



The PhD Project Announces Five Funders Renew Support to Inspire a New Generation of Diverse Business Leaders

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The PhD Project, an award-winning program to inspire a new generation of diverse business leaders by creating a support network for minority business school faculty candidates, today announced that CIGNA, DiversityInc, Lincoln Financial Group, The Merck Company Foundation and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. have all renewed their funding for 2013-2014. They are co-funders of The Project along with some of America's largest corporations, foundations and academic organizations.

The PhD Project was created in 1994 to address the severe under-representation of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans in management by diversifying the front of the classroom-the business school faculty. A diverse faculty encourages more minorities to pursue business degrees, thereby increasing the pool of minority applicants for positions in today's multicultural corporate environment.

"It is encouraging to see five funders maintain their support of diversity in education," said Bernard J. Milano, President of the KPMG Foundation, the founder and lead funder of the program. "The over \$200,000 in support received from these organizations will help carry on the momentum of The PhD Project, which has more than quadrupled the number of minority business professors in its 20 years."

When The PhD Project was created, there were only 294 doctorally qualified African-American, Hispanic American or Native American business professors in all U.S. business schools. Today, there are 1,230 minority business professors. Further, 336 minorities are

currently enrolled in doctoral programs, and will take a place at the front of the classroom over the next few years. The PhD Project provides direct access to these individuals, so companies providing funding at or above a certain level can connect with participants and their students to share information about careers, scholarships and other educational initiatives.

Some of America's top companies, foundations, associations and academic organizations support The PhD Project along with [CIGNA](#), [DiversityInc](#), [Lincoln Financial Group](#), [The Merck Company Foundation](#) and [Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.](#). They are: [KPMG Foundation](#), [Graduate Management Admission Council](#), [Citi Foundation](#), [AACSB International](#), over 275 participating universities, [AICPA Foundation](#), [Microsoft Corporation](#), [JPMorgan Chase Foundation](#), [Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP](#), [Rockwell Collins](#), [John Deere Foundation](#), [American Marketing Association](#), [AT&T](#), [ADP](#), [Edison International/California State University System](#), [American Accounting Association](#), [Aerotek/TEKsystems\(operating companies of Allegis Group\)](#), [3M](#), and [The Hershey Company](#).

To watch a short video about why it is important to fund The PhD Project, visit here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPKyeYtXfHA&feature=c4-overview&list=UUB7TSQPGvYfL3Qai1Ura4jq>.

For more information on The PhD Project, visit: <http://www.phdproject.org> or contact Lisa King at 646-234-5080 or lisak@mediainpact.biz. Connect with our members at www.MyPhDNetwork.org; Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thePhDproject>; Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ThePhDProject.