



# ALIVE INC. MILWAUKEE

Morehead-Cain Civic Collaboration - 2025



MKE Fellows Program

LEADERSHIP • READINESS • IMPACT



SCAN ME



# Morehead-Cain Team Milwaukee



MELANIE CABRERO  
(SHE/HER)  
2027



BEN JONES  
(HE/HIM)  
2028



PAIDEN CASTELBLANCO  
(SHE/HER)  
2028



NEHA JUMANI  
(SHE/HER)  
2028



PRINCE RIVERS  
(HE/HIM)  
2028

# FRAMING THE NEED

## Morehead-Cain Civic Collaboration Project

- **Rising Barriers:** Shifting college admissions, growing DEI opposition, and economic uncertainty are making it harder for Fellows to succeed in traditional pathways.
- **Talent Needs Support:** MKE Fellows are gifted students, but early, sustained mentorship and leadership development are essential for long-term success.
- **Urgent Opportunity:** Fellows need clearer guidance and deeper ownership of their growth to thrive in a changing landscape: now is the time to act.

“The primary goal of MKE Fellows is the creation of a strong pipeline of young, African American male college graduates ready to return to Wisconsin to excel in their careers, build wealth, and become engaged leaders capable of moving our region’s African-American communities into a new era of greater health, vitality, and prosperity.” – MKE Fellows Mission



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Leadership - Readiness - Impact

- Over the past eight weeks, we listened to Fellows, staff, board members, and community leaders, conducting over **30 ethnographic interviews** and conducting focused research.
- From those conversations, we identified **six key opportunities** to strengthen and expand the impact of the MKE Fellows Program.
- Through targeted investments, amplifying student voices, and expanding leadership opportunities, we can help ensure every Fellow is equipped to succeed, thrive, and lead Milwaukee into the future.



**MKE Leadership Journey**



**Campus Connect**



**Boardroom Bound**



**9th Grade Outreach**



**Fellows Circle**



**Fellows Forward Fund**



# MKE LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Empowering Milwaukee's Future Leaders

We propose a three-phase journey that begins in high school, catalyzing college readiness:

**Service Spring:** Junior Fellows collaborate on team-based service projects, guided by local mentors, to develop initiative, teamwork, and community leadership.

**Summer Institute:** Fellows participate in a week-long pre-college experience focused on application readiness, identity exploration, and brotherhood.

**College Planning:** Fellows receive structured essay support, one-on-one advising, and access to pro-bono private college counselors to close the admissions resource gap.



**"In our community, it's a step before college access.**

**It's about readiness and preparation for college."**

**- Gregory Wesley, Greater Milwaukee Foundation CEO**



# PHASE I: SERVICE SPRING

## MKE STRUCTURED LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

We recommend instituting a required **community service project** as a vital part of the MKE Leadership Journey, titled **Service Spring**.

- High School Junior Spring Semester.
- Teams of six to eight MKE Fellows work with a mentor on a project of their choosing.
- Begins with a workshop series, where fellows learn from entrepreneurs & local leaders.
- Culminates in a **community showcase** celebrating their work & impact.

**“Everybody’s got to feel part of the rising tide.”**  
– Attorney John Daniels Jr, MKE Fellows Founder





# PHASE 2: Summer Institute

## MKE STRUCTURED LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Following Service Spring, we recommend Fellows participate in a Summer Institute before their Senior Year, aimed at addressing 3 critical MKE Pillars: **brotherhood, college preparation, & identity-building.**

- 2-3 University professor lectures per day, allowing students to experience college classes.
- Sessions for scholarship searches, compiling a college list, & drafting the Common App Essay.
- Opportunities to reflect on personal passions & identity, inspiring college essays.

**“How do individuals differentiate themselves in such a competitive world? That’s our focus.”**  
– John Daniels III, ALIVE Milwaukee CEO





# PHASE 3: College Planning

## MKE STRUCTURED LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

To ensure MKE Fellows are equipped to navigate this process with confidence and support, we recommend a system of **mentorship, peer collaboration, and access to high-quality advising**.

- A structured timeline of Common Application & Supplemental Essays, finishing by Early Action.
- **Peer-Review Essay Writing Sessions** would allow Fellows to support one another's journeys.
- Partnership Proposal: **Pro-Bono Private College Counseling**, Ex: Matchlighters Scholars.



**“It’s so much more than money that matters for vulnerable students to be successful. The research shows the real need is belonging.**

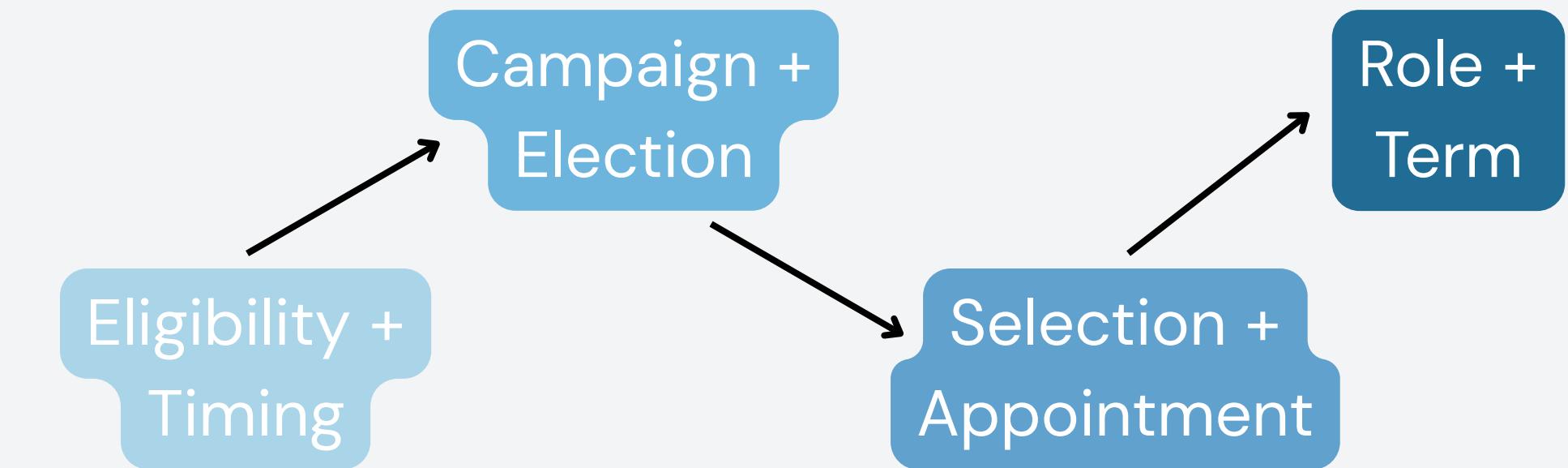
**– Alison Wagner, All-In Milwaukee Executive Director**



# BOARDROOM BOUND

Students Join the MKE Fellows Board of Directors

- Legal Feasibility
- Prioritizing Student Voice
- Leadership Development in Action
- Multigenerational Diversity
- Expanding the Pathways to the Top



**“I’ve always had a better and richer experience when I’ve been inclusive, and when I’ve been included.” – Kenyatta Sinclair, Greater Milwaukee Foundation DEI & Organizational Learning Officer**





# FELLOWS CIRCLE

Online Network for Fellows & Alumni

## Connection and Discovery

- Book meetings with staff
- Connect with fellows and alumni

## Communities and Groups

- Facilitate smaller cohorts with shared interests, career paths, etc

## Opportunities Hub

- Job and internship postings
- Increase access to resources

## Mentorship and Engagement

- Create structured mentorship
- Engage alumni to invest in youth

**“For many of us, our Fellow life is separate from our personal life.”**  
- High School MKE Fellow

# Fellows Circle

Connecting and empowering MKE Fellows

[Join](#)

## Member Directory & Messaging

Search for fellows and connect via private messaging

[Explore the directory](#)

## Groups & Interest Communities

Connect with other fellows who share your interests

[Browse groups](#)

## Upcoming Events

Find and RSVP for upcoming events

[View all events](#)

## Job & Internship Boards

Discover the latest opportunities for fellows

[View opportunities](#)

## CEO's Corner



John Daniels III

[Read the latest update](#)

## Advising

Schedule a meeting with MKE Staff



# CAMPUS CONNECT

Fostering Belonging Through Peer-Led Campus Visits

## What It Is:

- A peer-hosted pre-college visit program for admitted Fellows.
- Fellows stay overnight, attend classes, meet student orgs, and experience real college life.

## Why It Matters:

- Official tours are often curated – this offers *real connection*.
- Builds early belonging, a key factor in college success.
- Models like the PEOPLE Program show strong results (**94% college enrollment**).

## Scalable Start:

Launch with regional schools (e.g., UW–Madison, Marquette) and expand with feedback.

**It's [applying to college] just something you have to do."**  
– High School MKE Fellow



# 9TH GRADE OUTREACH

## Planting the Seeds of Success

### Goal:

Earlier exposure to college readiness, starting in the 9th grade

### Why:

Foundational choices are made early; many students aren't aware of what's possible

### How:

Bi-annual workshops, family sessions, mentor stories, engagement tracking

### Impact:

Builds a college mindset, prepares students & families before junior year, grows applicant pool



**“More students need to be aware of what exists; we need to get that information out more.”**  
– Darryl Jackson, MPS School Board Member



# FELLOWS FORWARD FUND

Investing in Milwaukee's Future Leaders

## What It Is:

- A grant fund for MKE Fellows to pursue personal and professional growth.
- Inspired by enrichment models like Morehead-Cain and educator development grants.

## Examples of Use:

- College visits, diversity weekends, leadership camps, conferences, enrichment travel.

Tiffany Engibous-Cameron, Chief of Staff at St. Augustine Prep, attributed much of their teachers' professional success to their "Invest in YOU" Program





# FELLOWS FORWARD FUND

Investing in Milwaukee's Future Leaders

## Key Features:

- Request platform modeled after an “Amazon Wish List”
- Community sponsorship opportunities
- The application includes reflection, budget, and mentor endorsement

## Impact:

- Helps students say yes to life-changing opportunities
- Builds confidence, curiosity, and ownership of their journey

**“We’re trying to open doors so you can get to the career  
and education you want to get to.”**  
– John Daniels III, ALIVE Milwaukee CEO



# CONCLUSION

## Leadership - Readiness - Impact

- The MKE Fellows Program is preparing students for leadership, for legacy, and for lasting impact.
- We believe the next decade of MKE Fellows can expand access, opportunity, and leadership.
- These recommendations are a roadmap for deepening MKE Fellows' impact by expanding access, elevating student leadership, and catalyzing long-term success.
- Thank you for welcoming us to Milwaukee and for trusting us with this opportunity. We are leaving Milwaukee inspired and confident that the future of this program is brighter than ever!





Morehead-Cain Civic Collaboration

# Questions & Comments



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Read our Full Proposal!!

