



# DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS VISIT ELITE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

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Elite Preparatory Academy held its inaugural College Leadership Summit on Friday, March 27, 2026. This special event featured three prominent academics: **Princeton University Professor M. Şükrü Hanioglu, Yale University Professor Jonathan Wrytzen, and Rutgers University Professor Toby C. Jones.** “This summit reflects our commitment to providing students with authentic academic experiences that bridge high school and university learning,” said Yi Qian, EPA Head of School.

At the opening keynote session of the program, each professor described his personal background, academic training, and specialized research. They talked about how creativity, adaptability, imagination and rigor would help EPA students succeed in college and in life. The three professors urged them to stay curious, to seek knowledge, and to live with openness to unexpected paths and detours on their journeys in life. The panel also gave thoughtful reflections on the role of a university in a democratic society.

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EPA students rotated into small groups to experience interactive and open discussions about many topics with Professors Hanioglu, Wyrzten and Jones. Six students presented their original research on scientific and social science projects.



One session of the program was structured as an elite simulation lab for students to meet the three professors for individualized 8-minute interviews. Students brought their resumes, transcripts, and an intellectual interest statement.

At the closing assembly, a small panel of students asked the professors questions and sought their advice and wisdom about college majors and admissions, the academic and social challenges of transitioning from high school to college, and how to develop good habits to succeed in college.



The College Leadership Summit was a thoroughly engaging and enjoyable experience for the entire community at Elite Preparatory Academy. It will be the start of annual tradition. Princeton University Professor Hanioglu expressed his gratitude and praised EPA in this way: "I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for a most engaging and rewarding day. It was a genuine pleasure to meet with you in person. The program was executed with exemplary organization, and I am deeply gratified to have been included among its participants. I was particularly struck by the students, whose intellectual caliber, maturity, and evident promise are truly remarkable. My conversations with them strongly suggest that the institution stands among the most successful and distinguished endeavors in education. I would also like to express my profound gratitude for your gracious and generous hospitality, which was exceptional in every respect."



In a message to the students, Mr. Yi thanked them for their active participation in the College Leadership Summit: "You represented EPA with thoughtfulness, confidence, and respect. What you demonstrated today is your willingness to think, to ask questions, and to engage meaningfully. I am very proud of all of you."



\*Special thanks to Tamara Gillon for her wonderful photographs in this article.