

## 2018 Surge Fellow

**H**arold Pearson is the Executive Director of SPAAT, a non-profit corporation he co-founded to serve student athletes in the Oakland Bay Area. Harold's lifelong history as an athlete motivates his life's work to light a pathway towards success for young adults. Since taking leadership of SPAAT in 2008, he has supported Bay Area student athletes in securing millions of dollars in academic and athletic scholarships. Because of SPAAT's support, McClymonds High School has the top success outcomes for African-American males in California.

Harold draws on his history as a highly recruited athlete, community college transfer, and a Division 1 football player to address the challenges student athletes face adjusting to life from high school to the collegiate level and beyond. He has also served as assistant commissioner for the CIF Oakland Section and was formerly a partner at a San Francisco-based litigation-outsourcing firm. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Harold received a B.A. in business in addition to being a three-year letterman for the California football team.

A passion for his athletically charged career, strong business acumen, entrepreneurial spirit, and drive to help others has allowed Harold to make a positive impact on the world. Harold is an active member of the Western Association of College Admissions Counselors (WACAC), and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

Harold and his wife, Carmen, live in Oakland with their two children: Alexis (4) and Johanna (2).

