

Board of Trustees Meeting

Alumni Association Board of Directors' Report

Friday, Mar 15, 2024



North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

Greetings from the NCSSM Alumni Association!

The Alumni Association has a lot to celebrate this year. Our goal of increasing alumni engagement has been successful and we are pleased with the results. A big focus continues to be utilization of the Alumni Network (Almabase) to provide a central location for alumni to receive news, updates, volunteer opportunities, events on campus and in other regions.

Here are some highlights of the Alumni Association:

Alumni Weekend

The Alumni Weekend Working Group started meeting in early 2023 for the Alumni Weekend 2023. We have found that it requires about 9 months of planning to achieve a successful Alumni Weekend. Two reunion chairs support the planning and execution of the Alumni Weekend alongside members of the school's External Relations Division and class representatives from each reunion year class (8 total in 2023). Individual class events and activities are planned by the reunion representatives. This gives a more personalized experience for each class and communications come directly from their classmates. For the 2023 reunion of the classes ending in 3's and 8's, there were more activities and more attendees (>600) than in any other reunion year. The Alumni Weekend chairs for 2024 began meeting in early March and recruitment of reunion representatives for each reunion class is underway for the Alumni Weekend October 25-27, 2024.

New Board Members

Eight members completed terms in 2023. Ten new members joined the Board (including one alumnae from the class of 2023 who was an Alumni Scholarship Awardee): Grace Amantea '23, Erick Daniel Aguilar '15, Marlisha Blakeney Janica '14, Rebecca Buckwalter Poza '04, Erin Davis Almond '01, Minh Do '85, Maurine Shields Fanguy '93, Michael Andrew Jerch '02, Stephanie Nieman '02, and Marcela Torres-Cervantes '10.

Volunteerism

Evident from the Leadership Retreat in June 2023, collaboration among Boards and with the school are tantamount to the success of the school. Realizing the need for alumni to partner with the school, engagement of alumni remains a major priority for the Alumni Association Board of Directors and supports the new strategic plan of the school. Volunteerism is the preeminent engagement strategy for alumni. In the first two and a half months of 2024, alumni contributed more than 228 hours of service in events ranging from MLK Jr. Community Celebration education sessions to reading applications for Step Up to Stem, Summer Ventures in Science and Math and INSPIRE. Just with the Discovery Days events, more than 25 alumni volunteers supported the efforts of NCSSM Admissions to identify the next generation of students who will *Accept the Greater Challenge*. Across all volunteer activities participation among alumni increased over 2023 numbers with at least one increasing three fold! The Board is actively recruiting volunteers for events occurring during the remainder of the 2024 school year. In addition to time and talents, the Alumni Association continues to lead efforts in support of philanthropic giving in collaboration with the Foundation Board.

Alumni Scholarship

The 2024 Alumni Scholarship Committee is in the process of reviewing applications, selecting three graduating seniors who best exemplify the spirit upon which the school was founded. We plan to award three \$1,500 awards. The awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony in May. In addition, the Alumni Association Board of Directors assumed the role of evaluating students for the Jon Miller Awards. The Board now administers the Alumni Scholarship, Alumni Awards, and the Jon Miller Awards. We established an ad-hoc committee, Awards Committee, that functions to oversee the selection and presentation of all three of these awards.

We appreciate the support and guidance of the Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board, the staff and faculty of NCSSM to help us accomplish so much!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Roederer '94, President