Goodwin University
Magnet School System
Scholars' Alumni Association

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

GUMSS 2026 Alumni Check-in

Greetings & Happy New Year!

2026 is off to a running start. Here at Goodin University Magnet School System we strive to stay head of days just rolling past. In such effort, below is a link to our 2026 Alumni Check-in. Please take the next few minutes to submit/update your information by clicking here.



Alumni Profile: Derrick Christie, Class of 2019

If you want proof that taking care of your financial responsibilities does not mean giving up on your dreams, just ask Derrick - his life is a testimony to this fact.

The fall following his graduation, Derrick matriculated into Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) where he majored in Marketing. Derrick graduated from CCSU in the spring of 2022, having earned a Bachelor's in that field.

However, as life sometimes happens, Derrick found work not in the marketing field, but in the health insurance industry. With this wise move, Derrick married two important aspects of life - financial stability and pursuit of passion. He explains this decision in this way, "I wanted to go for something that'll, you know, be steady pay and financially stable for me and then I could kind of use that to pursue my passions." Derrick's passion is filmmaking.

Derrick's interest in screenwriting sparked into film production during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. In speaking of his attraction to movie-making, Derrick shared, "I've been on a couple film sets. I've done a lot of different roles on film sets. Primarily, I enjoy directing and writing. I pride myself in being a creative person and writing and developing stories and characters is really where I thrive. So that's what I enjoy doing the most." During his alumni interview, Derrick spoke about the project on which he was then working on titled, "Roxie's Boys."

"Roxie's Boys" is a comedy about a single mom of four adopted sons. Her boys, of different racial backgrounds, are very over-protective of their mom. They are always ready and eager to defend their mother's honor. As the story opens, Roxie is contemplating how to introduce her sons to her new boyfriend, Terrence. The film's plot explores topics such as racism, domestic violence, and infertility.

About his experience at Connecticut Rivera Academy (CTRA), Derrick recalls, "I had friends from all walks of life when I was at CTRA, and people that I'm still friends with. And that diversity I feel like was really important because, you know, after you get out of school you go into the real world, the real world is diverse. So, you kind of need to learn."

Below are links to Derrick's productions. If you are interested in supporting Derrick's editing and post-production expenses to complete "Roxie's Boys," please contact Derrick at: derrickchristie100@gmail.com.

I Chose Jesse | Short Film

This is for the Best | Romance Comedy Short Film

Watch Derrick's alumni interview on the Goodwin University Magnet School System YouTube channel!

Enjoy!

A Message from David Daye, GUMSS Chief Operating Officer

Dear Alumni,

The State of Connecticut Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) is accepting applications for magnet and open choice placement for the 2026-2027 school year.

As Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMSS) is a "Sheff" magnet school district, we establish enrollment goals outlined in the Sheff lawsuit settlement. Our funding is relational to our enrollment numbers - I reach out for your help in spreading the word about the great educational opportunities provided by GUMSS.

Here are a few talking points for your consideration:

- College advantage: Students can earn up to an associate's degree while in high school, saving over $60,000 in future costs.
- Eight Pathways: Career-focused pathways that connect classroom learning to
- industry and higher education.
- Career Credentials: Students can graduate with multiple industry recognized credentials.
- New partnerships: Expanded access to sports with East Hartford Public Schools.
- Real-world learning: Apprenticeships and internships offer hands-on experiences
- with industry partners.
- Whole-Family focus: Parents/Guardians can take one free course at Goodwin University.
- Student voice: Our students enjoy learning and have a real say in their education.

On-time applications are being accepted right now continuing to February 6, 2026. Families may apply online here: chooseyourschool.org.

For assistance with the application process, families may contact Casey Guiheen , GUMSS Coordinator of Magnet Operations, at cguiheen@goodwinmagnetsystem.org.

Thanks,

David Daye



Volunteer Opportunity

Read Across America 2026 is a nationwide event that encourages children to develop a lifelong love for reading. Sponsored by the by the National Education Association (NEA), this annual event celebrates the wonders to be found in of words written on a page.

Riverside Magnet School seeks volunteers to read to our youngest scholars on that day:

Read Across America 2026
Wednesday, 04 March 2026
9 AM - 10:30 AM
Riverside Magnant School
29 Willowbrook Road
East Hartford, CT 06118

To volunteer for this fantastic opportunity, contact Alyssa Beers at abeers@goodwinmagnetsystem.org.

Could You Use Some Extra Cash?

The Sheff Movement Coalition(SMC) seeks the services of a social media consultant.

Primary services sought are:

- Updating and maintaining the SMC website
- Maintaining SMC presence on social media platforms
- Crafting/sending Rapid Response communication
- Other actions as may be requested from time to time by SMC Board Co chairpersons

The hourly rate of pay is $60, for up to ten (10) hours per week.

Persons interested in this opportunity may contact Jim Boucher at jmbb2020@gmail.com.

Hartford Mayor Arulampalam Seeking Input

Hartford Mayor Arulampalam is seeking citizen input on the future of the Hartford Public School District.

This is an opportunity for families who live in Hartford and attend a magnet school operated by the Hartford School district to support educational choice.

It is also an opportunity for Goodwin University Magnet School System alumni who live in Hartford to support Hartford families' right to choose their children's educational path.

The questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete. Responses must be submitted by 28 February 2026.

Help spread the word about this important effort. This is the link to Mayor Arulampalam"s online survey: Let's talk: How can we expand opportunities for Hartford's students with our existing resources?