Greetings from the UChicago PREP!

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 University of Chicago PREP Scholars, who have just completed the program under the unusual circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic! We are proud of all they have accomplished and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Our thoughts are with all of our PREP alums as we experience the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis and Black Lives Matter movements taking place across the country. As always, we’d love to hear from you with any personal news or career updates!

The UChicago PREP staff

UChicago PREP completes the 2019-2020 year virtually

The eight 2019-2020 UChicago PREP Scholars completed the PREP Program “virtually” this year due to the ongoing COVID pandemic and campus lab closures. While it was an unusual end to the year, the PREP Scholars were able to take advantage of virtual courses, journal clubs, lab meetings, research presentations and seminars throughout the Spring Quarter. Special thanks to Co-director Dr. Domowicz who met with the PREP Scholars twice weekly for journal club, professional development sessions and virtual research presentations. The Scholars all also completed a final written research report based on their lab research conducted this year. Congratulations to all on your continued commitment to your education and training throughout the most unusual and trying circumstances in 2020! This group is now moving on to their next career steps and have enrolled in graduate programs at Washington University, University of Chicago, San Francisco State University/UCSF, University of Michigan and Columbia University. Good luck to all in the next phases of your careers!

Welcome to the 2020-21 UChicago PREP Scholars!

The new cohort of UChicago PREP Scholars will be joining us this Summer, and represent the following institutions: Western Washington University, Northwestern University, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pontifical Catholic of Puerto Rico, New Mexico State University, University of Oregon and Northeastern Illinois University. Join us as we welcome the PREP Cohort of 2021!
PREP Alum Updates

Congrats to all of our former PREP Scholars who have completed their graduate degrees! 36 UChicago PREP alums have received their PhD or MD so far and overall over 94% of our PREP alums have matriculated into higher education graduate programs. We are very proud of all of you! Recent graduates this past year include:

- Victor Palacios, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- Isabelle Lee, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Our full list of graduates is posted on our website. If you’ve graduated recently, please let us know!

In Memoriam

The PREP Program was very saddened to hear that Lynika Strozier, who completed the UChicago PREP in 2012, has passed away due to complications associated with COVID-19 in June 2020. Lynika worked as a Biologist at the Field Museum, performing research in the museum’s Pritzker DNA Lab, and taught as an adjust professor at Malcolm X College in Chicago. She recently completed two Master’s degrees, including a Master’s in Biology from Loyola University of Chicago and Master’s in Science Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2018. Several articles in the press have been written about Lynika and her career, including this article in The Scientist. Our sincere condolences go to her family and her many friends and colleagues.

The 2020 Midwest Regional PREP/IMSD Symposium

This year, the Midwest Regional PREP/IMSD Symposium, Scientific Innovations Through Diverse Perspectives (SITDP), will be hosted by the Mayo Graduate School PREP and IMSD Programs, and will be held virtually! The event will take place online on July 24-25, 2020. We look forward to what is certain to be a wonderful professional development and networking event for our PREP Scholars and IMSD students.

PREP Alums in the News

PREP alum Tina Roman (PREP Class of 2015), currently a PhD candidate at University of Chicago, was recently involved in organizing a fundraiser and initiative that provided and distributed protestor packs, which included facemasks and other supplies, to support the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests in Chicago. You can read more about this student-led initiative on the UChicago Medicine News website. Congrats and great work, Tina!

This Spring, PREP alum Camila Barrios-Camacho (PREP Class of 2014), was awarded the Presidential Award for Civic Life from Tufts University, where she is pursuing her PhD in Biomedical Sciences. Camila received this award for her outstanding achievement in community service and community leadership for her work in co-founding and leading the ongoing professional development and social programs of Tuft’s Scientists Promoting INclusive Excellence (SPINES), which provides a supportive and inclusive community for graduate students. Congratulations Camila!

If you have any recent awards or career news to share, please e-mail us at Irisner1@peds.bsd.uchicago.edu or fill out our 2020 PREP Alum Survey. We’d love to hear from you!

Visit the University of Chicago PREP Program’s new website: http://bsdprep.uchicago.edu/