

## **The Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund– Undergraduate Admissions**

### **Overview:**

As part of Brandeis' dedication to serving underrepresented students, Brandeis Undergraduate Admissions hosted two fly-in programs giving members of these populations the opportunity to visit campus at two phases of the college admissions process. The SEED program (Students Exploring and Embracing Diversity) invited 42 prospective students to campus prior to their acceptance to Brandeis University from October 20th-October 22nd. The commUNITY Diversity Fly-In program invited 58 already admitted students and a parent/guardian to campus on three alternative dates—April 1st, April 3rd, and April 16th. Both SEED and commUNITY were on-campus events (the former being the first in-person offering since Fall 2019) that gives remarkable students of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to explore a community committed to intellectual creativity and academic rigor.

The Legacy Fund assisted the Office of Admissions in covering travel costs for multiple students and families, offering students an opportunity to immerse and envision themselves within a campus rooted in curiosity and social justice. By offering to cover expenses for lodging, transportation and meals for each student (and one parent/guardian during commUNITY only), we are able to provide these students, who would otherwise not be able to visit, the opportunity to see the Brandeis campus.

### **Criteria:**

Eligibility for SEED included the following:

- Student must have submitted an application to the SEED program, which included a supplemental essay detailing why they would benefit from the program
- Student comes from traditionally underrepresented populations in higher education (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and first generation backgrounds), or have a concerted dedication to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Students must not have had a chance to visit Brandeis previously
- Students have distinguished themselves through notable academic performance and have demonstrated their commitment to community engagement, community building, and social advocacy

Eligibility for commUNITY included the following:

- Student must have been admitted to Brandeis and received a personalized invitation to the commUNITY program
- Student come from traditionally underrepresented populations in higher education (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and first generation backgrounds), or have a concerted dedication to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Students must not have had a chance to visit Brandeis previously
- Students have distinguished themselves through notable academic performance and have demonstrated their commitment to community engagement, community building, and social advocacy.

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### **Use of Funds:**

Through the support of the Legacy Fund, Brandeis Admissions was able to invite 100 students and nearly 60 parents/guardians across both SEED and commUNITY dates.

Costs Covered:

- Lodging
- Food
- Transportation

As a part of programming, participants participated in:

- Workshops facilitated by Brandeis resources (Hiatt Career Center, Counseling Center, Intercultural Center)
- Panels with current Brandeis students
- Speeches given by Brandeis administrators
- Admitted Student Programming (commUNITY only)

### **Impact:**

We collected feedback from SEED and commUNITY attendees through an anonymous survey after the conclusion of each event. Below are some quotes indicating the impact of the program on participants:

SEED:

“Had an amazing experience, looking forward to applying soon!”

“Thank you so much for having me! The program was organized extremely well, and I am extremely proud to be able to say I've attended SEED at Brandeis. I loved the school as well and can't wait to apply soon!”

“Very enriching experience and helped so much in the college search process along with being a transformative moment in life.”

“Amazing program! The happiest I have been in awhile. Hosts were amazing and passionate. Taste of Waltham put me into a food coma oh my. Alexa, Blair, Nina, MJ, everyone thank you!!!”

“The seed program allowed me to talk to three professors, from the theater department and the African Studies program. It was very interesting to get to know and interact with them. I also

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enjoyed the trivia games that allowed me to interact with other participants. I received a lot of information about the academics and how it will look like to be part of the Brandeis community. I also was able to see how welcoming the college is to people of color and minorities. The SEED program exceeded my expectations.”

“I really like that I was able to communicate with faculty and students and get a deeper understanding of Brandeis’ community.”

### **CommUNITY:**

“Amazing! As a Father I felt at peace and a comfort that my daughter would be taken care of. The programs that she desires to undergo are exactly what she’s looking for. The experience as a whole for us both was professional, welcoming and were content. We’re excited and looking forward to her first day at Brandeis. The admissions team and the team’s were extremely helpful and knowledgeable.”

“Wonderful program, I was honored to be there. I felt that it definitely gave me a better picture of the school than the inside deis event.”