NEW ERA SCHOLARSHIP

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO COLLEGE COMPLETION FOR BLACK CPS GRADUATES
A growing crisis exists across the state and in Chicago pertaining to college degree attainment among Black Chicago Public School graduates (CPS).

According to The University of Chicago To&Through Project, most Chicago students aspire to earn college degrees, but projections indicate that fewer than 1 in 5 will earn one.

It was projected that within 10 years of beginning high school:

- 19% of students were likely to graduate
- 17% of Black women were likely to graduate
- 10% of Black men were likely to graduate

Illinois has the fourth largest college degree attainment gap in the nation between Black and White students at four-year colleges and universities.

32.6% GAP
Graduation gap between Black and White students

33.7% of Black students in Illinois graduate within 6 years vs. 66.4% of White students in Illinois graduate within 6 years

In 2017, 69% of CPS high school freshmen aspired to earn a bachelor’s degree

SOLUTION:

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY ILLINOIS’ NEW ERA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The New Era Scholarship is RMU’s high-impact initiative in education philanthropy. Led by a $1.2 million investment from The Alter Group, New Era provides $5,000 annually to Black CPS graduates to cover the gap from state and federal funding for the completion of their bachelor’s education.

RMU educates more low-income students than the national average based on Pell eligibility.
60% RMU; 32% NATIONAL AVERAGE

RMU has served 4,513 CPS graduates in the last 5 years

An incoming RMU student has an average GPA of 2.2 and an average ACT of 18

44% are the first in their families to attend college of any kind

Ariana James
Jones College Prep | Major: Medical Assisting

“\text{*I am proud to be an African-American New Era Scholar. I hope the skills and knowledge I attain here will give me the key to success and be able to give back to others. I’m very grateful for this opportunity to advance my education.*}”
THE MODEL

The New Era Scholarship was designed to transform the lives of motivated, under-resourced Black CPS graduates by:

- Decreasing the degree attainment gap between Black and White students
- Increasing the enrollment, graduation and employment ratio of Black CPS graduates
- Decreasing the cost of a private college education for under-resourced students
- Increasing student engagement to support a successful college transition

THE NEW ERA AWARD COVERS THE COST OF TUITION AND FEES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVERAGE DIRECT NET STUDENT PRICE: $16,000/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW ERA SCHOLARSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMU FUNDED PORTION OF SCHOLARSHIP</td>
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Direct Net Tuition is minus aid from:
- MAP Grant
- Pell Grant
- Student Loan

The total award will enable financially challenged students to graduate and enter the workforce without being encumbered by excessive debt. Currently, the program can support up to 40 scholars per academic year. The first cohort of New Era Scholars began their education at RMU in the Fall of 2018 representing 40 CPS schools.

$5,000
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A STUDENT EARNING A DEGREE AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT OR NOT

96% OF STUDENTS RECEIVE GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP AID

$25M OF RMU DOLLARS IS INVESTED IN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY

THE SCHOLARS

THE NEW ERA SCHOLARS ARE:

PELL ELIGIBLE:
A Pell grant is a subsidy provided by the federal government for students with an established financial need, as determined through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students whose total family income is $50,000 a year or less qualify, but most Pell grant money goes to students with a total family income below $20,000.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE A “0” EFC:
The Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated through the FAFSA and takes into consideration the amount of money the family is able to contribute to the student’s education. A student with a 0 EFC equates to a family being unable to provide any financial support to the student’s education.

LOWER-TO-MIDDLE ACHIEVING STUDENTS:
Many similar programs to New Era focus on high achieving, low-income students. As a non-selective institution, RMU’s program is geared toward average students, those with at least a 2.0 high school grade point average and an average ACT score of 18.

FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS:
Approximately half of the students at RMU are the first in their families to attend college. Many do not have the family resources, networks, and/or support that other families with more college experience possess. As a result, these students and their parents need additional support to learn how to navigate the higher education system.

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Since our inception, RMU has successfully educated and graduated first-generation, underserved and diverse student populations. RMU has made it an institutional priority to bridge the gap between high school, college and career by providing a career-focused curriculum, year-round programming to prevent enrollment drops, and faculty and staff who provide wrap-around academic and advisory services. This is the RMU culture, and it is critical to students who grow up where college going is not the norm.

RMU believes that every student, no matter their zip code or race, should have an equitable opportunity to earn a degree and the skills needed for sustainable employment. At RMU, we know that students arrive on our campus with varying personal challenges, experiences and academic levels. We recognize those differences and provide more resources and support to achieve successful outcomes.

**WHY RMU?**

**JOIN US**

Join us to ensure that Black CPS graduates have an equitable opportunity to achieve a college degree and the skills needed for sustainable employment.

- **MENTOR A NEW ERA SCHOLAR**
- **JOIN OUR LIST OF SUPPORTERS TO SPONSOR A SCHOLAR/S**
- **PROVIDE PATHWAYS TO INTERNSHIPS OR CAREERS DURING AND AFTER COLLEGE**

For more information on how to join us, contact: Carolyn Branton Smith, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, 312-935-6646 or cbsmith@robertmorris.edu

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**Racial/Ethnic Makeup**

- Caucasian: 33%
- Hispanic: 32%
- Black: 25%
- Asian: 3%

90% of RMU graduates complete their bachelor’s degree in less than four years.

76% graduation rate of students seeking a bachelor’s degree.

**RMU is Graduating Bachelor’s Degree-Seeking Students at a Higher Rate Compared to Other Private, Not-for-Profit Institutions in Chicago.**

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Nick Davis, MBA ’09 and ’11
Client Service Manager, Northern Trust

“I did internships with students who went to Division I schools, Michigan State, Ivy League, and I was able to compete with those students. I feel like I took everything I could out of RMU. My manager says, ‘every day you impress me.’”