



2013 Annual Report

POWER & IMPACT OF PARTNERSHIP



Gates Millennium Scholars

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MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL L. LOMAX

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As the country approaches the end of the second term of its first African American president, it is easy to forget that when the Gates Millennium Scholars Program was just a gleam in its founders' eyes, the mainstream of national debate was not how to help low-income African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans and American Indians—not just a few but thousands and tens of thousands—go to and through college, but whether it could be done at all.

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund and our partner organizations the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund are grateful to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its support, partnership and far-seeing guidance, and for the opportunity to engage with the students who have been selected as Gates Scholars, the communities, teachers, and counselors that have worked with and encouraged students to apply, and to the institutions that have supported the Gates Millennium Scholars through to graduation.

The metrics tell the Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS) story in black and white: the 20,000 low-income students of color who will have matriculated under the program; a freshman-sophomore retention rate of almost 98 percent, a sophomore-junior rate of almost 96 percent, and a six-year graduation rate of almost 90 percent—more than 50 percent higher than the national graduation rate for all students and comparable to the success rate of students from much more prosperous families. Gates Millennium Scholars have been chosen for the Marshall Scholars, Rhodes Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, Gates Cambridge Scholars and as White House Fellows.

But metrics, though critical, tell only part of the GMS story. For in addition to changing the lives of 20,000 Gates Millennium Scholars, GMS has created a proven model for educating low-income students of color and has made a major contribution to changing the country's thinking about the potential for giving disadvantaged students the education they need and that the nation needs them to have. And by changing deeply-rooted perceptions about the educational potential of these young women and men—not just Gates Millennium Scholars but all low-income, high-achieving students, GMS has helped change the value society places on them not only as students but as professionals, citizens and leaders.

In recent years, UNCF's iconic motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste,"[®] has been expanded: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in."[™]

The generosity that created the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, along with the dedication of those whose support sustained Gates Millennium Scholars in their journey to and through college, has been an investment of monumental proportions. And the students who have matriculated and graduated with GMS support—and the college educated professionals and leaders they became—are the return on that investment. They are our dividends.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Lomax
President and CEO
UNCF



Photo by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders



MESSAGE FROM LARRY A. GRIFFITH

Greeting Friends!

Since the inception of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program in 2000 it has been our mission to give the extraordinary young Americans selected as Scholars the opportunity to achieve a successful post-secondary education by removing financial barriers. This effort has been a tremendous success due to collaboration between UNCF and our partner organizations, the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars, the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and with other organizational alliances in the social research, college access, financial aid arenas and in the community at large. With help of this village we have been able to name 17,000 bright minds as Gates Millennium Scholars who are Leaders for America's Future TM!

Gates Scholars come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. And their success shows others that a commitment to academic achievement and giving of oneself through community service can bring great rewards to an individual, to their family and to their community.

Our collective effort to cultivate our Scholars has led to over 12,000 Bachelor's Degrees, better than 2,300 Master's Degrees and more than 400 Doctoral Degrees. Not only are our Scholars producing in the classroom they are making strides in the fields of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the research sciences.

OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO CULTIVATE OUR SCHOLARS HAS LED TO OVER 12,000 BACHELOR'S DEGREES, BETTER THAN 2,300 MASTER'S DEGREES AND MORE THAN 400 DOCTORAL DEGREES.

Take a journey with us as we tell the story of our Scholars and through the power of technology, hear from the Scholars themselves as they tell you about the impact that the GMS program has made on their lives. It is my hope that you enjoy learning about us through this report and that you are inspired to build bridges in your community that will help young people with bright minds to achieve their highest potential. As we say at UNCF, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in."

Best wishes,

Larry A. Griffith
Senior Vice President
Programs and Student Services



THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Realizing a Bold Vision

When you look into the future, what do you see? Since 1999, the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program has been working to make its bold vision a reality. In that vision, 20,000 men and women of color are making an impact as a diverse group of individuals leading America forward. The GMS Program is a unique partnership in which partner organizations all work toward the shared goal of making it possible for deserving minority students who have exceptional merit, but limited means, to attend the nation's best colleges and universities.

Moreover, our program's planners envisioned that the experiences of these students—their matriculation and retention, their extraordinary successes in earning terminal degrees, and the testimony of their voices—could provide research data and spark conversations leading to new public policies and added philanthropic contributions in support of other similarly able but financially challenged young people. Initial funds to make our vision a reality were provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with a historic grant to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) of more than one billion dollars—still the largest single gift to any scholarship organization.

The GMS Program selects 1,000 outstanding candidates a year and provides funds as needed for their higher education. Scholars pursue undergraduate degrees in whatever discipline they choose; in addition, for continuing scholars in certain fields (mathematics, science, engineering, computer science, education, public health or library science), the Program provides graduate degree funding. Scholarships are renewed annually based on satisfactory academic progress.

The academically gifted scholars selected by our program offer an extraordinary promise to the future. One of the most unique aspects of the GMS Program is the partnership of four organizations intent on helping these gifted young people

fulfill their promise. Program staff members at the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS), the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) serve students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Each partner organization brings its particular expertise to the nationwide effort. Each joins in providing services to our Gates Millennium Scholars, who have demonstrated exceptional merit and rank at or near the top of their class. With help from our program, they become leaders in their own communities, and give back by mentoring others.

We at the Gates Millennium Scholars Program believe that, in the end, our greatest gift is what our communities get back. Guided by that principle, we invest in tomorrow's leaders. Look with us into the future.



Cameron Engels
GMS Class of 2013

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Seeing Our Communities Clearly

At its founding 15 years ago, the GMS Program was the largest scholarship program in the nation, and that is still true today. Under program auspices, almost 17,000 students have attended 1,719 colleges and universities. Working interdependently, our partner organizations have coalesced around the shared goal of investing in “Leaders for America’s Future”. First, we identify outstanding students within our communities, and then we provide them with opportunities to receive the higher education that would otherwise be denied them due to financial constraints. Each unique partner is a vital part of our group effort; each richly adds to the program’s power and impact. There could be no greater demonstration of our core belief that the greatest gift is the one we give back.

Since its founding in 1944, UNCF has been making the case that every American needs and deserves a college education. Then as now, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been UNCF’s target institutions. Today, UNCF’s longtime mission has become national education policy. President Barack Obama has called education “the economic issue of our time” and pledged the country to regain world leadership in the number of college graduates relative to the larger population. To reach President Obama’s goal of 8 million more college graduates by 2020, the country will need to increase the number of high school graduates prepared for college coursework. In policy-making and legislative circles as well as in the media, UNCF has been actively and effectively advocating for education for all Americans.

Now comes the hard part. Just as UNCF has delivered over the years on the promise inherent in “A mind is a terrible thing to waste,”® it must lead the nation in support of the President’s pledge to restore America’s world leadership. UNCF’s commitment: to double the number of students graduating from UNCF-member colleges and universities by 2020.

In order for America to continue being America, it needs more college graduates to fill the job demands of the future. Although Hispanic Americans are the fastest-growing population in the nation, they attain college degrees at half the rate of their peers. The **Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)** was founded in 1975 and dedicated to one goal: increasing the number of Hispanics earning a college degree. HSF touches the lives of millions of Hispanic students and their families each year.

IN ORDER FOR AMERICA TO CONTINUE BEING AMERICA, IT NEEDS MORE COLLEGE GRADUATES TO FILL THE JOB DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE.



MY STORY: Aldo A. Arellano

I come from a stable Mexican family of San Diego, California, with a rich culture, but of small material means. We are affluent in terms of our love for one another, but a college education was not something my family could afford. I realized early that learning is a gateway to a world of possibility.

Without the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, I might still be heading to college, but it would be with an albatross of debt around my neck. I had not even considered the possibility of graduate studies due to the limitations of my family’s monetary reach. Now, acceptance to Dartmouth College is merely the beginning of what I hope will be a long and ultimately liberating experience. My horizons have been expanded by the chance to pursue my love of biological science to new heights. I hope to become the first in my family to graduate high school and attend college, and to set an example for my younger sister. My appreciation for the GMS program cannot be overstated.



Sara Barnett

Class of 2002

Alumna

I am a College Enrichment Counselor/College Prep instructor at a tribally run high school in Tahlequah, OK. As a proud Gates Millennium Scholarship recipient, I have conducted and assisted with Gates Scholarship workshops since 2002, and mentored many students throughout the Gates Scholarship application process.

After earning a Master's in School Counseling from Northeastern State University, I accepted a position in the Educational Talent Search program at Oklahoma State in Stillwater. I had been a participant in this program, so this was an opportunity to give back to those who had helped me become the first in my family to obtain a college degree! In January of 2011, I returned to NSU as Grant Writer and served as the co-advisor for the Gates Scholars organization and as a reader for GMS competitions. This led to my involvement in the GMS Alumni Association and my current position as the Central Region Advisor. My passion in life is giving back to my community and helping others achieve their dream of obtaining a college degree.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

To restore America's educational lead in the world, we need to increase Hispanic college graduation rates from 19% to 60% by the year 2025. We need 14 million more Hispanic degree holders to close this "degree gap" between Latino students and their peers.

That is why HSF launched the Generation 1st Degree initiative: to help at least one person in every Hispanic household earn a college degree. In turn, these graduates can motivate and help other family members to realize the same achievement.

The first Americans were there at the very start. To help bring them across the finish line represented by a college degree, **American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (AIGCS)** was created in 2001. A vital partner in the



VIDEO

MY STORY: Payano Yamillet



Jaime Oliva

GMS Class of 2013

administration of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, AIGCS represents American Indian and Alaska Natives and performs outreach to qualified applicants. It assists in the GMS application and selection process, disbursing awards and providing student services to Program Scholars. Its parent organization, the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC), was established in 1969, for the purpose of building, promoting, and honoring self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education and leadership. The founders' vision—of American Indian college graduates pursuing master's, doctoral and professional degrees in all fields of study—has yielded more than 16,600 scholarships to date, totaling over \$52 million. Thus, it is the oldest as well as the largest national provider of scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Native graduate students.



PROGRAM PARTNERS

As AIGC continues its efforts to lessen the burden of educational costs, its hope is to provide a growing number of American Indian and Alaska Native students with an opportunity to not only attend a college or university, but also see the experience through to graduation day.

Asians and Pacific Islanders have a deep presence in the American historical record. In 2003, the **Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF)** began as a community vision that has grown rapidly to become the largest nonprofit provider of college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the country.

While a subset of the Asian population has achieved significant academic and professional success, viewing the population as a homogeneous "model minority" obscures key challenges facing certain AAPI subgroups, particularly those experiencing some of the highest poverty rates and lowest educational attainment rates in the country.

Recognizing that collaborative work with community organizations, colleges and universities, and research organizations is necessary in order to make a significant impact on America's future, staff members at APIASF have increased the effectiveness of their programs. These partnerships have resulted in landmark research reports on AAPIs in education; the creation of APIASF's annual Higher Educational Summit; the development of the first national scholarship programs specifically for AAPI students attending community colleges; linkages to other institutions with compatible goals and missions; and an expansive nation-wide network that has been mobilized to increase AAPI student success.



VIDEO

MY STORY: Melissa Maldonado

My dream is to become a pediatrician. My interest in medicine began when my brother was diagnosed with autism, and grew as I saw him going to various therapies such as occupational, speech, and behavioral. As the oldest sister, I hope to be an inspiration to my brothers, my family, and the world!

Children around the world are in danger because they do not have access to healthcare. One of my goals is to unite doctors from various fields and assist individuals from other countries, helping to provide them with necessities such as education, sanitary objects, and clean food and water. This will require attention and empathy, and it is my desire to serve.

I will attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison to receive a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry and Mandarin Chinese. Winning this scholarship is a blessing that can make my dream come true. When I opened the envelope and saw my "congratulations" letter, it was one of the happiest days of my life. It was like a fairy tale.

MY STORY: Elijah Cantell

OUTREACH



Looking Into Our Shared Future

Together, the GMS Program partners perform outreach work in communities where college may not be uppermost in people's minds. In these communities, other needs are often more pressing, and economic realities make college an impractical, if not impossible, option. In some populations, there has not been a traditional stress on higher education, due mainly to financial barriers. Our partners reach out to such communities to convey the value of higher education and to remove those financial barriers for the most deserving students.

Last year, in more than 30 states and U.S. territories, partners conducted outreach targeting high school students, educators, parents and community leaders. Outreach strategies included participation in regional and national conferences; collaboration with high schools and school districts; cultivation of alliances with GMS Ambassadors; and virtual outreach through "webinars" and the growing GMS online community.

Today, two factors combine to make our outreach more effective than ever before. First, social media such as Facebook and Twitter facilitate conversation and wide sharing of experience. Such shared experience is the second key factor intensifying our outreach efforts. Gates Millennium Scholars and Alumni serve as GMS Ambassadors by acting as liaisons between the Program and future applicants.

Scholars reach out to potential applicants in their communities, schools and families. It is not unusual for more than one sibling to follow an older brother or sister's footsteps by

applying to become a Gates Millennium Scholar. Even more typically, once an applicant from a given high school participates in the Program, applications from that school increase.

Ambassadors educate high school students about the Program and mentor them throughout the application process. In 2009, survey results indicated that eight out of 10 Scholars shared information about the GMS Program in their communities; this year, the number of Scholars and Alumni who registered as Ambassadors increased by 38%, from 1,497 to 2,070. They conducted 366 outreach events.

Each partner organization develops strategies to increase awareness within their communities, as well. Familiarity with their population gives partners the tools they need to more effectively reach out to underserved groups. Recently, for example, APIASF has performed outreach to underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander communities such as the Burmese population in the United States. They understand the diversity within their community and highlight the need to dispel the myth of the "model minority."



VIDEO

MY STORY: Izer Martinez

THE GMS PROGRAM IS MORE THAN JUST A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; IT GENERATES LEADERS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE. THERE COULD BE NOTHING MORE AMERICAN, REALLY, THAN DIVERSE PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY THEY ALL SHARE.

OUTREACH



These finalists—a unique community unto itself—are given access to resources that help them attain their educational goals through a website that provides articles, lists of resources, and other helpful tips on college preparedness. Such resources are available through the “GMS Imagine” online program.

Last year, GMS outreach resulted in 17,383 students, including 5,439 males, submitting applications. Complete packets (applications with all three required forms submitted) totaled 12,765. Our partners expect that number to increase as our success grows in creating college-going cultures within our respective communities. Our program now has more alumni than we do scholars!



Tommy Preston Jr.

Class of 2003

Alumna

As a Gates Millennium Scholar from Clemson, SC, I attended the University of South Carolina. I earned a degree in political science and history and went on to attend the USC School of Law. As an undergraduate, I served as Student Body President, was the student member on the University’s Board of Trustees, and served as a student advisor for the U.S. Department of Education. In law school, I was the first person of color to serve as the Student Representative on the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors.

Today, I’m an attorney at Nexsen Pruet, LLC in Columbia, SC. I chair an ABA subcommittee that oversees law student and young lawyer membership. In addition, I serve as the Chair of the USC Board of Visitors; I am the youngest individual and first person of color to hold that position in the University’s history. I founded a statewide literacy initiative that provides books to thousands of children in South Carolina, and currently serve as the National President of the Gates Millennium Scholars Alumni Association.

However, the GMS Program is more than just a scholarship program; it generates “Leaders for America’s Future”. There could be nothing more American, really, than diverse people coming together to have an impact on the society they all share. As the Latin inscription used as a national motto urges, *E pluribus unum*—out of many, one! To make that vision a reality, we invest in the leadership potential of our young men and women.

Forty-seven percent of applicants learned about the GMS Program at school, while 20% learned from friends as noted in Table I. This data supports the Program’s extensive outreach to educators.

Table I: How applicants heard about the scholarship

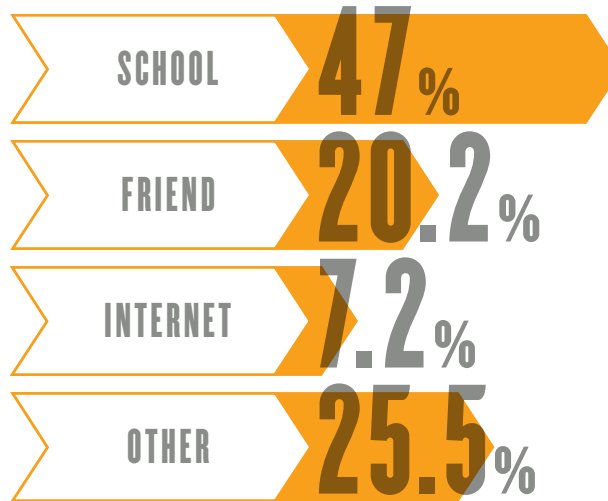
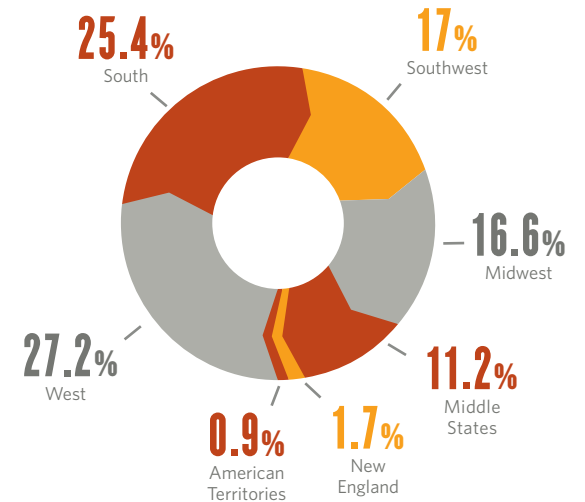


Table II: Applicant Regional Breakdown



More than 50% of the applicants hailed from the western and southern regions of the country as noted in the pie chart above.

A comparison of complete applications by region relative to the proportion of U.S. population ages 17-19 by region is noted in Table III. This data informs the Program’s outreach for the upcoming year. For example, as a Program we will overlay census data for the eligible program population to identify potential areas for outreach.



OUTREACH

California and Texas are the top two home states for the 2013 applicants, as well as the top two states with the proportion of U.S. population age 17-19 as noted in Table III. Georgia ranks third among the top states from which students applied for the GMS Program but ninth in the proportion of U.S. population age 17-19. Illinois is fourth among home states for applicants and ranks fifth in the U.S. population category. The Georgia and Illinois data is evidence of the impact of GMS outreach in those states.

The one thousand Scholars selected for 2013 represent 46 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and five American Territories. Fifty-six percent (56%) of the Scholars are first-generation college students, 29% were on free and reduced lunch plans, and 21% of the Scholars' parents' annual gross income is less than \$16,000. The mean GPA for the class is 3.78.

Table IV: Scholar Regional Breakdown

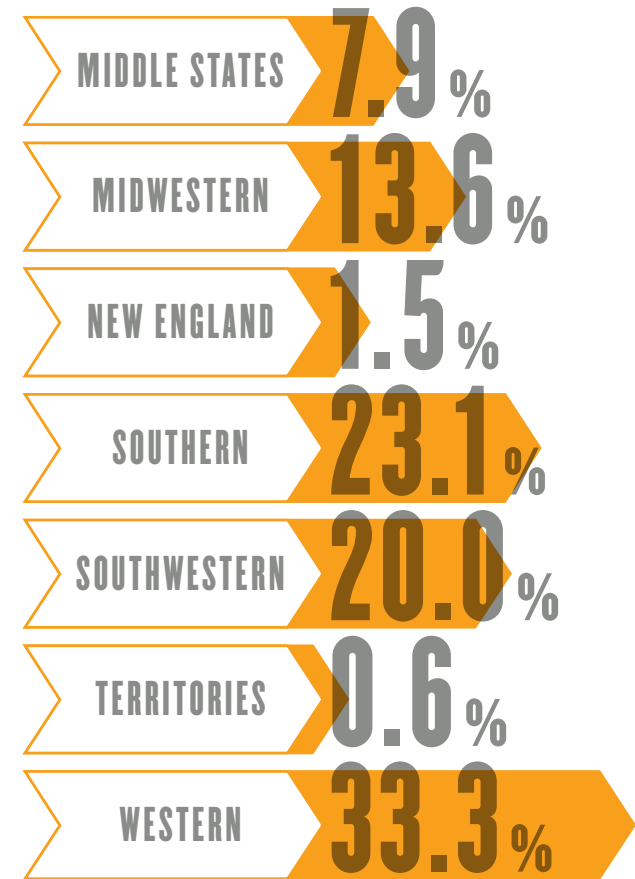


Table IV notes the breakdown of the Scholar pool by region. The western, southern and southwestern regions are the top three areas from which the 2013 class of Gates Scholars hail. The city of Chicago is the top city in which Gates Scholars live, followed by Los Angeles and New York, as noted in Table VI. Major cities, such as Chicago, have produced Gates Scholars from all of the communities targeted by the Program.

MY STORY: Betsy Waller

The worst part was waiting. I checked the mailbox every time I walked past. One Thursday, there was a large, white envelope inside. Pieces of paper went flying everywhere as I struggled to open it. I screamed as I read my official congratulatory letter, ran back to my school, and ran in the hall shouting, "I got it!" My principals and counselors began shouting and hugging me! I was the school's first Gates Millennium Scholar.

Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to go to college. Since my mom was a kindergarten teacher, my family did not have very much money. Coming from a single-parent home, life has not always been easy.

I can honestly say that being a Gates Millennium Scholar is an answer to my prayers. I will be attending Oral Roberts University this fall. Because of the Gates scholarship, I will be able to focus on my education the way it should be focused on, rather than stressing about the financial aspect of it. I cannot wait to spend the next four years learning!

Table III: Regional Breakdown of Applicants with U.S. Population Comparison

Region*	Proportion of GMS Applications	Proportion of U.S. Population Ages 17-19**	Difference
Middle States	11.35%	15.36%	(4.01%)
Midwest	16.75%	22.42%	(5.67%)
New England	1.76%	4.82%	(3.06%)
South	25.63%	23.15%	2.48%
Southwest	17.10%	11.36%	5.74%
West	27.41%	22.89%	4.52%

OUTREACH

Table V: Top Producing States

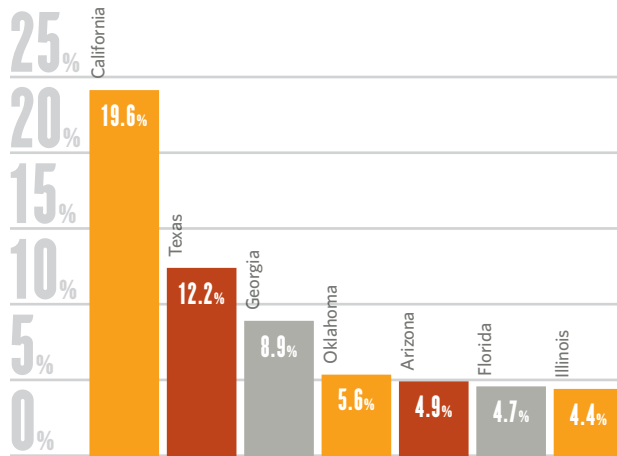


Table VI: Top Producing Cities

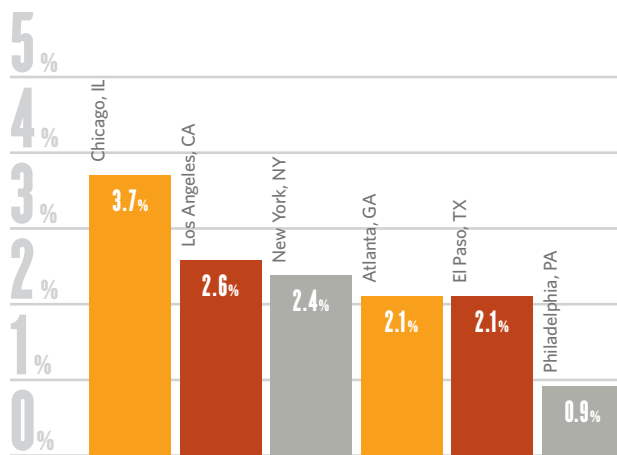


Table VII: Top Feeder High Schools

High School	Number
Monument Valley High School, AZ	9
Sequoyah High School, OK	6
Cathedral High School, TX	6
Newton High School, GA	5
Manhattan Center For Science & Mathematics, NY	5
Paramount High, CA	5
South Gate Senior High, CA	5
Eagle Pass High School, TX	5
Mountain View High School, GA	5

Karina Santellano

Duke University

Campus Based Leader

When we first matriculated at Duke, another Gates Millennium Scholar and I immediately recognized the lack of a Gates community on campus, despite the university's high number of attending scholars. We created an organization to strengthen the Gates presence on campus and facilitate networking among Scholars.

Our organization has made great strides in the past year, bringing Scholars together by organizing events with professors and the university's financial aid office. Along with promoting unity among Gates Scholars, we have been working to partner with different resource centers on campus to build support systems and sponsor additional events. Being a Campus-Based Leader has presented opportunities for me to meet, and be inspired by, other Gates Scholars from across the country. For that, I am extremely grateful.

Being a Gates Millennium Scholar has given me a family that I can look to for support for the rest of my life. To say the least, promoting the Gates Millennium Scholarship at Duke has been an honor.

OUTREACH

Financial Barriers Have Been Identified as the Greatest Obstacle to Education, and GMS Has Answered the Call

Since the inception of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program in 1999, the Program has selected and funded more than 16,000 Scholars, who have attended over 1,500 institutions of higher education. A majority of Scholars—more than 2/3—attend the most selective schools. All are of exceptional merit, ranking at or near the top of their class; all lack the opportunity for higher education due to financial barriers. The scholarship funds Gates Millennium Scholars' unmet need and is renewable for up to five years in any undergraduate discipline and throughout graduate school, to a doctoral degree in any of the following disciplines: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health, or science.



VIDEO

MY STORY: Bryan Queme

Van Law

Class of 2000

Alumnus

As a Gates Millennium Scholar from the inaugural class of 2000, I attended UCLA, where I majored in Art History. Upon graduation, I returned to Hawaii, where I currently work as a Design Engineer for a Hawaii-based general contractor. Outside of work, I was involved in the passage of laws establishing civil unions and marriage equality in Hawaii.

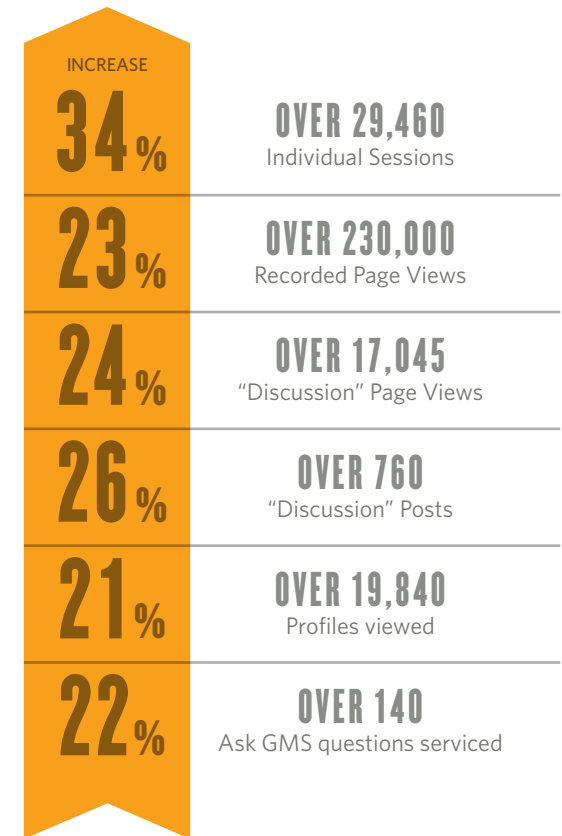
Within the GMS family, I have enjoyed volunteering at many Freshmen Leadership Conferences. I also contributed to the founding of the GMS Alumni Association, serving as an At-Large Member, and was part of the Programs Committee and the Focus on Philanthropy Task Force.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, GMS funded 5,133 Scholars, who were enrolled in undergraduate and graduate school. The Program awarded \$83,495,319 of scholarships in academic year 2012-2013.

To expedite the funding process, Scholars and their financial aid officers utilized the GMS Institutional Portal (IP), a web-based interface that allows Gates Millennium Scholars to initiate the funding process by electronically submitting information. This significantly decreased the processing time and the amount of paper documents previously required. In addition to implementation of the IP, GMS began disbursing awards through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), considerably decreasing the time it takes for awards to be processed and received by each institution.

Scholar Connection

The Communications team increased usage of the Scholar Connection, the internal GMS social media site, by revising the FYRE messaging to an e-Newsletter format and by installing a weekly rotation of call-out messages and videos on the homepage corresponding with Facebook postings pointing to these messages. Usage of the Scholar Connection increased by 150% as demonstrated by the click-through rates. Results include the following:





MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

Leadership Development & Scholar Relations

At the GMS Program, we define “leadership” as the pursuit of excellence and application of one’s abilities for the benefit of one’s community of choice. The GMS Leadership Development program fosters support for Scholars to maximize their persistence and on-time graduation. GMS has a 96% persistence rate from freshman to sophomore year and a graduation rate of 90%.

GMS continues its outreach even after Scholars are selected. New Scholars are welcomed with a “Freshman Welcome” packet including a certificate and informational materials about the Program.

Technology-based tools and social media are also key elements in our Freshman Engagement Campaign: During May-August 2012, Scholars in the Class of 2012 were encouraged to use the resources available on the GMS

platforms (i.e., Scholar Connection, Scholar Website, GMS Class of 2012 group on Facebook, and the GMS YouTube channel) to increase their knowledge of the Program’s processes, guidelines, and procedures.

Online surveys were conducted to collect the one word that described what it means to be a Gates Millennium Scholar and to identify the top “Burning Questions” the incoming first-year students had about transitioning to college. Results from the survey generated the 2012 Word Cloud, which was used as the T-shirt design for the leadership conferences. The Scholar Guides (selected rising sophomore and junior Scholars who answer questions on the Scholar Connection and 2012 Facebook group) made video responses to the top 10 subjects from the Burning Questions survey. Those videos were housed on the GMS YouTube channel and rotated weekly as featured videos on the Scholar Connection homepage.

Each year, members of the incoming class are asked to submit either a written or video “MyStory” introduction of who they are and what becoming a member of the GMS Program means to them. In an effort to increase submission of MyStory videos

by the incoming freshmen, some of the Scholar Guides produced their own as examples. The Scholar Guides also helped create Treasure Hunt questions quizzing the first-year students on GMS trivia and, more importantly, about the features located on the Scholar Connection and the Scholar Website. Three GMS Treasure Hunts were conducted during June-August 2012 on the Scholar Connection site familiarizing the Scholars with the GMS resources and guidelines.

Results of the Freshman Engagement Campaign on the Scholar Connection for 2012-2013:

- ▶ By August 31, 2012, participation of freshmen on the Scholar Connection increased by 24% year over year with 94% of the GMS Class of 2012 registered online.
- ▶ The 2012 Freshman Cohort registered at a much faster rate than previous years.
- ▶ The 2012 Freshman Cohort registration rate at 96.8% was higher than previous years.
- ▶ More than 1,000,000 recorded page views.



MY STORY: Xiong Her

As the youngest of a big family growing up in a Hmong refugee camp in Thailand, life was difficult. My family came to the United States in 2004 after a difficult resettlement process. At the time, I did not know any English. My new life was hard. I fell behind my classmates, but I never gave up on my education, the only opportunity I had to change my life. I appreciated what the United States provided me.

I am very proud and honored to be a 2013 Gates Millennium Scholar. I know my dreams can come true with support from the GMS Program.

This fall, I will attend Marquette University, where I plan to major in International Affairs. Eventually, I plan to pursue graduate work in international diplomacy and law. I aspire to become professionally involved in political and humanitarian causes. Diplomatic and relief work will give me the opportunity to serve my new country, as well as to carry out my duty to help those who are in need in other parts of the world.



MY STORY: Cameron Fielden

I live in Hulbert, Oklahoma. Some of the organizations I am involved with at my high school are Student Council, National Honor Society, Art Club, and National Indian Honor Society. I come from a very large, extended family, and my role model is my grandpa. Even though he lost a two-month battle with cancer, the strength he showed in that difficult time inspired me to be more like him—to never give up, even when times are tough.

I am a 2013 Gates Millennium Scholar. When I heard that I was selected, I was in complete shock. I actually just sat down for about ten minutes and tried to stay calm. I felt extremely proud and blessed to have been chosen.

I am going to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college, I would like to give back to my community. I would especially like to help other students, so that they may have the support that I have received. I would like to give back to the community throughout my time in college and after I graduate.

MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

Freshman Scholars Come Together at the Leadership Conferences

Of the 1,000 incoming GMS freshmen, 902 attended the Virginia or Los Angeles conference, supported by 100 alumni, mentors, and volunteers. The theme for the three-day conferences was “Creating a New Narrative” and sessions were offered on the transition to college, balancing school and home responsibilities, and excelling academically. Gates Scholars and Alumni were also selected to serve as Mentors at the conferences. Scholars welcomed keynote speakers, as well as a special guest at the Los Angeles conference: William H. Gates Sr. The conferences concluded with a vision exchange, where Scholars created a personal diagram of critical relationships that will help them achieve their goals and attend the GMS pinning ceremony. [Insert photo]

Building a Culture of Mentoring

Leadership Conferences: To prepare for the 2012 conferences, Gates Scholars and Alumni served as Mentors and facilitated conference sessions attended by freshman Scholars.

At the *Institute on Teaching and Mentoring (SREB)* on October 25-28, 2012, dozens of sessions and workshops helped Gates Scholars build the skills necessary to succeed in graduate study and become faculty members at colleges and universities. The conference provides Scholars with the opportunity to network with current doctoral students, learn about the application process for graduate school, and gain support for research and dissertation topics (for Scholars who are currently enrolled in doctoral programs). Some of the topics covered at the 2012 conference include: The Art of Graduate Education, Writing Your Dissertation, Tips for Writing Proposals, Managing Stress and Time, Getting Published: Advise for Scholars and The Graduate School Application Process. Seventy-three Gates Scholars, from seniors to PhD students, attended the Institute in Tampa, FL.

Jonathan Thibeaux

Morehouse College

Campus Based Leader

I attend Morehouse College, an all-male, historically black college in Atlanta, where I am now a senior biology major with a minor in public health. I chose Morehouse for its strong academics and because I wanted to attend a school that could shape me into the man I hope to be.

At Morehouse, I have the honor of serving as a Campus-Based Leader for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program. I am also a member of several student organizations, as well as a writer for the school newspaper, The Maroon Tiger. While the list of my activities may seem long, it is from this involvement that I feel connected with my campus, as well as the world beyond. Morehouse pushes me to be the best man possible and has given me the opportunity to grow and gain confidence.

As a future surgeon and entrepreneur, I believe that anything is possible with hard work. My dream is to become a renaissance man, able to lift up and inspire the next generation.

THE CONFERENCE PROVIDES SCHOLARS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH CURRENT DOCTORAL STUDENTS, LEARN ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL, AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION TOPICS

MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

Making a Difference in a Community: 2013 Alternative Spring Break (ASB)

Outreach continues even during Spring Break! GMS partnered with Southwest Youth Services/AmeriCorps and the Pueblo of Jemez to volunteer with eight different community agencies and schools. AIGCS facilitated the connections with the Santo Domingo Pueblo to develop the programming for the Alternative Spring Break. Fifty Gates Scholars learned about relevant issues related to public education (both urban and rural) and public health services in Albuquerque metropolitan area. Participating community agencies and schools included:

- ▶ Santo Domingo Pueblo
- ▶ Cochiti School
- ▶ Road Runner Food Bank
- ▶ Amy Biehl High School
- ▶ PeacePal
- ▶ Mandy's Farm
- ▶ New Mexico Community Health Workers Association
- ▶ Native American Community Academy (NACA)

Scholars who wished to attend the event completed an application that asked how the Alternative Spring Break would benefit them or their community, as well as questions on public education or public health and how they affect communities of color. In addition, the Scholars must complete Certified Student Leadership Course.

ASB attendees participated in a Graduate School Institute that provided information to help bolster matriculation rates into graduate school. Graduate School Institutes focus on GMS's seven funded areas of study: computer science, education, engineering, library and information science, mathematics, public health and science. A panel of professionals in the fields of education and public health spoke to participants, and Scholars networked with professors and administrators who attended an open house. The panelists included:

Name	Title and Institution
Dr. Renée Clift	Associate Dean College of Education University of Arizona
Dr. Sue Foster-Cox	Associate Professor College of Health & Social Services New Mexico State University
Norma Palomino	Graduate Admissions Advisor New Mexico State University
Abby Rincón	Director of Diversity School of Public Health University of California, Berkeley
Talal Saint-Lot	Program Coordinator Graduate Resource Center University of New Mexico
Dr. Kristen Tollestrup	Associate Professor and Director Department of Family and Community Medicine University of New Mexico



American Library Association Conference (ALA)

The American Library Association was created to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. Thirty-five Gates Scholars attended the American Library Association Conference (ALA) June 21-25, 2012 in Anaheim, CA.

At ALA, dozens of sessions and workshops help Scholars build the skills necessary to succeed in graduate study and gain professional development. The conference provided Scholars with the opportunity to network with current library professionals, hear from speakers such as news anchor Dan Rather and author Sapphire, and connect with other Scholars in the field of Library and Information Science.



MY STORY: Gabriela Cach

I was born and raised in Los Angeles by Guatemalan immigrant parents who came to this country in search of opportunities. As the eldest of three, I have always been the role model for my younger sisters. I will be the first in my family to attend college.

Becoming a Gates Millennium Scholar brought tears of joy to my cheeks. I will be attending Carnegie Mellon University to study civil engineering, and I know this opportunity will be life-changing.

Engineering for me is a way to make an impact in communities, especially in developing countries. Often when I visit Guatemala with my family, I think about how I can help in underdeveloped areas. I love the humanitarian prospects of providing clean water and building infrastructure in rural communities, and designing earthquake-resistant structures. My future plan as an engineer is to create projects in developing countries, whether in Guatemala, Kenya, Haiti, or any place in need. Although I don't know exactly what my first project will be, I know that I will help people in rural communities live a more stable life.

MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

The National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE)

The National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) is the leading conference on race and ethnicity in American higher education. The goal of the conference is to assist colleges and universities to create more inclusive environments; to improve racial and ethnic relations; and to expand educational opportunities for culturally diverse and underrepresented populations. Thirty-five Gates Scholars attended NCORE May 29-June 2, 2013 in New York City.

GMS Alumni Association

Last year, 775 Scholars made the transition to Alumni status. The GMS Alumni Association is a formal support network that connects Gates Alumni through regional chapters across the nation, enhances professional networking opportunities, fosters leadership through community service, mentors current Gates Scholars, and keeps Alumni connected to the GMS Program. The Association website (www.gmsalumni.org) is updated monthly with program news and event announcements as well as individual Gates Alumni spotlights; this information is also sent bi-monthly via social media outlets and an Alumni newsletter.

The GMS Alumni Advisory Council met in Austin, TX on April 13, 2013, where they attended a strategic plan briefing. The Council confirmed new officers for the 2013 academic year, heard remarks from the president-elect and the president's final address, and concluded with the passing of the gavel.

The GMS Program organized Alumni networking events in the following areas:

- ▶ Alumni Networking Brunch on August 5, 2012 at The Hamilton in Washington, DC welcoming DC Metro freshmen Scholars
- ▶ Atlanta Alumni Reception - On November 12, 2012, GMS hosted a networking reception that brought together current Gates Millennium Scholars and Alumni in the Atlanta metro area. At the reception, GMS staff members were on hand to provide updates on the program to Gates Millennium Scholars and Alumni, who were eager to hear how they could become more involved at GMS. Alumni shared what they are currently involved in, their experiences as Scholars and created new relationships that can potentially turn into long-lasting mentorships of their fellow Gates Millennium Scholars. Sixty-six Scholars and Alumni attend the reception held at the Aurum Lounge in midtown Atlanta.



MY STORY: Wendy Roldan



MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

Leadership Academy for Campus-Based Leaders

During April 11-14, 2013, 64 GMS Campus-Based Leaders (CBLs) participated in a Leadership Academy in Austin, TX to aid in the overall development and advancement of the Campus-Based Leadership initiative by providing training and information on program expectations, guidelines, and procedures, as well as to clarify their roles and responsibilities. Workshops and activities were designed to enhance individual leadership and organizational development while introducing strategies to enhance the college experience for Scholars on their campuses. The forum also provided a platform for CBLs to discuss experiences, challenges and needs as they lead their Campus-Based Organizations (CBOs). One of the Leadership Academy speakers included Gates Millennium Alumna Dr. Luis Urrieta (GMS Class of 2000) who is Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Texas at Austin.

Campus Engagement Manager Pilot

The Campus Engagement Manager (CEM) initiative seeks to 1) resolve Scholars' issues and concerns, and 2) promote academic, professional, and leadership opportunities. Four

CEMs administer 32 schools in the DMV (DC, Maryland and Virginia) region, 53 schools in the Northeast region, 34 schools in the Southwest region, and 49 schools in the Southern California region.

The role of the CEM includes:

- ▶ Develops/implements an enhanced campus engagement plan
- ▶ Develops/maintains relationships with college/university administrators
- ▶ Works alongside campus officials to promote (alleviate barriers to) academic success
- ▶ Develops/implements programming that enhances Scholars academic, leadership, and professional development
- ▶ Engages local Alumni in CEM initiatives
- ▶ Support the development & success of Campus-Based Organizations/Campus-Based Leaders
- ▶ The next steps for the CEM pilot will include:
- ▶ Determining additional states and institutions to be included

- ▶ Planning and implementing Fall, Winter & Spring campus visits with four CEMs
- ▶ Collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data
- ▶ Reaching consensus on recommendations for the 2013-14 academic year and beyond based on evaluation and assessment results
- ▶ Proposing new models, if appropriate, to UNCF

Supporting Gates Scholars with Academic Empowerment (ACE) Services

ACE helps students maintain a high level of academic performance by offering:

- ▶ Graduate education planning, including an entrance test fee reduction program
- ▶ Support and advice for maintaining enrollment status through a range of web-based resources
- ▶ A graduate scholarship search and career key, which allows users to dynamically explore career options



MY STORY: Ridwana Islam

I came to the United States from Bangladesh when I was four years old. I was in the first grade when my teacher turned on the television one day and a reporter said: "The twin towers have been hit by planes." I looked around and saw fear and shock in the eyes of my peers and teacher.

As a practicing Muslim, I walked down the streets of New York with my grandmother, who wears a scarf or veil. She taught me to greet fear with friendliness and to be open to questions about my religion and culture, so that the fear could diminish. This has

not always been easy. As a high school student, I was bullied for wearing the hijab. I felt pressure to prove that I could positively contribute to my community.

My experiences have sparked a deep commitment to building community, confronting ignorance, and pursuing a career in public service. Thank you, Gates Millennium Scholars Program, for lifting my financial burden and allowing me to focus on education. I am honored to be included in the family.

ADVISORY COUNCIL



In accordance with the GMS Advisory Council guidelines, members Carmen D. Lopez, Raymund Paredes, and Allyson Leggett Watson rotated off of the Council. Ralph Amos elected to lend his expertise to support the development of the Alumni strategic plan, and therefore resigned from his position on the Council. Youlonda Copeland Morgan, who would have rotated off of the Council this term, will fill the remainder of Ralph Amos's term. Tommy Preston, the new president of the Alumni Association, joined the Council, along with new members Yolanda Zepeda and Alvin Warren.

The current GMS Advisory Council members include:

Youlonda Copeland-Morgan

Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management,
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Tommy Preston, Jr.

Esq., Associate at Nexsen Pruet, LLC

Dr. Karl Reid

Senior Vice President of Academic Programs
and Strategic Initiatives, UNCF

Dr. Frank D. Sanchez

Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs at
the City University of New York (CUNY)

Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks

Associate Dean, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts

Alvin Warren (Santa Clara Pueblo)

Board Advisor and Consultant Blue Stone Strategy Group

Yolanda Zepeda

Assistant Provost Office of Diversity and Inclusion
at Ohio State University



Janeen Morgan
GMS Class of 2012

CONTACT US



UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the administrator of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program

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Time. Effort. Donations. For those who want to help offer a lifetime of opportunities to deserving students, there are many opportunities to support the GMS Program, from hosting local events and informational sessions to becoming a sponsor or donor.

The first decade of the program's success can be directly traced to the generosity of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. To learn how to be part of the next decade, go to www.gmsp.org, click on Contact Us and let us know how you would like to contribute.

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the administrator of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, which provides services to Gates Millennium Scholars by means of the collective efforts of four partner organizations. GMS Program staff members at the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and UNCF serve students from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

