



LINK
Unlimited
Scholars



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Opportunity Guide



**LINK
Unlimited
Scholars**

BRIDGING THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAP

Looking to make a difference by linking students to opportunities so they can take a new path—one that leads to their full potential and our city's vibrant future? If so, consider joining the LINK Unlimited Scholars Board.

For Black students to become tomorrow's leaders they must have access to educational resources and tools today.





MISSION

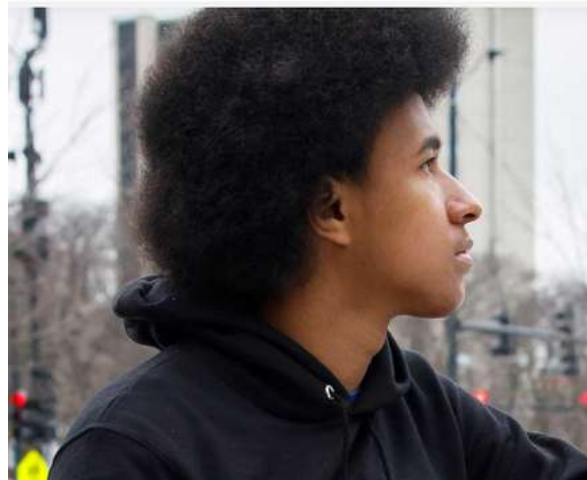
The mission of LINK Unlimited Scholars is to connect Black students with resources and opportunities that strengthen the necessary skills to succeed as they advance to, through and beyond college.

HISTORY

In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited Chicago, where he inspired John and Carolyn Parmer to fulfill his dream in the city they called home. LINK Unlimited Scholars was born when they made a decision to mentor and support a single Black student through four years of high school—and they asked their friends to do the same. Since those humble beginnings, LINK Unlimited has successfully supported more than 5,000 Scholars through the financial support of our partners.

THE CHALLENGE

As a result of hundreds of years of systemic racism, one of the biggest challenges facing Chicago is an educational system that magnifies debilitating and lifelong gaps for Black students. Education is the key for students to reach their full potential, both for themselves and for Chicago. Thus, it is critically imperative that youth have opportunities to cultivate their potential, which hinges on quality education.



However, many Black and lower-income students lack access to key educational opportunities that are available to their White, suburban and/or middle/upper-income peers. This inequity is demonstrated in college success data where White students complete four-year college programs at 52% LatinX students at 38%, and Black students 28%. Such inequities, amongst others, ultimately limit the academic, leadership, career, and economic potential for Black students.



A SOLUTION

LINK's goal is to mitigate the effect of systemic and structural forces impeding Black students by improving and increasing educational opportunities and access.

For nearly 60 years, we have provided Black students with the support and resources to move to, through, and beyond college. We offer a 4-6 year fellowship that can begin in middle school. Via a cohort model, our programming is focused on academic enrichment, leadership development, career exposure, college advising, and mentoring.

We aim to provide Scholars with tools and resources to reach their full potential, increase their academic profiles, attend college with the smallest debt load possible, graduate college in four years, and be employed or enrolled in graduate school six months after college graduation.

By equipping our Scholars with the knowledge, skills, resources, and social equity that further college completion and career placement, LINK is increasing the number of Black college graduates from under-resourced Chicago communities. the economic mobility and stability of Black students, and cultivating a diverse leadership pipeline for our city.



OUR IMPACT

LINK Scholars are Outpacing Their Peers!

U.S. College Graduate Rates - 4 Years



2x
the national
average for
Black
students

*NCES Digest of Education Statistics 2022 Tables & Figures, Table 326.10
**LINK Scholar Cumulative College Graduation Rate, 2011-2016, 2018-2019

Class of 2023 Scholars at a Glance

- 100%** Graduated from High School
- 100%** Accepted into Competitive 4-Year Colleges & Universities
- 66%** Received Full Tuition
- \$16.1M** In Combined Scholarships & Grants
- 45%** Full Tuition + Room & Board
- 3.2** Average GPA

Our Scholars are future community leaders, business experts, out-of-the-box thinking entrepreneurs, and problem solvers.

See our [2022-2023 Impact Report](#)



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THE OPPORTUNITY

Board Overview

Members of LINK Unlimited Scholars Board of Directors are committed to the mission of the organization, are actively involved in shared board responsibilities and assume individual duties and obligations. In all actions, decisions and activities, members of the Board of Directors support the mission of LINK Unlimited Scholars and work for its growth and success.

Core Responsibilities

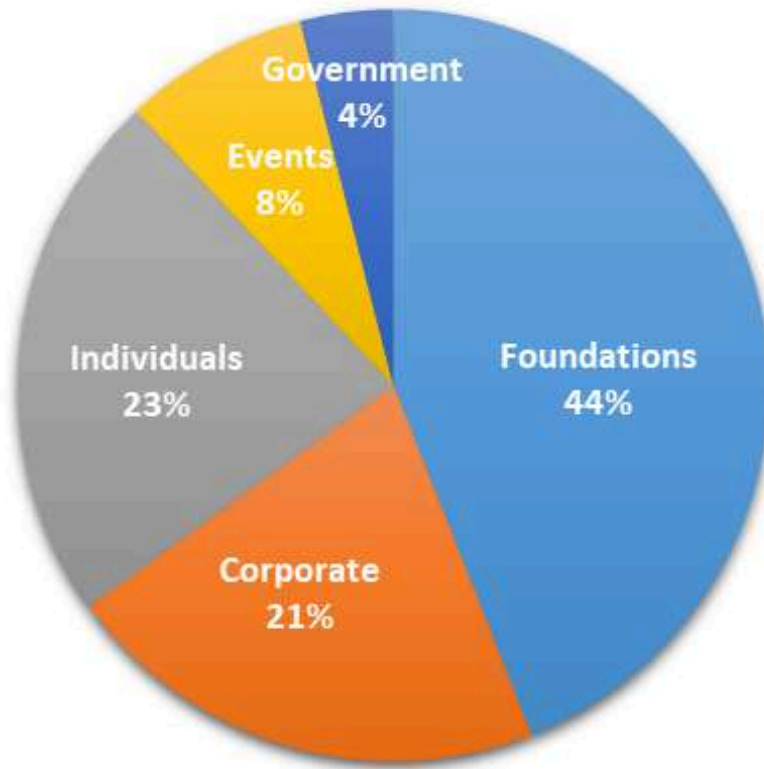
- ***Determine and articulate the organization's vision and mission.***
- ***Select, support, and evaluate the Chief Executive Officer ensuring that s/he has the assistance needed to further the goals of the organization.***
- ***Ensure effective organizational planning.***
- ***Monitor and strengthen the organization's programs and services.***
- ***Ensure adequate financial resources through fund development activities.***
- ***Protect assets and provide financial oversight.***
- ***Recruit prospective Board members to build a competent and diverse board.***
- ***Ensure the Board of Directors has the necessary skills, competencies and connections to ensure the organization's success and sustainability.***
- ***Ensure legal and ethical integrity.***
- ***Articulate and enhance the organization's public image.***
- ***Assess its own performance as the governing body of LINK Unlimited Scholars.***

BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

- *Commitment to the LINK Unlimited Scholars mission.*
- *Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of serving on the Board.*
- *Familiarize self with programs and services in order to articulate them to the community.*
- *Contribute skills, expertise, knowledge and experience.*
- *Actively serve on at least one committee.*
- *Actively support the fundraising activities of the organization, specifically with a personal donation included as a part of a Give/Get of \$10,000.*
- *Leverage connections, networks, and resources to develop collective action to fully achieve LINK Unlimited Scholars' mission.*
- *Prepare for, attend and actively participate in all quarterly board meetings and applicable committee meetings.*
- *Attend at least two LINK Unlimited Scholars events each year (other than Board and committee meetings).*
- *Identify individuals as prospects for service on the Board or its committees.*
- *Maintain confidentiality about all internal matters related to the LINK Unlimited Scholars.*
- *Be accessible, in person, by phone or by email, to the Board, its Chair, committee members and the President & CEO.*
- *Sign a conflict of interest statement annually and to avoid all conflicts and the appearance of conflicts.*
- *Fulfill commitments within agreed-upon deadlines.*

FY25 BUDGET

3.03MM



■ Foundations ■ Corporate ■ Individuals ■ Events ■ Government

[SEE OUR FY23 AUDIT & 990](#)



FY23 & FY24 FUNDING PARTNERS

Andrew and Alice Fischer Charitable Trust
Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation
Davis Family Fund
Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Evans Family Foundation
Farther Foundation
Finnegan Family Foundation
Full Circle Foundation
Gerry & Bill Cowlin Foundation
Gies Foundation
Golder Family Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
John J. Hartman Charitable Giving Fund

Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Manaaki Foundation
MIGMIR Fund
Monarch Awards Foundation Inc.
Out of the Box Foundation
Schiff Hardin Foundation
Scott Family Foundation
Steans Family Foundation
Team Brown Foundation
**The Chicago Woman's Club Fund at the
Chicago Community Foundation**
The John & Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
The Sampson Family Charitable Fund
Wilson Garling Foundation



Not an exhaustive list of funders



FY25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC

Anthony Ashe
Vice Chairman
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Allen Ashley
DLA Piper (US) LLP

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University of Michigan

Ciere Cornelius Boatwright
City of Chicago Department of Planning &
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Terrence J. Dee
Winston & Strawn

Craig Dunham
Voltron Data

Nicholas Freeman
Innovare Social Innovation Partners

Stephen Hackney
Retired - Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Thomas Hynes
Advancement Committee Chair
Mesirow

*Yolanda Knight**
Steans Family Foundation

Aisha Lavinier
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Gilda Livingston Spencer
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Loyola Law School

Gregory Mathurin
Robert Half

*Angela Miller-May**
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*Torrence Moore**
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Kirkland & Ellis, LLP

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Civic Committee of the
Commercial Club of Chicago

*Franklin Reynolds**
Amazon Web Services

Craig Richey
Accenture

Thomas Sampson
Retired - Peacock Foods

Mark Williams
Bank of America





“I am thankful for the opportunity to be apart this program and be surrounded by these exceptional students.”

—Joseph, LINK Scholar

TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a Letter of Interest to President & CEO, Dr. Toinette Gunn at tgunn@linkunlimited.org. Additional application information will be provided at that time.



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