

More options excite me

Approaching the summer of 2016, high school students Shamar Banfield, Amy Hamilton and Brandon Greenlaw—like so many of their fellow classmates—couldn't answer this question: How exactly should they pursue their futures?

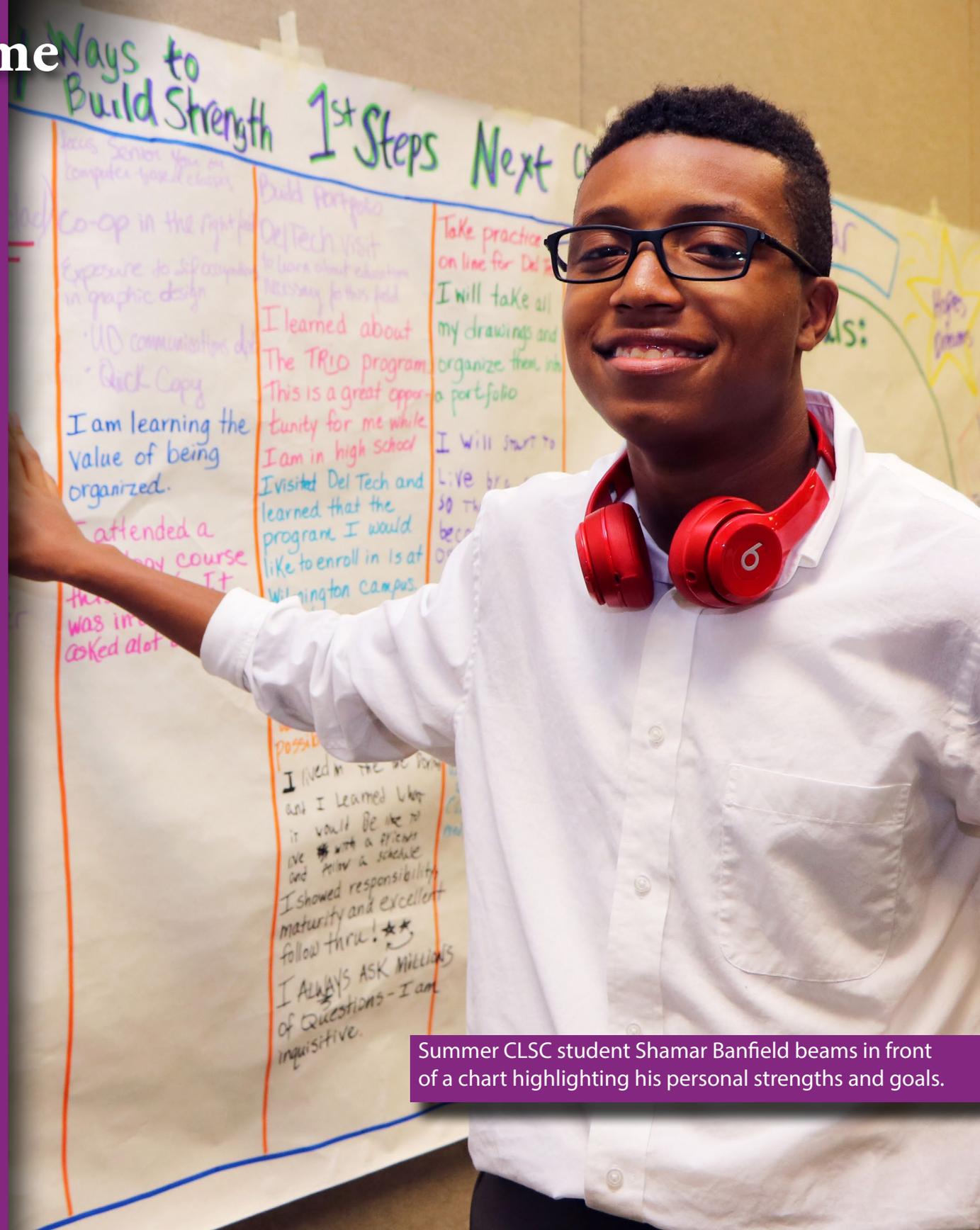
After participating at UD in the [Summer Career and Life Studies Certificate \(CLSC\) program](#), [Edge Extension](#) and [Swank Employment Summer Program](#) for students with disabilities, they came a lot closer to knowing what they wanted, and knowing how to succeed at it.

"These programs, funded by the [Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](#), allow students with disabilities to develop skills that will help them prosper as adults," says [CDS Associate Director Brian Freedman](#). They're offered opportunities to set goals, get hands-on experience and receive needed supports.

A new addition to a CDS spring-to-fall program that gives qualifying high school students chances to explore campus and career options, Summer CLSC offers a weeklong UD residence experience to Banfield and other pre-college students. Banfield says he'd been "dead set" on a career in video game development. But after job shadowing experiences through Summer CLSC at a print shop, video production studio and with a graphic designer, he says "there are a lot more careers options that excite me."

Edge Extension, in its second year, gives college-bound students like Hamilton supports needed to navigate college classes and a collegiate environment for five weeks. Hamilton says "the classes were very intense." But the accommodations she received made her feel confident that she will remain "calm under pressure" once she enrolls in post-secondary education.

The seven-week Swank Employment Summer Program, also in its second year, helps students develop employment skills and determine a career path. Greenlaw found he loved cooking while interning at California Tortilla in Newark. But the internship also taught him that a career in culinary arts is "more than just cooking." He learned how to better manage his time and work with a team. "Now I know what I need to land my ideal job," he says.



Summer CLSC student Shamar Banfield beams in front of a chart highlighting his personal strengths and goals.