With equal parts enthusiasm and cautious optimism, we introduced the MillbrookEngage program to our eager Vth form families via a virtual Zoom meeting in November of 2020. By that time, it was clear—thanks to the courage, commitment, and trust on the part of all—that Millbrook had successfully re-opened school. However, the future still seemed a bit uncertain due to continuing pandemic-related concerns. We proceeded and prevailed, and our students quickly shared their enthusiasm for the MillbrookEngage program and its mission to carry forward the ideal of service—one of the school’s most important core values. Twenty students applied to participate.

**INTRODUCTION BY MillbrookEngage Program Director Trish Rexhouse**

Thirteen of those 20 students secured internships; this was the largest group in the program’s history. The 2021 MillbrookEngage participants brought our school motto, *Non Sibi Sed Cunctis*, to new regions, including Colorado and Vietnam, and new not-for-profit interests. It was a busy summer for these students, as they worked to better their communities by bringing equal access to educational programming to underserved populations, supporting female empowerment, working in healthcare settings, coaching underserved youth, and more.

MillbrookEngage continues to benefit our students, the not-for-profits they serve, and Millbrook School. Herb Shultz ’63, who conceived of and funded the program, remains instrumental in the program’s success, which has flourished thanks to other ardent supporters who recognize how Millbrook students can work beyond the borders of our beautiful campus to make the world a better place.
Precious was searching for an internship related to her interest in the medical field, but her focus shifted once she connected with alumna Caroline (Bozorth) Sayan ’90. Caroline is the president of the board for Dress For Success Northern New Jersey, a non-profit that empowers women to achieve economic independence. They work with women entering the workforce and provide services free of charge, including skills training and work attire. Precious worked full time, off site on a range of communications projects and was inspired by the long-term impact Dress For Success has on clients.

Olivia joined the white-tailed deer project at the Cary Institute, a local environmental research facility in Millbrook, as a data intern. She analyzed video footage from 26 trail cameras scattered across hundreds of acres of land owned by the Cary Institute and recorded her observations of animals and their activities, focusing specifically on the noticeable attributes and habits of white-tailed deer crossing the cameras’ paths. Along with deer, Olivia observed bobcats, bears, coyotes, turkeys, and others. Olivia’s internship connected a love of animals sustained by her work as a Trevor Zoo curator with her interest in biomedical engineering and research, all in service of the vital conservation work happening right here in Dutchess County.
REVEL PHAN
Revel worked for Pacific Links Foundation, a Vietnam-based non-profit focused on helping female victims of human trafficking, teaching English daily via Zoom to Vietnam-based clients of the organization. Revel is a Vietnamese speaker, and in teaching English to students with some proficiency, he was able to conduct lessons in a casual and conversational style while sharing some highlights of his life in New York City. As a longtime volunteer with Pacific Links, Revel plans to continue, and hopefully further, his connection as he heads to college to study international business.

FREDDY HAMILTON
Freddy worked with Colorado Youth for a Change (CYC), a non-profit tasked with supporting disadvantaged and struggling high school students striving to earn their diplomas or GEDs. As part of his work, Freddy reviewed data on the correlation between early childhood education and later success in high school. He worked closely with CYC staff to identify student needs while gaining valuable experience in data analysis, communications, and writing, including penning articles for an annual report on giving. Freddy fulfilled his overarching goal of doing good in his hometown while building skills and gaining invaluable experience.
Pearson interned for six weeks with South Bronx United (SBU), a youth services organization that uses soccer as a vehicle for social change. He worked as a math and English teacher for sixth graders and as a soccer coach. A Brooklyn resident, Pearson had some familiarity with SBU through his own club soccer matches and saw himself in the kids he worked with. He also gained a new appreciation for teachers: “Working with students takes empathy, patience, and effective communication, and through this experience I gained so much more respect for the teachers that I’ve had during my educational journey.” Pearson’s MillbrookEngage experience was a natural way for him to connect his love of learning with his love of soccer, all while serving others.

Declan Allen worked at North Shore Animal League in Garden City, New York, to find homes for animals saved from kill shelters in the southern U.S.

Elijah Grant-Pereira worked at a music festival run by the Arts Alliance of Stratford and assisted with a journalism project in their Connecticut offices.

Lily Herman assisted with animal husbandry at our own Trevor Zoo on Millbrook’s campus, early preparation for her Independent Science Research project currently underway.

Evelynn Najork learned about issues many Americans face—a lack of access to dental care. Working remotely with the volunteer service management team of Operation Smile, she helped coordinate international teams of volunteers.

Caitlyn Rodeo was right at home in New York City as a hospital intern in the cardiac care unit providing emotional support for patients at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Anya Rule helped set up and curate art exhibitions at the Barrett Arts Center in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Chelsea Sinclair enjoyed her time as a business and administrative intern assisting North East Community Center staff in Millerton, New York, as they worked to offer social, educational, and recreational programs to Dutchess County residents.

Jaylen Thatcher worked with other high school students as an assistant at a basketball training facility, Edge Athletics, in Poughkeepsie, New York.