

# OPERATION UNDERSTANDING DC



## Application due November 21, 2016

Operation Understanding DC is seeking motivated high school juniors who are

- Eager to create change and promote social justice
- Proud of their African American and/or Jewish heritage and identity
- Ready to be leaders in their communities

Our mission is to build a generation of African American and Jewish community leaders who promote respect, understanding and cooperation while working to eradicate racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination.

We are looking for students who have strong communication skills, who are curious, and who are willing to learn. If you self-identify as African American and/or Jewish and are willing to have your identity enriched, please apply to be a part of Operation Understanding DC. There is no charge to participants chosen for the program, and students are selected without regard to their financial status.

Want more info? Visit us online at [www.oudc.org](http://www.oudc.org), contact our office at 202-234-6832, or email our interim program director, Ricki Horne at [rhorne@oudc.org](mailto:rhorne@oudc.org). The application is due November 21, 2016 and can be found online by visiting <http://www.oudc.org/act/apply.html>. See reverse for additional information.

BUILD TRANSFORMATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS.  
WALK THE PATH OF HISTORY.  
CREATE CHANGE.



**"My fellow participants in OUDC have been a consistent voice of love, support, encouragement, and challenge...we've prayed, laughed, cried, eaten, argued, disagreed, worked, and traveled with each other, all while trying to change the world."**

**Chris Hopson, Class 20**

**Operation Understanding** DC's mission is to build a generation of African American and Jewish community leaders who promote respect, understanding, and cooperation while working to eradicate racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of discrimination.

OUDC students begin this yearlong, experiential learning program as curious high school juniors and graduate as committed leaders for social justice. Throughout the year, they meet in board rooms and church basements around Washington, DC for educational sessions and honest dialogue about slavery, the Holocaust, the Civil Rights Movement, current national and international issues, religion and spirituality, and much more. In July, they travel from New York City to the Deep South to explore their histories and create their blueprints for future activism. Each day is filled with inspirational speakers, educational tours and life-changing experiences.

Upon returning, OUDC's students begin the real work of creating change. They give presentations about their experiences in mosques, churches, and synagogues, facilitate workshops about bias, privilege, and discrimination for schools and community organizations, and become media ambassadors of respect and understanding.

OUDC's nearly 500 graduates dedicate themselves to continuing the work they began in OUDC in immeasurable ways: securing the freedom of wrongly convicted prisoners; shaping public policy at the national, state and local levels; strengthening schools and neighborhoods as National Teaching, Teach for America, Coro and Avodah fellows; and organizing communities on issues such as a living wage, education and workers' rights.

The African American and Jewish communities, through an enduring relationship made famous in the 1960s, remain at the forefront of movements for social justice. OUDC's participants proudly accept the mantle of this legacy and stand together as vocal allies in creating a society where all members have equal access to opportunity and freedom from discrimination.

**"Participating in Operation Understanding DC has helped me build a foundation of confidence from which to find my voice."**

**Ruthie Sherman, Class 20**

