**Project Name:** The Young Scholars International Affairs Symposium

**Team Members:** Dr. Chiedo Nwankwor (African Studies Faculty), Bahar Alagheband (Student Affairs Staff), Jonathan Eigege (Alum).

**Project Overview:**

- **Current project status:** The project was completed on September 21st 2018 with the Young Scholars International Affairs Symposium that ran from 9am-4pm.

- **Project highlights:**

  - Our team worked on this project between June-September 2018. We planned the event to take place on September 21st on the final day of the first annual SAIS Diversity Week. During the week we held various events for staff, faculty, and students. Although this event was only open to our DCPS High School Students and anyone assisting us with the day, it capped off a very successful Diversity Week.

  - There was a considerable amount of planning but in the end, the project come together successfully. This project could not have been completed without the collaboration and help of the SAIS Community. We used our resources and found so many colleagues willing to give their time and efforts to assist us.

  - Student engagement was fairly high. The HS students were insightful, thoughtful, and had a good time with us. The students acquired new knowledge about the central role that International Studies plays in maintaining our world, the importance of diversifying the community of practitioners and their potential place as people from diverse backgrounds. They experienced traditional style lectures as well as a simulation where they learned the art of conflict management, and a game to learn more about economics. The finale was a career panel made up of SAIS alums and other professionals in the field where they provided valuable advice to the students to groom them for future careers. The career panel was a huge success and made a positive impression on the students as evidenced in the post-event review responses.

  - **Long-term impact:** The idea of this Symposium was to promote diversity in the field of International Relations, specifically US underrepresented minorities. We hope the long-term impact of this day is an interest in International Affairs/Economics/Political Science that may or may not lead to earning a degree or a future career in one of these fields.

  - **What was learned:** The day went very well and we learned a lot about how we could improve the program for subsequent iterations. The program should include more simulation type courses where the students feel like they are playing a game, but also learning. We also plan to shorten the program from 9am-4pm to 9am-1pm so students may go back to school for the day after the program.
• **Plans for the future:** There will be future symposia to engage DC Public HS students. We plan to apply for the Diversity Innovation Grant again and hope to extend the program to include more students from the school system.

• **If your grant only covered part of your budget, specify which aspect the grant covered:** The grant covered the entire budget.