



**The
Valedictorian
Project**



RAPPAPORT
PROMOTING EMERGING LEADERS

For Immediate Release

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The Rappaport Foundation Partners with the Valedictorian Project to Fund Summer Fellowship Program

Boston, MA, June 21– The Valedictorian Project (TVP) has partnered with The Rappaport Foundation to provide \$5,000 stipends to TVP mentees engaged in internships and summer programs that will further their academic and professional careers.

In June 2020, TVP welcomed 26 graduates from Boston Public High Schools and 55 mentors as part of its first cohort. TVP has since expanded, but its continued goal is to ensure that each mentee successfully transitions from high school to college with support from peers and mentors. Based on a Boston Globe investigation, prior to the founding of TVP, one in four BPS Valedictorians had not completed their Bachelor's degree within six years.

“The \$5,000 stipend will provide TVP mentees the opportunity to participate in an internship that will further their academic and professional goals,” said Amy McDermott, Executive Director and Co-founder of The Valedictorian Project. “This support is going to have a real positive impact on the lives of our mentees.”

The Rappaport Foundation partners with Boston's leading institutions to promote emerging leaders in public policy, medical research, and the arts. Partner institutions include the Harvard Kennedy School, Boston College Law School, Harvard Law School, Mass General, McLean, Brigham, Women's Hospitals, and the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum.

"College internships are often unpaid, putting students who can't afford to work for free at a disadvantage. The Foundation aims to remove these barriers by providing each student with a summer stipend to cover living expenses and unanticipated costs that may arise," said Tim Medlock, Executive Director of the Rappaport Foundation.

TVP mentees who wish to receive the grant will submit a formal application reviewed by a committee comprised of TVP supporters and a Rappaport Foundation Board member.

About the Rappaport Foundation

The Phyllis & Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation partners with Boston's leading institutions to promote and nurture emerging leaders in the fields of public policy, neurodegenerative disease, mental health, and the arts. Together, the Foundation improves the quality of life in Boston and beyond while mobilizing new generations of collaborative leaders who inspire, innovate and influence.



About The Valedictorian Project

The Valedictorian Project partners with high-achieving graduates from urban public schools to provide them with mentorship and career development support as they navigate their post-secondary lives. TVP's mentoring relationships break down barriers to equity and close the education-to-employment gap.

Founded in 2020, TVP serves over 40 mentees from Boston, Lawrence, Brockton and Worcester and partners with 140 mentors.