jones

### **Understanding the Experience of First Generation & Low Income Students**

Dr. Will Anyu

### **The Bluest Eye – Toni Morrison; The Sociology of Childhood**

Professor LaTiana Ridgell

**“THIS SUMMER WAS MY MOST PRODUCTIVE, IN SPITE OF BEING IN QUARANTINE. READING W.E.B. DU BOIS CHANGED MY WHOLE CAREER PATH. I NOW WANT TO BE A TRUTH SPEAKER.”**

**Asquith (TeenSHARP '21 & Oberlin '25)**

Designed a video game and attended Freedom Literacy Academy while enrolled in Cyber SPARK summer courses in 2020

# OUR COURSES & PROFESSORS



## SUMMER 2021

### **Foundations of Financial Freedom**

Paris Woods, Author of "Black Girl's Guide to Financial Freedom"

### **Black Feminist Thought**

Dr. K. Yawa Agbemabiese

### **Race, Crime and Justice**

Professor Dijonee Tally

### **The Divided State: Racialized Space in American History**

Professor Bill Bartleson

### **Introduction to Africana Studies**

Dr. Brandon Stanford

### **Elections & Campaigns**

Professor Jenese Jones

"I JUST JOINED TEENSHARP THIS PAST JUNE,  
AND I'M ALREADY ENJOYING IT SO MUCH. THE EXPERIENCE  
OF WORKING WITH A COLLEGE PROFESSOR AS A HIGH SCHOOLER  
IS SETTING ME UP TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS IN COLLEGE. THAT'S  
BECAUSE THE SETTING IS SO DIFFERENT. COLLEGE IS SO MUCH  
MORE DISCUSSION-BASED THAN JUST LOOKING AT A SLIDESHOW  
AND TAKING NOTES."

**Alyssa (TeenSHARP '23)**

Enrolled in "Divided State: Radicalized State in American History"



HE SAID, 'DON'T BE  
WORRIED. YOU'VE GOT  
A TEAM BEHIND YOU.'  
THAT A STRANGER WAS SO  
READY TO HELP ME—THAT'S  
SOMETHING I REALLY  
RESPECT ABOUT TEENSHARP.

- *Tariah, TeenSHARP '21*  
*Howard University C/O '25*



Tariah



Lizbeth



# OUR TIMELINE



**2009** - Inaugural cohort launches with 10 students from N.J. and Philly.



**2010** - Program moves to Rutgers University-Camden, serving students from South Jersey and Philly.



**2013** - Striver (then the College Access Ambassador Training program) sends its first graduates to top colleges.



**2015** - TeenSHARP secures its first corporate grant from Barclays to launch its Delaware site, and wins its first AmeriCorps grant, adding two full-time VISTA staff.



**2016** - TeenSHARP launches the first Delaware cohort of Striver with 25 students, and receives its first multi-year grant from Longwood Foundation to help scale its operations.



**2018** - TeenSHARP receives its first national grant from National College Attainment Network (supported by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation) to expand support for alums in college & beyond.



**2019** - TeenSHARP hosts its first College Signing Day event to celebrate nearly 100 high school seniors headed to top colleges.

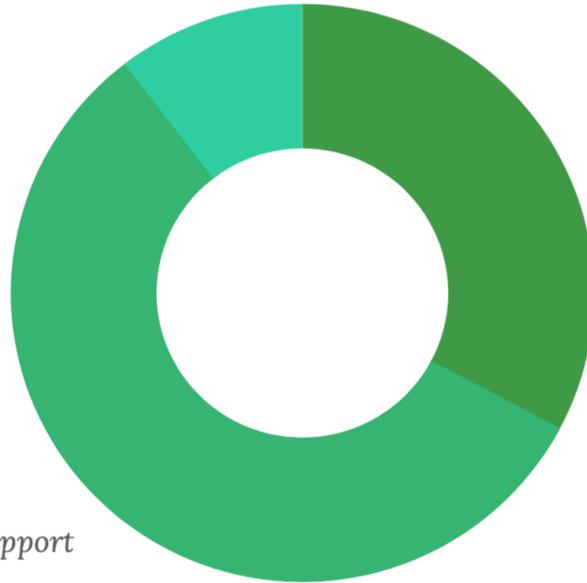


# FINANCIALS & FUNDERS

**\$1.1 MILLION**

*raised in FY2021*

Individual Giving  
10.5%



Public Sector Partnerships  
32.7%

Corporate & Foundation Support  
56.8%

	REVENUE	EXPENSES
FY 20	\$875,653	\$756,726
FY 21	\$1,089,87	\$1,062,03

We couldn't do our work without generous financial commitments from individual donors, community partners, and a growing roster of corporate and foundation supporters, such as:

LONGWOOD *foundation*

CapitalOne®

BARCLAYS

WSFS bank  
*We Stand For Service®*

WELLINGTON  
MANAGEMENT

The Laffey-McHugh  
Foundation

Incyte

Holman  
ENTERPRISES

CSC

PHILA  
FOUND  
.ORG

WELFARE FOUNDATION

BANK OF AMERICA

Arsht  
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Fund

NEW CASTLE COUNTY  
DELAWARE

cinnaire®  
ADVANCING COMMUNITIES

red nucleus

DISCOVER®

DCF Delaware  
Community  
Foundation™  
Engaging Communities, Empowering Giving™

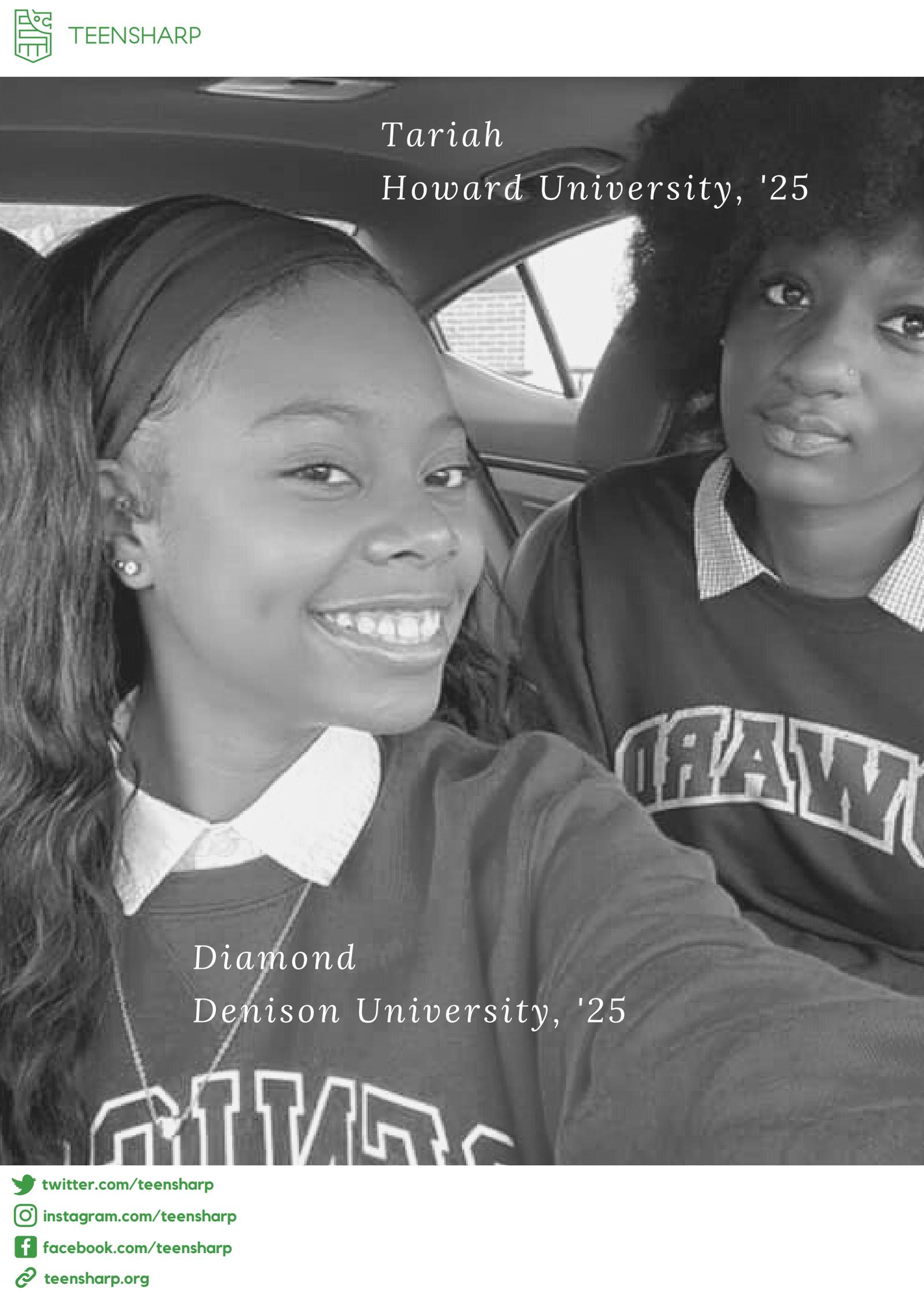


WITH THE HELP OF MY  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN  
TEENSHARP, I WAS ABLE  
TO UNLOCK MY FULL  
POTENTIAL AS A LEADER  
AND AN INFLUENTIAL  
SCHOLAR IN  
OUR COMMUNITY.

- Lola, TeenSHARP '21  
Pitzer College C/O '25

*Lola*





*Tariah*  
*Howard University, '25*

*Diamond*  
*Denison University, '25*