

Willow Walker

Associate Director of Education-Admissions,
The Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund

2018 Surge Fellow

Willow Walker works to end the cycle of poverty by providing educational access to top tier college preparatory schools for high-performing students, who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. She does this by serving as Associate Director of Education for the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund. In this role, Willow identifies academic talent in middle school children across Chicago, provides high school counseling to students during the high school application process and acts as the students' liaison when interfacing with various private high schools while recommending school placement.



Willow found her passion for education as an adolescent when she was awarded a scholarship to attend Lake Forest Academy for high school. Later, during her work as Senior School Resource Coordinator for a residential facility called Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Willow decided to pursue her master's degree in education. She saw the disparities between academic resources in schools in the Chicagoland area and wanted to obtain the appropriate tools to make positive change within the school systems. She went on to earn her master's degree in Education Policy and Instructional Leadership from the University of Illinois at Chicago,

After completing her degree, Willow began working as the first Campus Director for High Jump, an educational enrichment program for middle school students. In this role, Willow created and approved curriculum for all subjects taught, managed a group of twelve middle school teachers, recruited students for the program, and monitored the academic success of the students in the program.

Willow currently serves as a member for Lake Forest Academy's Alumni Advisory Board as well as a member for their Diversity Hiring and Retention Committee. When she is not working, Willow is trying to find her Zen at a neighborhood yoga class or attending a Chicago sporting event.