Become a Professor.
What We Do

The PhD Project was founded upon the premise that advancements in workplace diversity could be propelled forward by increasing the diversity of business school faculty. Today, our expansive network of supporters, sponsors and universities helps African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans attain their business PhD and become the business professors who will mentor the next generation of leaders.

FOUNDED IN

1994

90%

PhD Project Minority Doctoral Program Completion Rate

Minority Business Professors Have Quintupled Since 1994

97%

Retention Rate of PhD Project Professors/Faculty
Who We Are

Bernard Milano
President of KPMG Foundation

Tara Perino
Director of KPMG Foundation

Myrna Varner
Manager

Marie Zara
Director of Advancement

Cristina Pazos
Manager

Alison Hansen
Coordinator

Michele Marin
Executive Assistant
Member Spotlights

Dr. Miles K. Davis is the first PhD Project Professor to become a college president. In 2018, he was named the president of Linfield College in Oregon and is the first African-American president in Linfield's 160-year history. He received his Ph.D. in human and organizational sciences from The George Washington University.

Carma M. Claw, Ph.D. is the first Diné business professor in the United States. Dr. Claw is one of six management researchers in the United States who include indigenous organizations in their studies. She received her Ph.D. in Management from New Mexico State University and currently holds the position of Assistant Professor at Fort Lewis University.

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez is a Cuban-American and was the first woman to earn a Ph. D. in electrical engineering from Florida International University. She is an advocate for a STEM-educated workforce. In 2018, Dr. Becerra-Fernandez became Marymount University’s seventh president.
Conferences

Annual Conference

The flagship event for The PhD Project is our annual conference for potential doctoral students. At this 3-day conference, you can network with doctoral students, business school representatives, professors and sponsor organizations, all in one place.

To be eligible, you must be:
- African-American, Hispanic American, or Native American
- A U.S. Citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- In your senior year of college by the time you attend the conference or already possess a minimum of an undergraduate degree

Summer Conferences

Each summer, PhD Project members have an opportunity to meet one another, along with leading educators, at the major professional association event for their industry. All expenses for the PhD Project conferences and related industry conference are fully paid for eligible minority doctoral student members who wish to attend.

To be eligible, you must be:
- African-American, Hispanic-American, or Native American
- A U.S. Citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- In your senior year of college by the time you attend the conference or already possess a minimum of an undergraduate degree
FAQs

What is the PhD Project Annual Conference?

The PhD Project Conference is a 3-Day event that takes place annually, each November in Chicago. The conference provides a rare networking and information gathering opportunity for African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans (U.S. Citizens or Permanent U.S. Residents) interested in pursuing a business Ph.D. to become a business school professor.

How Do I Register for the Annual Conference?

The conference is invitation only. There is an application, which must be completed and submitted for consideration. All applications are reviewed by heads of doctoral programs. If you are invited, The PhD Project will pay for your round trip airfare (domestic travel only), and your hotel stay (shared room with another conference attendee) for the 2 nights during the conference.

What Costs are Associated with Pursuing a PhD?

Unlike undergraduate and graduate schools, most business doctoral programs waive tuition and fees. In addition, almost all doctoral granting institutions offer compensated research and or teaching assistantships. Although The PhD Project does not offer any funding to doctoral students, additional sources of funding can be obtained from private foundations and government agencies.
FAQs

What Other Resources Are Provided?

PhD Project Doctoral Students are invited each year to attend a discipline-specific conference that is fully funded and provides them with a network of peers, as well as connections to the leading academics in their fields. Through these connections and our social media channels, they each develop their own network of support that helps over 90% achieve their end goal of a Ph.D. The PhD Project also includes Alumni Associations, and affiliated programs that focus on teaching, research, careers in administration and board service.

Who Provides Funding and Why?

The PhD Project receives funding from corporations, foundations, associations, universities and individuals. All who provide funding receive visibility on our website and at events, but above all sponsorship of The PhD Project demonstrates a true commitment to diversity. Sponsoring organizations can also post an unlimited number of corporate and academic positions on our PhD Project Job Board, and have direct access to our members.

Why Are We Doing This?

In 1994, AACSB, Citibank, GMAC and the KPMG Foundation decided to take a unique approach to enhance diversity for all of corporate America. With a vision of developing a pipeline of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans for business leadership positions, they created a systemic model to increase workplace diversity by increasing the diversity of business school faculty. 25 years later, our mission remains the same.
Contact Us

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