



HONORING OUR LEGACY, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

2025 IMPACT REPORT

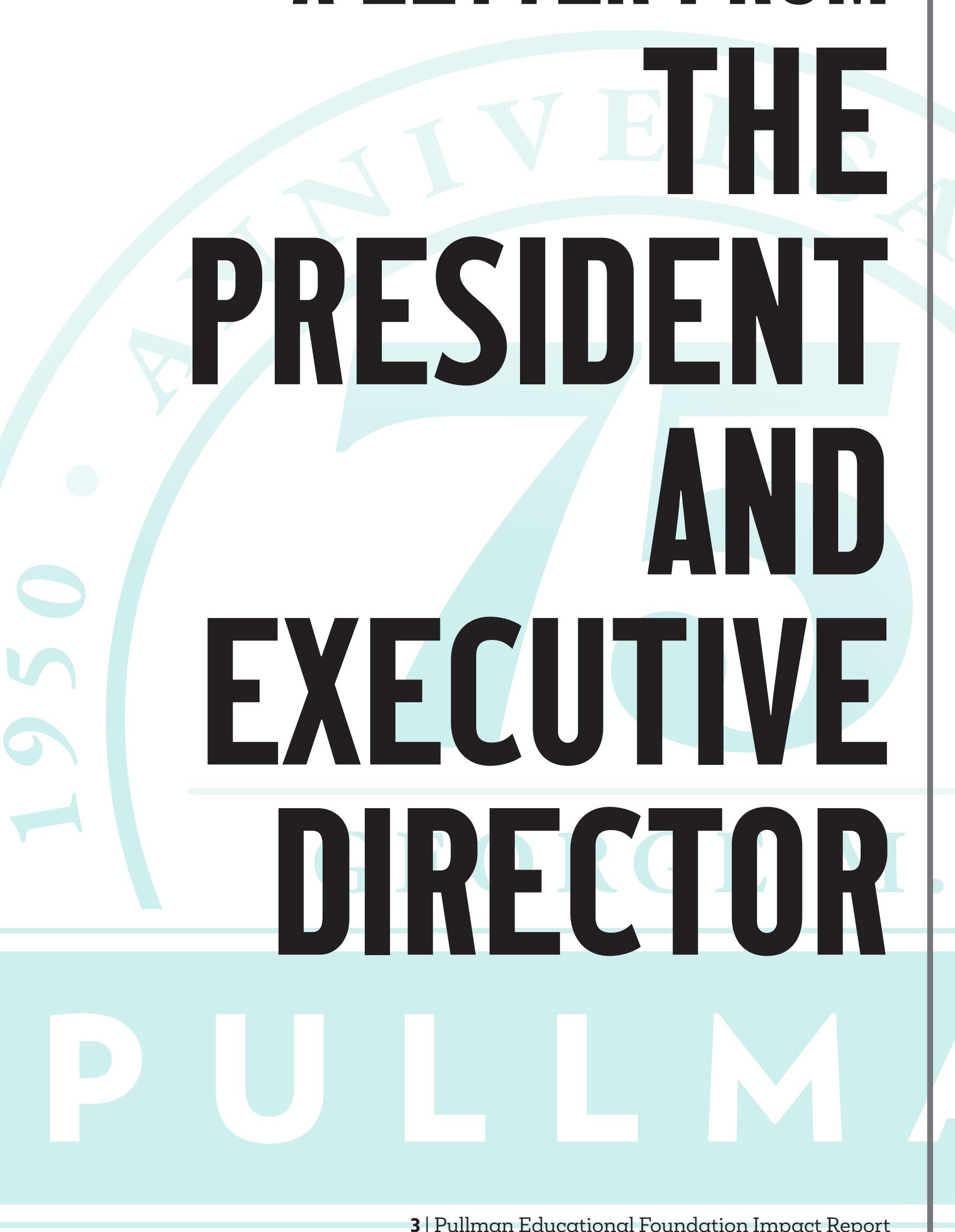


PULLMAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PULLMAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



A LETTER FROM

THE

PRESIDENT

AND

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

PULLMAN

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year marks 75 years of the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation empowering Cook County students to achieve their dreams of higher education. Since 1950, nearly 12,000 Pullman Scholars have earned college degrees, many of them the first in their families, equipped with scholarship funds and the mentorship, guidance, and community support needed to thrive.

Our mission is simple: provide meaningful scholarships paired with personal attention that prepare students for success in college, careers, and community leadership. Today, Pullman Scholars receive up to \$40,000 in renewable scholarships over four years, along with monthly check-ins, career and life-skills seminars, alumni mentoring, and mental health support. The results speak for themselves:

- 95% graduation rate
- 70% graduate debt-free
- 3.59 average cumulative GPA

Our programs are designed to meet students where they are, offering flexibility and support rather than restrictions on majors, schools, or financial use. Over the years, this approach has proven that a combination of financial aid and relationship-driven services transforms lives.

This year, the Foundation's impact was recognized nationally with a generous philanthropic award, affirming what our community has known for decades: Pullman Scholars succeed because we provide not only funding, but guidance, connection, and care.

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

Looking ahead, your support allows us to expand programs, sustain scholarships, and strengthen services, ensuring that future generations of Pullman Scholars can graduate ready to lead, innovate, and give back.

Thank you for being part of this enduring mission. Together, we continue a legacy of opportunity, achievement, and community impact.

With gratitude,



Eric Delli Bovi,
Executive Director



Richard W. Daspit, Jr.,
Board President



MEET OUR 76TH CLASS OF PULLMAN SCHOLARS

GEORGE M.

PULLMAN

1950-
1960



Jennyfer Altamirano

William Howard Taft
High School
BARUCH COLLEGE



Jasmin Chavez

Pritzker College Prep
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Jenny Au

Northside College Preparatory
High School
YALE UNIVERSITY



Nattapak Chankaew

Stephen T. Mather High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



Vivian Chanquin

George Westinghouse
College Prep
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
IN ST. LOUIS



Chloe Cho

UIC College Prep
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



Issys Davis

Gwendolyn Brooks College
Preparatory Academy
HOWARD UNIVERSITY



Precious Duncan

Kenwood Academy
High School
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Irene Frias
Muchin College Prep
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Emily Gaytan
Intrinsic Schools
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON



Jacqueline Gomez
Thornton Township
High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



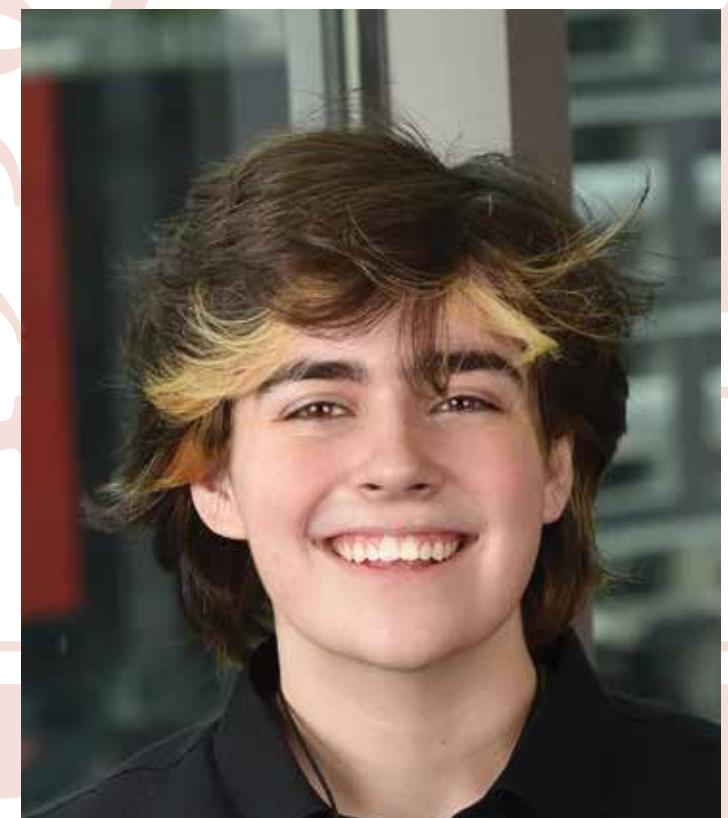
Olivier Grodz
Carl Sandburg High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Asha Horton
Mother McAuley Liberal Arts
High School
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



Jason Jiang
George Westinghouse
College Prep
STANFORD UNIVERSITY



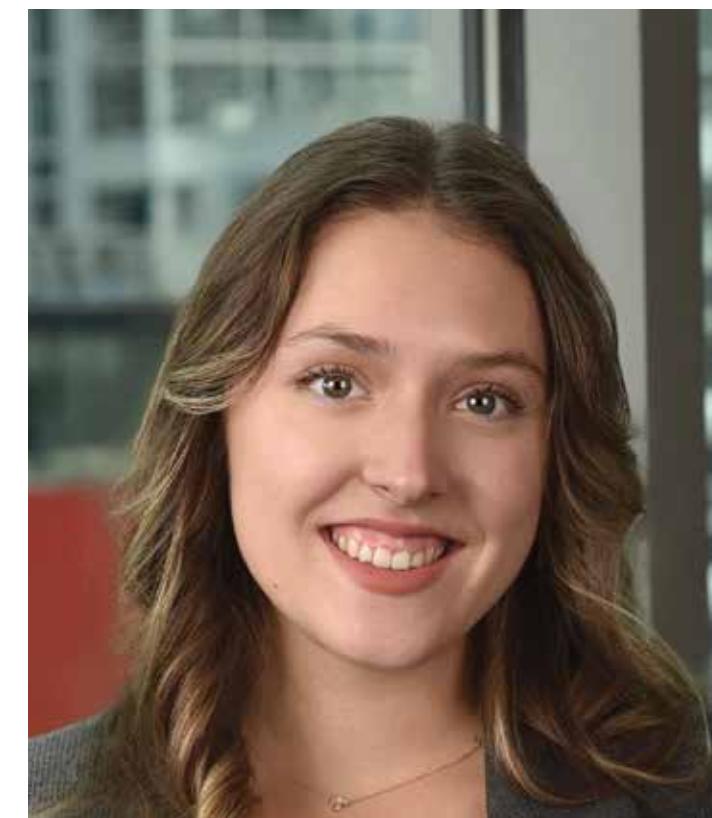
Layla Kelly
Victor J. Andrew High School
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



Janielle Kemp-France
De La Salle Institute
HOPE COLLEGE



Petr Malina
William Howard Taft
High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Siena Martorina
Lincoln Park High School
NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



Avery McDowell
Bennett Day School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



Benjamin Mitchell
Prospect High School
NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



Pamela Pardo

Curie Metropolitan
High School
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



Victoria Puch

Amos Alonzo Stagg
High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Anthony Rodriguez

Thornton Township
High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Cristina Ruiz Abarca

Theodore Roosevelt
High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



Steven Sosa

Phoenix STEM Military
Academy
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



Hajar Soufi

Whitney M. Young High School
NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



Luqman Syed

Hoffman Estates High School
NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



Arshia Tahir

Nicholas Senn High School
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO



**Daniela
Thurman-Mack**

Lane Tech College Prep
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



Camila Valencia

Holy Trinity High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



Danna Velasquez

Charles A. Prosser
Career Academy
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY



James Wells

Lindblom Math &
Science Academy
CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY

NEW SCHOLAR STATISTICS

SELECTED
FROM
573
QUALIFIED
APPLICANTS



PULLMAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

**32 NEW PULLMAN SCHOLARS
REPRESENTING 29 DIFFERENT
HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT
COOK COUNTY:**

53% Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
21% Suburban Public School
13% Chicago Charter School
13% Chicago Private School

37% IDENTIFY as Hispanic or Latino
19% IDENTIFY as Asian
19% IDENTIFY as Black or African American
16% IDENTIFY as White
6% IDENTIFY as Middle Eastern
3% IDENTIFY as Multi-Ethnic

72% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE

28% IDENTIFY AS MALE

44% ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

3.94 UNWEIGHTED CUMULATIVE GPA

THE 76TH CLASS OF SCHOLARS ON THEIR CAREER ASPIRATIONS

"I want to improve lives through artificial intelligence, being able to use AI and models to assist in medical and other research areas. One day I aspire to be the person who works toward improving and saving lives using the power of AI/ML."

JASON JIANG
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

"I will study for my Master's in Public Health and attend medical school to become a psychiatrist-scientist and social entrepreneur to close minority health gaps. As a psychiatrist, I will provide culturally informed care to often misunderstood, neglected minoritized groups. I will employ the stories I hear as a psychiatrist to research global health interventions, stress disorders, and how to promote life-long well-being."

JENNY AU
YALE UNIVERSITY

"By majoring in journalism, I will continue to hone my skills as a storyteller - not only for live sports, but across other mediums, as well. In addition to in-classroom instruction, I will also gain more experience working on live national broadcasts - perhaps for the SEC or Big Ten Networks - or even for local TV stations. I will relish each experience just as I did in high school, taking every opportunity to ask questions and learn from those around me and develop into a better producer and storyteller."

BENJAMIN MITCHELL
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

"As a board-certified Occupational Therapist, I hope to work with youth as I have always loved kids, and the smiles on their faces will cheer me up after a tough day. Additionally, I would like to focus on providing therapy for low-income families and those in minority groups, as I often see the struggles with having accessibility and lack of resources compared to others."

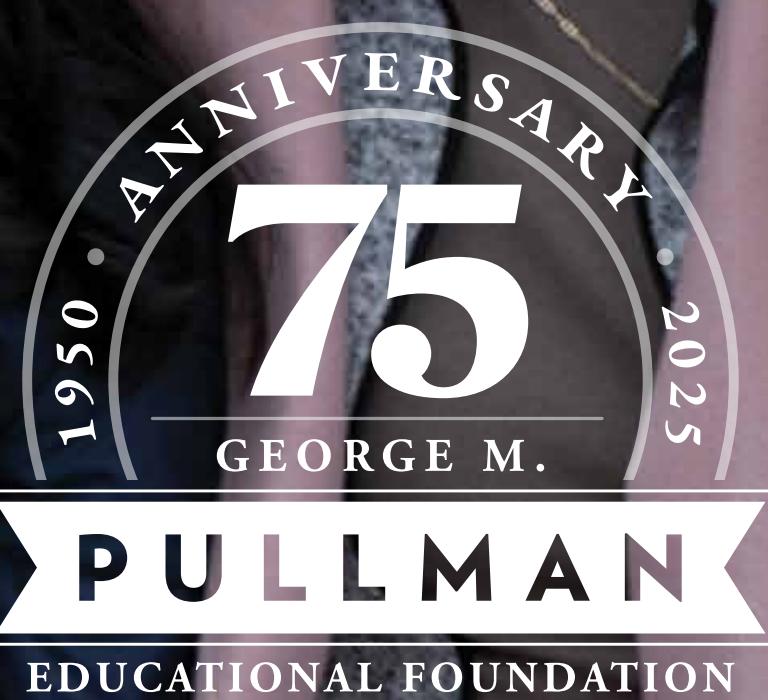
CHLOE CHO
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

"I would love to attend an engineering school and become an aerospace engineer. How things work and function has always fascinated me, especially on how planes work. I would really love to help make our world a better place and improve our aircraft and possibly even spacecraft all around the globe to best benefit our needs and the environment."

PETR MALINA
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

"I am determined to be a part of the change. I intend to pursue a profession in nursing to make sure that all patients, and especially Black women, are heard, respected, and cared for properly. I am a firm believer that a patient does best medically when they feel supported and comfortable and that is my goal as a nurse to help them feel that way when dealing with life-changing medical procedures."

ISSYS DAVIS
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



MEET OUR 2025 GRADUATES

70% REPORT GRADUATING DEBT-FREE

THOMAS DZIWISZ

DePaul University

Leadership Management

Thomas is taking a gap year before applying to Law School.



ANNA MARIE GALARION

Bradley University

Animation

Anna Marie headed to Florida to participate in the Disney College Program, to gain valuable insight into the animation industry from working at Disney.



ZAINAB AWOLUMATE

University of Southern California

Economics

Zainab plans to begin her career in corporate banking or a finance rotational program, where she can grow her skills and make a meaningful impact.



DANIYAH BOWEN

Vanderbilt University

Child Development & Gender Studies

Daniyah started a full-time position as an Operations Analyst at Bank of New York.



SAUL GARCIA

Villanova University

Accounting, Business Analytics,

International Business

Saul is studying for and taking the CPA Exam in preparation for his role as a Deals Associate with PwC in New York City.



55% ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO EARN A DEGREE

VICTOR HUANG

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Animal Sciences

Victor is taking a gap year to explore more opportunities and experiences working with animals, before applying to veterinary school.



BRIANNA MATTSON

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Animal Sciences: Companion and Equine Science

Brianna focused her studies on dogs, cats, and horses, and she is currently applying this knowledge while working as a pet tech in Geneva, IL.



JORDAN HANNA

University of Miami

Sport Administration Pre-Law

Jordan hopes to start graduate school in a Master of Laws program while working for a professional sports organization in Chicago.



YI CHI "IZZY" HUANG

Northwestern University

Chemical Engineering, Computer Science

Izzy is working as a Quantitative Trading Analyst at Chicago Trading Company.



JALEN HILL

Tufts University Film & Media Studies

He has led content production for brands, athletic departments, and community organizations, using strategic thinking and visual storytelling to grow engagement and elevate voices often left unheard. Jalen is seeking opportunities where he can continue creating and building his skills.



LISA KWAN

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Molecular and Cellular Biology

Lisa is pursuing a career in medicine that is focused on advancing healthy equity and alleviating health disparities.



YAKELIN MURILLO SOLIS

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Computer Engineering

Yakelin graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, and is searching for roles in the tech industry.



ANGEL NIEVES

Case Western Reserve University

Psychology and Cognitive Science

Angel began a two-year program with Teach For America, working full-time as a teacher. She will then look to continue pursuing law school, with an interest in public policy.



100% RETENTION RATE

3.59

AVERAGE CUMULATIVE GPA

87%

GRADUATED WITHIN 4 YEARS

ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ

Swarthmore College

Biology

After graduation, Alejandro began conducting heart physiology research as a Research Assistant.



GERI VELINOVA

DePaul University

Psychology

After graduation, Geri said she hopes to keep pushing forward and growing as an individual. She hopes to eventually return to school to further her education while gaining experience in the workforce.



EDUARD NUNEZ

University of Pennsylvania

International Business

Eduard graduated from the Huntsman Program at the University of Pennsylvania with concentrations in French and Strategic Management, and he hopes to now earn his MBA and pursue opportunities across the globe.



KALEA PONCE

Cornell University

Hotel Administration

Following graduation, Kalea started as a Human Capital Consulting Analyst at Willis Towers Watson in New York City.



CLAUDIA ZARAGOZA

University of Illinois at Chicago

Psychology, Sociology

Following graduation, Claudia hopes to get more experience in the field of education and social work prior to going to graduate school.



2024-2025 FULL SCHOLAR COHORT STATISTICS

The Foundation supported 101 Pullman Scholars during the 2024-2025 academic year (24 new scholars and 77 renewing scholars).

The Scholars attended 41 different colleges across the country.

50% of Pullman Scholars attended college in Illinois, and 50% attended college out of state.

55% IDENTIFY AS FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

27% IDENTIFY as Black, African American

23% IDENTIFY as Hispanic, Latino

22% IDENTIFY as Asian

13% IDENTIFY as White

8% IDENTIFY as Multi-Ethnic or Other

6% IDENTIFY as Middle Eastern

1% IDENTIFY as American Indian or Alaska Native

62% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE

38% IDENTIFY AS MALE

3.58 AVERAGE CUMULATIVE GPA



EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

PULLMAN SCHOLAR PROGRAMS

GEORGE M.

PULLMAN

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Every year, the Pullman Educational Foundation provides a range of educational, personal, and professional resources to current Pullman Scholars, designed to foster college and career success. All scholars participate in monthly check-ins with the Foundation, where they can share progress updates, ask questions, and discuss any challenges. These check-ins help keep scholars on track and reinforce the support system available to them.

SCHOLAR SUCCESS SEMINARS

are live virtual sessions held throughout the school year featuring special speakers and alumni that are recorded and made available to scholars for ongoing access. Topics are selected based on the needs and interests of scholars.

2024-2025 SEMINARS INCLUDED:

Use Your Voice! Registering to Vote:

During National Voter Registration Month and in advance of the 2024 elections, the Foundation partnered with Chicago Votes to provide scholars with information on registering to vote at home or on campus.

How to Find Your Dream Internship:

A panel of recent Pullman Scholar graduates shared their experiences finding their dream internships during college and offered tips for current scholars on the internship search process.

The Dos and Don'ts of Study Abroad:

A panel of Pullman Scholars who recently studied abroad shared how current scholars should prepare to spend a semester abroad. From what to pack to navigating homesickness, they shared real-life experiences to help Pullman Scholars prepare.

Credit Cards: Beyond the Basics

Representatives from Ladder Up presented on all aspects of credit cards, including how to select a card, maintain good credit, and more, helping set scholars up for financial success now and in the future.

Mental Health & Wellness: Imposter Feelings

The Foundation partnered with Dr. Khanh Nghiem from the University of Chicago to discuss imposter feelings, self-doubt, and inadequacy despite one's achievements and success. Dr. Nghiem shared how to recognize and take steps to combat those feelings.

Mastering Life After College:

A panel of recent Pullman School graduates shared the good and the bad about navigating life after college. From finding a job to finding roommates, they discussed real experiences after graduation.

WHAT OUR SCHOLARS SAY ABOUT PULLMAN PROGRAMS



PULLMAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

"The seminars are a useful resource for topics I am not familiar with. If I have trouble with a certain topic, it has most likely appeared in a seminar, and I can just seek those recordings out. In addition, the monthly check-ins serve as an accountability checkpoint. I pause once a month and reflect on the progress towards my goals."

LISA KWAN
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN '25

"The different success seminars exposed me to new avenues of information and resources. It was also nice knowing that there was a community behind me throughout the whole journey."

EDUARD NUNEZ
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA '25

"The Pullman Foundation Scholarship provided me with financial support that allowed me to focus on classwork, rather than stressing about paying for it. The Pullman Foundation also provided me with an extra sense of community through the yearly symposiums. It was also great to have the staff checking in every month, as it helped keep me on track and allowed me the space to talk about what happened in each month and receive feedback and help."

YAKELIN MURILLO SOLIS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON '25

"Knowing that someone cares and is there on a monthly basis, looking for ways to help us—whether it's informing us about finances or resume workshops, pushing useful information on us, or preparing us for what is to come as we become independent adults in society—is invaluable. As a first-generation scholar, there is that uncertainty of support and a safety net, and the Pullman Foundation became that backbone for me, something that pushed me to work hard and do my best on my coursework, knowing that someone advocated and cared for my professional development."

LUIS NIEVES
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY '25

"The educational and professional support provided by the Pullman Foundation was instrumental in my journey. From guiding me through challenges to celebrating my achievements, the Foundation was a consistent source of encouragement. Their resources and mentorship not only helped me excel academically but also prepared me for my professional aspirations, giving me the tools and confidence to pursue a career in tech or finance. For all of this, I am deeply grateful."

MARIO PAULDON
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY '25

2025 SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM

On May 22, 2025, Pullman Scholars gathered for the annual Pullman Scholar Symposium. Throughout the day, current scholars attended career-focused sessions designed to prepare them for life beyond college. From mastering professional communication to refining their LinkedIn profiles and networking skills, scholars gained invaluable tools to confidently navigate the workforce. Breakout sessions by class year allowed each class to get to know each other better. New Pullman Scholars started their journey with a warm welcome, attending an orientation and a scholar-led discussion about the transition to college life.

The afternoon ended with a panel discussion featuring recent alumni sharing real-world insights about their journeys from college to career. Their stories offered practical advice and encouragement to current scholars. Once again, this year, every speaker at the Symposium was a proud Pullman Scholar Alum.

This year's symposium was significant as it marked the 75th anniversary of the Pullman Educational Foundation. The celebration continued into the evening to commemorate the milestone with a river cruise along the Chicago River. Scholars and alumni came together on board for a wonderful evening of meaningful connections.

[Click here to watch a recap video of the whole day!](#)



2025 SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM



"It is always a rewarding experience for me to give back to an organization that supported me on my career journey. Although it was great to share my knowledge and expertise with the scholars at the symposium, there was an equally rewarding experience learning about their career aspirations and experiences. It was the beginning of expanding our networks as we continue to support, grow, and learn from each other. I was extremely fulfilled in learning from the scholars how my expertise gave them great insights and applicable knowledge that they could use immediately. I am happy to be part of their continued journey of success, and the overall George M. Pullman Educational Foundation community."

LINDA WINDHAM
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO '86

"I loved meeting the new class and answering their questions! It reminded me of when I was in their shoes and made me feel grateful for everyone who has helped me along the way."

MICHELLE VALENCIA
UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS '26



"It was an honor to participate in the Alumni Panel at the Pullman Scholar Symposium, as the Foundation played a pivotal role in my own undergraduate journey. I am thankful for the support and guidance I received from the Foundation that now allows me to be in a position to give back by supporting current scholars and reminding them that their goals are attainable and their futures are worth investing in."

ALEXCIANA CASTANEDA
LEWIS UNIVERSITY '23

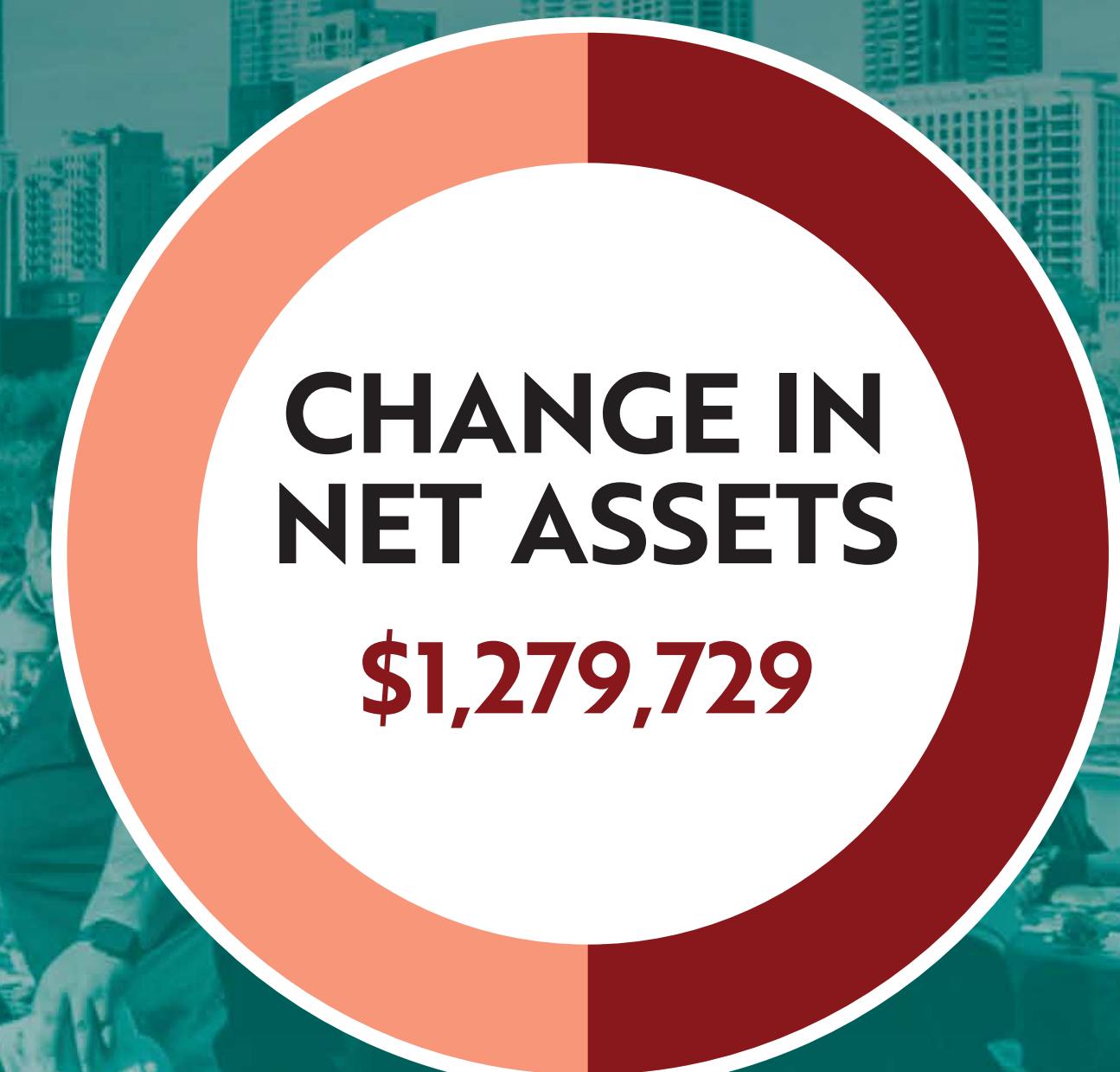
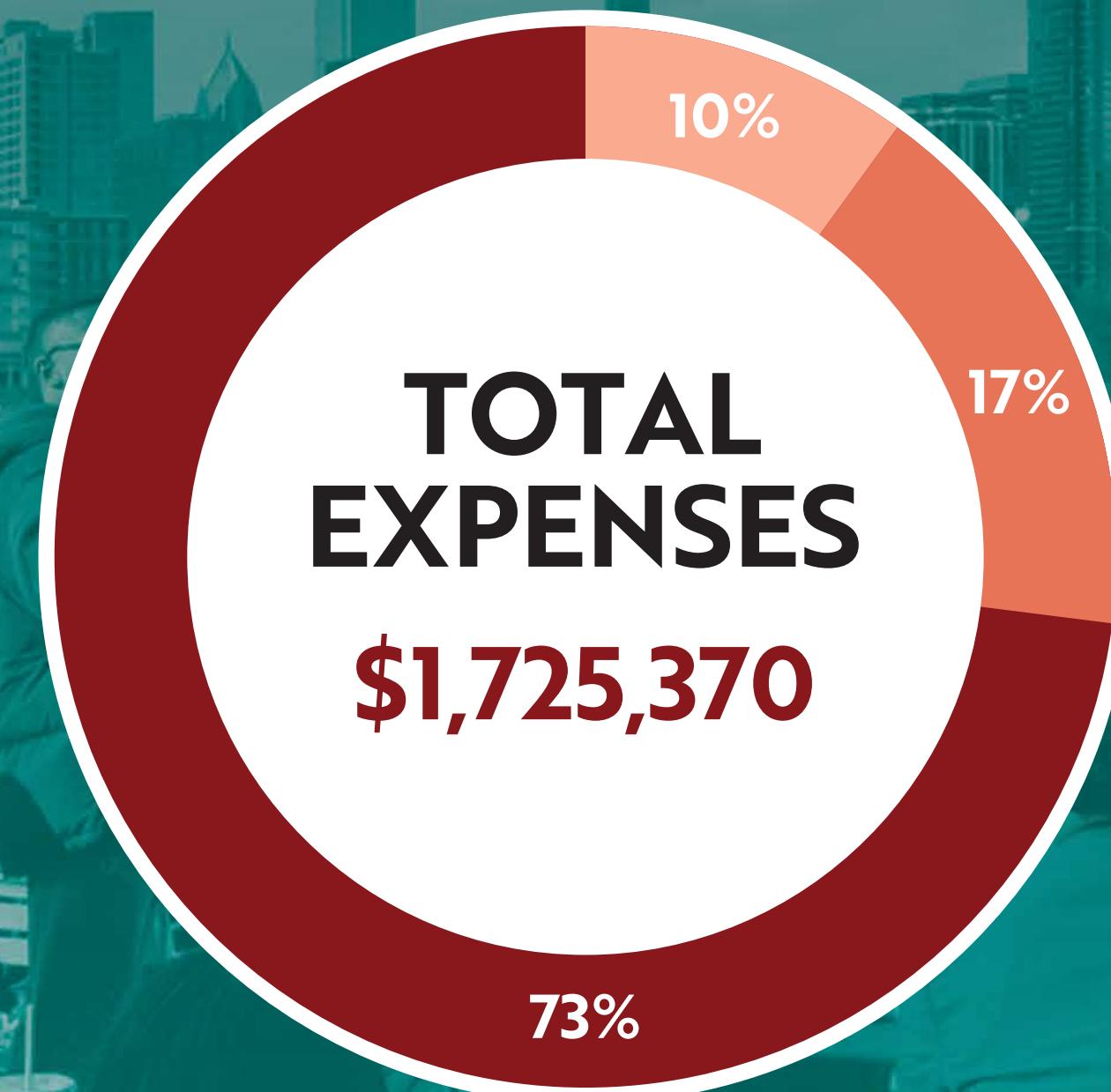
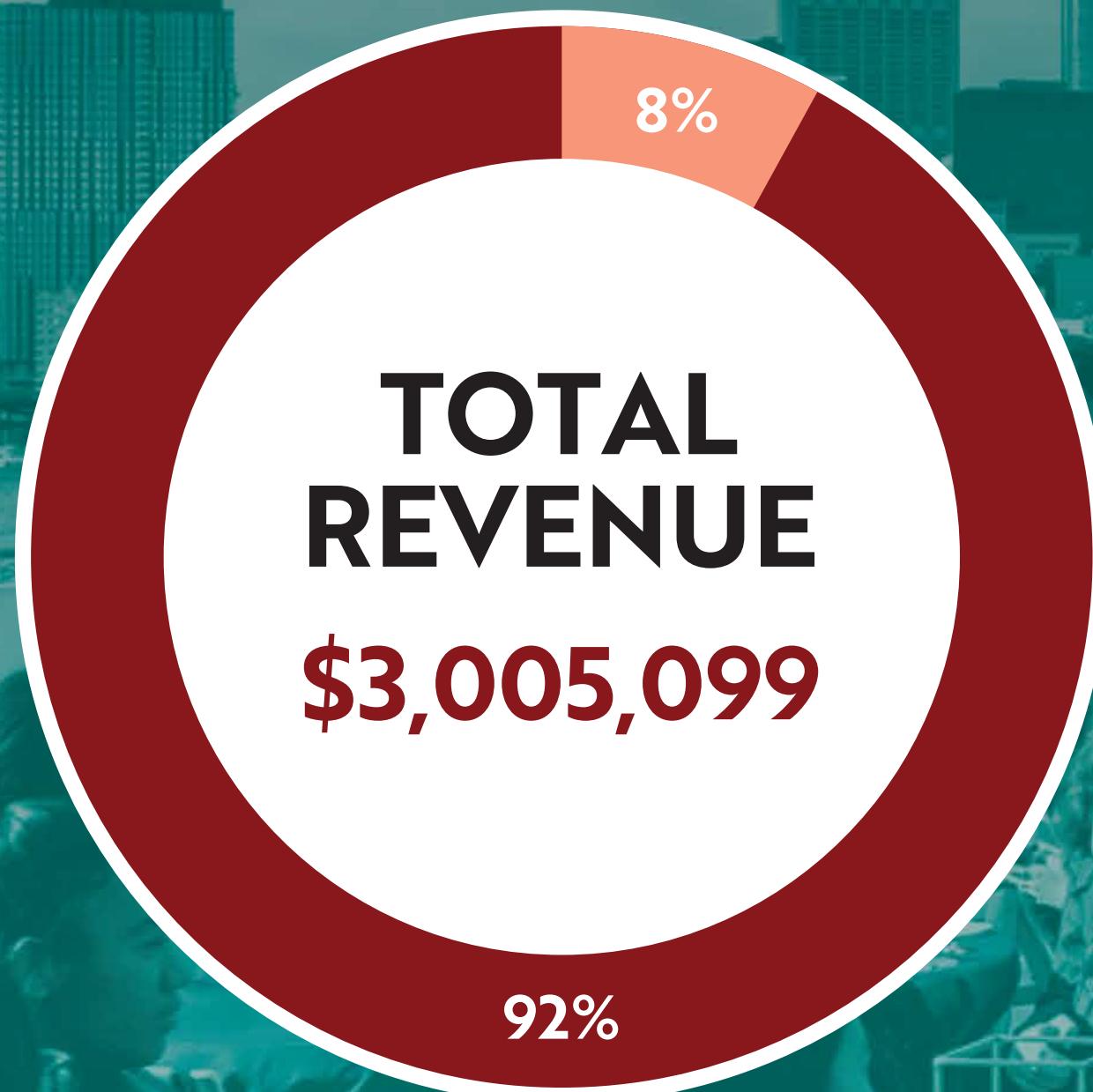
"It was great to come back and join Pullman for the 75th anniversary. After studying abroad for the past 5 months, it was nice to come home and share my stories with the new scholars and tell them about my college journey thus far. I wish them much success, and I can't wait to hear about their first year next May."

OTHEL OWEN
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA '26



2025 FINANCIALS

AUGUST 1, 2024 TO JULY 31, 2025



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.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

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.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

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.

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

STOCKS & SECURITY

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.

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS AND LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

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.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF PULLMAN SCHOLARS AND THEIR SUCCESSES!

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 AMAZING DONORS

The Pullman Educational Foundation
proudly recognizes and thanks our
generous donors for their enduring
support and commitment.

PULLMAN

\$10,000+	\$5,000 - \$9,999	\$2,500 - \$4,999	\$500 - \$999	\$250 - \$499
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*Recognition represents gifts made between 08/01/2024 to 07/31/2025

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GEORGE M.

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Those who remember the Pullman Educational Foundation in their estate plans are welcomed into the John H. Munger Planned Giving Society. Created in 2017, the Society pays tribute to Mr. Munger's 35 years of devoted leadership and mentorship of generations of Pullman Scholars. We extend heartfelt thanks to the members who have ensured the Foundation's mission will continue through their planned gifts.

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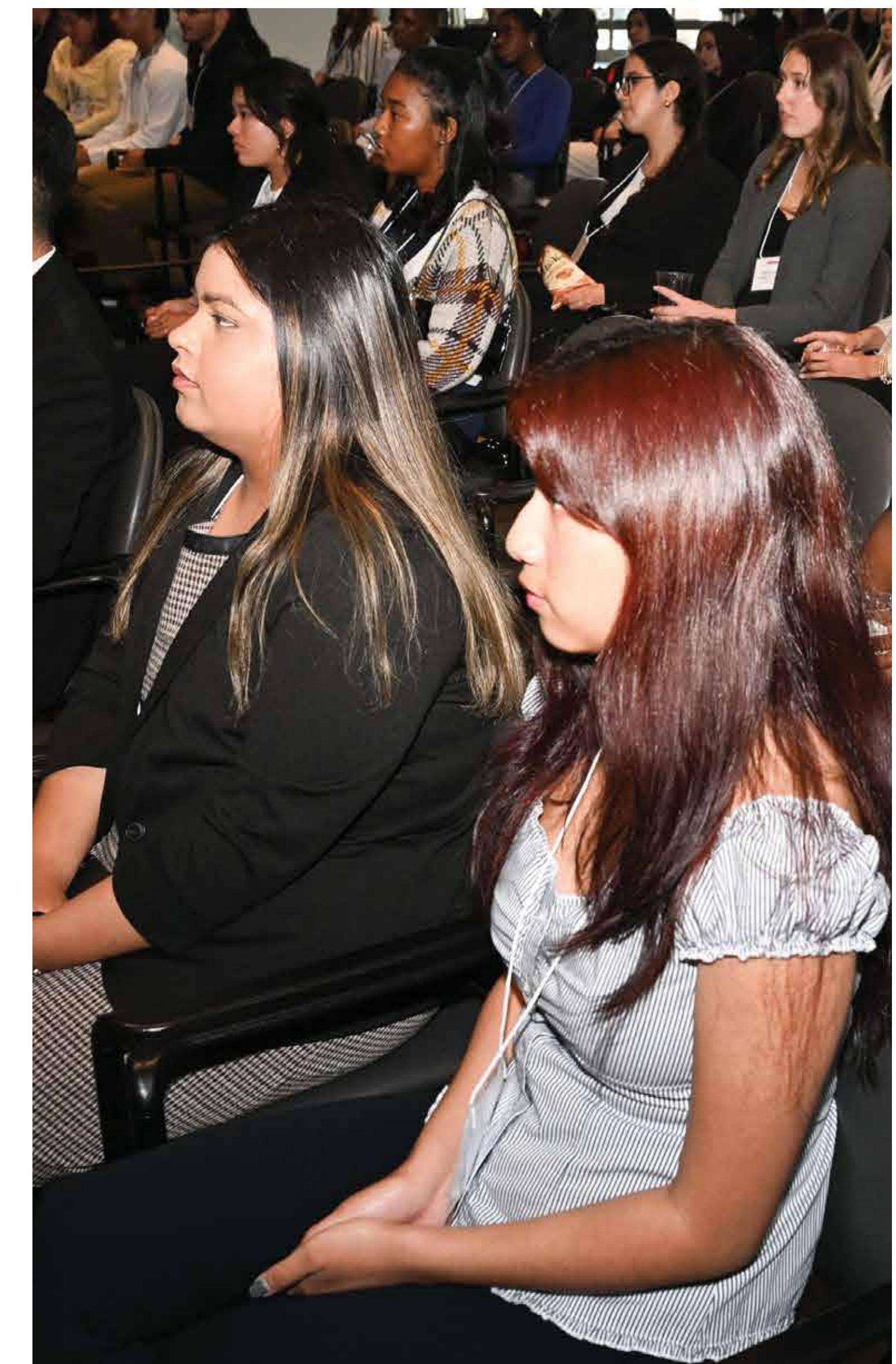
Christine Woods
Saint Xavier University 2008

Jasmine N. Young
Elmhurst University 2015

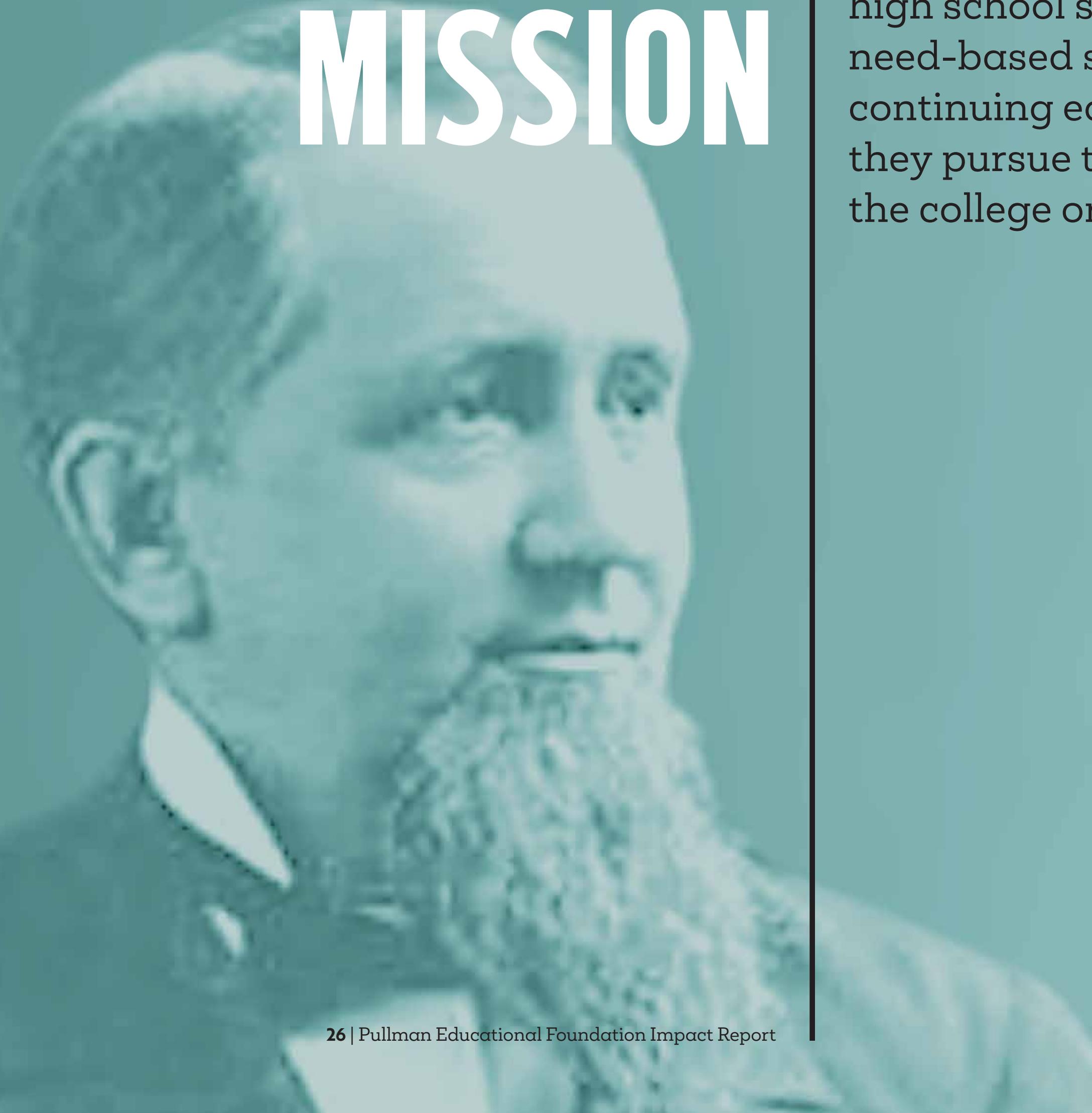
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