

MASSIAH LAWRENCE SCHOLARS

***The Power
of Belief***



***Celebrating 20 Years
of Achievement***

SINCE
1999

SCHOLARS
327

SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2.5 M

THE POWER OF BELIEF

"You're always believing ahead of your evidence. What was the evidence I could write a poem? I just believed it. The most creative thing in us is to believe in a thing."

-Robert Frost (Lawrence High School graduate)

BACKGROUND – In 1999, a local immigrant entrepreneur who was beginning to gain financial success decided to reach out and help others achieve a foothold in the world. Through a series of fortuitous events, including an accidental introduction to a retired school counselor, he decided to anonymously help students at Lawrence High School. His vision was simple – reward academic excellence with the funds necessary for students to take their studies to the post-secondary level.

This personal philanthropy started small, initially helping one or two students afford a single year of college. By 2002, the program was proving a success and the Massiah Foundation was established to spearhead an increase in the scope of awards. Fast forward to 2019, 327 Lawrence High School students have received a Massiah Foundation scholarship totaling over \$2 million in financial support for higher education.

CHALLENGES FOR LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – In the early years of this philanthropy, Lawrence High School was one of only a handful of unaccredited high schools in Massachusetts. In 2010, more than one out of every four Lawrence students dropped out of high school and only 35 percent of 10th graders were "proficient" in math. As a result, the school district was placed into receivership by the state Board of Education in January 2012. At that time, the drop-out rate at the high school was more than 50%, and the district ranked in the bottom one percent in the state based on math and English test scores. Outside the school, the picture was not any brighter. Lawrence has traditionally been one of the poorest, if not the

poorest, city in Massachusetts. From 2009-2013, 29% of residents in Lawrence lived below the poverty level, only 58% of residents had a high school education, and 92 percent of Lawrence students were enrolled in the government's free and reduced lunch program.

While Lawrence High School students have faced, and continue to face, many educational and socio-economic challenges, the Massiah Foundation stepped in to provide students of promise a helping hand so they may recognize their full potential. Working together, Lawrence High's faculty and staff and the Massiah Foundation have cultivated an environment where students can believe a path to success is achievable, if one is willing to work hard enough, as financial impediments to such success are removed.

RESULTS – Though there is still much work to be done, the belief has taken hold among students and administrators and the results are promising. Massiah Lawrence scholars have attended some of our nation's most prestigious institutions, including Boston College, Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, Stanford, U. Penn and others. These scholars have capitalized on their strong post-secondary education to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, entrepreneurs, community and civic leaders, teachers and more. The Massiah Foundation is proud to have played a small part in the tremendous strides made by these Lawrence High School graduates. It has been a privilege to support the many fine Massiah Lawrence Scholars.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

ATTENDED BY MASSIAH LAWRENCE SCHOLARS SINCE 1999

Bates College	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	Smith College
Bentley University	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Sciences	Stanford University
Boston College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Stonehill College
Boston University	Merrimack College	Suffolk University
Brandeis University	Middlesex Community College	Temple University
Bridgewater State University	Mount Holyoke College	Tufts University
Brown University	Mount Ida College	UMass Amherst
Bryn Mawr College	Northeastern University	UMass Boston
Clark University	Northern Essex Community College	UMass Dartmouth
Colgate University	Norwich University	UMass Lowell
College of the Holy Cross	Penn State	Union College
Columbia University	Pitzer College	University of Arizona
Cornell University	Providence College	University of Miami
Curry College	Regis College	University of New Hampshire
Dartmouth College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of New Haven
Denison University	Rivier University	University of Pennsylvania
Elms College	Rochester Institute of Tech	University of Rochester
Emmanuel College	Saint Joseph's College	University of Vermont
Emory University	Salem State University	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Fitchburg State University	Salve Regina University	Westfield State College
Georgetown University	Savannah College of Art & Design	Wheaton College
Gordon College	Simmons College	Whitman College
Hamilton College	Skidmore College	William Smith College
Harvard University		Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Johnson & Wales University		Worcester State University
Lasell University		
Lesley University		

MASSIAH LAWRENCE SCHOLARS



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Massiah Lawrence Scholars and the scholastic achievement of all our students. We look forward to working together with community, civic, and business leaders to support scholastic achievement in the City of Lawrence for another 20 years and beyond. We believe it is time to give credit to the students of Lawrence High School who, despite coming from a variety of challenging environments, have proven that anything is possible if you believe in it strongly enough. They have demonstrated the ability to compete for, and achieve, admission into the best institutions of higher learning and they are creating a better tomorrow for themselves and their community. We are all very proud of them.