

THE GEORGE M. PULLMAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

annual report 2019

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# From the Board President



was asked a little while ago to describe our Pullman Scholars in one or two words. While "smart" was the obvious word, I thought it rather simplistic because Pullman Scholars are much more than that. They come from such diverse backgrounds and experiences that one word can't describe them all.

The question, however, kept nagging at me, and then the answer came—Pullman Scholars all possess "belief and knowledge." They believe that their goal of a college education will happen through their hard work and perseverance. They know that opportunities are made when you believe in yourself.

Pullman Scholar Alumni also possess "belief and knowledge." Through their generous contributions of both financial support and time, they embody the Foundation's mission—and the importance of achieving one's goal of a college education. Since its creation 69 years ago, the Pullman Foundation has always believed that helping a student earn a college degree benefits not only that student, but also his or her family and the community at large. We believe in the importance of helping a scholar be successful.

Come join us at the annual Pullman Scholar Symposium on May 20, 2020. While you are there, spend some time talking with current scholars. The freshmen are excited and a little apprehensive about the new scholastic world they are about to enter. The upper-classmen have gotten a taste of the new world they will be entering upon graduation through resume, mock-interview, and networking sessions. The symposium exposes the scholars to the next steps in their future and gives them the tools they will need to succeed in their careers.

They are always eager to hear about the college journey firsthand, so we hope you will join us and share your experience in person.

The Pullman Scholar community—the current scholars and the scholar alumni—all have "belief and knowledge." We are all part of the same circle. Together this community not only believes that scholarships and support create success for aspiring college students but also has the knowledge that this is the formula for a bright future.

Barbara Kaufman Board President



# MISSION

The George M. Pullman Educational Foundation supports the dreams and aspirations of outstanding graduating high school seniors with merit-based, need-based scholarships and continuing educational support as they pursue their bachelor's degree at the college or university of their choice.

# VISION

We believe education is an essential component of an individual's success regardless of a person's origin or economic background. We aspire to provide our scholars with tangible and intangible assets to help them achieve their American dream.

# VALUES

We believe in hard work, individual effort, and personal responsibility.

We believe that integrity, commitment, and perseverance are cornerstones to achieving any goal.

We believe every person has the capacity to achieve the American Dream and contribute to the common good through education and opportunity.

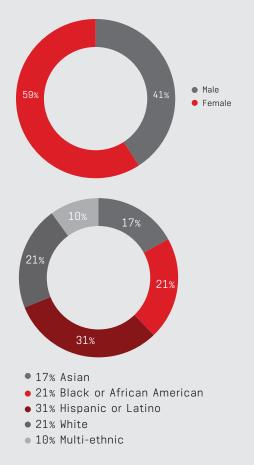
## 70th Class of Pullman Scholars:

### SCHOLAR STATISTICS

29

New Pullman Scholars

### SCHOLAR DEMOGRAPHICS



Average Cumulative Unweighted GPA in high school: 3.8

**59%** are first-generation college students



Celeste Acosta J. Sterling Morton East High School University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Meet the Class of 2023

**Elizabeth Benitez** Intrinsic Schools University of Illinois at Chicago



Lance Cunningham Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School *Emory University* 



Meredith Goone John Hersey High School University of Southern California



**Dashaun Edwards** Whitney M. Young Magnet High School *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* 



Albert Hunt Lane Technical College Preparatory High School University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Mario Camacho William Jones College Preparatory High School Brown University



Alexciana Castaneda–Deir De La Salle Institute *Lewis University* 



Javohn Chandler, Jr. Brother Rice High School University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



**Farah Elhoumaidi** Alan B. Shepard High School *Loyola University Chicago* 



Nikky Jordan Streamwood High School University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Alexis Escutia John Hancock College Preparatory High School *University of Illinois at Chicago* 



Anthony Kang Glenbrook South High School *Harvey Mudd College* 



Allannah Giles Lemont Township High School *Arcadia University* 



**Divy Kumar** Niles North High School *Northwestern University* 

# The Class of 2023



Tania Lopez Noble Street College Prep Columbia University



Rida Mansoor Lane Technical College Preparatory High School *Loyola University Chicago* 



Kassidy Moy Kenwood Academy High School Illinois Institute of Technology



Yocelyn Pina Whitney M. Young Magnet High School University of Southern California



Kenechukwu Uwajeh Southland College Preparatory Charter High School University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



**Juan Rojas** Amos Alonzo Stagg High School *Case Western Reserve University* 



Fatima Shariff Roger C. Sullivan High School *Loyola University Chicago* 



**Andres Valencia** John Hancock College Preparatory High School *Illinois Institute of Technology* 



Danielle Weimerskirch East Leyden High School University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



**Gina Musso** Marist High School University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Jocelyn Pantoja** Maine West High School *Western Illinois University* 

LaDora Thomas

Robert Lindblom

Lawrence University

High School

Math & Science Academy

# All Pullman Scholars:

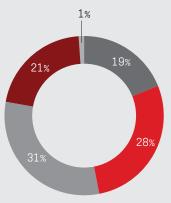
**BY THE NUMBERS:** 2018-2019

#### SCHOLAR STATISTICS



Scholars

### SCHOLAR DEMOGRAPHICS



- 19% Asian
- 28% Black or African American
- 31% Hispanic or Latino
- 21% White
- 1% Multi-ethnic

Average cumulative GPA: 3.47

52%: First-generation college students

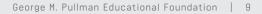
Average 2018-2019 scholarship award amount: \$7,147



Sebastian Szymanski Saint Ignatius College Prep University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Noah Zuniga Notre Dame College Prep *Loyola University Chicago* 



97% of the class of 2019 retained their scholarship for four years

83% graduation rate of the class of 2019 (within four years)

\$9,059 the average student loan debt among graduating Pullman Scholars

11 graduates reported that they are graduating debt-free

# Meet the Graduates

Lauren Auyeung Princeton University

Rukayat Bello Illinois Institute of Technology

Sheldon Bolden DePauw University

McHugh Carroll University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Justin Ellison Georgetown University

Linus Erkenswick Loyola University Chicago

Matthew Gallagher Loyola University Chicago

Adrianna Gorniak University of Illinois at Chicago

Alexis Gutierrez Vanderbilt University John Haboush Marquette University

Natalia Hornik Marquette University

Tyler Maxie Colgate University

Nina Mercado Denison University

Jennifer Munoz Case Western Reserve University

Anne Noonan Carnegie Mellon University

Hiral Parikh University of Illinois at Chicago

Sweety Patel University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Alexander Pei Boston University Tamara Popovska University of Miami

Giovanni Santiago Brown University

Michelle Santos Yale University

Mahnoor Syed University of Illinois at Chicago

Brenda Tang University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Javier Uruchima University of Wisconsin-Madison

Denee Webster University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

YingYi Wu University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <sup>66</sup> The Pullman Foundation Scholarship allowed me to pursue my degree without being tied down by loans and having to stress about my family's financial capabilities. I owe so much of my current and future success to the Pullman Foundation and I am forever grateful for this foundation. I was able to focus solely on my education and enjoying my college years. **?**?

– HIRAL PARIKH, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO '19

# The Class of 2019: Realizing the Dream

**McHugh Carroll** will be interning at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. in Chicago, after which he plans to pursue a master's in architecture.

**Sheldon Bolden** is working for Infosys, an information technology consulting company.

**Matthew Gallagher** is an Assistant Resident Director at Loyola University Chicago.

Adrianna Gorniak is continuing her studies at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford, Illinois.

Alexis Gutierrez is attending Harvard Medical School.

**Natalia Hornik** accepted a position as pricing analyst at Fiserv, a technology company that provides solutions to financial institutions.

**Nina Mercado** is working as a teaching assistant at Near North Montessori and plans to attend graduate school in the future. **Jennifer Munoz** is attending medical school at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

**Anne Noonan** is a business analyst working in Strategy & Operations for Deloitte, LLP in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sweety Patel is an actuarial analyst at Deloitte, LLP.

**Giovanni Santiago** is a Fulbright U.S. Scholar working in Vigo, Galicia, Spain as an English Teaching Assistant for the U.S. and Spanish governments.

**Michelle Santos** is an investment banking analyst at Bank of America, Merrill Lynch in the Mergers and Acquisitions group.

**Brenda Tang** is pursuing a master's degree in accounting with a concentration in data analytics and working at KPMG as a tax associate in the Chicago office.





# Wednesday, May 20, 2020



## 7th Annual Pullman Scholar Symposium

University of Chicago Gleacher Center

# From Me to We: Connecting the Pullman Scholar Community

### THE 6TH ANNUAL PULLMAN SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM

"As a Pullman Scholar Alumni, we expect each of the scholars to strive towards academic excellence. Believe in yourself, fight for what you want, and if you work hard, your achievements will be many."

 THE HONORABLE RAMON OCASIO, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN '85

On behalf of all today's Pullman Scholars, thank you for making the sixth annual Pullman Scholar Symposium an experience we will never forget! On May 17, our dedicated Pullman Scholar Community joined the Foundation's staff and guests to celebrate the incredible achievements of our alumni and scholars.

New scholars began their day with a lunch and a conversation with Dr. Gregory Duick (Knox College '68) about his journey from a student at Knox College to founding the Kansas Heart Hospital in Wichita, Kansas.

Later, joined by returning scholars, everyone gathered together for an interactive and intensive networking session led by Nicholas Tarleton (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign '16). Nick shared practical and effective strategies that helped him land a prestigious spot as a Community Leadership Corp Member at the Obama Foundation, and secure his full-time position as an Associate Research & Development Scientist with the Kraft Heinz Company.

Scholars spent the remainder of the day in sessions that focused on vitally important skills that aren't typically taught in classrooms, including topics like financial planning, resume writing, and personal development. More than 250 guests joined the Foundation and scholars later that evening at the University of Chicago's Gleacher Center to honor Judge Ramon Oscasio (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign '85) with the Pullman Foundation's Most Valuable Alumni Award for his continued commitment to supporting Pullman Scholars, and to welcome keynote speaker, the Honorable Leslie E. Harris (Northwestern University '70).

Raised in Chicago's former public housing projects, Judge Harris inspired the audience with his message of perseverance and the importance of education, sharing his experiences as a student on Northwestern University campus in the late 1960's. In addition to his bachelor's degree, Judge Harris earned a master's degree and a law degree before serving as an Associate Justice for the Suffolk Juvenile Court in Massachusetts, where he was a dedicated advocate for children in the justice system for more than 20 years. "I was involved in school but did not understand the value of an education, and I recognized that as I got older," Judge Harris shared with the audience. "I did not know what doors an education could open for me. I am honored that I am a Pullman Scholar and that I had this opportunity to go to college." 

## IN THE FIELD: Pullman Scholars at Work

The Foundation's ultimate goal is to ensure Pullman Scholars finish college with little to no debt prepared to successfully transition to the workforce. Scholars are encouraged to bridge classroom learning with the practical hands-on experience of an internship.

### DANIEL MORENO, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN '22



#### WHERE DID YOU INTERN?

I worked for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP (SOM). SOM is one of the largest architecture, engineering, interior design, and urban planning firms in the world. SOM designed many famous buildings such as the Willis (Sears) Tower and the John Hancock Building.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR POSITION?

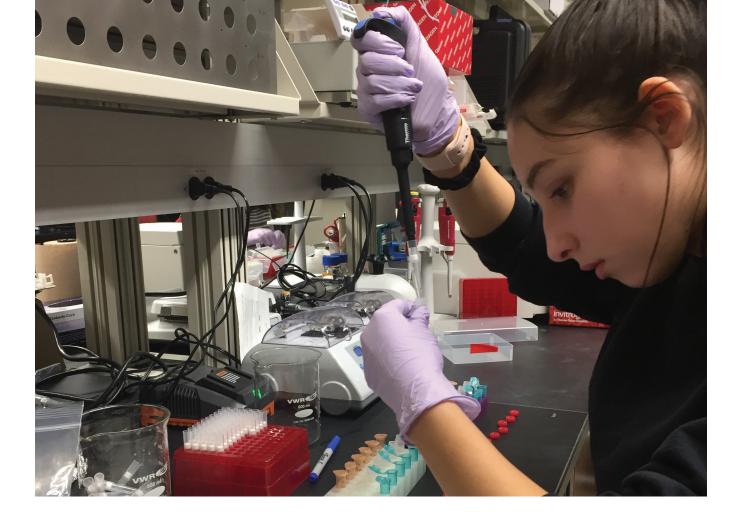
I worked as a mechanical engineer intern under the MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) department. My role was to help with any projects that my co-workers were working on. I was also responsible for researching topics that were assigned to me and making presentations to the various teams based on those assignments.

#### HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP IMPACT YOUR COLLEGE AND LONG-TERM CAREER GOALS?

I am still debating whether or not I want to study mechanical, electrical or industrial engineering. My internship allowed me to explore one of my areas of interest (mechanical engineering) within a specific industry.

#### WHAT PART OF YOUR INTERNSHIP DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST? WHAT IMPACTED YOU THE MOST?

What I enjoyed the most were the people I had the opportunity to meet and work with on different projects. They were incredibly generous with their time, answering all of my questions and explaining their roles and responsibilities to me. SOM really values their interns and they show this by hosting a "Lunch and Learn" series for summer interns. Over lunch, staff members would make presentations and talk with us about SOM's many projects. On Fridays, we would go on various learning expeditions around the city.



### MELANIE ZUNIGA, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO '22

#### WHERE DID YOU INTERN?

I worked as an intern for the Burns Lab at Loyola University Chicago through the First Year Research (FYRE) Program

#### WHAT WAS YOUR POSITION?

I conducted research involving cancer and how it affects the human microbiome through performing various experiments in a controlled environment. My duties also include executing D.N.A. extractions on the microbial samples and then analyzing my results electronically through D.N.A. sequencing software, such as "Linux" and "mothur".

#### HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP IMPACT YOUR COLLEGE AND LONG-TERM CAREER GOALS?

I am currently pursuing a major in biology. I want to study medicine and to become a doctor, focused on how to improve the ways in which the medical field screens for, detects, and possibly even prevents cancer in patients.

## WHAT PART OF YOUR INTERNSHIP DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST? WHAT IMPACTED YOU THE MOST?

I really enjoyed being able to work with all the wonderful Burns Lab interns, lab members, and Dr. Michael Burns, himself. Everyone was so welcoming, helpful, and truly the best people to be performing such ground-breaking research. What I learned expanded my knowledge and further confirmed for me that I am on the right track in pursuing a career in the medical field.

### LAUREN HUCKO, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, ST. LOUIS '20

#### WHERE DID YOU INTERN?

I interned at the Uganda Development and Health Associates (UDHA) in Iganga, Uganda

#### WHAT WAS YOUR POSITION?

I was a sexual and reproductive health intern, so I worked with UDHA's youth resource center to design and implement a Peer Health Educator training program. Additionally, UDHA facilitates sexual and reproductive health presentation with primary and secondary school students, and I helped to digitize this information into PowerPoint presentations, so it can be easily circulated to schools and presented to students in a more engaging, interactive way. I also wrote grants, newsletters, and a portion of an annual report for UDHA.

# HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP IMPACT YOUR COLLEGE AND LONG-TERM CAREER GOALS?

My major is global health, so it has been an incredible experience to learn about how health and healthcare manifest in the lives of community members, in addition to all of UDHA's efforts to improve health education, outcomes, and disparities. I have confirmed that upon completing medical school, I hope to apply my degree to practicing and teaching medicine in physician-deficient areas of the U.S. and the world, with a comprehensive understanding of all cultures, traditions, and barriers to healthcare people face, specific to each location.

#### WHAT PART OF YOUR INTERNSHIP DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST? WHAT IMPACTED YOU THE MOST?

My favorite part of this internship was seeing UDHA staff work within their own communities. UDHA was founded by local leaders and is staffed completely by Ugandans. For this reason, UDHA has an intimate knowledge of the communities served and the staff are working to empower their own neighbors. This grassroots model is effective, and I wish it existed more within the international aid world.



# Unique Ways to Make Difference



### BEQUESTS

Memorialize your philanthropic interests and your legacy while providing for the next generation of Pullman Scholars by making a bequest to the Foundation for a specific amount or percentage of your estate.



### DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Establishing a donor-advised fund may allow you to claim one large charitable gift deduction this year even though you advise annual gifts from your fund to support the Pullman Foundation over several years. Many funds can be established with as little as \$5,000. If you already hold a donor-advised fund at a charitable trust (e.g. Fidelity, United Way, Schwab Charitable), please consider recommending grants from your fund to support the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation.



### CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

This type of donation is a way to make an extraordinary gift to support Pullman Scholars and receive a steady income for yourself or others for life. Learn more by contacting the Foundation's office.



#### IRA CHARITABLE GIFT ROLLOVER

Donors at least 70 ½ years of age can make a gift directly to the Foundation from their IRA without needing to claim the gift as taxable income. IRA charitable gift rollovers, up to \$100,000, can be used to satisfy your annual minimum distribution requirement. Whether you itemize your taxes or claim the standard deduction, you can benefit from donating rollovers.

### RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS AND LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Keep the American Dream on track for today's and future Pullman Scholars by naming the Pullman Foundation as a beneficiary of your 401(k), 403(b), IRA, other retirement account, or life insurance policy.

### STOCKS AND SECURITIES

Savvy investors can maximize their philanthropy by donating gifts of appreciated securities. In addition to being able to claim a charitable gift deduction on donated stock, you avoid paying capital gains tax. Speak with your investor for more information.

Thank you for keeping the American Dream within reach for so many hardworking young people. For more information, please contact the Foundation at 312-422-0444 or info@pullmanfoundation.org or visit www.pullmanfoundation.org/support.

The Foundation's financial statements and 990s are available at www.guidestar.org

It made me realize what it takes to get where you are. I had to put up a fight for what I wanted. The Pullman Foundation prepared me with the tools that they knew I already had, and that I just had to put to use. **99** 

> – NINA MERCADO, DENISON UNIVERSITY '19

# Thank You: Your Generosity Keeps the American Dream on Track

On behalf of our current scholars and everyone at the Foundation, we would like to recognize and extend our deepest appreciation to you, our supporters and volunteers, for your support.

#### PULLMAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS AUGUST 1, 2018 TO JULY 31, 2019

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\* Denotes new donors.

Bolded donors are acknowledged for their continued, increased support from the previous year.





# 2019 Pullman Scholar Alumni Selection Committee

Thank you, to our Pullman Scholar Alumni, for the generosity of your time helping to select the newest class of Pullman Scholars

Lauren L. Adams, *Loyola University Chicago 2015* 

Lawrence Albrecht, Valparaiso University 1969

Malika J. Anderson, Emory University 2016

Victor Andrade, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1978

Juan M. Angulo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2018 Thomas Arends, University of Notre Dame 1980

Bethsaida Arroyo, DePaul University 2008

Mark Bach, Northwestern University 1988

David Bakker, Northwestern University 1983

Lazeric Banks, *Bradley University 2010* 

Rhea Banks, Washington University, St. Louis 2009 Judith Beniak, DNP, *Alverno College 1972* 

Doris Bernstein, University of Illinois at Chicago 1980

Judith Bird, *Knox College 1984* 

Aliyu Brimah, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2004

Patricia Brown, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1964 Taylor Brown, Brigham Young University 2010

Vaudery F. Brown, Northwestern University 1987

Marta Budzikowska, University of Chicago 2014

Judilynn Bult, University of Illinois at Chicago 1982

Tiffany Burrow, Valparaiso University 2002

Colleen F. Calvey, Grand Valley State University 2001 Gillian Campbell, Bradley University 1996

William Carrier, Northwestern University 1991

Joan Caulton, Grinnell College 1962

Xiomara A. Contreras, Northwestern University 2017

Mary Kay "Emmi" Costello, *Kenyon College 1993* 

Helen Dale, Ph.D., Miami University, Ohio 1966

Anthony Damon, University of Notre Dame 2003

Karen Daugerdas, Northern Illinois University 1975

Joan DeLuca, Illinois State University 1964

Joseph DeMarco, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1978

Colleen Doherty, Southern Illinois University Carbondale 1977

Kathryn Donohoe, University of Notre Dame 1985

Luanne Ellison, Northwestern University 1978

Dennis J. Evashenk, DePaul University 2014

Jonathan Fisher, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2001

Angela Fong, Kalamazoo College 2016

Anne France, Boston College 1994

David Gamboa, M.D., Northwestern University 2000 Julissa Garcia, University of Illinois at Chicago 2018

Arthur Goewey, Jr., Loyola University, New Orleans, 2002

Constance Goldgar, *Grinnell College 1977* 

Alyse Hammonds, *Howard University 2005* 

Ana M. Hernandez, Southern Illinois University Carbondale 2018

Luz D. Herrera, Lake Forest College 2016

Laureen Higgins, Loyola University Chicago 1977

Kristine Hrinik, New York University 2009

Candi Hudson, Ph.D., Bradley University 1994

Mark Hudson, Southern Illinois University Carbondale 1985

Jeanne Hultquist, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1982

Enrique Jackson, Ph.D., Dillard University 2002

Grazyna Jakubowska, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2011

Maureen Janes, DePaul University 1969

Barry Johnson, Northern Illinois University 1974

Nicole Juntunen, University of Notre Dame 1999

Nedra Karim, Illinois Institute of Technology 1981 Nathan L. Kelleher, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2015

Lori (Loretta) Kelly, Saint Xavier University 1969

Joseph Khazen, University of Chicago 1993

Valarie King-Bailey, University of Wisconsin, Madison 1982

Anthony Latronica, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2008

Crystal Y. Lee, DePauw University 2012

Nerissa Legge, University of Maryland, College Park, 2004

Angelica Leon, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2013

Marco Leyva, Dominican University 2015

Casey M. Luc, The George Washington University 2017

Debra Marshall, Illinois Institute of Technology 1983

Mary Mastin, M.D., Loyola University Chicago 1970

Joyce Maxberry Malliet, Northwestern University 1984

Michelle McClendon, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2003

Vanessa A. McKinney, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2010

Kari J. Meyer, *Bethel College 1985*  John Miller, University of Chicago 2014

Nina Milovac, Northwestern University 1992

Warren Morgan, Ed.D., Butler University 2006

Thomas Moritz, Jr., *Purdue University, West Lafayette 2008* 

Ralph Murdy, Northern Illinois University 1973

Barbara Myers, Northwestern University 1994

Lena Neal, Ph.D., *Beloit College 1968* 

Armani R. Nightengale, Loyola University Chicago 2017

Yasha Noble-Talaga, University of Chicago 2002

Marylou Novak, *Emory University 1989* 

Agata Oborka, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2018

Katherine Pakieser-Reed, Ph.D., RN-BC, Northern Illinois University 1975

Steven Pappageorge, Lake Forest College 1985

Katerina Patselli, University of Chicago 2011

Nadine Peterson, Northwestern University 1974

Olimpia Pietraszewski, DePaul University 2008

Ream Qato, University of Chicago 2007

Stephanie Quick, *Washington University 2002*  Concheita Richardson, Robert Morris University 2004

Donna Ridge, *Eastern Illinois University 1972* 

Adriana Rodriguez, *Yale University 2016* 

Margaret Rohter, Washington University in St. Louis 1973

Samrin Samad, University of Illinois at Chicago 2015

Paula M. Scheiwe, Northern Illinois University 1971

Charles Shipan, Ph.D., *Carleton College 1983* 

Peter Stang, Ph.D., DePaul University 1963

Angela Stathos, University of Chicago 2007

Joette Storm, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1968

David Sullivan, University of Notre Dame 1993

Michelle Tam, University of Southern California 2007

Nicholas L. Tarleton, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2016

Jeanine Thiemel, University of Notre Dame 1984

Vincent Tolve, University of Chicago 1971

Lafakeria Vaughn, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2009

Mary Webster Moore, Ph.D., North Park College 1974 Jennifer Webster, DePaul University 2006

Alexus Williams, University of Illinois at Chicago 2018

Yvonne Williams, Illinois State University 1969

Linda Windham, University of Illinois at Chicago 1986

Mary Woolsey, MacCormac Junior College 1983

Jasmine N. Young, Elmhurst College 2015

Annie Yung, DePaul University 2011

Gerry Zajac, Ph.D., Illinois Institute of Technology 1972









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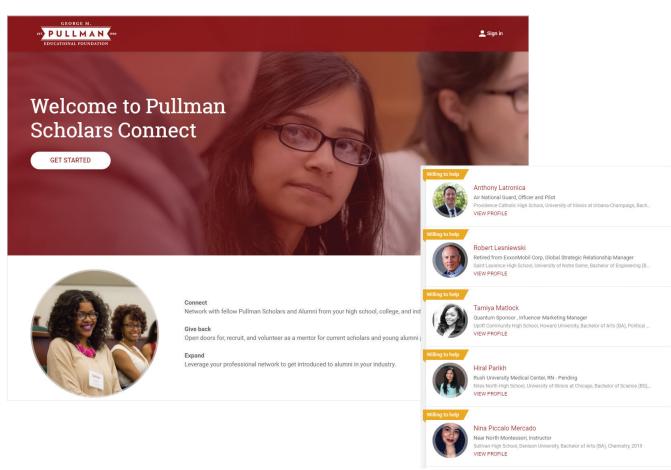
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# Connect

The Pullman Scholar Community is strong, vibrant, and extensive – and you can make it even better! Join us on Pullman Scholar Connect, the exclusive Pullman Scholar community to network, connect, and share your knowledge with your fellow Pullman Scholars and Scholar Alumni.

Make your personalized profile in minutes to connect with other scholars, become a mentor or search for one, discover or post employment opportunities, find old and new friends, or create groups! See you there!

#### pullmanscholarsconnect.org



George M. Pullman Educational Foundation

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## $Thank\,you\quad {\tt aletter\,from\,the\,executive\,director}$



n behalf of the Foundation's staff and Board, thank you for making this past year so fruitful for our Pullman Scholar Community.

Earlier this year the Pullman Foundation welcomed its 70th class of Pullman Scholars. This cohort of 29 bright young minds are Chicago's best of the best—not only academically successful, but also able to overcome all manner of adversity. They'll follow in the footsteps of the many Pullman Scholars before them but blaze new and exciting trails for themselves as they pursue their undergraduate educations and beyond.

They, like all Pullman Scholars, embody America and the American Dream. Pullman Scholars prove, over and over again, that when given the opportunity, determined minds can achieve monumental things and achieve even the loftiest of goals. I hope you had the opportunity to read more about how today's scholars are pursuing their American Dream starting on page 19 by securing highly competitive internships, and how our recent graduates, the newest members of our alumni community, are realizing the dream as they enter the professional world for the first time.

In an age where partisan politics and social media may leave many of us feeling isolated, the notion of community is that much more poignant. When I speak to Pullman Scholars, regardless of who they are or who they are becoming, they universally express a desire to know more about others in our scholar community. So, this past year the Foundation invested in a new online platform exclusively for scholar and alumni, aptly named Pullman Scholars Connect (https://pullmanscholarsconnect.org). You can read more about Pullman Scholars Connect on page 32. I look forward to connecting with you and I hope you will join us there.

Lastly, as student debt increases year over year, we continue to strive to reduce the debt burdens of today's scholars upon graduation. We could not do this without the support of our network of scholar alumni and other generous donors. On behalf of the Foundation, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to you for your steadfast support of Pullman Scholars and our Pullman Scholar Community.

I'm excited to see what the next year brings with your help.

Robin Redmond Executive Director



#### GEORGE M. PULLMAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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