

NUF UPDATE

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March/April 2024 Recap



SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO BAY AREA

In February, NUF traveled to the Bay Area for a productive and engaged 2024 Board Retreat. We celebrated major wins, deepened connections with each other and our work, clarified our Board goals for the year, and engaged in strategic visioning. There was great enthusiasm around our Theory of Change and Leadership Competencies & Traits work skillfully facilitated by NUF Alum Andrea Foggy Paxton (NUF Class of 2009). We look forward to sharing these exciting developments with the broader NUF community later on this year.

READING LIST

Justice Jackson's frank dissent in the Supreme Court's Affirmative Action ruling is an example of courage and a clear call to acknowledge and address the racial disparities that continue to affect health, wealth, and professional opportunities in America today.

2 STUDENTS FOR FAIR ADMISSIONS, INC. v. PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

JACKSON, J., *dissenting*

holistic admissions programs like the one that the University of North Carolina (UNC) has operated, consistent with *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U. S. 306 (2003), are a problem with respect to achievement of that aspiration, rather than a viable solution (as has long been evident to historians, sociologists, and policymakers alike).

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR has persuasively established that nothing in the Constitution or Title VI prohibits institutions from taking race into account to ensure the racial diversity of admits in higher education. I join her opinion without qualification. I write separately to expound upon the universal benefits of considering race in this context, in response to a suggestion that has permeated this legal action from the start. Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) has maintained, both subtly and overtly, that it is *unfair* for a college's admissions process to consider race as one factor in a holistic review of its applicants. See, e.g., Tr. of Oral Arg. 19.

This contention blinks both history and reality in ways too numerous to count. But the response is simple: Our country has never been colorblind. Given the lengthy history of state-sponsored race-based preferences in America, to say that anyone is now victimized if a college considers whether that legacy of discrimination has unequally advantaged its applicants fails to acknowledge the well-documented "intergenerational transmission of inequality" that still plagues our citizenry.¹

It is *that* inequality that admissions programs such as UNC's help to address, to the benefit of us all. Because the majority's judgment stunts that progress without any basis in law, history, logic, or justice, I dissent.

¹M. Oliver & T. Shapiro, *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality* 128 (1997) (Oliver & Shapiro) (emphasis deleted).

We invite you to read or re-read Jackson's dissent on the Supreme Courts Affirmative Action Ruling.

01/04

Oakland Thrives Visit

Before we kicked off the retreat, we had a chance to visit Oakland Thrives, one of our Class of 2024 Fellow residency sites and learn about the work of Fellow Tony Parsons. Our Team and Board gained valuable insights and understanding of the impactful work being conducted by Oakland Thrives and the projects Tony has been passionately involved in. This visit not only showcased the value of the Mentor and host organizations in our Fellows' experiences, but also the impact our Fellows are making around the country.



Equity in Action Event

To connect and grow our local community, we also hosted a NUF Friendraiser event "Equity in Action: Uniting Visionaries to Connect, Transform, and Lead". We had a wonderful chance to connect with our treasured Alumni, partners, supporters, and new friends in the Bay Area in a powerful exchange of ideas and passions. Stay tuned for upcoming events in your area!



Please welcome our New board members!



Anusha Alikhan

Anusha Alikhan, Chief Communications Officer at The Wikimedia Foundation. Anusha is a communications virtuoso with over 15 years in the field, covering human rights, media, technology, and more. She's passionate about creating career pathways in the social sector, particularly for women and people of color. Anusha aims to amplify NUF's visibility and impact through her expertise in social good communications.

Antonio Cardona

Antonio Cardona, Vice President of Career Readiness at the Project for Pride in Living (PPL). As a NUF Alum (Class of 2010) and Mentor, Antonio's journey with NUF has been transformational for him the the Fellows he has invested in. Antonio is committed to cultivating local relationships and furthering the mentoring and advancement of people of color. We are excited by his dedication to NUF as well as his extensive experience in education, workforce development, and organizational leadership that will enrich our mission.



National Urban Fellows 55th Anniversary !


NATIONAL
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55

The National Urban Fellows proudly celebrates its 55th Anniversary with a series of special activities. As we celebrate this significant achievement, we invite you to join us in supporting our mission to cultivate leaders who will drive transformative change in urban policy and public service, ensuring our impact continues for many more years to come.

Kicking off our celebrations, Board member and former NUF professor, Gary Bagley, is cycling 40 miles around NYC in the TD Five Boro Bike Tour on May 5th to raise funds for NUF. You can support Gary and NUF by donating to [his fundraising page](#).

If you feel inspired, **join us by running, walking, or swimming on behalf of NUF in a race near you!** Contact development@nuf.org if you are interested.

