



# The Phillips Scholar

*Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.*

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## Meet the 2016-2017 Phillips Alumni Scholars

Each year, two or three new recipients are selected who particularly personify the attributes of a Phillips Scholar: challenging academics, a consistent record of serving others, a strong work ethic and excellent character. Here are the 2016 Alumni Scholars: *Dylan McAllister* and *Elizabeth Dada*. **To read more about Phillips alumni, please visit the Alumni page of our website.**

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### QUICK FACTS

For 2016-2017:

#### NEW APPLICANTS:

1,228 applications  
136 recipients  
\$875,000 in awards

#### RENEWALS:

330 recipients  
\$2,000,000 in awards

**Dylan McAllister** (Ithaca College '20) worked diligently during high school in Vermont to help transform his state's education experience. Inspired by the nonprofit organization UP for Learning, he served as a facilitator and change agent, successfully co-authored and secured a \$30,000 grant to support this work, and served on both his district and state Boards of Education.

He writes about his experience:

"Before my involvement, I was a frustrated student in a system that did not provide authentic preparation for the future. As soon as I immersed myself in making meaningful change, however, I metamorphosed. I stood up to speak for students like me and this engagement became the most powerful piece of my high school experience.

Historically, our education system has marginalized students who cannot 'play the game,' devalued divergent thinkers, tested the wrong skills, and otherwise frustrated students.

Throughout high school I learned about efforts to transform the public education system and recognized that more student voices were needed. So, when I had the opportunity to partner with a transformative non-profit called UP for Learning, I became devoted to changing the unresponsive system from the roots up. When positions opened up for a student on both my local and state Boards of Education, I started making change from the top. What I found is a community of supportive adults asking for our voices, and many students across the state engaging in this work on multiple levels.

Perhaps the most significant learning for me has been from the caring adults involved in this change. They care very deeply about students and their communities. I would like to be an influential adult like they are, and to be that person for kids in school."

At Ithaca, Dylan has joined a mental health advocacy club called Active Minds, participated in an alternative fall break service backpacking trip, and "explored the funky town and natural environment that is Ithaca." He also sincerely hopes to become involved in student leadership programs through Ithaca's Student Affairs and Campus Life.



Remember: You can start your FAFSA in October this year!

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund P.O. Box 870 Salem MA 01970**

**Elizabeth Dada** (Dickinson College '20) has been a strong force in her community for educating others about access to healthy food through The Food Project and developing healthy self images through her work as a Teen Health Ambassador in her city of Lynn, Massachusetts. She writes:

“The Food Project (TFP) hires youth and adults from diverse backgrounds to work together in the food system. Through this program I have grown as a person and a leader. TFP pushed me to question where my food comes from, to recognize the roadblocks to safe and healthy communities, and to start shattering these barriers within our own communities. My team and I have built over 120 raised bed gardens in schools, community organizations, and individual homes across the greater North Shore area, including more than eight at my high school that both students and teachers care for. We also organized workshops to educate community members about these topics. Additionally, we have created mobile markets to bring a diverse pool of healthy food to senior citizens. And we host farmers markets in Lynn, where we sell the food we grow at a reasonable price, and where we accept EBT and SNAP benefits. I firmly believe in the green food movement and the importance it carries in the health of my community.

As a Teen Health Ambassador I lead workshops about healthy relationships and empowered young females to rise above stereotypes. With other ambassadors, I built and designed a Teen Health App to provide information about the personal and social aspects of relationships along with links to valuable resources such as the Lynn Community Health Center. Becoming a Peer Leader was a huge accomplishment that empowered me in many ways. I mentored six amazing girls, educated them on how to maintain healthy relationships physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually and the importance of self-care. As a Teen Health Ambassador I am part of a movement that helps girls redefine themselves, take control of their bodies and love themselves, contrary to society’s negativity.”

Elizabeth emigrated to the US from Lagos, Nigeria when she was 11, experiencing her first snow shortly after arriving. School was challenging initially, but by high school she distinguished herself at KIPP Collegiate Lynn Academy. Now a first-year student at Dickinson College, Elizabeth writes that college “is amazing!” She particularly enjoys her Gender in Africa course, which looks at the ways Africa is either romanticized in the US or portrayed as poor, dangerous or exotic and also at the stereotypical representation of African women. “This class is urging me to consider majoring in Cultural Anthropology.”



### *Words of Thanks*

We are very grateful for the generous alumni (or their parents) listed below. It is so gratifying to see former recipients reaching forward to help others as they were helped. These gifts help to fund the Phillips award for our two Alumni Scholars. We offer sincere gratitude to each of you for your thoughtful contribution.

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