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Since 2020, our Pullman Scholars have, like everyone else, faced many challenges, from personal lifestyle changes to attending classes remotely and other campus restrictions. Our Pullman Scholars met these challenges with a steadfast determination to pursue their college education. As former Pullman Scholar Anne Noonan, Carnegie Mellon, ’19, so aptly put it,

“WE ARE PULLMAN STRONG.”

“Pullman Strong” got me thinking about how exactly strong are we? Since we opened the doors of the Foundation in 1950, the Pullman Educational Foundation has awarded more than $35 million in scholarships to over 11,000 students. While those statistics are impressive, the truly amazing impact is the number of lives that were changed by allowing young people to fulfill their dream of getting a college education. That is “Pullman Strong.”

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Pullman Educational Foundation supported 102 Pullman Scholars. Of the 2021 graduating class, 85% graduated in four years with an average debt of $6,000, compared to the national average of $31,000. This is the result of the mission of the Pullman Educational Foundation…providing need-based, merit-based, last dollar scholarships to academically gifted students in Cook County for a college education.

OF THE 2021 GRADUATING CLASS, 85% GRADUATED IN 4 YEARS.

During the pandemic, and despite the Foundation’s staff working remotely, we developed and provided, monthly online seminars for our Scholars on a variety of subjects. The topics included career exploration, mental wellness, resume and cover letter advice and interview tips. These e-seminars were developed in lieu of the 2020 and 2021 annual Scholar Symposiums.

We also had monthly check-ins with our Scholars to make sure that they were doing well. These activities helped them successfully cope with various challenges they were facing during an unprecedented time.

WE HOPE THIS ANNUAL REPORT FINDS YOU WELL.

WHILE WE EMBRACE OUR LONG HISTORY, OUR FOCUS IS ON THE FUTURE.

The Pullman Educational Foundation, which has a long-established commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, continues to refine and expand our policies, practices and programs to support an inclusive culture that advances opportunities for all of our Scholars, allows them to achieve success without barriers and enables the Foundation to better serve our Scholars, as well as valued donors. We believe that the Foundation’s success depends on embracing an inclusive culture that aligns across all of our specific Foundation and philanthropic needs.

While we embrace our long history, our focus is on the future. While the annual Scholar Symposium, tentatively planned for May, 2022, might look a little different than in the past, we will still be providing our Scholars with the skills and resources they will need to navigate their college experience and meet their post-college professional lives. We also will continue our monthly e-seminars and monthly check-ins.

In other words, the Pullman Educational Foundation will continue to ensure that our Scholars stay “Pullman Strong.”

Barbara M. Kaufman
PRESIDENT

[Signature]
SINCE 1950
WE HAVE AWARDED

$35,582,559.50
IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO

11,212
COOK COUNTY STUDENTS
WHO HAVE ATTENDED

759 DIFFERENT COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES
MEET THE 72ND CLASS OF PULLMAN SCHOLARS

Malika-Malak Al-Safarini
FREDERICK VON STUBEN METROPOLITAN SCIENCE CENTER
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Tolulope Adejuyigbe
WHITNEY M. YOUNG MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Izabella Balderas
ROLLING MEADOWS HIGH SCHOOL
DePaul University

Zainab Awolumate
LINCOLN PARK HIGH SCHOOL
University of Southern California

Huda Darbo
KENWOOD ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Chicago

Thomas Dziwisz
REAVS HIGH SCHOOL
DePaul University
FRED AND NATALIE MARCON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Saul Garcia
ST. RITA OF CASCA HIGH SCHOOL
Villanova University

Daniyah Bowen
GARY COMER COLLEGE PREP
Vanderbilt University
FRED AND NATALIE MARCON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Merna Demian
AMOS ALONZO STAGG HIGH SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Chicago

Anna Marie Galarion
RONALD AMUNDSEN HIGH SCHOOL
Bradley University

Thanks to the generosity of Pullman Scholar Alumnus, the late Fred Marcon, the Marcon Foundation awards The Fred and Natalie Marcon Scholarship to an outstanding student who plans to study business or science. The scholarship is administered by the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation.

3.87 AVERAGE CUMULATIVE GPA
54% IDENTIFY AS FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

3 | PULLMAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT
MEET THE 72ND CLASS OF PULLMAN SCHOLARS

64% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE

Jordan Hanna
LINDBLOM MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY
University of Miami

Yi Chi “Izzy” Huang
GLENBROOK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
Northwestern University

Victor Huang
WILLIAM JONES COLLEGE PREP
AMOS ALONZO STAGG HIGH SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Natalie Miranda
ROAD AMUNDSEN HIGH SCHOOL
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Angel Nieves
GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE COLLEGE PREP
Case Western University

Brianna Mattson
MUCHIN COLLEGE PREP
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Monica Gomez
SARAH E. GOODE STEM ACADEMY
University of Illinois at Chicago

Jalen Hill
MARIST HIGH SCHOOL
Tulsa University

Yakelin Murillo Solis
WALTER PAYTON COLLEGE PREP
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sean Haran
JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
University of Pittsburgh

Lisa Kwan
Northwestern University

6 | PULLMAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

36% IDENTIFY AS MALE
MEET THE 72ND CLASS OF PULLMAN SCHOLARS

Luis Nieves  
PROVISO EAST HIGH SCHOOL  
Dominican University

Eduard Nunez  
LAKE FOREST ACADEMY  
University of Pennsylvania

Alejandro Sanchez  
THE OGDEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHICAGO  
Swarthmore College

Kalea Ponce  
WALTER PAYTON COLLEGE PREP  
Cuneff University

Claudia Zaragoza  
JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Mario Pauldon  
THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
Columbia University

Orlando Tardi  
GOLDER COLLEGE PREP  
Duke University

32% IDENTIFY as Hispanic, Latino
22% IDENTIFY as Black, African American
14% IDENTIFY as Asian
14% IDENTIFY as White
11% IDENTIFY as Multi-racial
7% IDENTIFY as Middle Eastern

TOGETHER WE ARE PULLMAN STRONG
“If I had to sum up how the Pullman Foundation Scholarship has affected me, I would say that it has presented me with the opportunity to become the first woman in my family to earn a degree. It has allowed me to earn the type of education that so many generations of women before me never had the chance to get.”
— BRIANNA MATTSON, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN ’25

“Receiving the Pullman Scholarship has allowed me the opportunity to study at my dream college. This has given me the chance to study under some of the best professors in my field, while building long lasting connections.”
— JORDAN HANNA, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ’25
“I am extremely grateful to be a part of the Pullman Foundation community, the scholarship allows me to fully focus on my academic pursuit and make college affordable for me and my family while the great Pullman alum network gives me an opportunity to bridge with my fellow Pullman Scholars and potential career opportunities.”
— IZZY HUANG, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ’25

“The Pullman Foundation has eased my worries about attending college. I know I’ll be supported along the way.”
— ANNA MARIE GALARION, BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ’25

“This scholarship is one of the biggest opportunities I have been given and I will make sure to honor everyone that made this possible.”
— LUIS NIEVES, DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY ’25
Our 2021 Graduates

9 Seniors Reported Graduating Debt Free

Ezenna Chukwujoke-Madu
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Anya Blair
Illinois Wesleyan University

Malcom Fox
Howard University

Diana Lam
Middlebury College

Rafael Curran
University of Notre Dame

Andres Lagunas
DePaul University

Gabriella Marino
Marquette University

Alije Kaleshi
University of Southern California

Cyrus Lau
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

$6,096
Average Student Loan Debt Among Graduating Pullman Scholars
OUR 2021 GRADUATES

85% GRADUATED IN FOUR YEARS

Juhi Patel
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Austin Schelfhout
BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

Adriana Martinez
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Alexandria Nwarache
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Nathaniel Rodriguez
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Skyler Thompson
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Alondra Ramos
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Selvyn Martinez-Barahona
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Jaime Sosa
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

95% RETENTION RATE

3.61 AVERAGE CUMULATIVE GPA
AYANA BLAIR is currently applying to medical school.

CYRUS LAU is studying for and taking his CPA exams.

ALEXANDRIA NWARACHE is an analyst on the Corporate Development and Transaction Services team at Accenture.

ALIJE KALESHI is pursuing a Master’s and Doctoral degree in occupational therapy at The University of Southern California.

ADRIANA MARTINEZ is beginning her career as a Software Engineer at Google.

NATHANIEL RODRIGUEZ is working for J.P. Morgan Chase in their downtown office as a Production Support Analyst.

SELVYN MARTINEZ BARAHONA is working as a Financial Services Representative at Merrill Edge.

ALEXANDRIA NWARACHE is an analyst on the Corporate Development and Transaction Services team at Accenture.

JAIME SOSA returned to UIC to complete an EMT course and is now applying to medical school.

SKYLER THOMPSON is pursuing a Master’s in Medical Physiology before matriculating into medical school during the fall of 2022.

ALONDRA RAMOS travelled after graduation and is now working on community organizing and interviewing for jobs.

ANDRES LAGUNAS is working for the department of transportation for the City of Chicago.

DIANA LAM works for Disney as a Software Engineer on their Android development team, based out of the ESPN offices in Connecticut.

CYRUS LAU is studying for and taking his CPA exams.

ALEXANDRIA NWARACHE is an analyst on the Corporate Development and Transaction Services team at Accenture.

JUHI PATEL is applying to graduate school to obtain her Master’s in Health Administration.

GABRIELLA MARINO is a PHD student in the Integrated Neuroscience program at Marquette University.

DIANA LAM works for Disney as a Software Engineer on their Android development team, based out of the ESPN offices in Connecticut.

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NATHANIEL RODRIGUEZ is working for J.P. Morgan Chase in their downtown office as a Production Support Analyst.

AUSTIN SCHELFHOUT is beginning his career as a Project Engineer at Symbiont in Milwaukee.

SELVYN MARTINEZ BARAHONA is working as a Financial Services Representative at Merrill Edge.

JUHI PATEL is applying to graduate school to obtain her Master’s in Health Administration.

GABRIELLA MARINO is a PHD student in the Integrated Neuroscience program at Marquette University.
Q: WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR COLLEGE AND YOUR MAJOR?
A: I chose to pursue journalism at Northwestern after serving as editor-in-chief for my high school newspaper. I loved telling stories and shedding light on issues that would have otherwise gone ignored. Northwestern has a very strong journalism program, with many alumni filling the ranks of reporters at major news publications and broadcast networks. When choosing between colleges, Northwestern's program stood out against the other universities I was considering, and with the support of the Pullman Foundation, I was ultimately able to accept Northwestern's offer for enrollment.

Q: TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENTS THIS PAST YEAR AND WHAT THEY MEANT TO YOU.
A: I am drawn to national security issues and foreign affairs broadly -- it's an area of society where I think I can make the most difference in the world around me. Subsequently, during my time at Northwestern, I have focused both my academic studies and professional interests on larger international security dilemmas. As part of my senior honors thesis, I completed research on nuclear weapons, specifically U.S.-Russia nuclear weapon treaties, and I opted to expand upon my interest professionally through an internship with the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the State Department this past summer. As an intern, I worked on initiatives to help train other countries on how to respond to terrorist events involving nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Continuing my brief venture in government work, I am spending my last year at Northwestern based at our Washington D.C. campus, reporting on national security issues serving as a credentialed congressional reporter. So far, I have had the amazing opportunity to report and sit in on hearings held by both the Senate and the House Armed Services Committees.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?
A: After graduation, I plan on attending graduate school for international relations in the United Kingdom to better expand my worldview and knowledge base. That said, I have yet to decide whether I want to pursue journalism or public service upon the completion of my studies. In either situation, I want to do my part to tackle some of the international issues plaguing the globe.

Q: WHAT HAS RECEIVING THE PULLMAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MEANT TO YOU?
A: Receiving the Pullman Foundation Scholarship allowed me to attend college without taking on vast amounts of financial debt. I am very grateful to the Foundation for its continued support during my years at Northwestern. Without the Foundation, I wouldn’t have been able to pursue most of the opportunities that I have completed during my time as an undergraduate, including my unpaid internship at the State Department and my reporting role in Washington D.C.

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Q: WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR COLLEGE AND YOUR MAJOR?
A: The small community attracted me to Denison University. At Denison the other students are not peers but family. I love economics because it allows you to think in different ways and on a deeper level. That’s why I’m a Financial Economics major.

Q: YOU RECENTLY LAUNCHED YOUR OWN COFFEE BUSINESS, MAI COFFEE. TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THAT.
A: I came up with the idea of my Vietnamese coffee business because I wanted to honor my father who passed away from cancer in my senior year of high school. I started my Vietnamese coffee business in my freshman year originally wanting to bottle my Vietnamese coffee. In my junior year, I made a pivot to import Vietnamese coffee beans instead. Now that I have made my product into reality, I am focusing on doing sales for my product and selling directly to businesses. It is tough running a business, but I would rather work for 80 hours a week for myself on something I love than work 40 hours a week for someone else. In the future, I hope to work full time on my Vietnamese coffee business.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?
A: I plan to work a full-time job (I received an offer from Amazon but am still looking for jobs). In addition, I want to work on my Vietnamese coffee importation business part time until I am comfortable doing it full time.

Q: WHAT HAS RECEIVING THE PULLMAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MEANT TO YOU?
A: It has allowed me access to a realm where I have the financial freedom to work on my business and invest. If I did not have the Pullman scholarship, I would not be able to do all these things.
Q: WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR COLLEGE AND YOUR MAJOR?
A: I felt very lost in the college admissions process, initially not knowing what I wanted in a school. I believe the number one thing that drew me to Ohio State was the support staff of people I spoke to were all as willing to help me fulfill my potential. Talking with them made a big school seem small and I knew then that the supportive team I wanted to have by my side going into college.

Yet, deciding on a college major wasn’t so easy. In grade school my favorite subjects were always history and science. I would read my textbooks for these classes just for fun sometimes, I was addicted to watching the History and Discovery channel as soon as I got home from school. This led me to working at different Chicago area science institutions doing various volunteer, internship, and research roles. I was able to explore the wonderful intersections of all things science at an early age so when it came to deciding in institutions doing various volunteer, internship, and research roles. I was able to explore the wonderful intersections of all things science at an early age so when it came to deciding what I would study in college I felt torn initially having worked in so many fields.

However, my freshman year of college my school established a new major called Medical Anthropology. I realized this was a perfect interdisciplinary blend of so many of my interests. Now I study Medical Anthropology and Biology which blends my initial loves of history and science in a unique manner that is always engaging and provoking in the classroom.

Q: TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENTS THIS PAST YEAR AND WHAT THEY MEANT TO YOU
A: I1 have been fortunate to have a phenomenal support system in my father who has always encouraged me to pursue my goals, however, I know many young people don’t have that same support. This is why I am very passionate about uplifting young people of color to pursue their dreams especially in fields of STEM. I have been able to do this by working with some phenomenal programs and networks. This past year I was able to serve as 1 of 5 alumni champions for Steve Harvey’s Disney Dreamers Academy where I was able to support and mentor teens from across the United States to pursue science and medical related careers in the most magical place on earth, Walt Disney World. In addition, I partnered with Essence Magazine and Disney for their back to school special where we were able to give mental health, fashion, wellness and goal setting tips for the school year.

I also took up writing for the Malala Fund on the experience of being a woman of color in the field of STEM while calling for better academic support for people of color wanting to enter these male dominated fields that have historically lacked diversity. I have also continued my passion for research and exploration by working with the University of Chicago Department of Human Genetics Ancient DNA Lab studying evolutionary genetics as an LSAMP SURE Grant Research Scholar and empowering teens by researching the best ways to deliver STEM education at the University of Chicago CI3 research Center.

Ultimately, I have sought to go beyond myself to uplift others in everything I do whether it’s through writing, mentoring or in my everyday life. I believe it is so important to not only authentically pursue my goals but to also act to bring about the change I want to see in the fields of STEM.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?
A: After Graduation I plan to take a gap year before pursuing a further education to allow me to reach my goals and make an impact in the fields of public health and medicine. I plan to spend my gap year completing writing projects I have been currently working on as I believe stories are one of our biggest assets. Allowing us to not only share knowledge but expand imaginations and give hope.

I am also in the process of applying to gap year programs at different schools in the Chicagoland area so I can return home to support and better inform my career pursuits and expand my network.

Ultimately, I don’t want to limit myself with the idea of “or” I would like to embrace an “and” mentality by pursuing different endeavors that combine my passion for storytelling, science, history and medicine.

Q: WHAT HAS RECEIVING THE PULLMAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MEANT TO YOU?
A: Having grown up in a three bedroom house with ten family members including my parents, brothers, and cousins all with only one breadwinner I knew the only way I would be able to attend college would be through considerable scholarships. This thought plagued me as a teen because I knew not going to college wasn’t an option, but feared the idea of debt and the financial strain it could bring. When I was notified I had received the Pullman Scholarship I felt emotional, affirmed, excited and relieved all in one. I was overjoyed that I could tell my parents who had worked so hard for me that I could graduate college debt free now.

Receiving the Pullman Scholarship has been so much more than I initially imagined when I first applied to be a scholar. From meeting my exceptional fellow students at the yearly symposiums, to receiving guidance from the speakers and workshops, along with the faculty support the Foundation has provided. I have grown to associate the Pullman Foundation and everyone in it as a family growing and striving for better together. I have joined a network of people who inspire me, push me and support me in a way that keeps me going even on the long late nights. I am eternally grateful for this phenomenal network of achievers I have joined and look forward to one day paying it forward to support future scholars.
“Reviewing scholarship submissions provides me with an ongoing opportunity to say thanks to the Foundation for the scholarship I received. I enjoy reading submissions every year and am inspired by the intelligence and commitment to education, growth, and service from the scholarship applicants. I am grateful for the Pullman Scholarship I received because it helped provide me with the opportunity to continue and complete my education and then begin my career.”

– David Bakker, Northwestern University ’83

“Serving on the Pullman Scholar Selection Committee has provided me the opportunity to see our great, young Chicago talent and award them based on their academic and community merits. The Pullman Foundation afforded me the opportunity to remain in school with little to no debt. Today, I am forever grateful.”

– Daniel Jackson, Illinois State University ’18

“The Pullman Foundation Scholarship meant a lot to me when I was a graduating high school student who was able to attend a dream school. And over the years, I have found it to mean even more as it has given me the financial flexibility to pursue jobs that interest me, support my family during times of need and invest in my first home purchase. It truly was that first step in helping me achieve my American dream. Now, one of the best parts about serving on the Selection Committee is being able to hear about what drives and motivates all of the great students that apply for the scholarship. I enjoy the conversations that we are able to have and sharing each of our experiences.”

– Michelle Tam, University of Southern California ’07

“Pullman was one of many keys towards my dream to become a competitive scholar & professional agent in a world that wasn’t meant for my succession. It meant financial security to attend a University that my parents couldn’t afford. It meant networking and immersing myself in a professional atmosphere that my immigrant family didn’t have access to. It meant that my hard work was being acknowledged and appreciated. For me, the Pullman Foundation became a second family of supporters that trusted my academic success and pushed me beyond the capabilities I believed were possible.”

– Nina Mercado, Denison University ’19

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– Nina Mercado, Denison University ’19
"The Foundation helped me realize my dream of becoming a first-generation college student in my family. I like to think of my gift as a way to give back and celebrate all Pullman Scholars’ multi-faceted successes in college, in their careers and in their communities!"

– Mary Kay “Emmi” Costello, KENYON COLLEGE ’93

“I have always appreciated the support of the Pullman Foundation and I am so proud of all our scholars who are currently pursuing their education in spite of the challenges of a global pandemic. We are Pullman strong.”

– Anne Noonan, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY ’19

“Forty years ago the Pullman Foundation awarded me a scholarship which was instrumental in providing moral & financial support. The impact of the award has propelled me to scale new opportunities and challenges with a deep respect for the Pullman Foundation.”

– Eduardo Coronado, DEVRY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ’85
WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARS

**BEQUESTS**

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

Establishing a donor-advised fund may allow you to claim a charitable gift deduction in one year and advise annual gifts from your fund to support the Foundation over several years. If you already hold a donor-advised fund (e.g. Fidelity Charitable or Schwab Charitable), please consider recommending grants from your fund to support the Foundation.

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

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 rollovers, up to $100,000, also can be used to satisfy your annual minimum distribution requirement.

You can support today’s and future Pullman Scholars by naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your 401(k), 403(b), IRA, other retirement account, or life insurance policy.

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 may avoid paying capital gains tax. Speak with your investment advisor 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 | www.pullmanfoundation.org/support

**DISCLAIMER**

The information provided here is not offered as tax or legal advice. Donors and potential donors should consult with a qualified tax advisor regarding their own specific circumstances, the tax and non-tax considerations, and consequences associated with a charitable gift to the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation.
THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE DONORS

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.

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Charles Culverhouse
Charlene Culverhouse
Culverhouse & Company

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Tribute gifts are a unique way to recognize someone dear to the supporter by either memorializing the passing of an individual or by celebrating and honoring them for a special occasion. Thank you for making this touching gift to the Foundation in memory or in honor of a loved one.

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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.

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