

Mathematics and Science for Minority Students

(ms)²

(MS)² eNews - Fall 2025

- **Program Update** - Future Foci
- **Scholar Spotlight** - Jayla Langford (MS)² '16
- **Get Involved** - Scholar Recruitment/Alumni ZOOM
- **Support (MS)²** - Update Your Contact Info



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(he/him)
Director of (MS)²

Program Updates

Ready, set, go!!! Since my last communication, I've wrapped up end of summer items and had some down time. Now that I've been back in the office for a few weeks there hasn't been much time to kick back and celebrate the wins from last summer. Once the summer ends, we immediately look to launch (MS)²'s recruitment cycle. Applications went live on 1 October, it's go time! If you haven't already, please consider sharing the link to the (MS)² application with a colleague, mentee, former teacher, current student, or family member. After promoting (MS)² for the past few years, I can honestly say, y'all alums are the best at "selling" the program.

Along with the now, I've also got my eye on the future of (MS)². This past summer, I spoke briefly with the (MS)² scholars about my goals for the program. I'll share the high-level stuff here to keep y'all abreast of work going on behind the curtain. In no particular order, I hope to successfully recruit Indigenous students from the northeast (only 1 alum in all 48 years); grow the average cohort size from 37-39 to 42; find creative ways to deepen learning via workshops, project-based learning, leadership opportunities, and guest speakers; have my proposal to endow the (MS)² Directorship accepted; and, assist an alum of the program in being the next director of the program. Lastly, we've got the 50th Anniversary coming up in 2027! Save the dates of 9-11 July! If

any one of those items is intriguing to you, and you'd like to learn more about it, please contact the (MS)² office.

As we enter the fall, I hope the seeds y'all planted last spring are bearing fruit for each and every one of you. Please share this eNewsletter with a classmate you think might not be in the loop. And, as always, please reach out with anything you might need.



Scholar Spotlight

Our Scholar Highlight this quarter features **Jayla Langford, M.S.Ed., Class of 2016**. Jayla Langford attended Ballard High School in Louisville, Kentucky where her Geometry teacher encouraged her to apply for the (MS)² program. Her teacher saw her potential even when she didn't see her greatness within herself. Jayla went on to receive her B.S. in Mathematics from Purdue University in 2021, obtained her M.S.Ed. in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Indiana University – Bloomington in 2023, and she is now a 3rd year Ph.D. Student in Higher Education at Indiana University – Bloomington. During her time in academia, Jayla has worked in Residence Life, New Student Orientation, The Center of Excellence for Women in Technology, The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), and more!

Jayla is passionate about helping undergraduate minority women find their passions through the realms of STEM, positively impacting other students to find their values, encouraging students to combat compassion fatigue, and racial battle fatigue. She is committed to helping students of color discover their own passions to leave their legacy on their college campuses. Not surprising at all, Jayla plans to become a STEM Director for underrepresented students at a university or a leader in the realms of Student Success and Philanthropy.

“My research consists of the experiences that Black women in STEM face in relation to their academic self-confidence and overall confidence. The (MS)² Program taught me perseverance through the rigorous STEM classes and the cognitive dissonance of the world assuming minority students shouldn't be in the STEM Field. The (MS)² program has been the best thing that has ever happened to me – professionally and personally. Cultural Sharing and participating in candlelight vigils heightened my confidence and pride for my Blackness. The (MS)² program helped me find joy in being a Black woman and now I take pride in being a vessel for minority students each and every day. During the program, I connected with several (MS)² Alumni who affirmed that my salient identities are multifaceted and not confined. I deeply appreciated that the impact of the program continued beyond my time at Andover. I've actively stayed connected with former scholars, some of whom have become my mentors and best friends.

Every chance that I get, I tell upcoming applicants, current classmates, and colleagues in the field how beneficial a program specifically for minority students truly is – especially a program where our identity is just as important as the subjects we learn. To the past, present and future (MS)² scholars: You are enough. You are loved. You are destined for greatness - even when the world might tell you otherwise. My whole existence is to serve others, and I will do just that. Thank you (MS)². It was an honor and I am beyond grateful for the opportunity. I love you.”



Get Involved

- **Recruit a (MS)² Scholar** - The application for Summer 2026 opened 1 October! *If you are open to participating in a webinar with Dr. Sykes and/or are available to conduct an information session at your local high school, please reach out to the (MS)² office at ms2@andover.edu. The dates for upcoming webinars and the information session slideshow are posted at www.andover.edu/ms2.*
- **(MS)² Rewind & Reconnect** - Join us for a quick hour of insights, connections, and opportunities with fellow alumni and key updates from (MS)² on Wednesday, **November 12th from 7-8pm EDT**. Your registration link is coming to your inbox soon.



Support (MS)²

As we inch closer to the 50th anniversary of the (MS)² program, we are trying to locate and confirm contact information for the 1300+ alumni. Please complete our [new alumni survey](#) and share it with your (MS)² classmates. We revamped questions to help us get to know y'all better and connect y'all to each other for thought partnerships, mentor-mentee circles, and other networking opportunities. Thank you!



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