



Annual Community Impact Report

# GROWING TOGETHER

The PREP Academy

2021-2022



# WELCOME

**Welcome to The PREP Academy's 2021-2022 Annual  
Community Impact Report - a celebration of our students,  
growth, milestones, and highlights throughout the last year, all thanks  
to your support.**

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On behalf of The PREP Academy's team and Board of Directors, we are honoured to launch our first Community Impact Report! The report outlines our unique program model, while also highlighting its impact on our students and our community. You will see inspiring photos that capture life-changing experiences and moments – and numbers that measure the power of our programming.

Our pilot year was a success and this year, we are eager to see the new growth opportunities that await us as we continue to share our collective story and the success of this truly community-led organization. Our future is bright!

**Ashley Hill**  
**Founder & Executive Director**

**Laurissa Manning**  
**Board Chair**



# WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to influence social and economic impact within the historic African Nova Scotian communities by increasing the number of students who are prepared for, and complete college and university.



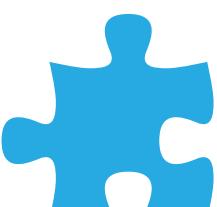
We **coach**, prepare and inspire students in Grades 10, 11, 12 - and continue to provide wrap around supports as they transition and complete college and university.



We **provide** students and parents with access to resources and information, and help them navigate college and university processes.



We **offer** culturally informed programs, experiences and opportunities.



We **partner** and consult with schools, colleges and universities to support and increase representation for African Nova Scotian students.

# MEET ARMON

Armon graduated from Citadel High school and will transition to Saint Mary's University this Fall to study Political Science. Armon was born and raised in the North End of Halifax and knew since the sixth grade he wanted a career in law and politics after his teacher held a mock election for his class. Learn more about Armon and his experience with The PREP Academy.

## Q: Why political science and law?

A: "I hope to be able to help create and guide policies, and give opinions on important matters that can make change. I'm specifically interested right now in Food Security & Housing. I'd like to see how issues and policies intersect in the lives of everyday people... meaning every person, not just the elite or lower class - but everyone. Plus you never stop learning in law! "

## Q: Why did you join The PREP Academy?

A: "I joined because I saw the program was preparation for university and I knew nothing! Our Student Support Worker Ms. Cain (**shout out to Ms. Cain!!**) told me about it and made sure I joined".

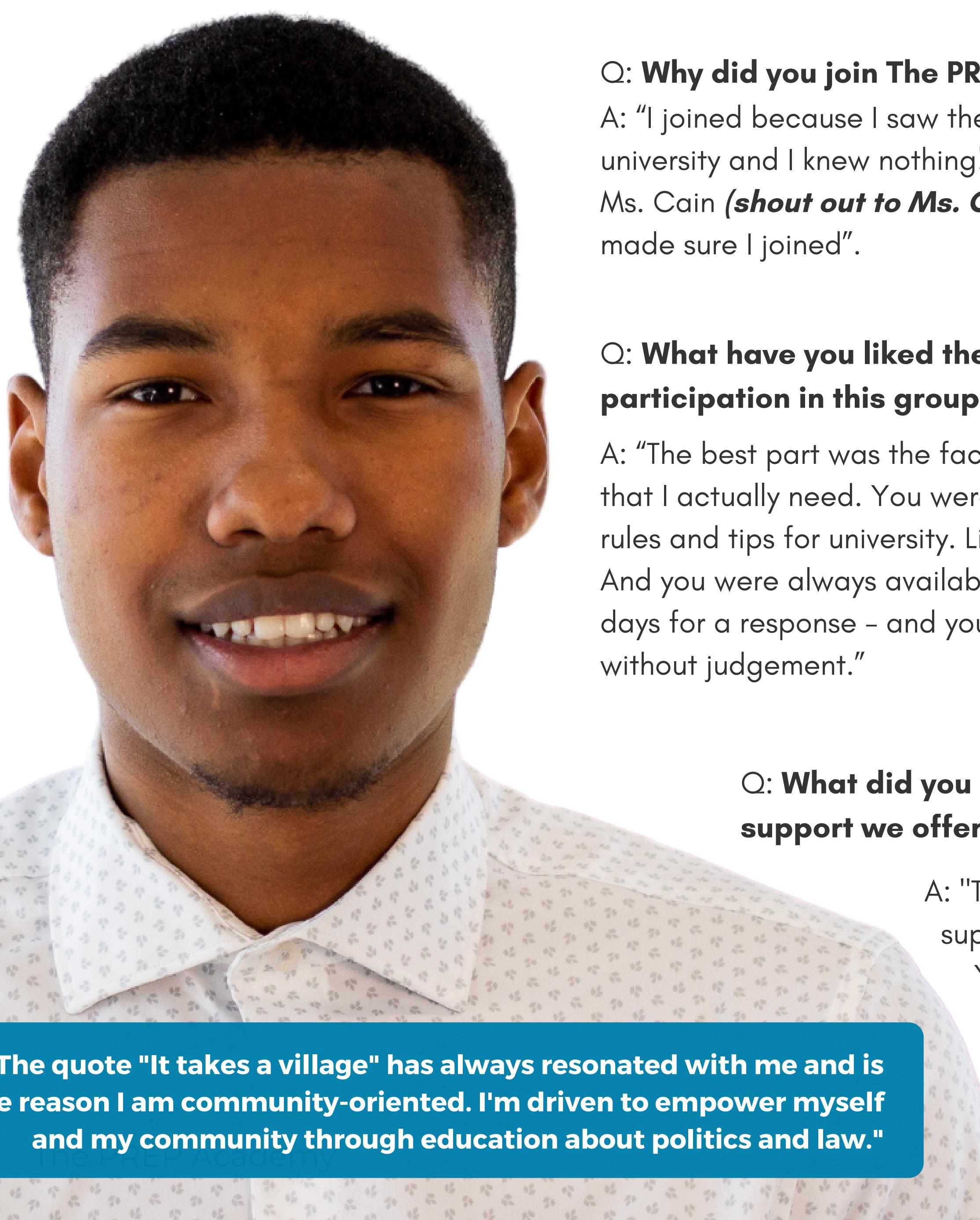
## Q: What have you liked the best about your participation in this group?

A: "The best part was the fact I could learn useful things that I actually need. You were providing the unwritten rules and tips for university. Like no 8:30am classes! And you were always available, I didn't need to wait 8 days for a response - and you always answered without judgement."

## Q: What did you think about the service and support we offered this year?

A: "The biggest thing was the support system you provided! You had helpful and useful information, it's nice to know a support group who know how to help."

"The quote "It takes a village" has always resonated with me and is the reason I am community-oriented. I'm driven to empower myself and my community through education about politics and law."



# IMPACT & RESULTS



**49**

students supported at The PREP Academy

90%

will attend college and university

100%

say the information and resources  
we share are helpful

98%

feel more prepared for college and university

98%

say The PREP Academy helped them better  
understand their options after high school

# IMPACT & RESULTS

49

students received culturally relevant supports

9

scholarships awarded to students



\$26,000 in scholarships

17

program volunteers

15

students connected with mentors

32

Black students participated in The PREP Academy community workshops



# MEET CIERRAH

Cierrah is one of The PREP Academy's 2022 Legacy Scholarship recipients. She graduated from Dartmouth High School and is attending Dalhousie University in the Fall to study Kinesiology.

**"The way The PREP Academy's program has helped me this year has been so amazing. Before PREP came to my school I was stressed out not knowing how to apply for scholarships, where to find them and very confused on what to expect after high school."**



"My Student Success Coach **helped me** apply for scholarships, helped me find additional scholarships than what I didn't know where out there, allowed me to use them as references for jobs and scholarships, **gave me opportunities** to job shadow and join a program to exploring writing.

I'm still a little bit nervous about becoming a university student, but with the help of PREP, **they've helped some of my nerves go away.**

If it wasn't for The PREP Academy I wouldn't have been this motivated to actually be a university student. **I didn't have the resources before PREP.** It was just me figuring everything out because the people I've asked for helped only knew as much, or as little, as I did.

I just want to say thank you again for everything you have done for me and the other students on your program and the words that I have expressed to you can't even explain how **thankful I am for all of you helping me.**"

# 2022 STUDENT INTERNS

## High School Micro-Internship Program



The Micro-Internship equips Grade 12 students with workforce development training, employability skills, career exploration, job readiness training and paid internship opportunities in their final year of high school before they transition to college and university. The program helps students gain valuable experience to grow professionally and make connections with career mentors.

**100%** say they didn't feel prepared to enter the professional workforce before the internship

**100%** say the internship helped them better prepare them for the workforce

**83%** say this was their first internship or co-op type of program

**83%** made their first connection with a mentor

**83%** say the internship helped develop their workforce skills and knowledge

**Sign up to be a Career Mentor !**

[www.theprepacademy.ca/volunteer/](http://www.theprepacademy.ca/volunteer/)

# STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

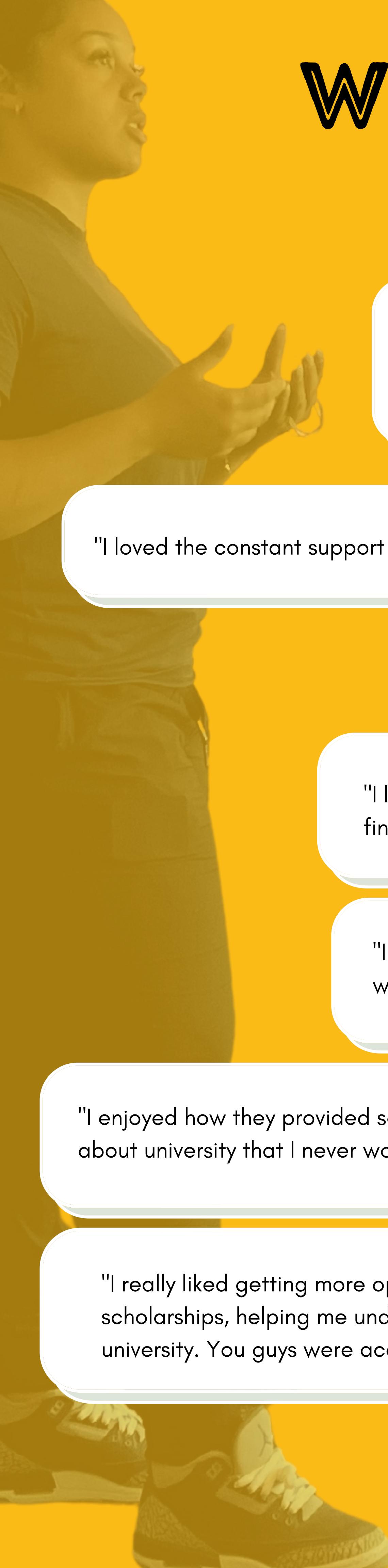


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The PREP Academy's 2022 Student Advisory Council is made up of 10 African Nova Scotian college and university students with representation from Acadia University, Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University, Dalhousie's Transition Year Program, Cape Breton University, StFX University, Nova Scotia Community College and Carleton University.

We had the opportunity to explore each student's experiences in high school, their transition to post-secondary and their respective and collective experiences as African Nova Scotian students on campus to help inform our future program and supports.

A report will be released highlighting the individual and shared experiences as African Nova Scotian students on Canadian college and university campuses.



# WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"The thing I liked most about PREP, was that I was able to see multiple different perspectives about university, whether that be from a professor, advisor, etc. This really helped me better understand what I should be expecting for university."

"I loved the constant support and check-in's."

"The support is non-judgmental."

"I love all the different opportunities available from PREP like internships, financial assistance, session on money management."

"I love the fact that it's real people who come in and sit down and talk with you, and you guys are super supportive like older siblings."

"I enjoyed how they provided so much information specifically about university that I never would have known before."

"I really liked getting more opportunities to meet new people, helping me apply for scholarships, helping me understand more what I should expect going into university. You guys were accommodating and have been very supportive of us!"



# OUR TEAM



Ashley Hill  
Founder & Executive Director



Kaisen MacKinnon  
Student Success Coach



Vanessa Hartley  
Community Engagement Lead

## The PREP Academy

The PREP Academy is a community based non-profit organization that inspires and prepares African Nova Scotian students for college and university. We help students access resources and navigate processes. Our programs provide students with culturally informed experiences, exposure and opportunities; equipping students with the tools to succeed and chart their own path to success.

The PREP Academy works to support the historic African Nova Scotian communities. PREP programs and initiatives are culturally informed and give students the opportunity to see themselves represented in positions of positive influence.

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# THANK YOU

We recognize that we could not have had the **impact** we have made on our own, and our **growth** is the result of the support and **collaboration** of key players who have contributed to preparing and inspiring African Nova Scotian students for college and university. You have been with us from the start, and for this, we are **grateful**. Therefore, we'd like to take this opportunity to **Thank you**.

**Scotiabank.**



**CATAPULTE**  
Moving Learning Forward  
Avançons l'apprentissage



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS & PARTNERS



Black Educators Association  
of Nova Scotia



hope**blooms**

THE  
FUTURES  
PROGRAM



## SPECIAL THANKS

Augy Jones  
Alfred Burgess  
Bradley Daye  
Caitlin McKellar  
Dan Bubar

Deanna Mohammed  
Fiona King  
Kaisen MacKinnon  
Laurissa Manning  
Malik Adams

Michelle Bussey  
Peter L'Esperance  
Rachel Ross  
Uche Ivoko  
Vanessa Hartley

# THE PREP ACADEMY

[WWW.THEPREPACADEMY.CA](http://WWW.THEPREPACADEMY.CA)



African Nova Scotians have traditionally been economically disadvantaged in Nova Scotia, and have faced systemic difficulties accessing a higher education. African Nova Scotian students today continue to experience barriers and challenges in their education.

**Learn more about how you can help.**

