Looking Back (to School): Lessons Learned from Fall 2020

Topics and Facilitators

The Class of 2025 and Beyond: College Admissions during a Pandemic with Lee Coffin ’89a

Lee Coffin is Vice Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Dartmouth. Students think of a "Dean" as the signature on a decision letter, someone like the Wizard of Oz: an idea more than a person. Well, here I am, emerging from behind the proverbial curtain! My insights are informed by my background: I was a first-generation college student and need-based financial aid opened my door to opportunity. I attended a large high school that sent few to selective colleges. Advice was thin. I was largely on my own. My blog helps me reach those in a similar place.

Early Childhood–The Pandemic’s Impact on Young Children and Caregivers with Dana Charles McCoy ’06

Dana Charles McCoy is an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). Her work focuses on understanding the ways that poverty-related risk factors in children's home, school, and neighborhood environments affect their development in early childhood, as well as how early educational interventions can build resilience. Dr. McCoy's research is centered in both domestic and international contexts, including Brazil, Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia. She graduated with an A.B. in Psychological and Brain Sciences from Dartmouth College in 2006 and received her Ph.D. in Applied Psychology with a concentration in Quantitative Analysis from New York University in 2013.
The Future of Higher Education with Ben Schwartz ’06

Ben Schwartz has dedicated his professional career working to supporting students, families, and educators across the globe. He is the founder of two international education non-profits and has served global higher education clients as a management consultant with EY-Parthenon’s higher education team. Ben raised three foster sons while living and working in Ghana, helping them go from struggling on the streets to gaining admission to global universities, starting businesses, and establishing community development projects. He is currently writing a book on youth leadership development, building on his expertise and experience founding SageExperience.org that brings together high school students from Africa and across the globe to develop world-class leadership skills through a cutting-edge curriculum with real-world practice.

Ben majored in Government and minored in Education Policy at Dartmouth. Upon graduation, Ben was awarded a post-graduate fellowship to work with migrant families in West Africa, after which he returned to Dartmouth to serve as an Assistant Director of Admissions. Ben served on the Dartmouth Alumni Council and chaired the Admissions and Enrollment committee. He holds an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government and an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management.

The Challenges and Opportunities at the Intersections of Race and Learning in K-12 Education with Stephanie Wood-Garnett ’92

Stephanie Wood-Garnett is the President of the Institute for Student Achievement (ISA). Prior to joining ISA, she served as the Vice President of Policy to Practice for the Alliance for Excellent Education. Over the course of nearly 30 years in education, she has also served as the assistant commissioner of higher education for New York State and held leadership roles in DC Schools, Bellevue (WA) School District, and the University of Washington’s Center for Educational Leadership. She has also directed two national technical assistance centers funded by the U.S. Department of Education. At Dartmouth, she majored in English, minored in Women’s Studies, and co-founded the Rockapellas. She went on to earn a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from The George Washington University and a Doctorate of Education in Education Policy and Administration from the University of Pennsylvania.