

F.A.S.T. TRACK NEWSLETTER

Special Graduation Edition

A Message from the Committee

On behalf of the NASP Philadelphia Fast Track committee, we would like to extend a special thank you and well wishes to our first graduating class and participating students. It has been an honor and a absolute privilege to mentor, guide, and teach you over the past 17 months. Throughout the program we have focused on the Financial Literacy curriculum, and delved into different aspects of business and corporate culture. We have been able to see each one of you develop into future business leaders, and financially savvy young men and women. We are also thankful to have been awarded the opportunity to take you to the New York Stock Exchange and meet many of the most influential men and women on Wall Street. Your interaction alone at the Stock Exchange with the professionals was more than rewarding for our committee and chapter, but most importantly we hope that you all walked away with knowledge gained and a appreciation for the opportunity many do not get the chance to experience.

In closing, we would like to wish the two graduating seniors Mr. Mark Easley and Mr. Raheem Ziyad continued success as they embark upon their future college experiences, and we will always welcome your return to the program as mentors and teachers. We would also like to extend a warm return to the programs most recent participants, to continue with more financial literacy seminars and an array of future activities in the upcoming year. Once again, we wish you the best in all that you do, and continue to dream and set goals for your future success.

A moment with the students

We asked the students a few questions at our last session.

What are your plans for the summer?

Raheem: I'll be working at Hollister at the King of Prussia Mall to enhance my retail and customer service skills. I will also be preparing myself to leave for Penn State University Main Campus.

Cipriana: This summer I will be working at the R.W. Brown Community Center as a Philadelphia Youth Network employee. At my job I learn how to garden, launch future careers, and budgeting.

Mark: I will be attending a prepatory program at the college which I will be attending in the fall, Central Pennsylvania College at our state capital, Harrisburg.

Hafeesa: This summer I joined a summer basketball league and I play games once a week with different leagues within our community. I am also spending the summer baby-sitting my five-year-old sister. I will also spend my free time with my favorite hobby which is reading. I read about two books per week.

Alex: I will be spending most of the summer in Europe with my high school and will also spend some time in Martha's Vineyard. After I return I will be working a summer job at ShopRite supermarket.

Brianna: I am working five days a week at my fathers business, Brian's Crab Shack in North Philadelphia.

Anthony: I will be working at Finish Line sneaker store at King of Prussia Mall. I also be taking a small vacation at the end of the summer to Poconos.

Albert: I am securing summer employment in retail at American Eagle and Hollister at the King of Prussia Mall. I am also preparing to receive my drivers permit.

What have you learned during the past year in the F.A.S.T. Track program?

Raheem: I practiced my public speaking skills, learned team work from working on the business research project. I also learned the importance of being financially literate and it's affect on business.

Cipriana: I've learned about the different types of stocks and bonds. I also learned about the different types of funds and the risks of investing.

Mark: I learned the details of buying of stocks and bonds and the ways to invest and save money.

Hafeesa: I learned that managing the money that I earn whether its from babysitting or allowance, is very important to my financial well-being.

Alex: I learned how to accumulate money and how to save money in a more efficient way.

Brianna: I learned how to spend my money correctly, the differences between stocks and bonds, and also learned on our trip to the New York Stock Exchange that the brokers on the floor use special hand signals and language to buy and sell stocks.

Anthony: I learned how to become more comfortable in a business setting and also how bonds and stocks are different from each other and details of the stock market.

Albert: I have learned how to manage my money better and the importance of being a diversified investor.

A moment with the students cont'd

How can you apply your public speaking skills in your future?

Raheem: I will be able to utilize my public speaking skills during my future college presentations and also amongst a variety of groups that I will be interacting with.

Cipriana: I feel more comfortable speaking to an audience as well as the important parts of speaking such as projecting my voice and having strong posture. I can also use these skills for school projects.

Mark: Public speaking will help me with social networking and also I will be able to play bigger roles in group projects.

Hafeesa: I have learned to make more eye contact and pace myself while speaking. In the past, because of my nervous energy, I used to rush through my speeches. Now, after the variety of public speaking opportunities that I have had at F.A.S.T. Track, I learned to become more confident.

Alex: The public speaking skills will help me in my upcoming school year during projects and presentations.

Brianna: I learned that making eye contact with my audience when speaking is very important. I learned that note cards are okay to use, but that I shouldn't read it line by line without looking up. I also understand the importance of proper preparation before the presentation is important to feel confident.

Albert: I will be more confident and will be able to use what I learned to help me improve in my future projects, especially in my senior project which will be in front of a large audience.

How can you apply what you have learned at F.A.S.T. Track in your near future?

Raheem: I will feel comfortable with investing and saving my money that I earn. This will help me manage my money more efficiently and build my personal wealth.

Cipriana: I plan to budget my summer job earnings and I have realized that saving money is important for my future.

Mark: I will now save my money more conservatively and will be able to manage my money in college.

Hafeesa: I have learned not to always splurge or spend my money as soon as I get it. I will try to remember to pay myself first, which I learned means to save for my future first.

Alex: I can now take steps to start a portfolio and will be more aware of the stock market including risks and advantages.

Brianna: When doing projects at school, I will be able to utilize the skills that I've learned at F.A.S.T. Track. I also learned about saving some of my summer earnings is important.

Anthony: I have learned a lot about time management and feel that I will be able to meet deadlines and work more efficiently in group projects.

Albert: I will be a more conservative spender and will be able to make wiser decisions when it comes to investing and saving.

College Freshman

Raheem Ziyad

Penn State—Main Campus

Mark Easley

Central

Seniors

Albert King

Strawberry Mansion High School

Ricardo Hadley

Strawberry Mansion High School

Anthony Ziyad

Philadelphia Electrical and Technology High School

Juniors

Briana Thompson

Philadelphia High School for Girls

Hafeesa Chenault-Epps

Preparatory Charter School

Sophomore

Cipriana Lassus

Preparatory Charter School

Alex Graves

Rancocas Valley Regional High School

Honorary Member and Mentor Assistant

Tionna Gathers-Epps

Edward Gideon Elementary School

Grade 6

About Us



We are excited to have launched this great program and look forward to continuing to work with these talented student participants. We welcome your suggestions, thoughts, and appreciate any type of support that you can provide. Feel free to contact any member of the F.A.S.T. Track Committee.

F.A.S.T. Track Mentors

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F.A.S.T. Track Caterer

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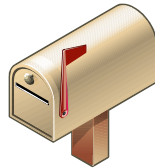


About F.A.S.T. Track

The Wall Street Finance and Scholastic Training (“F.A.S.T. Track”) program was launched in November 1996, by the New York Chapter of the National Association of Securities Professionals (“NASP”), with the purpose of educating and exposing high school students and young adults to basic financial literacy skills and enhancing their knowledge of employment opportunities within the financial services industry.

The NASP Philadelphia Chapter’s F.A.S.T. Track Program was launched in January 2008, with the following objectives: Exposing Philadelphia’s talented urban high school students and young adults to the financial industry as a course of study and/or career; providing mentoring and career building opportunities; developing public speaking and interviewing skills, and promoting participant interaction with peers of similar backgrounds and relationship building amongst the participants and mentors.

The Philadelphia F.A.S.T Track sessions meet every third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at FIS Group, Inc., a Philadelphia-based asset management firm. The sessions are geared to cover the following topics: Financial literacy, current events and public speaking. There are currently nine members and three mentors involved with the Philadelphia Fast Track Program.



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About National Association of Securities Professionals



The National Association of Securities Professionals (“NASP”) is a non-profit professional organization that was founded in 1985 to represent the nation’s minorities and women in the financial services industry. The NASP Philadelphia Chapter was founded in 2005. Additional chapters include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, New York, San Francisco, and St. Louis.

NASP’s objectives are: To pursue the highest standards of professionalism and excellence among NASP members; achieve equal opportunity for minorities and women in the financial services industry; foster growth and development of minorities and women, and of minority-controlled and women-controlled institutions in the financial services industry; enhance communication among members; and pursue progressive and balanced policies affecting public and private finance.