

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 A Letter From the President and Executive Director
- 4 Meet Our 75<sup>TH</sup> Class of Pullman Scholars
- 5 Scholar Statistics
- 6 75<sup>TH</sup> Class of Scholars on Their Career Aspirations
- 7 Meet Our 2024 Graduates
- 11 2024 Financials
- 2 Class of 2024 on The Impact of a Pullman Scholarship
- 13 Pullman Scholar Programs
- 4 What Our Scholars Say About Pullman Programs
- 15 2024 Pullman Scholar Symposium
- 16 Ways to Support Our Scholars
- 7 Thank You to Our Incredible Donors
- 19 Tribute Gifts
- 20 John H. Munger Planned Giving Society
- 21 Why Our Donors Give
- 22 Pullman Scholar Alumni Selection Committee
- 23 Our Mission

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are delighted to share the enclosed 2024 Annual Report, which highlights the impactful work of the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation. This year, we proudly welcome our 75th Class of Pullman Scholars, celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2024, and extend heartfelt thanks to the donors and volunteers who make our mission possible.

The theme of this year's report, The Pullman Promise, reflects our steadfast commitment to equipping scholars with the resources and support they need to excel during their four-year college journey and beyond.

The 2023–2024 school year posed significant challenges for millions of high school seniors navigating the college application process. The newly revised Federal Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) faced a three-month delay and considerable functionality issues. As a critical tool for determining need-based financial aid and scholarships, this disruption created immense stress for students and their families, leaving many to make college decisions without a full understanding of the cost of attendance.

In response, the Pullman Educational
Foundation adapted with flexibility and care.
We adjusted our timelines, provided applicants with the necessary support, and worked to alleviate pressure during this already demanding process. Despite these unprecedented challenges, we successfully identified and welcomed our 75th Class of Pullman Scholars for the 2024–2025 school year at the Pullman Scholar Symposium.

For 75 years, the Pullman Educational Foundation has continued to respond similarly when students are faced with challenges—with compassion. In doing so, the Pullman Educational Foundation has been a vital force in the education ecosystem, delivering meaningful impact in a dynamic and ever-evolving field under a scholar-centered approach.

While many organizations focus on improving K-12 education, college readiness, and career pathways, our mission centers on solutions that provide immediate and lasting results: direct financial aid, programmatic support, and

encouragement that transform lives. We are proud to advance a purpose greater than ourselves and with measurable success.

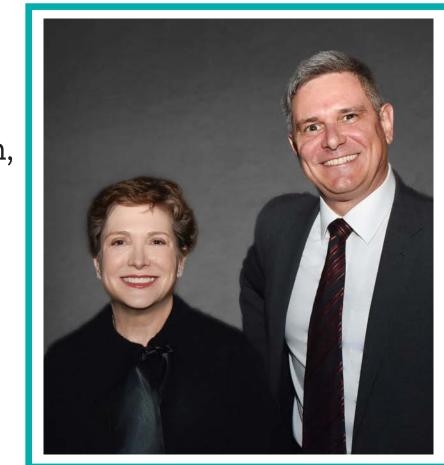
As we celebrate this historic milestone of 75 years over the next year, we remain dedicated to addressing students' needs and responding to the evolving landscape of college access. Together, we strive to remain a beacon of opportunity for Pullman Scholars today and for decades to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support in fulfilling The Pullman Promise.

Warm regards,

Barbara M. Kaufman,
President

Eric Delli Bovi,
Executive Director



## MEET OUR 75<sup>TH</sup> CLASS OF PULLMAN SCHOLARS

Miyori Denson

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY** 

Qingling (Katie) Ma

Whitney M. Young High School

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY** 

Illiana Torres

High School

OF CHICAGO

Walter Payton College Preparatory

SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE

Lindblom Math and Science Academy



Jailen Dang
Amundsen High School
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



Alexander Lorden

Amos Alonzo Stagg High School

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



Geoviana Sinchi-Paucar
George Westinghouse College
Preparatory High School
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY



Ousayed Alkhani
Amos Alonzo Stagg High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



**Dimitrious Drakontaidis**Mather High School
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE



Milannia Martin-Hayes
Loyola Academy
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



Jazmine Vitela
Walter Payton College Preparatory
High School
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
\*Fred and Natalie Marcon Scholar



Noah Barbas
Jones College Prep
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Violetta Fajardo
John Hancock College Preparatory
High School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



Briana Mathews
Northside College Preparatory
High School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



Takyra Ward
Kenwood Academy
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



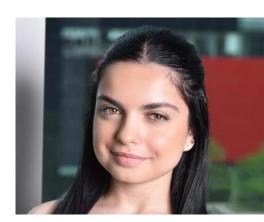
Trinity Bazile
Lindblom Math and Science Academy
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



Alexis Hernandez
Northside College Preparatory
High School
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



Sebastian Meraz
Intrinsic Schools
BOSTON UNIVERSITY



Imeeldα Zαyα

Maine East High School

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



Madison Chan
Walter Payton College Preparatory
High School
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



Justis Hill
Foreman College and Career Academy
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISIANA



Monikα Popovskα
William Howard Taft High School
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



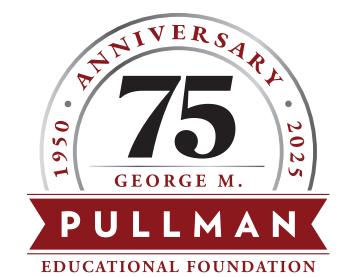
Jesus Chavarria
Mather High School
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Trinity Jones
Gwendolyn Brooks College
Preparatory Academy High School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



Emmanuel Reese
Lindblom Math and Science Academy
HOWARD UNIVERSITY



<sup>\*</sup>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.

## SCHOLAR STATISTICS



88% Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

8% Surburban Public School

8% Surburban Private School

29% IDENTIFY as Black, African American

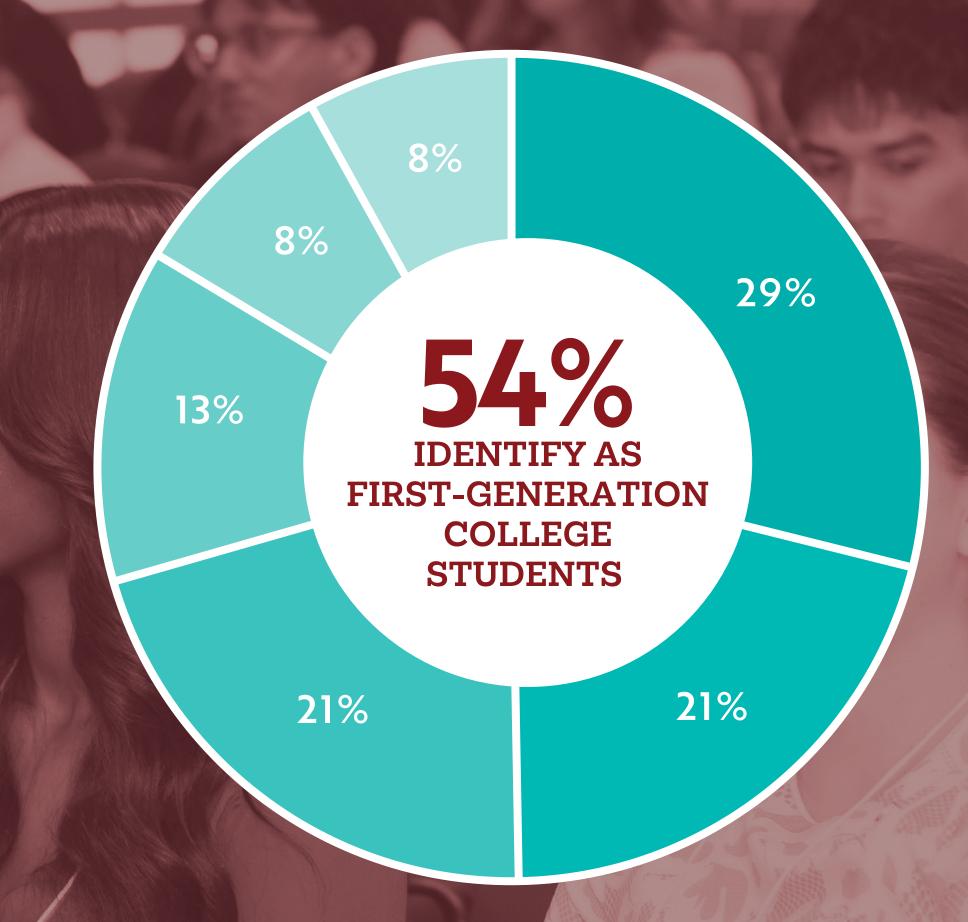
21% IDENTIFY as Hispanic, Latino

21% IDENTIFY as Multi-ethnic

13% IDENTIFY as Asian

8% IDENTIFY as Middle Eastern

8% IDENTIFY as White



63%
IDENTIFY AS
FEMALE

37%
IDENTIFY AS
MALE

3.92
UNWEIGHTED
CUMULATIVE
GPA

## THE 75<sup>TH</sup> CLASS OF SCHOLARS ON THEIR CAREER ASPIRATIONS

"A college education will be able to give me the tools I need to make a positive impact on not just one person, but on potentially millions. With a degree in animal and environmental science, I would be able to go into a field that will improve human-environmental relations in ways just now being discovered. The research and work I hope to do will hopefully better the lives of many communities, expanding both my positive reach on this Earth and my personal satisfaction while doing so."

#### **NOAH BARBAS**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

"I realized that my career as a lawyer would also allow me to be an advocate for the voiceless. As someone who works inside the institutionally prejudiced system, I could work to make a change from the inside out. My time in higher education will set the foundation for my future. It'll allow me to become qualified enough to practice law and act as an advocate."

#### **VIOLETTA FAJARDO**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

"Obtaining this scholarship could push me to study what I love. Studying politics is very important to me as a Latino because we're usually underrepresented in democratic and legislative processes. The best way to insert myself into these processes would be through educating myself and becoming a part of it. Whether I become a lawyer or campaign manager, I want to use this scholarship as a resource to help out people who are as underrepresented as I am."

SEBASTIAN MERAZ BOSTON UNIVERSITY

"As an aspiring biomedical engineer, what I hope to accomplish is advancing the technology in the medical field, in a way that improves the well-being of so many humans facing so many different ailments."

#### **ALEXANDER LORDEN**

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY** 

"After college, I hope to pursue a career in physical therapy by getting my doctorate [... it will show] future generations that even as a first-generation college student, one can be successful as long as they put their best effort into it."

#### **JESUS CHAVARRIA**

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN** 

"My goal is to one day become a criminal defense attorney, I want to keep the people who don't deserve to be in jail out of it and I want to get people who have been wrongfully done by our system the justice they deserve."

#### **MIYORI DENSON**

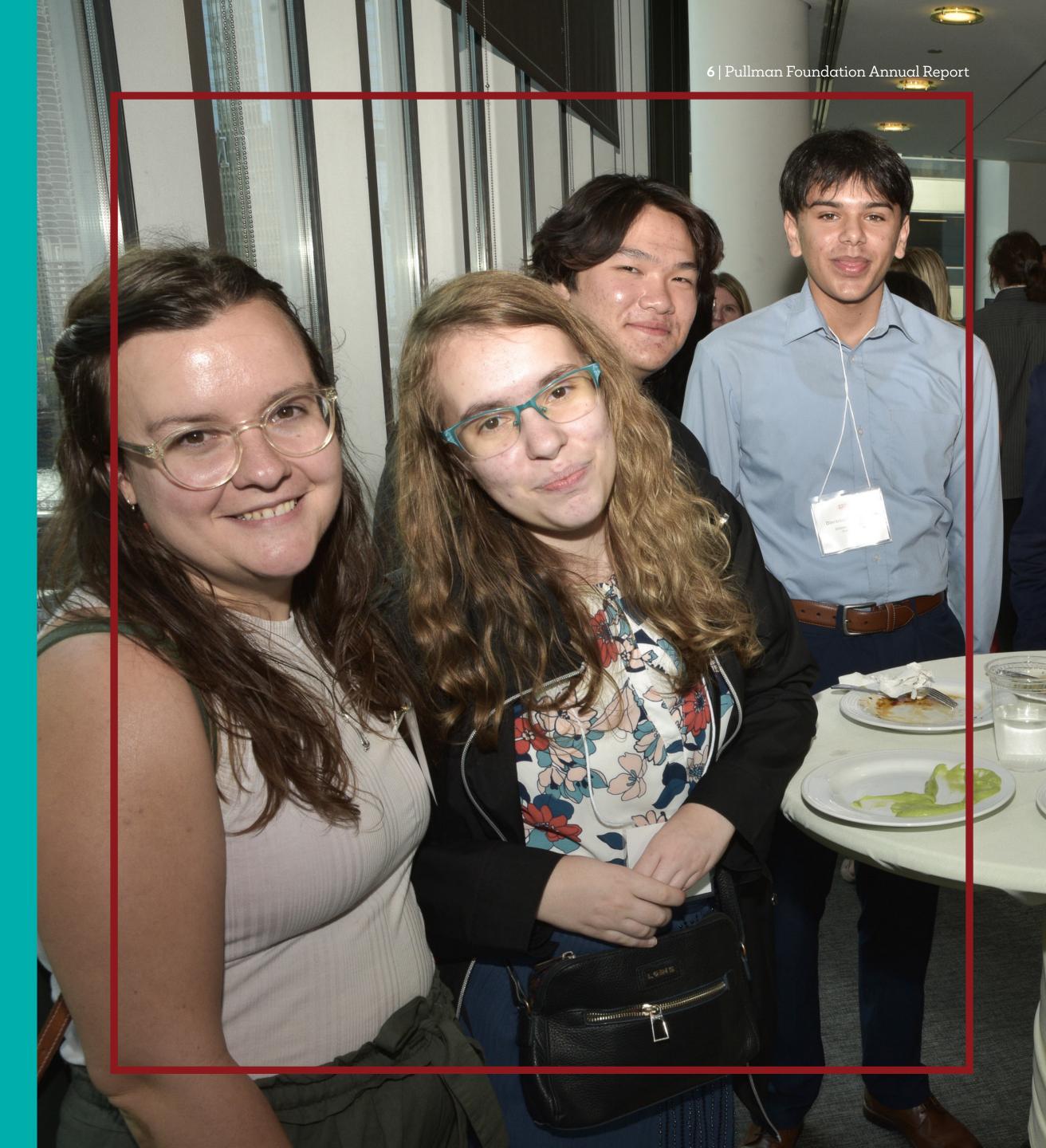
**HOWARD UNIVERSITY** 

"Becoming an educator allows me to make a difference in the lives of many people and contribute to making the world a better place, though on a smaller scale.

Overall, I wish to express new ideas, grow, and encourage children via the study of literature, which will enable them to reflect on the nature and history of beings, societal values, and cultures."

#### **TAKYRA WARD**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** 

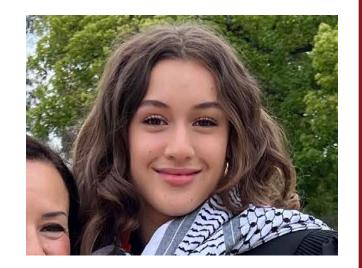


#### MEET OUR 2024 GRADUATES

#### ISABELLA AGUILAR

Occidental College

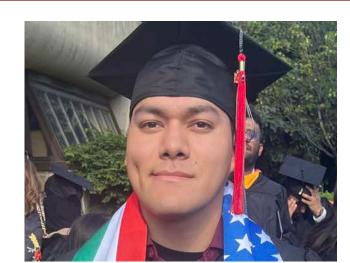
Isabella was selected for an internship in public programming through the Getty Marrow Undergraduate Research Internship Program.



#### KEVIN ARGUETA

Illinois Institute of Technology

Kevin has been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Illinois
Army National Guard and serves as a Platoon Leader in Alpha Battery,
123rd Field Artillery. He plans to return to school in a few years to obtain a master's degree in social work.

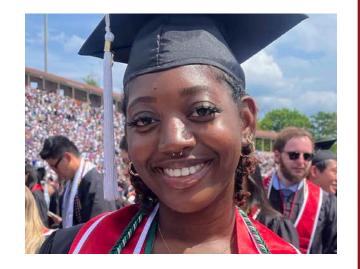


# 7 | Pullr | In Foundation Annual Report

#### **AMARA CHIEDU**

Cornell University

Amara returned to Chicago to spend time with family and friends before applying to graduate school in the fall.



#### MERNA DEMIAN

University of Illinois At Chicago

Merna is pursuing becoming a clinical psychologist.



#### KYLIE GAETA

Depaul University

Kylie is working as an orthopedic technician in Chicago while considering applying to medical school.



#### ASISAT GIWA

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

After graduation, Asisat is focusing on landing a job in sports business operations.



## 65/0/6 graduated within four years

#### **MONICA** GOMEZ

University of Illinois At Chicago

Monica graduated in December 2023, and since graduation, she has been working as a high school English teacher.



#### SEAN HARAN

University of Illinois at Chicago

After graduation, Sean studied in Tokyo for several months and is now working as a production associate at Mondelez International.



The average student loan debt among graduating Pullman Scholars was

#### **AMAN IDREES**

Illinois Institute of Technology

Aman is applying for jobs in the Chicagoland area while working as a Technical Content Evaluator for several AI projects through Data Annotations Tech.





#### **JENNY GONG**

University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign

Jenny is now working as an analyst at Goldman Sachs.



#### **ALBERT** HUNT

University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign

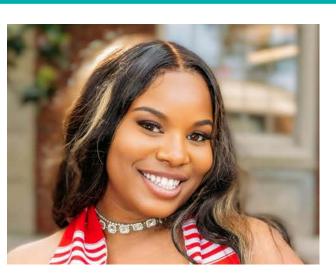
After graduating, Albert plans to intern and then return to school to pursue a master's degree in computer science.



#### **MYANA JOHNSON**

Howard University

Myana is pursuing a master's degree in public policy and public administration while advancing her career in social impact strategy and growing her nonprofit, Work of Heart Foundation, in Washington, D.C.



#### MARLEM JUAREZ

University of Illinois At Chicago

Post-graduation, Marlem plans to focus on hobbies and activities she enjoys while spending time with family and friends before starting a job.



#### ANTHONY KANG

Harvey Mudd College

After graduating, Anthony began working as an embedded software engineer for Doosan Bobcat.

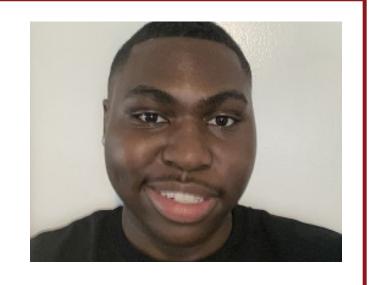


### The average cumulative GPA of the senior class was

#### DIACOS LOVE

Oberlin College

After graduating, Diacos plans to pursue a graduate degree in Creative Writing for poetry.



#### ANGELINA MARINO

Marquette University

Angelina obtained her nursing licensure and is now working as a neonatal intensive care nurse at Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL.



#### HAILLÉ MINOR

Texas Southern University

Haillé plans to work in a medical laboratory while applying to Physician Assistants programs.



#### CONNOR NIZNIK

University of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign

Connor is working on campus while deciding whether to pursue a graduate degree.

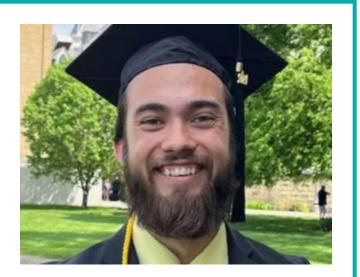




#### **CANYON NOVICK**

University of St. Francis

Canyon is teaching middle school math in LaGrange, IL while completing a master's degree in education.



#### YETUNDE OGUNFOWOKAN

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Yetunde aims to become a physician with a holistic approach to medicine for minorities. After graduation, she will work as a Clinical and Research Assistant at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.



#### ANAHY PEREZ

Depaul University

Anahy plans to take a gap year after college to advance her law aspirations by working at a law firm and studying for the LSAT, with hopes to apply to law schools in the fall.



## 

seniors reported that they are graduating debt-free

#### MALIKA SAMPSON

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Malika is pursuing a Master of Social Work (MSW) while working at the Boys & Girls Club.



#### OSMAN SYED

Illinois Institute of Technology

Osman graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree in mechanical engineering, and is now working as an engineer at Sargent and Lundy.



#### ALANA WHITE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Alana is completing nursing school to earn her master's degree in nursing and pursue a career as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.



#### DAVID ZHOU

University of Illinois At Chicago

David continues searching for roles in the tech industry that align with his aspirations and passions.



## 2024 FINANCIALS

6%

#### TOTAL REVENUE

\$4,063,015

94%

Net Investment Gain \$3.811.418

Contributions \$251,597

10%

18%

#### TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,698,165

**72**%

- Scholarships & Programs \$1,218,693
- Managerial and General \$303,680

Fundraising \$175,792

## CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$2,364,850

Total Net Assets, end of year \$33,390,919

Total Net Assets, beginning of year \$31,026,069

## CLASS OF 2024 ON THE IMPACT OF A PULLMAN SCHOLARSHIP

"The Pullman Foundation Scholarship was very helpful financially over the course of my four years at Cornell and assisted in me graduating without debt! Additionally, as I transitioned into my first year of university, the scholarship also was very helpful by hosting events/seminars pertaining to college transitions and how to navigate undergrad. I was really thankful for the check-ins during the semester, they were very grounding and useful for me to connect with the foundation in that way."

#### **AMARA CHIEDU**

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY '24** 

"The Pullman Foundation has not only eased the financial burden of my education but has also alleviated the stress surrounding student debt and financial aid. I am grateful for the Foundation's support as I could fully immerse myself in my studies and extracurricular activities."

#### **ISABELLA AGUILAR**

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE '24

"The Pullman Foundation scholarship has not only positively impacted my financial state in college but also my time in college as well. Pullman is more than just a scholarship, they truly care about your well-being during your time in college and offer support where needed."

#### **ALANA WHITE**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN '24

"The Pullman Foundation Scholarship greatly impacted me as I earned my degree. As a first-generation student, the scholarship allowed me to afford a higher education at a private institution. This opened so many doors for me from internships to professional connections."

#### **OSMAN SYED**

**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY '24** 

"I will always be eternally grateful to the Pullman Foundation for relieving the financial burden that college can be. I am the first in my family to attend college, and because of this scholarship, I was able to attend the college of my choice without having to worry much about the cost."

#### **ANAHY PEREZ**

**DEPAUL UNIVERSITY '24** 

"I am so grateful to the Pullman Foundation for financially supporting my dreams of being a first-generation college graduate. When the pandemic started, I didn't know what college I was going to, I had been accepted to my dream school, I just couldn't pay for it yet and I was determined to find scholarship foundations with supportive environments. Aside from the scholarships given to me by Howard, Pullman provided me with the biggest reward and a lot of outside assistance."

#### **MYANA JOHNSON**

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY '24** 



#### PULLMAN SCHOLAR PROGRAMS

The Pullman Educational Foundation provides a range of educational, personal, and professional resources to Pullman Scholars that are designed to foster college and career success. 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 webinar sessions held throughout the school year featuring special speakers and alumni that are recorded and made available to scholars for ongoing access. Topics are chosen according to the needs and interests of scholars. 2023-2024 seminars included:

#### MAKING THE MOST OF COLLEGE

Senior Pullman Scholars shared with younger Pullman Scholars tips on how to navigate life on campus, like how to get involved, make friends, find jobs, network on campus, and manage time effectively.

#### MAXIMIZING YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE

Pullman Scholar Alum Kenechukwu Uwajeh interned with LinkedIn and provided practical and actionable steps for scholars to help make their LinkedIn profiles stand out for more career opportunities.

#### **FAFSA WORKSHOP**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission helped prepare scholars for completing the new Federal Application for Financial Student Aid (FASFA) that underwent major changes in 2023-2024. Students must fill out the FAFSA form every year to receive federal and other need-based scholarships.

#### INTERNSHIP SEARCH ADVICE

A panel of four Pullman Scholar alumni discussed their internship experiences that later led them to secure job placements. They shared advice and tips for applying to internship programs, making the most of one's time on the job, and networking with internship contacts afterwards.

#### MONITORING YOUR MEDIA CONSUMPTION

Pullman Foundation staff led a discussion about social media habits with a focus on mental health, using social media to help rather than hinder.

#### FINANCING THE NEXT PHASE OF LIFE

A panel of recent Pullman Scholar Alumni imparted valuable advice for budgeting after college. They shared various tips on topics like renting an apartment, finding roommates, landing a job, budgeting a first salary, and financing graduate programs.

## WHAT OUR SCHOLARS SAY ABOUT PULLMAN PROGRAMS

"I learned a lot through the educational and professional supports that the Foundation provided. Thanks to that, I feel better prepared to navigate the corporate world."

#### **MARLEM JUAREZ**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO '24

"Seminars on mental health and cultivation of resumes/LinkedIn accounts provided a unique supplement to my college experience that helped round out the personal and professional development aspects of college that can be lost amidst all the academics. It was also cool to listen to talks from past scholars and hear them talk about similar struggles that they experienced and how they worked through them (finding internships and post-graduation plans, specifically)."

#### **CANYON NOVICK**

**UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS '24** 

"I was really thankful for the check-ins during the semester, they were very grounding and useful for me to connect with the foundation in that way."

#### **AMARA CHIEDU**

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY '24** 

"They provide many resources throughout the year and hold amazing webinars pertaining to college readiness, careers, resume building, and much more which has impacted my studies and time at college. I was more knowledgeable about certain aspects in relation to college because of the Pullman Foundation"

#### **ALANA WHITE**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN '24

"The Foundation has helped instill good networking practices when it comes to professionalism. These all have contributed to my confidence about my readiness to enter the career field as well as being an adult that wants to influence and make change."

#### **MALIKA SAMPSON**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN '24

"I really enjoyed being able to come back and mingle with my peers and hear about their endeavors and experiences at their colleges! I've also connected with a few and we worked on our resumes and LinkedIn profiles together!"

#### HAILLÉ MINOR

**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY '24** 

"I owe so much of what I know professionally to the Foundation. I was able to learn more about etiquette, proper LinkedIn creation, networking, and resume building in my time here!"

#### **ANGELINA MARINO**

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY '24

"I think the resources that the Foundation gave us were helpful in setting me up for success when it comes to creating a budget, managing finances, and becoming an adult.

Alongside that, the Foundation provided a lot of advice on the job/internship application process and how to succeed in college before thinking about your career. The network of scholars are a useful resource, since I have a group that I can reach out to for advice or help with my career."

#### **DAVID ZHOU**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO '24



#### 2024 PULLMAN SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM

The annual Pullman Scholar Symposium features engaging workshops, professional development, inspiring speakers, and networking opportunities to help Pullman Scholars succeed. Sessions for current scholars included topics such as building relationships through professional communication, crafting a compelling resume, and budgeting for college and beyond.

The day concluded with a panel of recent Pullman Scholar Alumni, who shared insights on "Everything They Don't Tell You About Your First Job," offering advice on starting a new role and presenting oneself professionally. New Pullman Scholars also attended a Pullman Educational Foundation orientation and a scholar-led discussion on the transition to college. This year, 100% of Symposium speakers were Pullman Scholar Alumni.

The post-Symposium Networking Reception brought together Pullman Scholars, Alumni, Scholar Selection Committee Members, the Board of Directors, and Foundation staff. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate, connect, and for scholars to practice their networking skills. Click here for a brief video of the 2024 Symposium.







## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARS

**BEQUESTS** 

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

> CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

IRA CHARITABLE GIFT ROLLOVER

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS & LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

STOCKS & SECURITY

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 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 INCREDIBLE DONORS

\$10,000+

Anonymous

Debbie Cotton

David Cwi

Gregory Duick, M.D.

Richard McPherson

Charlotte Zeisler

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Catherine Klapperich, Ph.D.

Coletta Sargant

Colette Sulser

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Barbara M. Kaufman

Laura Jean Linn

John Moran

Earleen Myers-Hickey

Lena Neal, Ph.D.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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\$500 - \$999

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Tchalla Brown

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Pamela Trent, Ph.D.

Mary Webster Moore, Ph.D.

\$250 - \$499

On behalf of the Pullman Educational Foundation community, we would

like to recognize and extend our deepest appreciation to our generous

Anonymous (13)

Jerry Ackerman

Jerry Tienerman

Harriet Adelstein

Louise Ahner

Pamela Allen

Emilia Arellano

Mamie Andry

Janet Baar

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Marie Balaban, Ph.D.

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Lekesha Campbell

Agnes Canning

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