

Teachers as Leaders: Cross the Atlantic for a Transformative Experience

At the end of June, ten students from the *Teachers as Leaders* initiative boarded a plane to Germany for a life-changing study tour. The traveling students are members of the first cohort of *Teachers as Leaders* scholars – a class of 24 students who completed their first semester in the program this June. *Teachers as Leaders* addresses the critical need for Black male teachers in New York City public schools, an initiative Deutsche Bank created in partnership with the CUNY Black Male Initiative and the

Schott Foundation for Public Education with an initial \$1 million investment.

"This trip transformed these students far more than we could have imagined. They were exposed to a different culture, which broadened their life experiences, shaped their current perspectives, and reinforced both the power of learning and the honor of teaching," shared Nicole Campbell, Vice President of Deutsche Bank Americas and Chair of the *Teachers as Leaders* advisory board.

Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation partnered with the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) in cooperation with the Federal Visitor's Service at the Goethe-Institut in Berlin to develop the program. TOP is a public/private partnership initiative of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe-Institut, Deutsche Bank and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. (www.goethe.de/top)
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Teachers as Leaders scholars visited Deutsche Bank's Frankfurt headquarters to learn more about the Bank's global commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility. The scholars met with Michael Hoelz, Co-Head of Global Corporate Social Responsibility for Deutsche Bank. Nicole Campbell, Vice President of the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation (pictured in the center).

With contagious enthusiasm, TOP's coordinator Wood Powell said, "During these trips, I encourage participants to use all five senses to soak in as much of Germany as possible whether it be watching a class in session or visiting a museum." One of the first days of the trip included a trip to the Berlin Wall Museum, the East Side Gallery, Museum Mile and Brandenburg Gate, the main gathering place for celebrations after

the fall of the Berlin Wall. The group also made a visit to the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum, a former Nazi concentration and Stasi labor camp.

Pernell Duncan, a scholar who learned that he passed his teaching exams while on the trip, commented, "I'm excited to get into the classroom and share my experience with my students, and to let them know that they, too, can follow their dreams and

make a difference. My eyes are open to the challenges that minorities face around the world, and I'm eager to share my new perspective with my students."

During sessions with local government officials and the Social Studies educators from Goethe Institut, *Teachers as Leaders* scholars impressed speakers and facilitators with their unique perspectives on educating minority students in Germany and America, the role of teacher training and results-driven assessment, and strategies for teaching special education students.

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was visits to primary and secondary schools in Berlin. During these visits, *Teachers as Leaders* scholars were able to spend time with students and learn about their issues and challenges, which highlighted the similarities between German and New York City students.

The *Teachers as Leaders* scholars embraced every aspect of the study tour – Germany's deep history, the goals of public education, and the implications of their work as teachers and life-long learners. Deutsche Bank looks forward to its next 24 students, and to continuing to promote the diversity of New York City teachers.

Anthony Heyward, a *Teachers as Leaders* student, described the trip as inspiring and enlightening. He added, "One of the many valuable lessons I learned was that the challenges of the U.S. and German educational systems are very comparable. I also gained first-hand knowledge of historical German events and how they affected the country, its people and culture, which will ultimately be a great teaching aid for me."