Meet Our 2019 National Service Segal Fellows

The Eli J. & Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program is thrilled to announce and welcome our 2019 National Service Segal Fellows, in partnership with AmeriCorps Alums @ Service Year Alliance and City Year. These inspiring and dedicated individuals join a Network of 120 Segal Fellows and 600 Segal Partners across a wide range of issue areas and sectors. Through their participation in the Segal Program, the lifelong Fellows will be supported with resources, professional development, and a supportive community to continue their development as emerging leaders and agents for social change.

Darius Caffey, 2019 AmeriCorps Alums Segal Fellow

Darius Caffey is from the south side of Chicago. He received his undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Missouri - Columbia (Mizzou) and is currently earning his Master of Public Affairs in Non-Profit Management. Throughout college, Darius served as a mentor and program assistant for the Mizzou Black Men’s Initiative, which introduced freshmen black males to leadership, involvement, and development opportunities throughout campus through a dual academic curriculum and programming component. He also participated in the Ronald E. McNair Scholar internship, where he researched "Black Collegiate Males and the Influence of High School Experiences on Higher Education." After graduation, Darius spent two years serving through AmeriCorps in a public high school in Kansas City, Missouri, with the Missouri College Advising Corps, where he assisted students and families on navigating the complexities of the college admissions, financing, and planning processes. Darius’ passion for service and education is centered around the work that he does, and he will continue in his pursuit of bridging the educational gap for minority youth in higher education.

Renée Gaillard, 2019 AmeriCorps Alums Segal Fellow

Renée Gaillard was born and raised in the Bronx, NY, and then lived in Boston, MA, for 8 years before moving to Washington, DC, in 2018. At her foundation, Renée is a nurturer, relationship builder, and community resource broker, focused on the intersections of youth and community development, art, education, and culture. After graduating from Boston University, Renée first worked in international education and then served in AmeriCorps for two terms. Renée served with Mass Mentoring Partnership to help build capacity in mentoring across Massachusetts, through managing a teen mentoring program at her host site, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, a resident-led, community-based planning and organizing entity in Roxbury, MA. Currently, Renée lives in Southwest DC and works as a Program Manager at Critical Exposure, which aims to train DC youth to harness the power of photography and their own voices to fight for education equity and social justice. Renée credits her time in AmeriCorps for introducing her to her purpose of serving young people and their communities. She hopes to combine this with her love of libraries and her belief that libraries are the most publicly accessible resource we have and, therefore, can serve as the blueprint and vehicle to move forward in youth and community development.
Diondre Morales, 2019 City Year Segal Fellow

Diondre Morales is a mentor and educator from Denver, Colorado. Diondre recently earned his Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Colorado State University. Diondre's passion for education and mentoring grew from his own journey and from his belief that underrepresented students deserve equal access to resources and opportunities to successfully navigate within an education system that was created without them in mind. This past year, Diondre served as a City Year Denver AmeriCorps Member. Throughout this year of service, Diondre was able to demonstrate how valuable building relationships with students can be. This year, Diondre is continuing his work with students as a middle school Restorative Justice Coordinator, where he will support student improvement academically, as well as through students' social - emotional learning.

Raquél Lynn Peréz, 2019 AmeriCorps Alums Segal Fellow

Raquél Pérez is a full-time Registered Nurse at Women & Infants Hospital and a part-time Social Media Assistant for the small business, half full, llc. As an RN, Raquél helps people, and as a Social Media Assistant, she highlights people. A 2017 graduate from the University of Rhode Island, Raquel’s first “real world” experiences began when she joined AmeriCorps right after graduation. By joining the Rhode Island program, Accessing Home, Raquél acted as a Resident Services Coordinator for families living in affordable housing owned, developed, and managed by Smith Hill Community Development Corporation. After her year of AmeriCorps service, Raquél continued to work for Smith Hill CDC as their Community Outreach Supervisor, where she trained the next AmeriCorps members and facilitated community connections. Raquél aspires to one day run for Congress using her experiences in the nonprofit, for-profit, and healthcare sectors, to be a representative for all.

Over the years, 41 of our 120 Segal Fellows have joined the Segal Program as national service alumni through our partnerships with AmeriCorps Alums @ Service Year Alliance, City Year, and The Corporation for National and Community Service. Our other Fellows join the Program from Brandeis University and The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, where the Segal Program is based at The Center for Youth and Communities.

For more information about the Segal Program and our Fellows, visit segal.brandeis.edu.