



NAME: Himang Patel

BORN: 1994, Gujarat, India

GRADUATED: Rutgers Class of 2017

DEGREE: B.S. in Finance
and Accounting

CURRENT ROLE: Graduate Analyst
at Deutsche Bank, NYC

A LONG WAY FROM GUJARAT

In 2003, Himang Patel took the first steps on the path to success when his family came from Gujarat, India, to Piscataway, New Jersey.

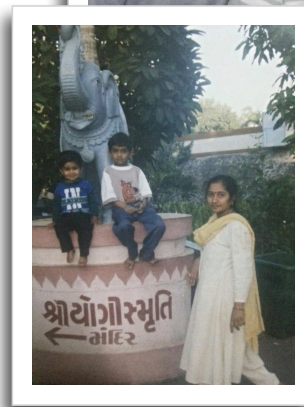
Like so many millions before him, his parents worked multiple menial jobs seven days a week to ensure that their two sons would be able to realize a better life.

Although he was a good student, his father pushed him to study harder. *"If I didn't have any homework to do, my father would make me copy stories out of the newspaper."* Soon, his discipline and hard work paid off.

The Principal of Theodore Schor Middle School had noticed Himang's commitment and considered him an ideal candidate for a new program developed by Rutgers University: Rutgers Future Scholars, a program that offered 7th graders from low-income communities the chance to be the first in their family to attend college, tuition-free.

BECOMING A SCHOLAR

Initially, Himang was skeptical of the program *"When I first received the application for Rutgers Future Scholars, I thought it was a joke, and I threw it away. My father told me that 'nothing in life is free' and I forgot about it."* Fortunately, his Principal had another application form, and insisted that Himang apply.



It wasn't until he attended a meeting with the Board of Education with his parents that they realized it was really true.

LIFE AS A SCHOLAR

After Himang graduated middle school, he attended Piscataway High — a large and diverse school with several A.P. classes, but only a 29.1% College Readiness Score.

Himang threw himself into his studies determined to beat the odds. He took Honors and A.P. classes, including Physics, Calculus, Statistics, Language and Composition, and U.S. History.

He was determined to make his parents proud, and honor their sacrifices by making the most of this opportunity and studying incredibly hard.

For four years — during his high school summer breaks, weekends and after school — Himang dedicated himself to the Rutgers Future Scholars program. In addition to the academics, one of the most important aspects to him was the friendship of his fellow students and the team-building challenges.

It was through the program's network of mentors, donors and ambassadors however, that the value of the Future Scholars program became more apparent to him.



A SOLID BASE OF SUPPORT

There were many program advisors that were to play a key role in Himang's future, the first of whom was Luke Visconti, CEO of Diversity, Inc.

Mr. Visconti has been a believer in the Rutgers Future Scholars program from its first days and has been instrumental to its ongoing success. *"Mr. Visconti not only provided guidance to us, but also exposure to real-world working environment through an internship in my freshman year. It was very important to me to see minorities in a professional work environment and be successful. Mr. Visconti taught us the things many people take for advantage. Things like how to dress appropriately for work, and how to shake hands properly, things you don't learn in school."*

In addition to Luke Visconti, another important figure who played a pivotal role was Eleni Athanasiou, a recruiter from Ernst & Young. *"Eleni played a major role in guiding me through the application process for internships and really being there for me when I had questions."* says Himang.

THE COLLEGE YEARS

Graduating from high school in 2013 with a 3.32 GPA, Himang earned a place at Rutgers Business School to begin a degree in Accounting and Finance.

Despite a heavy workload, he made the Dean's List twice in his first year. He was also part of a freshman team that placed in the top six at Rutgers in the Johnson & Johnson University Case Competition and also represented Rutgers University in the "National Diversity Case Competition."

He joined Alpha Kappa Psi, and the **RFS dReam Team**, a network of Future Scholars alumni that help support each other, as well as mentor current Rutgers Future Scholars.

LIFTOFF!

Himang was part of the first Rutgers Future Scholars cohort, graduating with a 3.35 GPA.

After completing several internships during college for companies such as Verizon and Standard Chartered Bank, Himang had a taste of working within a corporate environment and was keen to make his mark.

He began working at Deutsche Bank almost immediately after graduation, and soon found himself in London on a five-week training program before starting at their New York City headquarters, as an Anti-Finance Crime Analyst.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Himang continues to be involved in the Rutgers Future Scholars as a Student Advocate for the Legacy Scholars Network. *"It's very important for me to serve as an ambassador to help raise awareness of the Rutgers Future Scholar initiative. I want the next generation to see me as a role model, and as someone who has 'made it' through the Future Scholars program."*

"Hard work and luck definitely play a role, but if it wasn't for the opportunity that Rutgers Future Scholars offered me, I don't think I'd be where I am today."

