



December 10, 2015

Dear TMCF Friend:

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) has had an incredible year – thanks, in part, to supporters like you! TMCF is recognized as a leading organization **creating solutions to national challenges**, such as: increasing college graduation, training the next generation of American leaders, expanding entrepreneurship, and ensuring that America's workforce is as diverse as its population. Not only did tech-giant Apple choose TMCF as its primary partner to bridge the technology industry's diversity gap, but TMCF also earned the **highest rating** from *two* top charity evaluation groups – Charity Navigator and Guide Star.

Founded in 1987 to provide scholarships for students attending America's 47 *publicly-supported* Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominately Black Institutions (PBIs), TMCF provides scholarships to academically-talented, but financially-challenged students attending our member-schools. *TMCF remains one of the best investments for supporting today's college students and transforming their futures.*

- **The 2015 Social Mobility Index** – a new way to evaluate the ability of higher education institutions to transform a student's financial condition – rated **three TMCF member-schools in the Top 10 of all colleges nationally** whose degrees help low-income students move into the top half of American incomes. In fact, TMCF member-schools were ranked second, seventh, and ninth on the list, with two more schools rated in the top 45. *Each college degree results in an average \$1 million increase in lifetime earnings, according to the Pew Charitable Trust.*
 - In the last two years, TMCF awarded nearly **800 scholarships** to high-achieving students who would not have been able to afford college otherwise. Of those, more than 50% were *first-generation scholars* – for whom TMCF's **wrap-around programs** support helped them stay in school and become the first in their families to graduate college. *First-generation freshmen students drop out at a rate 90% due to lack of support¹.*
- Since 2010, *TMCF's Leadership Development* programs have:
 - Prepared nearly **4,500 students** on our member-school campuses for career success
 - Hosted almost **2,500 students** to hone their skills at our annual Leadership Institute
 - Helped **1500+ students** secure leadership-track jobs or internships – launching promising careers for a range of diverse students
 - *TMCF has placed students in professional opportunities at more than 250 employers in 135 American cities and 32 states.*
- TMCF's *Teacher Quality and Retention Program* has supported **850+ new and continuing teachers**, preparing them to remain in the classroom and build a pipeline of college-ready students.
 - *The Albert Shanker Institute's 2015 State of Teacher Diversity in American Education report featured TMCF's TQRP as one of the most promising programs in the country for training teachers of color.*

¹ <http://firstgenerationfilm.com/screener>

While these results are impressive, **TMCF could do much more with your donation today.**

- For every student receiving a TMCF scholarship, another three did not – totaling almost 900 students we could not help this year *due to limited financial resources.*
- For every \$1 TMCF invested in education in 2015, we *needed an additional \$10* to adequately address the various needs we see on campus.
- For every student TMCF cannot help stay in school and earn a college degree, there is, on average, a *\$1 million lifetime earnings reduction* – leading to an overall negative impact on America's economy.

Not helping these deserving students has a far-reaching effect. The Kresge Foundation reports, *“the American economy will face a shortage of at least 16 million college graduates by 2025.”* The result of this trend on America's economy will be astounding. **With your help, TMCF is creating workable solutions to this forecasted gap and building a better economic future for America today.**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall knew the **transformative impact of education**, and fought to open the doors of education for *all* Americans. Today, as tuition costs rise – excluding more Americans from college – TMCF continues Justice Marshall's legacy by keeping those doors open. **We are asking you to help keep those educational doors open** for even more qualified students, ensuring they have the critical resources to attain a college degree and transform their futures. We know that you share our vision of *Changing the World ... One Leader at a Time.* With more resources, TMCF's impact could be even greater!

TMCF's impact can best be seen through the words of our students:

- “When I was seven years old, I lived in a shelter with my wonderful mother.... Being homeless forced me to mature at a very young age... Somehow, the idea of attending college became attractive to me... I am so grateful to the TMCF Leadership Institute for recognizing my potential and seeing me as a ‘diamond in the rough’. I sincerely appreciate, more than words can express, TMCF for selecting me as a beneficiary of [its] generosity.” – *Shjondel Curtis, Texas Southern University Alumnus*
- “What TMCF did the most for me over the years was: you instilled in me a confidence that I would be of value to any school district. You made me feel that I can be a master educator, and that I belonged in this field as well, and for that I am grateful.” - *Quentin A. Alimayn, TQRP Fellow, new 2015-16 teacher*

Please take this opportunity to **donate to TMCF**, and help us expand our impact, while deriving tax benefits from your end-of-year charitable giving. Your employer may even match your donation – *doubling your gift* and deepening your impact on America's future. Go to <http://tmcf.org/our-give/give/double-your-donation> to see if your employer will match your donation and, if so, to *register for the matching gift.*

Together, we can truly make TMCF the place **Where Education Pays Off®** for even more deserving Americans. Thank you for your past support – and for your gift today.

Sincerely,



Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.
President & CEO

P.S. – Ask us about our planned giving and bequests programs, to ensure your legacy of supporting TMCF!