

OUTAS

Oakland University Trustee Academic Success Program

MEET MICHELLE

- CAS '00
- Communication
- Director, Academic Advising and Student Services, SHS
- Aspiring author

See Michelle's story on the back cover.

25 years
OF SUCCESS

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE ACADEMIC SUCCESS (OUTAS)

Our mission, your success. Our goal, your graduation. Here in the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), we are more than just advocates for your success, we're family. Through ups and downs no matter what, we are here to guide you on your journey to graduation.

The OUTAS program is a nationally recognized program setting the standard for academic excellence and leadership development in the 21st century. Launched in 1994, the award-winning OUTAS program has provided comprehensive support services to a diverse group of Oakland University students.

The program differs from other student retention programs because it focuses on providing scholarships to a diverse group of students who experienced academic success in high school, but need support adjusting to campus life.

Many student retention programs focus solely on non-regularly admitted (at-risk) students. OUTAS also fosters cross-cultural interaction by encompassing students from various ethnicities. Students who meet the OUTAS program requirements receive scholarships (\$3,000) that are renewed annually.

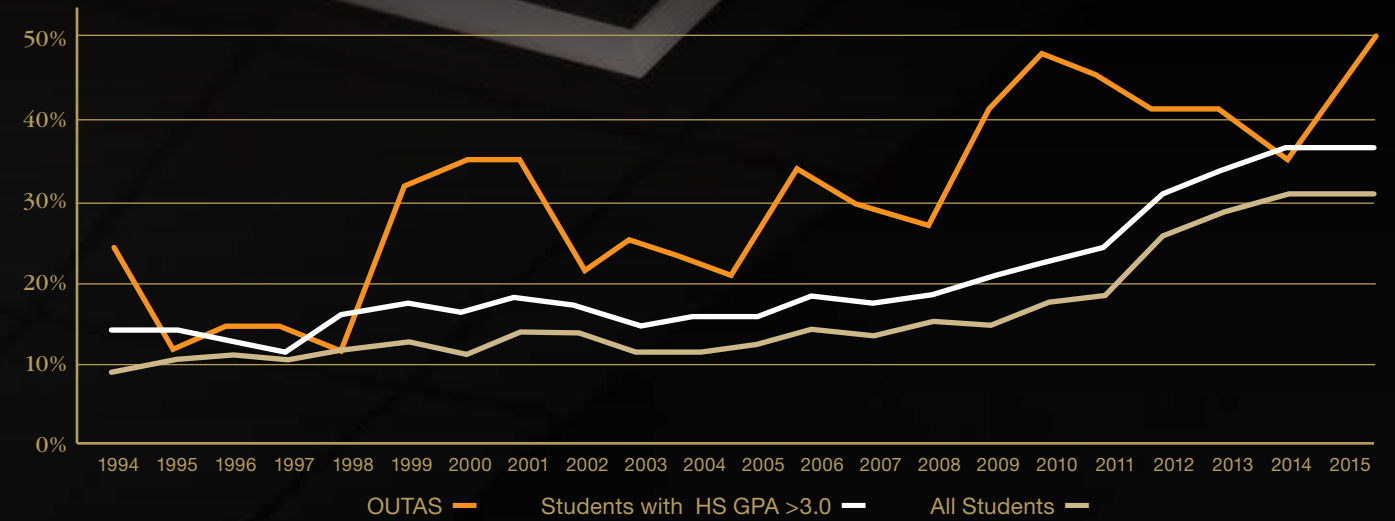
OUTAS MISSION

To directly engage ethnically and culturally diverse scholars in a teaching and learning environment whereby the enriching nature of diversity fosters academic excellence and produces leaders with effective cross-cultural functioning skills.

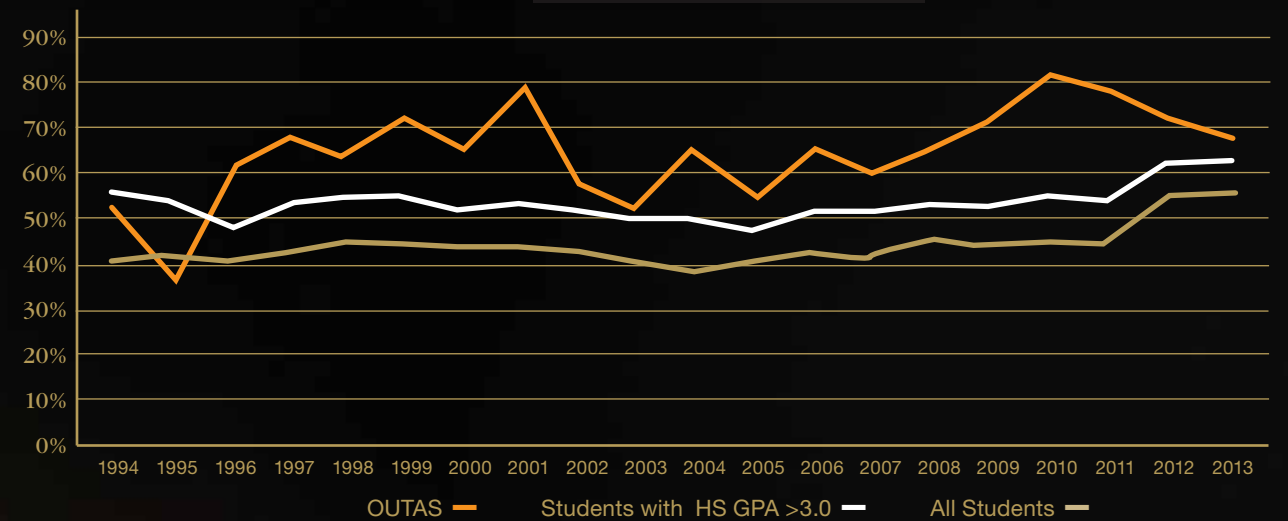
GROWTH



FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE



SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE



JASON NEWMAN wanted options for his future, it's why he came to OU. But through the OUTAS program, he found something he wasn't expecting – community, accountability and understanding for others.

His CMI mentors kept him focused on the next step, and pushed him to see he was part of something bigger than himself. Now a successful marketing professional, Jason continues to grow not only professionally, but also in his commitment to continue to connect with those who are different.

MEET JASON

- SBA '12
- Marketing
- Senior Analyst, Programmatic at Spark Foundry
- Compassionate leader

PROGRAM FEATURES

For even the highest achieving students, transitioning from high school to college can be an overwhelming process. But from your very first steps on campus, the OUTAS Program is here to motivate and surround you with all of the resources you need to be successful.

PEER MENTORING

CMI peer mentors are campus leaders. From New Student Orientation on, CMI mentors provide guidance and model academic and social success to their mentees and the campus community. OUTAS students work with mentors who “know the ropes” and can provide goal setting guidance and information about campus activities, resources and student organizations. Peer mentors, who hold 3.0 or better GPAs, help new students become accustomed to college life and develop their academic and leadership skills. Assigned mentors meet weekly in one-on-one sessions with scholarship recipients to assess and monitor academic and social progress. Mentors provide scholarship recipients with information about classes, support services, academic programs and counseling. Students must meet with their mentors weekly for at least their first two years at the university. Beyond their scope of peer counseling, mentors serve as a link between CMI and the university community.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Professional counselors provide guidance on psychosocial development, academic enrichment, financial opportunities and career exploration.

COM 1100

Collegiate Communications COM 1100 classes increase student awareness, communication skills, and personal and academic success.

EARLY ACADEMIC WARNING SYSTEM

Designed to monitor and track the students' individual academic progress, the system includes faculty feedback, tutorial services and staff monitoring.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Students work with professional staff and mentors to develop strong leadership abilities.

CAREER EXPLORATION MENTORS

CMI staff and counselors provide guidance and insights as OUTAS students explore career interests and options.

DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Students are involved in a multitude of diversity programs, arranged by CMI, in support of the OUTAS model.

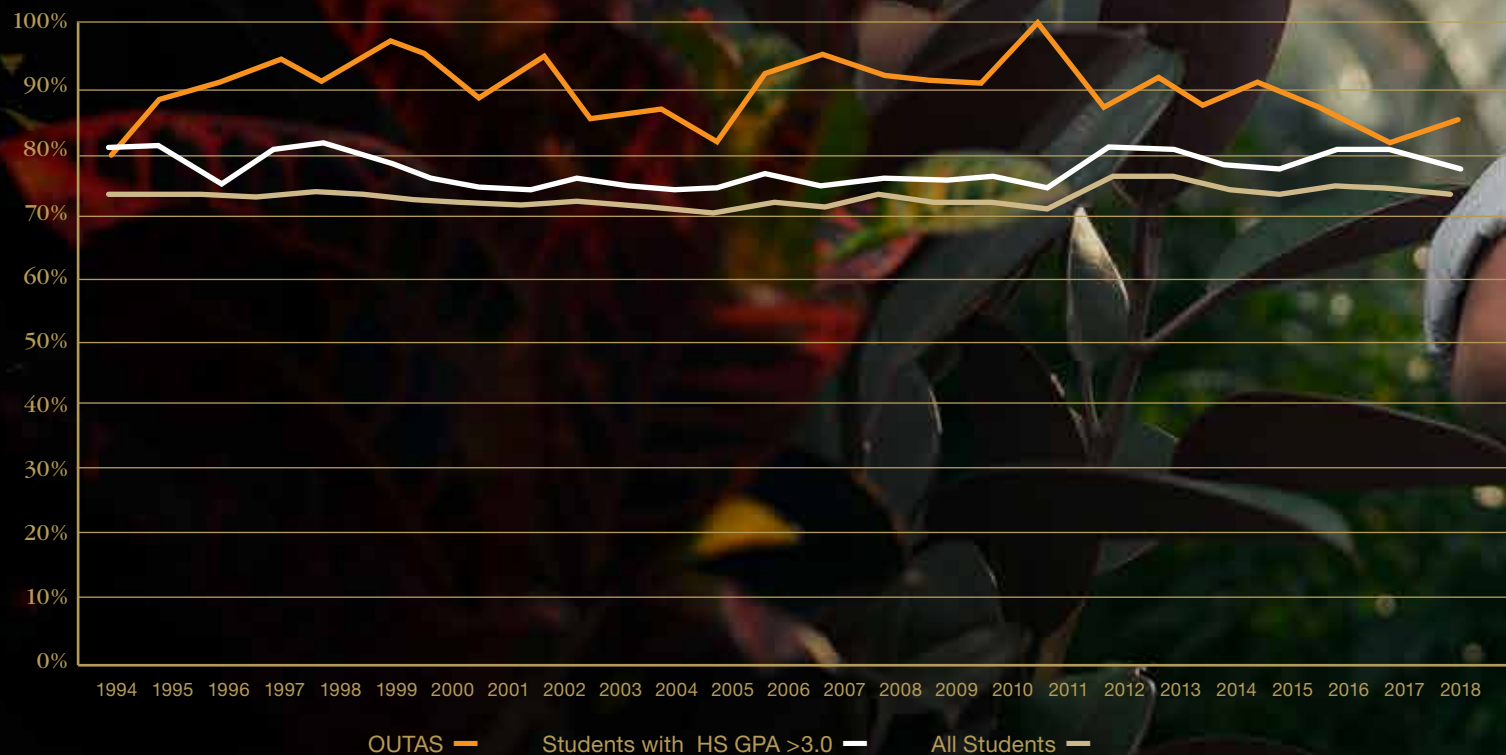
ADITYA TIWARI'S passion has always been the environment. Through the OUTAS program, he found the resources he needed not only to stay on track and graduate with a degree in environmental science, but also to pay it forward to the next generation.

Today, he continues to work towards combating environmental injustice, with hopes of helping communities self-organize for a more equitable and just society.

MEET ADITYA

- CAS '18
- Environmental Science
- ITSM Process Engineer, DXC Technology
- Environmental advocate

FIRST-YEAR RETENTION RATE



PASSION

WHO ARE OUTAS STUDENTS?

OUTAS students:

- Have a higher cumulative GPA
- Are more likely to stay enrolled
- Are involved in student organizations
- Have received the most prestigious awards granted at OU including:
 - Keeper of the Dream (47 recipients)
 - Matilda R. Wilson Awards (6 recipients)
 - Alfred G. Wilson Awards (3 recipients)
 - OU Human Relations Awards (5 recipients)
- Graduate within five years (63.6 percent) compared to all OU students (50.8 percent)
- Are ambassadors for diversity on campus and in the community
- Are successful in the classroom and the community

OUTAS: A SUCCESS STORY

OUTAS makes a difference in students' lives. During the 2018-19 academic year, 39 program scholarships were awarded, and 23 OUTAS scholarship recipients graduated, bringing the total to 431 graduates since 1994.

THE OUTAS PROGRAM IS A PROUD RECIPIENT OF

- The 2003 Michigan Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) Equal Educational Opportunity Award.
- The Noel-Levitz 2001 Retention Excellence Award. This national award places OUTAS among the top seven most successful, state-of-the-art retention programs at American colleges and universities.
- The 2000 Michigan Counseling Association Diversity Award.
- The 1999 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Noteworthy Program Award.

For **DENISE THOMPKINS-JONES**, the family atmosphere of the OUTAS program changed her life. Through the program, she discovered her passion for social justice and advocacy, and met her closest friends and supporters — including her future husband.

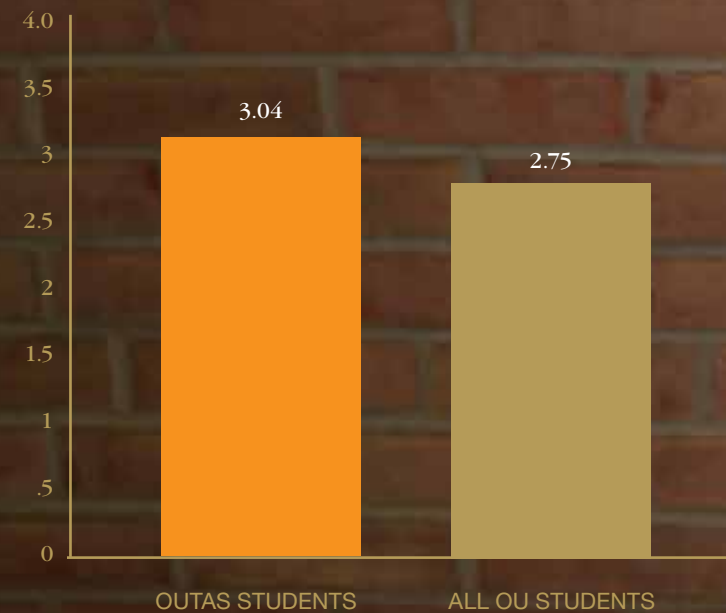
And if that wasn't enough, through OUTAS, Denise discovered something even more valuable, her voice. Now Denise works as a Retention Coordinator in the CMI office, empowering the next generation of students to discover theirs.

MEET DENISE

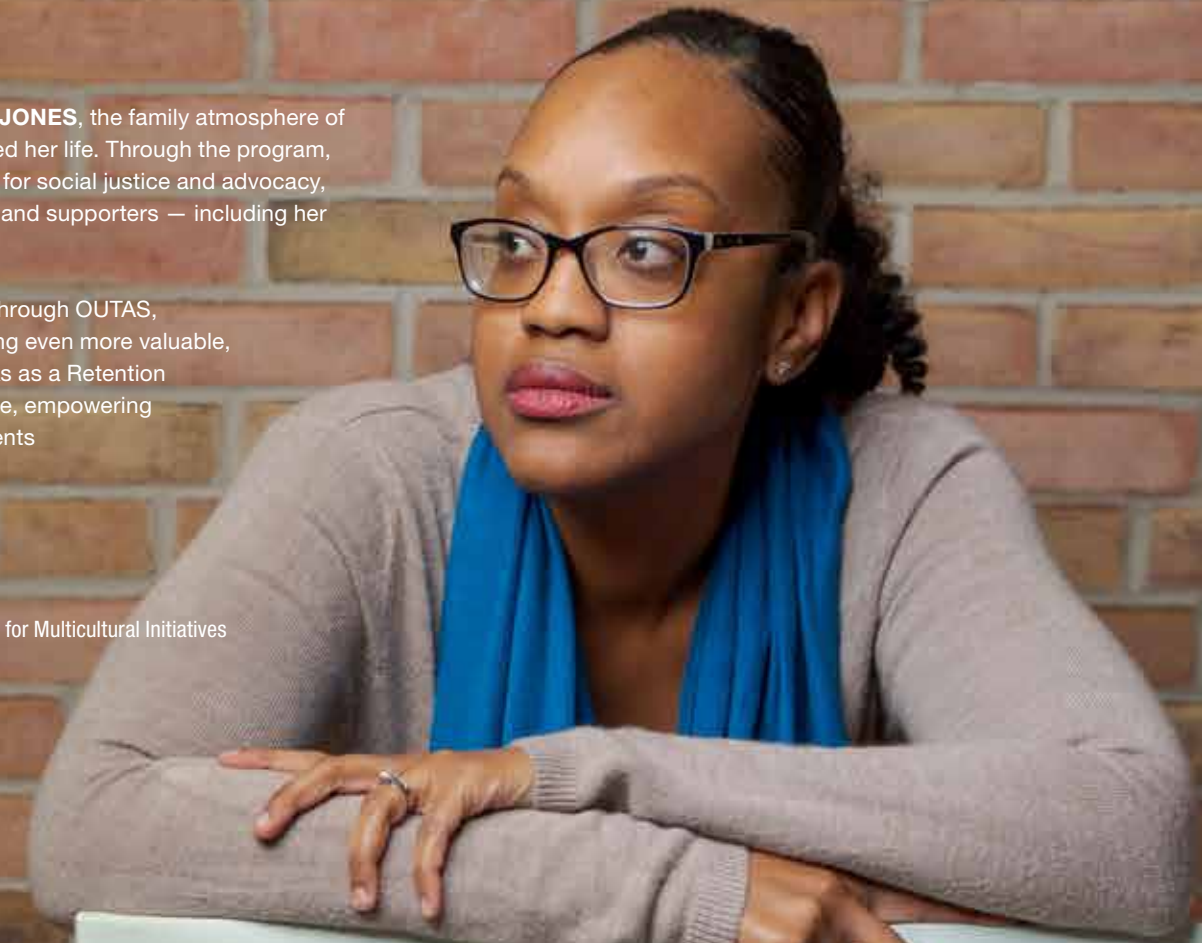
- CAS '09
- Psychology
- Retention Coordinator, Center for Multicultural Initiatives
- Social justice advocate

DISCOVER

CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE



SPEAK THE
TRUTH
EVEN IF
YOUR VOICE
SHAKES



DRIVE

(On the Cover) For **MICHELLE SOUTHWARD**, attending OU was a last minute decision that turned out to be one of the best of her life. Beyond the support and resources the program provided, as a first generation university student, Michelle appreciated having someone hold her accountable to her own success.

But the OUTAS program did something more for her than accountability, it ignited her drive as a professional. Now working toward her doctorate degree, Michelle is working on writing her first children’s novel — with hopes of becoming a published author.

ARE YOU READY TO DISCOVER YOUR DRIVE? BECOME AN OUTAS STUDENT.

Requirements for students include:

- Entering freshmen must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, a minimum 21 ACT score or 1060 SAT score and demonstrated leadership skills
- Transfer students require a minimum 3.0 GPA

Once accepted, students must:

- Complete 28 credit hours per academic year
- Enroll in COM 1100
- Meet bi-weekly with a professional counselor
- Meet weekly with a peer mentor
- Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better

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It was as a student leader at Oakland University that **OMAR BROWN-EL** first began to ignite change.

As part of a movement to develop a space on campus for underrepresented students, Omar was a student representative on the committee to interview candidates who would run the newly established Office of Minority Equity. One year after its creation, the OUTAS program was established.

After graduation Omar left OU for a while, but it wasn’t long before his career came full circle and he returned to OU. Now, as Senior Director of the renamed Center for Multicultural Initiatives, Omar continues to relentlessly lead the change he fought for more than 20 years ago.