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7-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

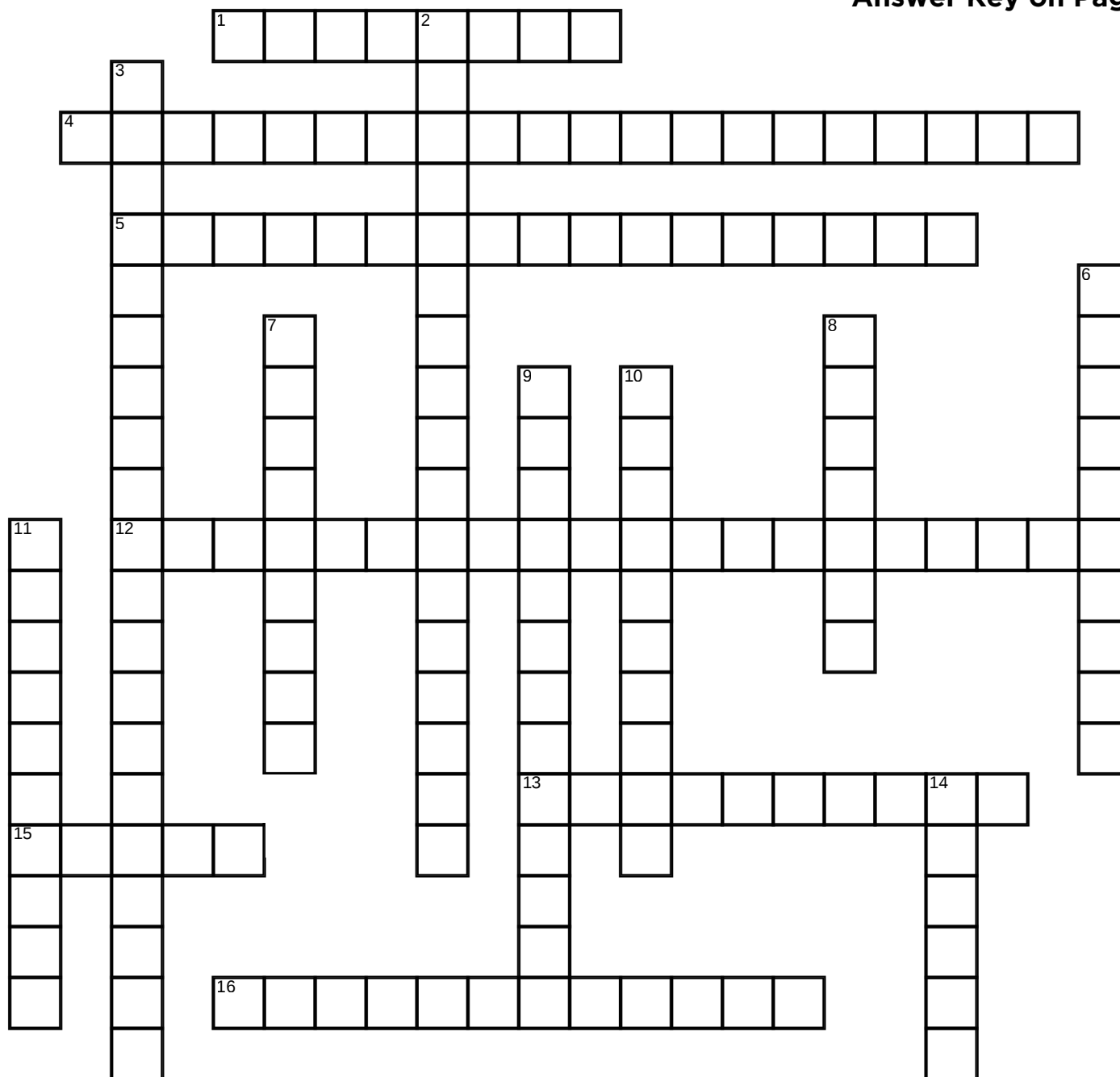


LEADERSHIP
BRAINERY



A FUN AND INTERACTIVE WAY TO EXPLORE THE REPORT!

Answer Key on Page 22



Across:

1. What rises with the attainment of a graduate degree (p. 6)
4. Field of Victory's doctoral studies at Cornell (p. 11)
5. Foundation funder helping to expand educational opportunities (p. 20)
12. High-touch, long-term program equipping undergraduate students for graduate school admissions success (pp. 11-16)
13. The daily commitment to show up, learn, and lead (p. 11)
15. _____ What We Know (3-Year Strategy Insert)
16. An instilled sense that every student matters, and deserves the opportunity to be a leader (p. 18)

Down:

2. The dynamic spaces "where teaching and learning flow across professional disciplines and life experiences" (p. 4)
3. Organization honored LB with the Empowerment Award (p. 18)
6. Fun way to bring friends and supporters together to celebrate and give (p. 21)
7. The most powerful weapon to change the world (p. 22)
8. Focus on _____ To Serve More (3-Year Strategy Insert)
9. Event that DayMond created at Morehouse (p. 11)
10. What did Rashana gain while preparing for grad school (p. 16)
11. Leadership Brainery transforms _____ (p. 17)
14. As James Hipps, and LB say, it "Can't Wait" (p. 18)

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**Check out the 3-Year Strategic Plan Insert
included in your booklet!**

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Impact is formally defined as “the measurable influence or effect of one action, decision, or event on another.” In other words, impact is not just about what is done, but about the lasting change that results.

At Leadership Brainery, this definition guides how we evaluate our work and hold ourselves accountable. For us, impact means ensuring that more students do not simply aspire to graduate education but are fully equipped to access, succeed in, and transform the spaces they enter. It means shifting outcomes for individuals and reshaping the systems that too often limit them.

By this measure, the past seven years tell a powerful story. With your steadfast support, Leadership Brainery has helped thousands of students across the country prepare for and gain admission to competitive master’s and doctoral programs and career opportunities. Together, we have built a model that combines rigorous preparation with belonging, coaching, and financial resources. You, our community, are woven into every success—your generosity is the catalyst that makes these outcomes possible.

And just as importantly, our students are carrying this impact forward. When a student enrolls in graduate school, the effect doesn’t stop at their acceptance letter.



They are becoming researchers, attorneys, public health leaders, engineers, and educators who will shape policies, innovate solutions, and inspire future generations. Their leadership creates ripples across families, campuses, workplaces, and entire communities—multiplying your investment exponentially.

Inside this 7-Year Impact Report, you will find:

1. **Key milestones and outcomes** that demonstrate how Leadership Brainery has grown and measured up against our definition of impact.
2. **Student stories and testimonials** that bring our mission to life and illustrate the power of belonging and preparation.
3. **Donor highlights and partnerships** that show how your investment has fueled our growth and expanded opportunities.
4. **Key statistics** that delve into the rapidly changing higher education landscape and the stark disparities that have been longstanding.
5. **Our strategic vision** for how we plan to build on these seven years to reach even more students and amplify their leadership.

As we reflect, we are profoundly grateful for your role on this journey. The impact we celebrate is both the transformation of students’ lives and the far-reaching change they will bring into the world. That is the true measure of Leadership Brainery’s work, and it is a measure we are committed to expanding in the years ahead—alongside you.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Derrick + Jonathan

Derrick Young Jr., MPH

Co-founder and Executive Director

Jonathan Allen, JD, MTS

Co-founder and Director of Development



WORDS FROM LB'S BOARD CHAIR

When I speak about Leadership Brainery, I often begin by saying that LB has my aloha (my heart). And that's because Leadership Brainery is more than a pipeline to graduate education—it is a movement grounded in the belief that young people's dreams, drive for knowledge, and commitment to their communities deserve to be championed.

Leadership Brainery doesn't operate in silos. Instead, it creates dynamic intergenerational spaces where teaching and learning flow across professional disciplines and life experiences. I choose to support LB because its bridge-building ethic, innovative programming, and strategic partnerships truly transform lives. Our Ambassadors and Summit participants are proof: they know their worth, choose collaboration over competition, and pursue courage over complacency. The results speak for themselves: they're gaining acceptance to top graduate programs with substantial financial support.

I invite you to join me in supporting Leadership Brainery because we're at a pivotal moment. Our aspiring graduate students deserve to be seen, not silenced; nurtured, not negated; empowered, not excluded. Your investment will enable Leadership Brainery to serve more scholars and continue building generational wealth for communities where it has long been out of reach.

Together, we can ensure that talent and potential are never limited by circumstance. Mahalo (Thank you)!

CATHERINE WONG, M.ED.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHERINE WONG CONSULTS:
EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH





WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Graduate education is essential for entry into professions such as medicine, law, counseling, social work, and education, and is often **a gateway into many leadership roles** both in the public and private sectors (Brint et al., 2020; Brint & Yoshikawa, 2017).

Yet access to graduate school is increasingly limited. Daily changes in policies and politics are transforming the way higher education institutions and nonprofits operate. Data shows that graduate degrees have become prerequisites for leadership roles across industries and requirements for specialized careers. However, the already narrow path towards master's and doctoral degrees continues to become more fraught amidst these rapid shifts. Costs are soaring, enrollment and retention are declining, affirmative action has been rolled back, and federal policy is destabilizing universities and shrinking financial aid. The very pipeline of future doctors, lawyers, educators, and innovators is at a greater risk now than ever before.

- **Debt Crisis:** Graduate students hold nearly half of all student debt (Gulish et al., 2024).
- **Unequal Access:** Applicants with parents who hold graduate degrees are far more likely to pursue PhDs or professional degrees such as law and medicine (Glueck, 2025).
- **Financial Aid:** Graduate students have limited access to adequate financial aid (Holloman et al., 2021).
- **High Attrition:** PhD programs have the highest dropout rates, driven by finances, advisor mismatch, and mental health challenges (Collier & Blanchard, 2023, 2024).
- **ROI Disparities:** Highly selective colleges disproportionately drive top earnings (Carnevale et al., 2022; Strohl et al., 2024).

Graduate preparation programs and support systems can enhance graduate enrollment and success for first-generation, low-income, and under-resourced students; yet, few organizations prepare students for graduate school (Crews et al., 2020; McCoy et al., 2008; Metz, 2017; Parsons et al., 2022; Thompson et al., 2017). Those that do provide support are part of a larger institution, are discipline-specific (i.e., Científico Latino Inc., the Consortium, PhD Project, etc.), or degree-focused (i.e., TRIO McNair). Leadership Brainery is among the only graduate access organizations that spans multiple regions, communities, institutions, and fields.

Ongoing actions from the federal government challenge us, but do not deter us. Recent changes **limit the amount of loans** students can access from the federal government for both undergraduate and graduate school. Additionally, the increased taxes and visa restrictions will limit graduate school enrollment and thus the aid universities can afford to give. Many graduate programs rely on federal funding to provide financial support to students, particularly those in doctoral programs. Some universities have lost their federal funding, which limits their ability to financially support their graduate students.

Despite these obstacles, the research is clear: **Graduate school can be a direct pathway to financial security and societal impact, which ultimately affects the quality of life for entire communities.**



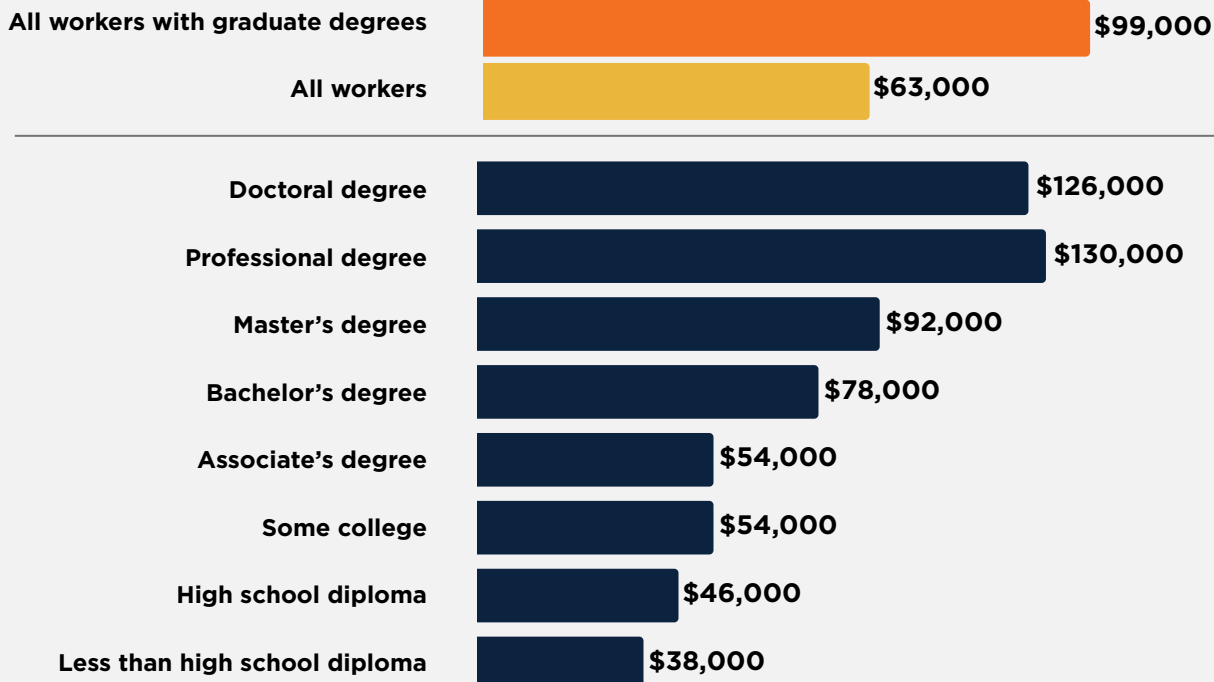
GRADUATE DEGREES UNLOCK GREATER OPPORTUNITY

A bachelor's degree provides a strong foundation, with median annual earnings of \$78,000. Graduate education builds on that foundation, **raising median earnings to \$99,000, and up to \$130,000 for professional degree holders**. At Leadership Brainery, we believe all communities deserve the opportunity to create generational prosperity. Advanced education and thriving careers are a primary gateway to achieving this reality.



Workers with graduate degrees see a \$36,000 increase in median earnings than other workers.

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATION LEVEL (USD) 💰



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of data from the US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Population Survey, 2022.

Note: These numbers reflect median earnings among full-time, full-year workers, ages 25-64, with positive earnings in 2021. Earnings have been inflation-adjusted to 2022 dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

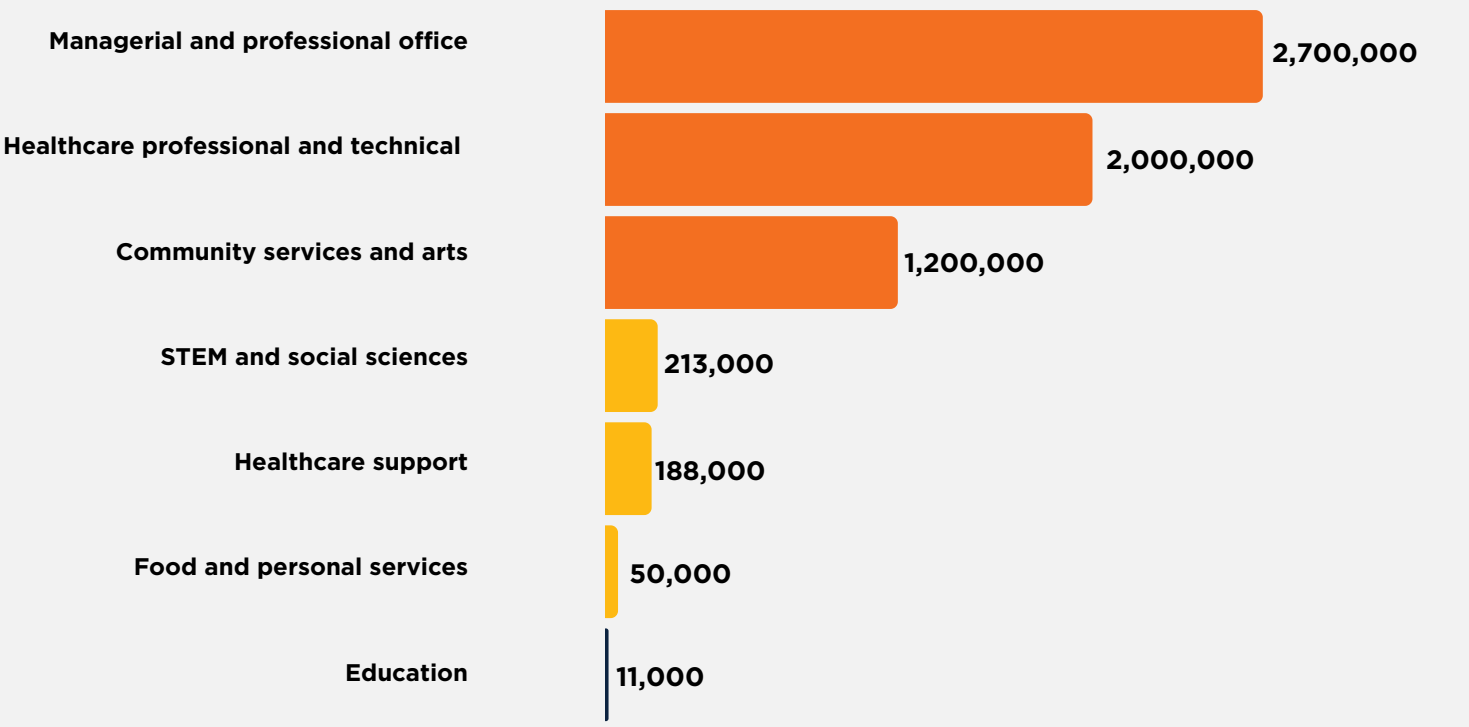
RISING DEMAND FOR GRADUATE DEGREES

The demand for advanced education is growing rapidly. **By 2031**, millions of new jobs in management, healthcare, and professional fields will require graduate degrees; **one in six jobs will demand master’s or doctoral-level credentials**. Leadership Brainery equips students with the preparation, networks, and opportunities they need to thrive in this shifting workforce, ensuring that communities with limited access are not left behind.



Managerial and professional office occupations will add the largest number of jobs for graduate degree holders through 2031.

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JOBS FOR GRADUATE DEGREE HOLDERS (2021-2031)



Source: Carnevale et al. After Everything. 2023.

INSPIRING MORE STUDENTS TO PURSUE GRADUATE DEGREES

Students with limited access—particularly those who are the first in their families to attend college—are less likely to anticipate pursuing an advanced degree. At Leadership Brainery, we expose students to the possibilities of graduate education, empower them with knowledge and confidence, and equip them with the resources and networks needed to succeed. **By increasing both the likelihood and motivation to pursue advanced degrees, we ensure more students can access the thriving careers and generational prosperity that follow.**

Demographics of Undergraduate Students by Likelihood of Pursuing an Advanced Degree

Amongst over 22,000 students surveyed, students who have a parent with an advanced degree are 15% more “likely to pursue an advanced degree” than first-generation college students.

	Likely to Pursue an Advanced Degree	Undecided	Unlikely to Pursue an Advanced Degree	Have Never Thought About an Advanced Degree
GENDER				
Men	48%	57%	57%	59%
Women	52%	43%	43%	41%
RACE/ETHNICITY				
Asian	16%	14%	10%	15%
Black	8%	6%	5%	6%
Hispanic	13%	12%	9%	17%
White	64%	67%	76%	62%
PARENTAL EDUCATION				
Less than bachelor's degree	26%	30%	28%	38%
Bachelor's degree	33%	39%	42%	40%
Advanced degree	41%	32%	29%	22%
n=	15,850	2,405	3,196	650

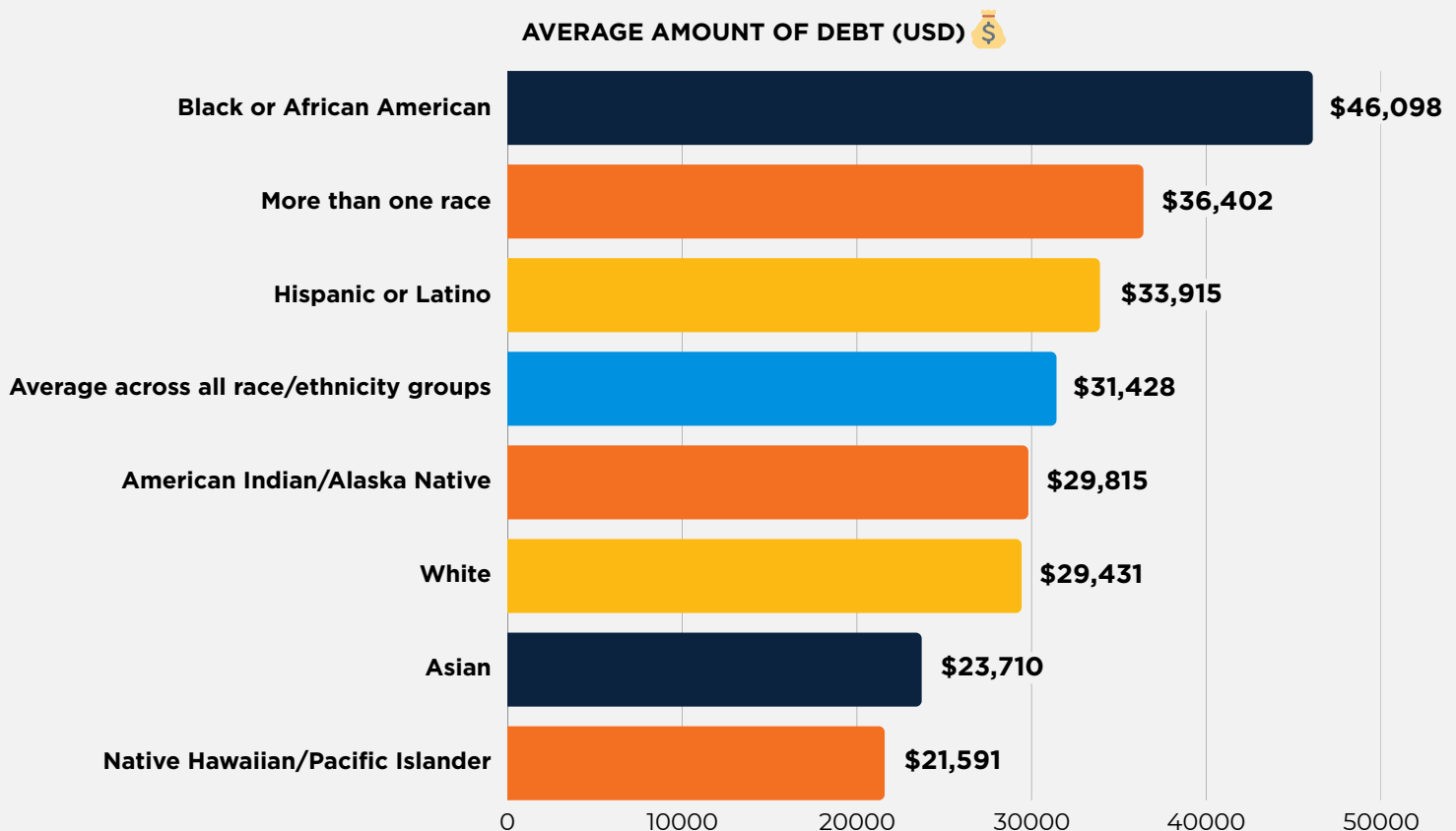
Source: Association of American Law Schools. 2018. Beyond the bachelor's: Undergraduate pathways to law school. Association of American Law Schools. https://www.aals.org/app/uploads/2023/08/AALS_BeyondtheBachelors_Client_Report_101018.pdf



REDUCING THE BURDEN OF GRADUATE SCHOOL DEBT

Graduate degree holders carry disproportionate debt, with averages reaching over \$46,000. Leadership Brainery helps reduce this burden by preparing students to access competitive graduate schools that offer strong scholarships and financial aid packages. We also connect them with private fellowships and research opportunities, and **provide our Ambassadors with \$10,000 in transitional grant support** once they're accepted into graduate programs to support their matriculation. By reducing financial barriers, we ensure that students can pursue advanced education without being weighed down by unmanageable debt.

The average amount of debt students of all races take out for graduate school is \$31,428; Hispanic, multi-racial, and Black students, on average, take out thousands more.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2020 Graduate Students (NPSAS:GR). Data retrieved from NCES PowerStats on 9/10/2025. Computation code: ilbwbq.

LB ALUMNI STORIES



Our alumni are living proof of what's possible when talent meets opportunity. Their journeys highlight not only the resources, skills, and confidence gained through Leadership Brainery's programs, but also the ripple effects of impact they are now creating in their communities and industries.

On the next few pages, our alumni share why they joined Leadership Brainery, how the experience shaped them, and where they're headed next. These stories remind us that every investment in a student is an investment in a more prosperous future. Each alumnus carries forward Leadership Brainery's mission, proving that one opportunity can ignite a lifetime of impact.





DAYMOND J.

Program:

HBCU Internship 2025

Undergraduate Institution:

Morehouse College,
Class of 2026

LB's Impact:

"Through Leadership Brainery's HBCU Internship Program, I had the chance to attend the Graduate School Summit. I walked in with questions and curiosity—and left with clarity. Meeting admissions officers, deans, and students from top graduate programs gave me real connections and the confidence to see myself belonging in those spaces."

Back at Morehouse, I used my internship to plan an event called *BEYOND THE YARD: Equipping The Atlanta University Center for Graduate School Success*, where 40 students gained access to professionals, knowledge of the application process, and even scholarships. Looking ahead, I plan to begin my career in banking, then pursue an MBA and eventually a PhD to become a professor. Leadership Brainery has invested in me, and in turn I've learned that excellence is a daily commitment to show up, learn, and lead."



VICTORY Y.

Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 3

Undergraduate Institution:

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, Class of 2025

Where Are They Now:

Weill Cornell Medicine, Tri-Institutional Program (with Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan Kettering), PhD Candidate, Computational Biology & Medicine

LB's Impact:

"I first learned about Leadership Brainery through my college inbox when the opportunity was forwarded to a minority student mailing list. At the time, I wasn't certain I would pursue a graduate degree, but I was deeply engaged in research and decided to give it a shot—thank God it was a 'yes!'"

LB gave me accountability, moral support, and resources that made the application process feel safe, supportive, and grounding. Joining LB has been a blessing, and the \$10,000 of grant funding has been an incredible offset to my financial responsibilities. I began my fully funded PhD in Computational Biology & Medicine at Cornell's Tri-Institutional Program in Fall 2025. My long-term goal is to transform biotechnology research and innovation in Nigeria and across Africa, while also championing access to research opportunities for future students."





PRANIT C.

Program:

Graduate School Summit 2023

Undergraduate Institution:

Emerson College, Class of 2023

Former Graduate Program:

The F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business, Babson College, Master's Business Analytics, Class of 2024

Where Are They Now:

International Rescue Committee, Digital Product Lead of Ahlan Simsim

LB's Impact:

"I first learned about Leadership Brainery through a Vice Provost at Emerson College who encouraged me to get involved. Soon after, I attended the Graduate School

Summit, and it became clear that graduate school was the right next step for me. LB helped me build a professional network, connect with graduate students and working professionals I could relate to, and explore career opportunities across nonprofits, private equity, and beyond. I went on to earn my Master's in Business Analytics from Babson's F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business, and since then, I've worked with organizations such as the United Nations and now the International Rescue Committee. I hope to continue using my business acumen, technological skills, and international experience to build sustainable programs around the world."



KEMI G.

Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 1

Undergraduate Institution:

George Washington University, Class of 2022

Where Are They Now:

Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University, MD Candidate, Class of 2029

LB's Impact:

"I first learned about Leadership Brainery through my sister. I applied because I wanted mentorship, guidance, and resources to help me grow personally and professionally while preparing for medical school. Through LB, I gained skills in public speaking, project organization, and resume building. I also connected with

physicians who shared invaluable insight into the medical school application and interview process. This mentorship has been instrumental to my journey. During my fellowship project, I organized a panel discussion that brought together health professionals to address disparities and access in healthcare, which deepened my passion for advocacy. Today, I am pursuing my MD at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University with a scholarship. As a future physician, I am committed to advancing health equity by providing compassionate, culturally competent care, engaging in outreach that supports wellness beyond the clinic, and conducting research to improve health outcomes for underserved communities."





DANIELLE G.



Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 1

Undergraduate Institution:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Class of 2022

Where Are They Now:

Harvard Law School, JD Candidate, Class of 2027

LB's Impact:

"I am a proud member of Leadership Brainery's first Ambassador cohort. Originally from Miami, I graduated from MIT in 2022 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and became the first Black woman to serve as Student Body President—something I was inspired to

pursue because of LB's support. From early exposure to top law schools and LSAT prep to a community of peers who also dreamed big, LB expanded my sense of possibility and gave me the confidence to pursue law on my own terms. Through LB, I met the Dean of Admissions at Harvard Law School, and today I am studying there with the goal of becoming an Intellectual Property lawyer who expands access for creatives. LB's investment in me has shown that you don't need to wait until everything feels perfect to start—apply anyway, reach out anyway, show up anyway. Your story is powerful, and the LB community is a launchpad to shape the future of your field."



ANDRE F.



Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 2

Undergraduate Institution:

Harvard University, Class of 2023

Where Are They Now:

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, JD Candidate, Class of 2028

Former Graduate Program:

MS International Politics, KU Leuven, Class of 2025

LB's Impact:

"I learned about Leadership Brainery through another mentorship organization named NJ LEEP, where I learned about the amazing services the organization offers and support to first-generation, low-income students who do not have access to the same resources as other students. Through Leadership Brainery,

I strengthened my leadership and organizational management skills while gaining hands-on experience in building inclusive initiatives that empower under-resourced communities. I also expanded my network by connecting with mission-driven peers, mentors, and professionals who provided valuable resources and insights for advancing equity and opportunity. I am now attending the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law on a full-ride merit scholarship. After law school, I aspire to use my legal training to uplift immigrant communities by advocating for equitable policies and providing accessible support for those navigating complex legal systems. Personally, I hope to build a life centered on service, community, and meaningful relationships with family and friends while contributing to a more just society."



AIJALON M.

Program:

HBCU Internship 2024

Undergraduate Institution:

Spelman College, Class of 2025

Where Are They Now:

University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, MD Candidate, Class of 2029

LB's Impact:

"I was first introduced to Leadership Brainery while interning at a pharmaceutical company in the summer of 2023, when the staff presented their

mission to my EEJust Biomedical Sciences Internship cohort. As a rising junior at Spelman, I was inspired to apply to become a 2024 HBCU Ambassador so I could share LB's resources with my classmates while utilizing them for myself. Since completing the program, I have enrolled in medical school, and LB has been a valuable part of my journey—strengthening my networking, public speaking, and leadership skills. Looking ahead, I plan to complete an internal medicine residency and specialize in dermatology."



MARIELIS R.

Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 2

Undergraduate Institution:

Boston University, Class of 2023

Where Are They Now:

Harvard Law School, JD Candidate, Class of 2027

LB's Impact:

"Before starting as an Ambassador at Leadership Brainery I had an idea of what I wanted to do and the motivation for it, but I didn't know where to start. I knew I wanted to go to law school and pursue the legal industry, and Leadership Brainery gave me the resources to understand what starting meant for me and my career path. One of the resources I took advantage of was test prep materials and the support of a community of peers

who were preparing for the exam at the same time. Another was an internship through one of LB's sponsors, where I worked at Atlantic Global Risk and was exposed to both legal and business concepts. That experience helped me better understand what I want to do with my legal degree and how to set myself up for my career field down the line. Leadership Brainery has also given me the internal motivation to keep going. As a first-generation college student, I didn't know whether law was for me or if I could do it. But LB gave me the skills and tools to reflect and realize that I am enough—that I am more than enough—and that I can enter this career field and do well, while leaving the door open for those coming behind me."





KAUSHAR B.



Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 3

Undergraduate Institution:

University of Massachusetts
Boston, Class of 2024

Where Are They Now:

Johns Hopkins School of
Advanced International Studies,
MA in International Relations,
Class of 2027

LB's Impact:

"Leadership Brainery is one of the most important and helpful organizations I have come across, not only for building connections but for accessing opportunities and resources. It is a vibrant space where like-minded people driven by passion and purpose come together to share their goals, talk about the work they

want to do, and support one another. Meeting people from different fields and backgrounds showed me that even though we may pursue different degrees or careers, it ultimately comes back to advocating for global issues that affect us all. That has motivated me to understand that it doesn't matter where you sit at the table or what kind of policy you're discussing—what matters is having a cause you are driven by and the passion to work for it, regardless of the industry you come from. Leadership Brainery has provided me with that space, the energy, and the confidence to pursue my career goals with clarity and purpose. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be part of this cohort and carry this passion forward."



BELLA R.



Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 3

Undergraduate Institution:

Boston University,
Class of 2025

Where Are They Now:

Accepted to Benjamin N.
Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva
University, JD Program

LB's Impact:

"I am a proud alumna of the Leadership Brainery Ambassador Fellowship. When I first started at Boston University, graduate school felt impossible; too expensive and out of reach for someone like me, the first in my family to study out of state. People say it takes a village to raise a child, but I see vividly that

it has taken a world to make me who I am today, and LB is its own continent. Through the fellowship, LB provided test prep, one-on-one advising, and even reviewed over 30 of my application essays line by line. Beyond that, they offered a \$10,000 transition grant to support my law school living expenses and, most importantly, a strong community with peers I will work with across industries, friends who cheer each other on, and a cohort that celebrates every success together. I will be the first in my family to attend graduate school, beginning law school in New York City with a near-full tuition scholarship. I can say with certainty that LB has changed my life, both personally and professionally."



DARRYL E.



Program:

Ambassador Fellowship Cohort 2

Undergraduate Institution:

Michigan State University,
Class of 2022

Where Are They Now:

Michigan Senate, Legislative Aide

LB's Impact:

"Being part of Leadership Brainery has completely shifted my mindset. When I first started preparing for the LSAT, I thought about law school as a dream. I wanted to go to a top program, but through LB, I realized that I *deserve* to go to a top law school.

And it's not just about me, it's about all of us, and our families, who deserve these opportunities too. Our struggle and determination show that we are not only fit for these opportunities, but prepared to succeed in them. What Leadership Brainery has given me is confidence-building exposure that shows us what's possible and opens doors we wouldn't have had access to otherwise. That exposure is what changes everything, because it makes you believe that you belong in these spaces and can thrive in them. For me, it has turned uncertainty into determination, and a dream into a goal I know I can achieve."



RASHANA W.



Program:

Ambassador Fellowship
Cohort 2

Undergraduate Institution:

University of Connecticut,
Class of 2023

Where Are They Now:

Harvard Graduate School of Education; Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology Program, Ed.M. Candidate, Class of 2026

LB's Impact:

"I first learned about Leadership Brainery through my alma mater. I applied because of LB's unique focus on both the individual and the community, and I quickly found that the resources and support aligned perfectly with what I needed to pursue

graduate school. As an Ambassador, I gained exposure to a wide range of programs, connected with like-minded peers, and built a network I could lean on throughout the application process. LB also introduced me to the graduate program I ultimately chose, and today I am pursuing my Ed.M. in Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. I am a recipient of the Harvard Graduate School of Education Impact Award and participant in the Harvard Climate Leadership Program. Looking ahead, I aspire to work at Google for Education in New York City as a Product Manager, while also scaling my podcast to democratize access to mentorship for early career professionals."

RAISED

\$4.2M

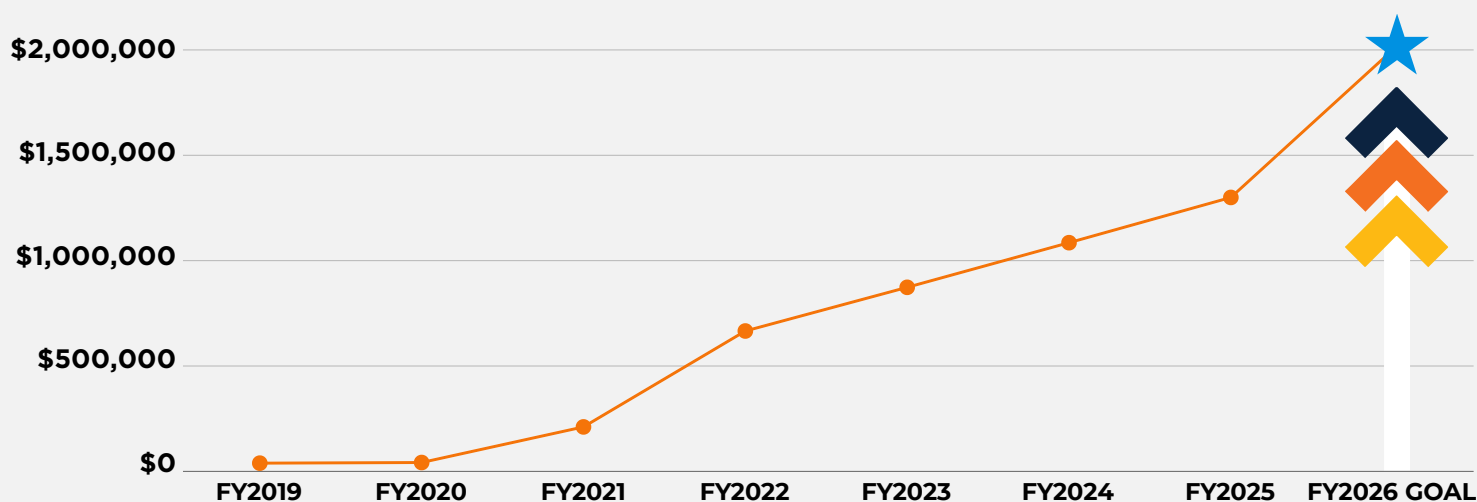
TRANSFORMING FUTURES, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Every dollar and connection fuels a student's journey to graduate school, shifting what's possible for their future. Each student represents a systemic intervention—a leader who will influence hiring practices, legislation, and institutional cultures. By creating a network of change-makers, Leadership Brainery builds more professional ecosystems that transform industries, leadership, and leave lasting generational change.

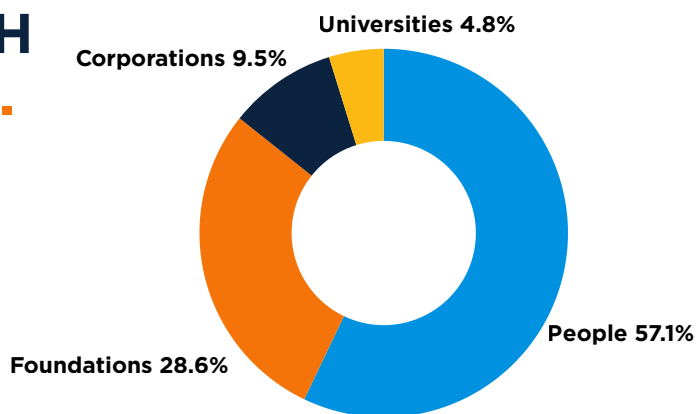
As of October 2025, LB has raised over \$4 million for our programs over the last seven years. Thank you for being a part of what we have accomplished so far.

We need your help to raise \$2 million by June 30, 2026, to meet the growing demand of our work.

FUNDS RAISED SINCE 2018 (USD)



**CHANGE
STARTS
WITH
YOU.
ME.
US.**



In Fiscal Year 2025, the majority of LB's funding came from PEOPLE!

We are powered by our community: individuals investing and spreading the word about this work have allowed LB to secure foundation and corporate funding in higher volumes.

Thank you, keep the
connections coming!

View our financial records at
leadershipbrainery.org/finances
or scan here:



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

Thank you, thank you, thank you! None of this work would be possible without you—our friends and allies in this work—who continue to believe in the brilliance of our student leaders. Your generosity has done more than raise funds; it has lifted spirits, opened doors, and imbued each student with a sense of *somebodiness*. We are grateful to be on this journey with you, one student at a time, and we are filled with appreciation for your support.



Proud donors pose with Co-founders wearing their custom LB Converse shoes, a gift for our most invested supporters, at the Boston Bar Association's (BBA) 2025 Beacon Awards, where Derrick and Jonathan accepted the Empowerment Award on behalf of Leadership Brainery.

Pictured from left to right: Derrick Young Jr., MPH (LB Co-founder and Executive Director), Hannah Kilson, Esq. (Partner at Nolan Sheehan Patten LLP, 2025 Vice President of the BBA, LB Donor), Renee Inomata, Esq. (Partner at Casner & Edwards LLP, LB Donor), Carla Reeves, Esq. (Partner at Ghouston & Storrs, LB Donor), and Jonathan Allen, JD, MTS (LB Co-founder and Director of Development).

HEAR FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

CARLA REEVES, ESQ.

Partner, Goulston & Storrs

LB DONOR SINCE 2019

"I am proud to support The Leadership Brainery and its mission to expand access to advanced education, career mobility, and leadership opportunities. The work the Leadership Brainery team is doing to address barriers to higher education, inspire students, and empower future leaders is more important now than ever. I've personally walked in similar shoes as many students LB serves, and wish this organization were around when I began pursuing law school."



JAMES HIPPS

Vice President of Operations, Bayview Payroll Services

LB MONTHLY DONOR SINCE 2019

"Discovering an organization that benefits not only the present needs of individuals but also catalyzes a better future was the motivation for me to become an ongoing financial supporter of LB. I absolutely love the organization's ideology that by assisting students in gaining access to programs that can place them in high-impact and higher-paying positions, it helps build a better future for generations to come, not only in the financial sense, but it changes the future landscape so those from marginalized communities are afforded opportunities they may otherwise never realize and continue to impact the world in a positive manner. Donating is my way of changing the present and the future for the better, because, as LB states, 'Change Can't Wait.' I'm extremely proud to support this amazing change!"

JESSICA CASTRO, MBA

Vice President of Programs and Operations,
Trefler Foundation

FOUNDATION PARTNER SINCE 2023

“One of the Trefler Foundation's pillars is enhancing educational opportunities. Urban education has been at the center of our giving since the Foundation's inception. Supporting Leadership Brainery represents a natural extension of this commitment. We recognize that providing underserved students with access to support, coaching, and networking opportunities, ultimately leading to advanced degrees, is critical to ensuring their long-term success.”



TERRIE PERELLA, MBA

Marketing, Branding and Communications Leader

LB DONOR & ADVISOR SINCE 2021

“Leadership Brainery positively transforms the lives of college students, providing them with knowledge, confidence, and contacts, as they pursue graduate education and related professional careers. I have had the pleasure of working with Leadership Brainery over the last five years (as a consultant and contributor), and have witnessed how LB's various professional development programs, fellowships, summits, tools, and coaching have helped countless students achieve their academic goals and dreams. I am honored to financially support the work of Leadership Brainery, as an investment in graduate education and professional growth for current and future generations.”



HELP EXPAND LB'S REACH!



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS?



Write a note to be shared with our graduating cohort



Make a donation to ensure LB reaches our FY26 goal of \$2 million



Host a house party to mobilize your community in support of our initiatives



Request your employer to match your current year's giving



Pledge future/multi-year support to enhance our planning and operational capacity



Share leads for foundations or companies that may be interested in supporting LB



Share our Policy Updates, Forbes articles, and program application details

USE THE QR CODE FOR NEXT STEPS!



A SPECIAL THANKS FROM OUR STUDENTS

"I have never felt more confident in my ability to pursue higher education, and I will carry that with me throughout the rest of my professional journey and life."

"Perhaps by far the most important impact LB has had on me was the lasting impression of community, inclusion, and love I felt, which has affirmed that I belong in graduate school."

"I hope the donors keep donating so that others can benefit from this incredible program and the amazing opportunities that LB provides."

**“EDUCATION IS THE
MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH [WE]
CAN USE TO CHANGE
THE WORLD.”
— NELSON MANDELA**

Across:

- 1. EARNINGS
- 4. COMPUTATIONALBIOLOGY
- 5. TREFLERFOUNDATION
- 12. AMBASSADORFELLOWSHIP
- 13. EXCELLENCE
- 15. SHARE
- 16. SOMEBODINESS

Down:

- 2. INTERGENERATIONAL
- 3. BOSTONBARASSOCIATION
- 6. HOUSEPARTY
- 7. EDUCATION
- 8. OURCORE
- 9. BEYONDTHEYARD
- 10. CONFIDENCE
- 11. LEADERSHIP
- 14. CHANGE



**LEADERSHIP
BRAINERY**



REACHING HIGHER.

**PREPARING LEADERS
FOR TOMORROW, TODAY!**