



70
YEARS

KEEPING THE AMERICAN DREAM ON TRACK

2020 ANNUAL
REPORT



- 3 Letter from the Board President
- 4 Letter from the Executive Director
- 5 A Brief History
- 7 The Class of 2024
- 11 Notes of Gratitude
- 15 Our Scholars
- 16 The Class of 2020 Graduate Highlights
- 19 2020 Scholar Alumni Selection Committee
- 21 Sustained Support: Sam Portaro's Service
- 23 Ways to Make a Difference
- 25 Your Generosity Keeps the American Dream on Track
- 29 Foundation Leadership

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



“The Foundation has always been forward thinking while addressing the current needs of its Scholars.”

70 years ago – 1950 -- the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation opened its doors to address the monetary needs of deserving students dreaming of a college education. The founders realized that a college education not only changed students’ lives, but also those of future generations. Seventy years later the world is a much different place, with the exception of one thing, the financial needs of deserving students dreaming of a college education and a promising future.

From the beginning, the Foundation’s mission was clear: award need-based, merit-based scholarships to students in Cook County for college or vocational school. Under the leadership of its first president and granddaughter of George M. Pullman, Florence Lowden Miller, the Foundation was by 1956 nationally recognized for its sound and ethical operational standards. It became a financial aid model for many private foundations and many colleges and universities nationwide.

Today, the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation is not only the oldest private college scholarship foundation in the State of Illinois, but it is also one of the oldest and highly respected educational foundations in the United States.

Over the years, while the Foundation kept true to its mission, it adjusted to the ever-changing landscape of higher education and the needs of its Scholars. As the financial aid programs changed, so did that of the Foundation. From pilot programs that identified and mentored college-bound students, to Scholar counseling, to today’s Symposium, the Foundation has strived to address all aspects of helping its Scholars successfully earn a college degree.

Today the Foundation is once again adjusting in response to COVID-19 becoming more involved in helping its current Scholars navigate uncharted waters such as returning to campuses with tighter restrictions, remote learning and sheltering in place.

Since its creation 70 years ago, the Foundation has always been forward thinking while addressing the current needs of its Scholars. As we look to the future, please join us in celebrating its 70 years of success.

Barbara Miller Kaufman
President

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Upon reflection of the Foundation’s 70-year history, and through the prism of today’s global events, our team at the Foundation often discuss how our scholars are faring in unmarked territory, and we realize that the scholars will be OK.

I find myself frequently encouraged by the kindness and resiliency emanating from our scholar community including current students and alumni. Our students listen keenly and take much inspiration from alumni stories of great perseverance. Scholars like [Dr. Peter Stang](#), a teenager during the 1956 Hungarian uprising who was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Barack Obama in 2010. And [Valarie King Bailey](#) who made the short, but impactful, journey from Chicago’s Stateway Gardens public housing project to the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s College of Engineering, where she became the first Black woman to earn an engineering degree from the prestigious institution.

The true tales of individual determination, despite structural and systemic obstacles, recalls the stories of our forebearers whose legacy of determination is passed onto us. Like many of our scholar alumni whose fathers and uncles worked for the Pullman Company, my great-grandfather and uncles were Pullman Porters. Their efforts established a foundation for several generations of my family and finds me, the first African-American Executive Director of the Foundation, stewarding this meaningful mission. I am inspired by George Pullman’s granddaughter, Florence Lowden Miller, who had the foresight to establish this mission 70

years ago. In taking care of this legacy, we ensure 85% of the Foundation’s net income goes directly to providing financial and educational support to our scholars. We are finding ways to respond to scholars’ needs in the changing higher education landscape and we are there for them in a very personal way, a legacy established decades ago by Executive Director, John Munger.

The support of the Pullman Scholar Community has increased our resolve to move forward. **We know that this period in history will be remembered for those who not only survived, but helped others thrive. It is because of you—our alumni, donors, friends, and supporters—that our scholars will be okay, actualizing their dreams, overcoming insurmountable obstacles, and building the America of the future.**

Robin Redmond
Executive Director

P.S. Our scholars enjoy connecting with alumni and hearing your stories. We encourage you to connect with them online through our [LinkedIn group](#).

MISSION

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

VISION

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

VALUES

We believe in hard work, individual effort, and personal responsibility. We believe that integrity, perseverance, and persistence are the cornerstones to achieving any goal. We believe every person has the capacity to achieve the American Dream through education.

1950: Florence Lowden Miller, the granddaughter of George Pullman, establishes the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation. In its first year, the Foundation awards \$20,000 in scholarships to 60 young women and men. The average cost to attend a public university is \$400 a year.

1970s: The Foundation focuses its efforts on helping students in Chicago's inner-city public schools and public housing realize the dream of a college degree. The Chicago Area College Assistance Project (CACAP) is implemented and provides college admission and financial aid assistance to students.

1980s: In recognition of Florence Lowden Miller's many contributions, the Foundation initiates the Florence Lowden Miller Early Identification Project. The groundbreaking program employs social workers in targeted high schools to identify and prepare the most vulnerable but promising high school students for college success.

2011: After more than 60 years of supporting a diverse scholar population, the Foundation appoints Robin Redmond as its first African-American Executive Director.

2014: The Foundation hosts the inaugural Pullman Scholar Symposium for current scholars and alumni. The event becomes the largest annual gathering of Pullman Scholars.

2020: The Foundation celebrates 70 years of providing merit-based, need-based college scholarship for Chicago-area students.

1960s: The Foundation is recognized nationally as a model private scholarship program after education director, Graham R. Taylor, initiates a more precise needs assessment and selection process for choosing scholars.

1978: Florence Lowden Miller, George Pullman's granddaughter, retires after 50 years of leading the Foundation as Board President.

1997: John H. Munger, the Foundation's executive director for nearly 40 years retires. At the height of his career, 700 students were receiving scholarships, and the Foundation was the single, most important source of college funding for Chicago-area students.

2013: Responding to the rising cost of a college education, the Foundation increases the maximum scholarship award to \$10,000 per student, per year, renewable for up to four years.

2018: The Foundation is awarded operating foundation status by the Internal Revenue Service, paving the way for the launch of planned giving and comprehensive fundraising programs to augment investment income.

OUR 71ST CLASS CLASS OF 2020

23 NEW SCHOLARS

52% IDENTIFY AS FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS



Isabella Aguilar
Whitney M. Young Magnet
High School
Pepperdine University



Kevin Argueta
Intrinsic Schools
Illinois Institute of Technology



Amara Chiedu
Walter Payton College
Preparatory High School
Cornell University



Kylie Gaeta
Amos Alonzo Stagg High School
DePaul University



Asisat Giwa
Robert Lindblom Math &
Science Academy
*North Carolina Agricultural &
Technical State University*



Jenny Gong
Walter Payton College
Preparatory High School
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



Aman Idrees
Evanston Township High School
Illinois Institute of Technology



Myana Johnson
Jones College Prep High School
Howard University



Marlem Juarez
Infinity Math, Science &
Technology High School
University of Illinois at Chicago

CLASS OF 2024: OUR 71ST CLASS



Diacos Love
Thornton Fractional North
High School
Oberlin College



Angelina Marino
Marist High School
Marquette University



Haillé Minor
Robert Lindblom Math &
Science Academy
Texas Southern University



Malika Sampson
Morgan Park High School
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



Sarah Smail
Maine West High School
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



Osman Syed
Hoffman Estates High School
Illinois Institute of Technology



Conor Niznik
Wheeling High School
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



Canyon Novick
Oak Forest High School
Baldwin Wallace University



Yetunde Ogunfowokan
Friedrich Von Steuben
Metropolitan Science Center
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



Geri Velinova
Elgin High School
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



Alana White
Robert Lindblom Math &
Science Academy
*University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*



David Zhou
Northside College Preparatory
High School
University of Illinois at Chicago

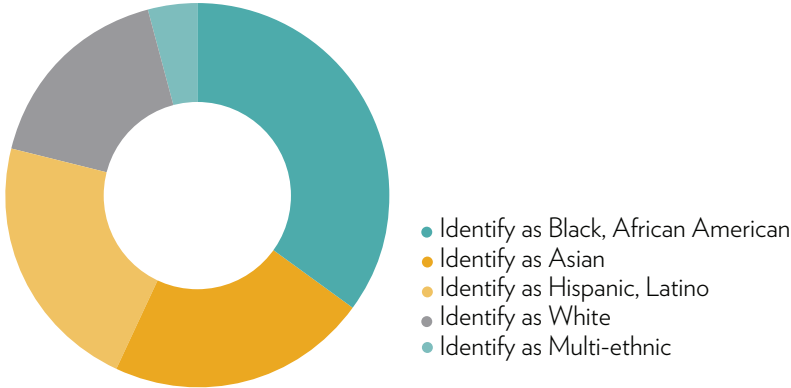


Janice Otero
North-Grand High School
North Park University



Anahy Perez
Charles Allen Prosser Career
Academy
DePaul University

AVERAGE FAFSA
EXPECTED FAMILY
CONTRIBUTION
(EFC): **\$1,260**



NOTES OF GRATITUDE

We are especially grateful to our scholar alumni community for your immediate response to our call for assistance early in the pandemic. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide funding to those scholars who needed immediate assistance.

I just wanted to send a thank you for the generosity shown by the Foundation. I have been struggling as I depend on my on-campus job which was shut down due to COVID-19. This semester has definitely been emotionally and financially straining, as my mom was in a car accident and times overall have been difficult, so I just wanted to say thank you so much for your kindness and it means a lot that the Foundation genuinely cares for its members. Your kindness and generosity is making a large difference for me at this time and I hope that when I graduate I will be able to support a Pullman scholar who is in my position as well.”

-Scholar A.K.

As a current college student in such a unfortunate situation I would like to thank you for the support that you provided me. The COVID-19 pandemic put such a financial and emotional burden on my life and education and having the Foundation members provide support means a ton. This motivates me to graduate and later on give back the same way as you are right now. Once again thank you and your support doesn't go unnoticed.”

- Scholar W.R.

I really appreciate you and the whole Pullman community helping during this time. This was something unexpected and new that a lot of us weren't prepared for. I'm thankful to be scholar and have the foundation care about us beyond just our scholarships. Every little bit helps and I am so grateful.”

- Scholar A.M

During these difficult times, it has been very stressful on me and my family to overcome certain obstacles as this virus has unexpectedly entered our lives. I hear stories of others helping within their communities, and giving what they can to help others in need. It is stories like these that makes this challenging situation more tolerable. Knowing that there are others who are willing to help those in need makes me feel grateful for them. Being on the receiving end of this makes me even more thankful for generous people like those who have donated to help my family and others in the Pullman Foundation. The donation that I received has given me and my family two weeks of groceries, and it has alleviated the stress and worries on our financial situation. Thank you very much for your support, it truly has helped my family and I get through in the midst of this chaos.”

- Scholar J.P.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your generosity. Coming from a family that practices the opposite of giving, it really means so much to see this coming from people that don't even know me. You give me inspiration to keep going so I can remain a part of this wonderful community that is the Pullman Foundation. Please know the impact that you have on us. Thank you for this gift. I hope I have the opportunity to do the same for someone else in the future.”

- Scholar A.G.

Wow, I am at a loss for words. This is so incredible. Thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone. I would like to express my gratitude to those who have offered to help out, for my family and I are eternally grateful. Please let them know that we truly appreciate their kindness and God bless them. We will never forget what they've done for us.”

- Scholar F.E.

OUR BRAVE NEW GRADUATES

CLASS OF 2020



OUR SCHOLARS

Celeste Acosta
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Elizabeth Benitez Hernandez
University of Illinois at Chicago

Mario Camacho
Brown University

Alexciana Castaneda-Deir
Lewis University

Javohn Chandler
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lance Cunningham
Emory University

Dashaun Edwards
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Farah Elhoumaidi
Loyola University Chicago

Alexis Escutia
University of Illinois at Chicago

Allannah Giles
Arcadia University

Meredith Goone
University of Southern California

Albert Hunt
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Nikky Jordan
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Anthony Kang
Harvey Mudd College

Divy Kumar
Northwestern University

Tania Lopez
Columbia University

Rida Mansoor
Loyola University Chicago

Kassidy Moy
Illinois Institute of Technology

Gina Musso
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jocelyn Pantoja
Western Illinois University

Yocelyn Pina
University of Southern California

Juan Rojas
Case Western Reserve University

Fatima Shariff
Loyola University Chicago

Sebastian Szymanski
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

LaDora Thomas
Lawrence University

Kenechukwu Uwajeh
University of North Carolina

Andres Valencia
Illinois Institute of Technology

Danielle Weimerskirch
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Noah Zuniga
Loyola University Chicago

Alexandra Abbey
New York University

John Anderson
University of Pennsylvania

Ayana Blair
Illinois Wesleyan University

Ezenna Chukwujiokwe-Madu
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rafael Curran
University of Notre Dame

Malcolm Fox
Howard University

Alije Kaleshi
University of Southern California

Andres Lagunas
DePaul University

Diana Lam
Middlebury College

Cyrus Lau
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Gabriella Marino
Marquette University

Adriana Martinez
Carnegie Mellon University

Alexandria Nwarache
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Juhi Patel
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Alondra Ramos
University of San Francisco

Nathaniel Rodriguez
Washington University in Saint Louis

Austin Schelfhout
Bradley University

Jaime Sosa
University of Illinois at Chicago

Skyler Thompson
DePaul University

Elsadig Abdalla
University of Illinois at Chicago

Sofia Ali
Loyola University Chicago

Dziedzom Bansah
University of Illinois at Chicago

Megan Barnes
Howard University

Muzammil Chaudhry
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Christina Curtis
Marquette University

Sarah Dickey
Elmhurst College

Zakiyah Dillard
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jeanette Eldridge
University of Illinois at Chicago

Henry Espinoza
Loyola University Chicago

Daisy Evariz
Harvard College

Andrew Gacek
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jane Go
University of Illinois at Chicago

Tierra Goldston
Howard University

Lauren Hucko
Washington University in St. Louis

Autumn Macklin
California State University, Long Beach

Selvyn (Yovany) Martinez Barahona
Middlebury College

Daniel Mielnik
University of Pennsylvania

Alanphong Nguyen
Purdue University

Tiffany Nieves
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chidinma Ohia
Northwestern University

Kostadin Pendev
Valparaiso University

Hilary Pham
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Beatriz Stephen-Pons
University of Pennsylvania

Nebeyu Tibebe
Duke University

Mayra Torres
Lamar University

Daniel Tryba
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Viridiana Villalva
Connecticut College

Darius Vinesar
University of Illinois at Chicago

Ivy Zhu
Loyola University Chicago

Orlando Abrego
University of Illinois at Chicago

Ifeoluwa Atunnise
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Yasmeen Baker
Columbia College Chicago

Liliya Bandurovych
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Catherine Buchanec
Northwestern University

Jakelin Cervantes
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ka Wai Cheung
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chisom Chima
Loyola University Chicago

Luis Cordero
Davidson College

Julia Jakubiak
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Samuel Johnson
DePaul University

Tira Jones
Howard University

Hannah Kim
Savannah College of Art & Design

Daniel Moreno
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Erika Perez
DePaul University

Abril Pereznegron
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Alan Phung
Denison University

Taofeeq Rasaki
University of Southern California

Keyla Ruiz
George Washington University

Ruby Ruiz
Loyola University Chicago

Weronika Rybarska
Illinois State University

Omar Shahid
University of Illinois at Chicago

Jade Stepney
Howard University

Terey Tellez
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jorge Ulloa
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Inara Virani
University of Illinois at Chicago

Tabitha Willis
Ohio State University

Melanie Zuniga
Loyola University Chicago

THE CLASS OF 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Daisy Evariz is pursuing a Master's of Medical Sciences at Boston University.

Dziedzom Bansah is a specimen processor at Antech Diagnostics.

Kostadin Pendev is working for Garmin as an Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer for Avionics Technology in Kansas City.

Jane Go is attending the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy.

Tiffany Nieves accepted an early offer from Chicago Public Schools and is teaching in a bilingual classroom this school year.

THE CLASS OF 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

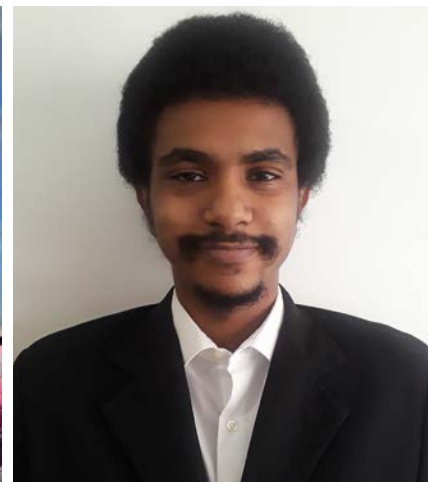


Tierra Goldston is beginning her career as an Operations Analyst with a thriving startup, Catch Co.

Alanphong Nguyen is attending the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in pursuit of a Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Zakiyah Dillard earned a full tuition scholarship to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is working towards earning her law degree.

Viridiana Villalva Salas is a full-time 9th grade English Instructor at Muchin College Preparatory High School in Chicago.



Andrew Gacek is studying towards a master's in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ivy Zhu is pursuing a graduate degree in Health Systems Management at Rush Medical Center.

Henry Espinoza is pursuing a Master's of Science in Information Technology at Loyola University Chicago.

Elsadig Abdalla has been accepted to the University of Illinois Medical College and began his graduate studies this fall.



Hilary Pham is pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's iSchool.

Neb Tibebu is working full-time on Wall St. at Morgan Stanley in the Wealth Management rotational program.

Daniel Tryba started a new position as an Event Marketing Specialist for Techtronic Industries (TTI) in Denver, CO.

Lauren Hucko is pursuing a dual Doctor of Medicine and Master's of Public Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

2020 PULLMAN SCHOLAR ALUMNI SELECTION COMMITTEE

Lauren L. Adams Loyola University Chicago 2015	Patricia Brown University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1964	Joseph DeMarco University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1978	Nicole Juntunen University of Notre Dame 1999	Nina Milovac Northwestern University 1992	Margaret Rohter Washington University in St. Louis 1973
Lawrence Albrecht Valparaiso University 1969	Taylor Brown Brigham Young University 2010	Kira Devin University of Southern California 2005	Edward Kaiser Illinois Institute of Technology 1958	Thomas Moritz, Jr. Purdue University, West Lafayette 2008	Samrin Samad University of Illinois at Chicago 2015
Victor Andrade University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1978	Tchalla Brown Marquette University 2016	Kathryn Donohoe University of Notre Dame 1985	Nedra Karim Illinois Institute of Technology 1981	Ralph Murdy Northern Illinois University 1973	Paula M. Scheiwe Northern Illinois University 1971
Adam Apostolovich University of Chicago 2007	Vaudery F. Brown Northwestern University 1987	Luanne Ellison Northwestern University 1978	Nathan L. Kelleher University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2015	Veronica Murphy, M.D. University of Chicago 1997	Sarah Shaffer Saint Xavier University 1986
Thomas Arends University of Notre Dame 1980	Tiffany Burrow Valparaiso University 2002	Julissa Garcia University of Illinois at Chicago 2018	Lori (Loretta) Kelly Saint Xavier University 1969	Barbara Myers Northwestern University 1994	Charles Shipan, Ph.D. Carleton College 1983
Mark Bach Northwestern University 1988	Gillian Campbell Bradley University 1996	Michael K. Glynn Marquette University 2017	Joseph Khazen University of Chicago 1993	Lena Neal, Ph.D. Beloit College 1968	Leslie Siebert, MSW Kalamazoo College 1983
Deborah Baden Northwestern University 1981	Joan Caulton Grinnell College 1962	Arthur Goewey, Jr. Loyola University, New Orleans 2002	Iulia Kolodziej University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2001	Agata Oborka University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2018	Angela Stathos University of Chicago 2007
Crystal G. Bahena Parsons The New School for Design 2017	Katherine Cea Northwestern University 1990	Lauren Henzel Saint Mary's College 1991	David Konkol St. Thomas College 1972	The Honorable Ramon Ocasio University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1985	Joette Storm University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1968
David Bakker Northwestern University 1983	Rosetta Church Wartburg College 1970	Lisa Hetzel Calvin College 1989	Stephanie Kromelis Illinois State University 1971	Evelyn Panice Northern Illinois University 1969	David Sullivan University of Notre Dame 1993
Rhea Banks Washington University in St. Louis 2009	Xiomara A. Contreras Northwestern University 2017	Kristine Hrinik New York University 2009	Neil J. Kuehnle Loyola University Chicago 2014	Steven Pappageorge Lake Forest College 1985	Michelle Tam University of Southern California 2007
Judith Beniak, DNP Alverno College 1972	Mary Kay “Emmi” Costello Kenyon College 1993	Candi Hudson, Ph.D. Bradley University 1994	Anthony Latronica University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2008	Katerina Patselli University of Chicago 2011	Nicholas L. Tarleton, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2016
Eric Benoit University of Hartford 1987	Janene Cowan University of Michigan 2005	Mark Hudson Southern Illinois University at Carbondale 1985	Nerissa Legge University of Maryland College Park 2004	Wardean Patterson Eastern Illinois University 1990	Jeanine Thiemel University of Notre Dame 1984
Doris Bernstein University of Illinois at Chicago 1980	Adelaide Curry University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2018	Jeanne Hultquist University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1982	Billy K. Leung University of Michigan 2016	Jean Pekoz Huebner Marquette University 1965	Vincent Tolve University of Chicago 1971
Judith Bird Knox College 1984	Helen Dale, Ph.D. Miami University, Ohio 1966	Enrique Jackson, Ph.D. Dillard University 2002	Jill Levickas Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 2000	Richard P. Peloquin University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1975	Lafakeria Vaughn University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2009
Raegan Bricks Luther College 1999	Anthony Damon University of Notre Dame 2003	Grazyna Jakubowska University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2011	Kechia E. Lewis Loyola University Chicago 2012	Nadine Peterson Northwestern University 1974	Alexus Williams University of Illinois at Chicago 2018
Aliyu Brimah University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2004	Karen Daugerdas Northern Illinois University 1975	Maureen Janes DePaul University 1969	Joyce Maxberry Malliet Northwestern University 1984	Delois Porter Southern Illinois University at Carbondale 1983	Linda Windham University of Illinois at Chicago 1986
	Joan DeLuca Illinois State University 1964		Shawn J. Mayberry Loyola University Chicago 2011	Concheita Richardson Robert Morris University 2004	Christine Woods Saint Xavier University 2008
			Nina Mercado Denison University 2019	Donna Ridge Eastern Illinois University 1972	Jasmine N. Young Elmhurst College 2015
			John Miller University of Chicago 2014		Annie Yung DePaul University 2011

SUSTAINED SUPPORT:

SAM PORTARO'S SERVICE

As the new Chaplain of Brent House at the University of Chicago in 1982, the Reverend Sam Portaro would put pen to paper, sending incoming students a postcard introducing himself and the Episcopal ministry on campus. It was a strategy he had successfully employed during his tenure at the College of William and Mary, and one that new students and their families found endearing and welcoming. One student was especially grateful to receive the chaplain's postcard, sharing the note with his aunt. She happened to be Florence Lowden Miller, the founder and board president of the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation.

Moved by the gesture, Mrs. Miller reached out to Mr. Portaro by phone, thanking him for the kindness he had shown her nephew. This type of gesture was typical of Mrs. Miller who took great care and consideration of all the people whose lives she touched. Shortly after, Mr. Portaro found himself in receipt of an envelope, hand-delivered by a member of Mrs. Miller's staff. Inside were a handwritten note and a check for \$1500, a donation to Brent House.

"It all started with a postcard and a 15¢ stamp, leading to the best return on investment I've ever known."

Mr. Portaro and Mrs. Miller kept in touch, occasionally crossing paths or corresponding about student life or Brent House. "I remember how passionately she spoke about the Foundation's work with the students, but I was also captivated by her foresight – she was

thinking about how to continue 'changing the guard' for the Foundation," Mr. Portaro recalls, "To that end, she invited me, someone with no prior affiliation to the Foundation or Pullman family but a deep understanding of student life, to join the Foundation's board. Needless to say, I accepted."

Never had he imagined a 15¢ investment would lead to an invitation to join the Pullman Foundation board, an organization so aligned with his values of supporting all students in their pursuit of a better life.

"It's all about the scholars; it always has been. While the board may have changed over time, its responsibilities and vision remain the same."

Thirty-six years later, Mr. Portaro's commitment to the Foundation and to Pullman Scholars is as profound as it was from day one. Throughout his board tenure, his knowledge has shaped Foundation programs like the Florence Lowden Miller Early Identification Project (FLMEIP). The groundbreaking program employed social workers in targeted high schools to identify and prepare the most vulnerable but promising high school students for success. He was also instrumental in the decision to begin actively fundraising and engaging the Foundation's scholar alumni/ae community.

Today, in addition to offering his expertise, Mr. Portaro and his husband Chris are regular and significant contributors to the Foundation and its fundraising efforts.



The Pullman Foundation is unique in its unwavering financial and immaterial support it provides to scholars. What's more, once you're a Pullman Scholar, you're part of the Pullman community for life. It's so much more than just a check; it's the final piece of the puzzle."



WAYS TO MAKE A 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 office.



IRA CHARITABLE GIFT ROLLOVER

Donors at least 70 1/2 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 if 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, info@pullmanfoundation.org or www.pullmanfoundation.org/support.

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

YOUR GENEROSITY KEEPS THE AMERICAN DREAM ON TRACK

On behalf of our current class of Pullman Scholars and everyone at the Foundation, we would like to recognize and extend our deepest appreciation to our generous donors and volunteers for their support.

Suma Cum Laude (\$10,000+)

Lynn Besser
Marcon Foundation, Inc.
Gregory Duick, M.D.
Richard McPherson

Magna Cum Laude (\$5000+)

The Rev. Sam Portaro, Jr., D.Min., & Mr. Christopher Dionesotes

Cum Laude (\$1500-\$4999)

Steven Fair
Sherwin Greenblatt
Barbara M. Kaufman
Laura Jean Linn
Col. James R. McKnight & Mrs. Sylvia J. McKnight
Robert Moore, Ph.D.
John Moran
Sylvia Neumann
Thomas K. Poulakidas, D.D.S.
Susan Roos
Coletta Sargent
Colette Sulser
Alleen Tostrud
Jeffery A. Tryka, CFA
Susie H. Turk
Robert and Sally (Carlson) Weist

Dean's List (\$500-\$1499)

AIG
Andrew Alexander
Jack Bakker
Jane Baljevic
Judith Beniak, DNP
Gianna Bern
Dana Buoscio, D.V.M.
Deborah Chinnapillai
Marc Christman
James Clair
Mary Kay “Emmi” Costello
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Culbertson
Mary Dean-Onayemi, S.C.
Daniel DeLaurentis
Timothy Donovan
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