

# OUT IN TWO UPDATE

Out in Two scholars visit Philadelphia-area senior colleges

## Scholars explore transfer opportunities



Out in Two scholars participated in a Philadelphia college tour over Spring Break from Monday, April 10, 2017 through Wednesday, April 12, 2017, and the consensus was that the trip was a big success! Students visited the campuses of Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Arts, Temple University, and Rutgers University—Camden.

Scholars departed BMCC early in the morning on Monday, April 10th, and arrived in Philadelphia around 10:30am. They first visited Drexel University, where they walked around campus, learned about Drexel's unique trimester system and the many internship opportunities offered. Scholars saw the residence halls, athletic facilities, and the library and spent some time shopping in the Drexel bookstore before leaving to visit the University of Pennsylvania, (UPenn) which is literally across the street from Drexel.

At UPenn, the scholars enjoyed a nice lunch before taking a walking tour of the campus. One of the tour guides was a UPenn alumnus, so he was able to fill the group in on many of the details about the school, including information on their academic programs, college traditions, and opportunities to get involved in a number of organizations. Scholars saw the famous "Hall of Flags" which reminded them of Harry Potter's Hogwarts and learned about the Ivy League. They also learned some history about UPenn's founder, Benjamin Franklin, and stopped to have their picture taken with two likenesses of him. Out in Two scholars also got to enter Franklin Field, which has a capacity of over 50,000 people and was quite impressive to see!



***"This trip was a success as I truly had fun with my fellow scholars and amazing escorts. I am thankful for being a part of this amazing group and taking advantage of this opportunity."***

**-Rashaad Saunderson**



*(Left): Students pose in front of the famous "Drexel Dragon"*

*(Right): Students at the entrance to the University of Pennsylvania*

The scholars then departed UPenn to take a scenic walk across the South Street bridge and along a new pedestrian boardwalk that borders the Schuylkill River. Once they crossed into Center City, they took a quick break at the Schuylkill River Park, which includes two separate dog parks, a playground, and a community garden. They toured the tony Rittenhouse Square neighborhood and park and enjoyed some shopping along Walnut and Chestnut Streets. After a long but exciting day of walking (over 8 miles!), the scholars finally relaxed for a great dinner at the Hard Rock Café before checking into the hotel.

On day two, the scholars departed at 9am sharp for a walking tour of historic Old City Philadelphia. They saw: Elfreth's Alley, the oldest residential street in the US; the US Mint; Benjamin Franklin's grave; the National Constitution Center; Independence Hall; the Liberty Bell; and then they shopped for a bit at the Independence Visitor's Center. They then visited Washington Square, saw the first hospital in the United States, and walked through a charming narrow alley with homes that were built before the Revolutionary War! They took a quick break at Jefferson University Park, and continued their tour through the famous Gayborhood section of the city and admired the many murals that line the avenues there. They stopped by the campus of the University of the Arts (UArts), which is conveniently located on South Broad street, aka "The Avenue of the Arts". They heard about the different majors offered at UArts and learned about the school's history as a leader in arts education. Scholars finished this leg of the tour at City Hall, which is the largest masonry building and the largest municipal building in the world and serves as the center of Center City Philadelphia.

**At left, Out in Two scholars standing in front of Independence Hall. The group also saw the Liberty Bell, the National Constitution Center, and Washington Square**



The Out in Two Scholars then took their bus on a ride north on Broad Street to Temple University, where they had a buffet lunch and a guided tour of the very large campus. They spoke with a student leader there and got to visit academic and student services buildings on campus. The scholars later voted that Temple was a close second favorite college after their first choice, Penn. After the tour of Temple, they enjoyed some free time exploring the city, shopping, and learning about Philadelphia's rich history. They met again for a truly delicious dinner at *Spasso's* Italian Restaurant before departing for an evening showing of the movie, *Gifted*, starring Octavia Spencer and Chris Evans.



*Above left: Scholars in front of Rodin's "The Thinker" on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Above right: Scholars in front of Benjamin Franklin, founder of Penn.*

On their final day, scholars left bright and early for an exploration of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. They started at the Comcast Center, which is the largest building between NYC and Chicago and the headquarters of Comcast, NBC, and Universal. The lobby there is actually a giant movie screen that surprises visitors because it hides itself as a normal lobby most of the time; scholars were amused seeing it transform. They then headed towards Sister Cities Park and Logan Square, spotted the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Franklin Institute, and Moore College of Art and Design, before seeing the Barnes Foundation and Rodin Museum. They stopped for a picture with Rodin's *The Thinker* and continued on to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. After they took their picture with the famous Rocky statue that sits at the foot of the steps of the museum, they ran into the Mayor of Philadelphia, Jim Kenney! The Mayor was there to meet the construction workers who were erecting a stage at the museum for the upcoming NFL Draft, but he took the time to chat with them for about five minutes, asked about BMCC and the Out in Two program, and took a picture with the scholars! They couldn't have asked for better timing!



*Above: Students with Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney in front of the Art Museum.*



*Students flexing in front of the famous “Rocky” statue at the foot of the famous steps!*

After they met the mayor, scholars walked through the museum, climbed into the gazebos overlooking the Schuylkill Falls, and walked along the historic Water Works, admiring its old school beauty. They then hopped back on the bus and ventured to South Philly, where they were dropped off along the historic and culturally diverse Italian Market. They took in all of the sights, sounds, and smells of this rich urban outdoor marketplace and walked towards the original Philly cheesesteak birthplace! For lunch, they had the original Philly cheesesteaks, which lived up to their fabulous reputation!



*Above: At the Philadelphia Waterworks; Below: at Rutgers—Camden.*



Scholars then said goodbye to Philadelphia and crossed the Benjamin Franklin Bridge into Camden, New Jersey, where they visited the campus of Rutgers University. They stopped in the Student Center, toured the campus green, and learned about their academics. Afterwards, they hopped back on the bus and headed back home to BMCC.

The Out in Two scholars can't say thank you enough for the opportunity to explore the awesome city of Philadelphia, visit so many great senior colleges, and bond with each other over the course of those three days. They all agreed that they made memories that will last a lifetime! The scholars plan on applying to some of those colleges. On the bus ride home, the chaperone asked students to vote with their applause on how well they liked the trip, and the applause was deafening!