

# UCHICAGO Charter School



We are thrilled to announce that UCW High School seniors Terrance Dantzler and Julien Sims' admissions offers to Grinnell College were accompanied by two of only ten [Laurel Scholarships](#) offered this year! The Laurel Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship and mentorship program intended to help excellent Black scholars with great leadership potential thrive during their undergraduate career at Grinnell.

[Grinnell](#) is a highly selective liberal arts college with a beautiful campus that is located in rural Iowa and predominantly White. Through the Laurel Scholarship's mentorship program, Terrance and Julien would gain a support network of Black Grinnell alumni — like UCW High School Class of 2015 alum Caelin Bryant, who graduated from Grinnell in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science. Black Grinnell alumni based in Chicago would provide them with mentorship and help prepare them for their transition to college. Terrance, Julien, and their fellow Laurel Scholars would also participate in special summer programming so they can build community before they arrive on campus.

In addition to this Chicago-based mentorship program, Terrance and Julien will receive full-tuition scholarships and are eligible for additional need-based financial aid to assist with the cost of room and board.

Terrance applied to Grinnell College through the Early Decision II program, which enabled him to submit his application two weeks early in exchange for notification of his admissions decision months before many other students begin to hear back from colleges.

Terrance has been an asset to the UChicago Charter community, and while we will miss him dearly, we are incredibly proud of all of his hard work that led to this accomplishment. Most recently, Terrance and Julien worked with a [UChicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice](#) professor on an editorial that highlights their insights on youth violence and the work of the [Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention](#). The editorial was recently accepted for publication by the *American Journal of Public Health*. Terrance also challenged himself academically during his time at UCW, taking seminars taught by professors at the UChicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice and the UChicago Law School.

Outside of school, Terrance produces music — which is how he created UCW High School's theme song. "Through his grades, school leadership, and personal energy, Terrance exudes exemplary self-esteem and pride in his community," said UChicago Charter Chief College Officer Mr. Torres.

Julien's accomplishment is also a culmination of his incredibly hard work in the classroom, on the court and field, and in his community. Julien has served as executive student body president, basketball team captain, and CEO and founder of Chill Apparels. Terrance collaborated with Julien in this business endeavor, enabling them to sell over 250 units of clothing within two months. During his high school career, Julien took on extracurricular coursework to

sharpen his demonstrated business acumen through the Gray Matter Experience Business and Entrepreneurial Program as well as through the Howard University School of Business Entrepreneurial Program. In addition, Julien was chosen to participate in the highly selective community-based organization The Academy Group, which expanded his already impressive network through their business and mentoring program.

“Julien’s passion to learn, drive to compete, and commitment to bettering himself have made him an unforgettable student during his years here. Our school would not be the same without Julien,” said UChicago Charter School Chief College Officer Will Torres.

We are delighted that Terrance and Julien have the opportunity to continue their educational journeys together!