POLISHED PEBBLES: THE COLLEGE EDITION

POLISHED PEBBLES COLLEGE EDITION

The College Edition of the Polished Pebbles Girls Mentoring Program is a yearlong, on-campus mentoring initiative designed for undergraduate women of color. The program offers a holistic approach to college-level mentoring, preparing students for career success by providing a structured environment to share experiences, identify resources, get support, and receive world-class mentorships. The collegiate initiative includes a blend of group workshops, one-on-one advisory sessions, career seminars, e-mentoring, leadership development, community service, and advocacy. Polished Pebbles mentees are empowered to identify and utilize their unique leadership capacities to:

- Improve communication skills on campus and at future career sites
- Develop and maintain a positive sense of self while matriculating as a college student
- Explore diverse career opportunities and create rich professional networks
- Connect with successful mentors and engage career role models on campus and beyond

WHY POLISHED PEBBLES COLLEGE EDITION MATTERS

For many young women of color, the continuing journey of self-discovery on a college campus means their experiences and perspectives are now influenced by larger intersections of race and gender, often making it difficult to define their evolving identities in this complex, nuanced environment. Some students are managing the expectations of family and peers who want them to be the “example” and the additional pressures of the views of classmates and others who may have skewed, or misinformed opinions of minorities, or just lack exposure. While for others, building new relationships on campus is characterized by a need or desire to seek connections with new people from different backgrounds and/or find support networks with individuals with common aspirations and shared social experiences.

POLISHED PEBBLES COLLEGE EDITION PARTNERS

Polished Pebbles has a long track record of success in providing structured mentoring support that helps students in gaining the right skills, experiences, exposure, and connections. Additionally, the program galvanizes a cross-section of mentors, role models, and on-campus support, including university faculty, staff, alumni, and working professionals in surrounding areas. Polished Pebbles’ business partnerships also play an integral role in creating career readiness initiatives, such as Ascena Retail Group hosting an in-store event at Dress Barn where company representatives from the Ann Taylor, Lane Bryant, and Catherine brands gave Polished Pebbles mentees insider tips for dressing for success.

POLISHED PEBBLES COLLEGE EDITION FEEDBACK

“The opportunity for women of color to gather, encourage, be affirmed and connect is powerful beyond measure. I look forward to the continuance and permanence of the initiative to support the needs, dreams, and desires and dismantle the challenges women of color face in order to thrive and flourish.”

-Stephanie Helms Pickett, Director, Duke University Women’s Center

“Polished Pebbles has helped to increase my confidence. I learned to take a chance, and reach out to industry professionals, because the worst people can say is no. I was connected to a physician that allowed me to shadow her in her work. Polished Pebbles helps young women of color navigate the Duke experience with ease.”

-Tyler Johnson, Class of 2018

POLISHED PEBBLES PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Polished Pebbles has created communications competencies that ensure the employability of young women of color nationwide. Since 2009, the Chicago-based Polished Pebbles Girls Mentoring Program has mentored over 2,000 girls and trained and supported over 500 mentors through local partnerships at more than 70 public schools, charter schools, and public housing communities. Recent Polished Pebbles corporate partnerships include: Bloomingdales, Microsoft, ThoughtWorks, and Nordstrom.

For more information, visit us online at polishedpebbles.com