



MINNESOTA
PRIVATE
COLLEGE
FUND

Black Men's Success Initiative

The **Black Men's Success Initiative** offers a unique two-year leadership program for students at **Minnesota private colleges**. Coming together in small cohorts over their junior and senior years, the men receive significant scholarship support and personal development opportunities. The program helps students stay on track for graduation while preparing them to launch their careers.

Over their junior and senior years, the students in the **Black Men's Success Initiative**:

- > Receive **scholarships**
- > Complete a **leadership** course
- > Complete a **paid summer internship**
- > Prepare professional resumes
- > Develop **strong relationships** with one another and the program staff, including through the **program retreat** and a **national leadership conference**
- > Network with **prominent Black businessmen**



"Over the last two years, the scholarship not only provided me with networking opportunities, but it helped me navigate my path in life... Through this scholarship, I was able to take on leadership roles that have shaped me into becoming a better man and a better leader today."

— Reggie Agyen-Boateng,
Augsburg University '21

PROGRAM OUTCOMES



142 Men
Program participants
2015 through 2023



76%
Graduated in **4** years



89%
Graduated in **5** years

Early outcomes are promising: 76 percent of the men participating in our program were able to graduate from college in four years.

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
BETHEL UNIVERSITY
CARLETON COLLEGE
THE COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA

CONCORDIA COLLEGE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY,
ST. PAUL
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE
HAMLIN UNIVERSITY
MACALESTER COLLEGE

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE OF
ART AND DESIGN
SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA
ST. OLAF COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

SUMMER 2023





Higher education institutions and funding partners can do more to change this picture. Supporting and expanding the Black Men’s Success Initiative is one way to make a difference.



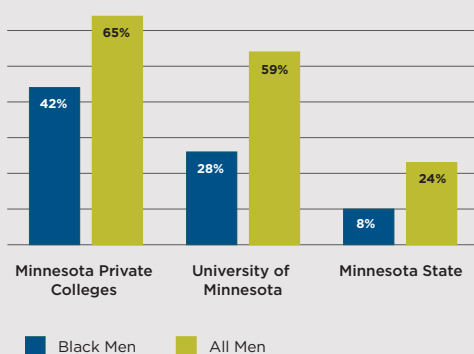
“I was surrounded by strong individuals who collectively enhanced my growth as a young, Black professional. I look back and see everything I was able to accomplish due to the resources that were provided to me within the program. I can honestly say I would not be where I am now without it!”

— Derrick Lincoln, St. Olaf College ‘21

Background

- The Black Men’s Success Initiative is managed by the Minnesota Private College Fund.
- The program was started in 2015 in partnership with the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota.
- 142 men from 11 institutions have taken part to-date.
- High-potential students who stand to benefit from additional support are identified and invited to participate.
- The program combines financial support with comprehensive advising, mentoring, leadership development, experiential learning and career preparation.
- 1,090 Black men are enrolled at Minnesota Private College Fund member institutions; this represents 25 percent of all Black men enrolled in bachelor’s degree programs in Minnesota.

FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES



When Black men graduate from college, their financial futures are greatly improved. Data from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development shows that 60 percent of jobs in Minnesota that pay a family sustaining wage require a bachelor’s degree or higher.

The lower college completion rates for Black men not only limit their own opportunities, it impacts the state’s economy as a whole. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the vast majority of projected job growth in the post-COVID-19 economy will be for those with a bachelor’s degree or higher. And in Minnesota, those with a bachelor’s degree or higher have higher incomes and lower unemployment rates. With increasing retirements and changing demographics, Minnesota employers and the state’s overall economic health depend on increasing the educational outcomes of all students — especially Black men.

URGENCY FOR ACTION

Due to historic underinvestment and barriers to opportunity, nationally Black men enroll in college at lower rates than men overall and are less likely to enroll in bachelor’s-degree seeking programs. They are also less likely to complete their bachelor’s degree within four years. That’s true in Minnesota as well, regardless of the sector they enroll in, whether at our private nonprofit institutions or the two major public systems.

In Minnesota, 37 percent of all men over the age of 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 26 percent of Black men.



Next steps

With the help of new partners, we can start a new cohort of 15 men in the summer of 2024. We need to sustain this program — and see it grow. Too many students who would benefit from this program are not able to take part.

To learn more about the Black Men’s Success Initiative, please contact:

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The Fund represents 17 private nonprofit higher education institutions. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit created in 1951 to support student access to higher education, the Fund has raised close to \$100 million over 70 years.

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