University of Chicago to expand educational access and accelerate career opportunities for historically underrepresented communities

UChicago Stand Together to further programming for underrepresented students; support community-based organizations; create new corporate partnerships

July 28, 2020 (CHICAGO) – As part of its deep commitment to access and inclusion, the University of Chicago is announcing the launch of UChicago Stand Together, a new initiative to increase educational access and career success for underrepresented students.

Through collaboration and partnerships with community-based organizations, other institutions of higher education and corporate partners, UChicago Stand Together reinforces educational and career opportunities for students of color and other underrepresented groups, supports organizations working to enhance access in education and expands equitable and responsive pathways to college for students underrepresented in higher education.

“From its inception, the University of Chicago has been a home for serious scholars, regardless of their racial, ethnic or gender identities. Now, as we work together to build a more inclusive community, we must also confront the unequal barriers that our students face before they arrive and after they graduate,” said James Nondorf, dean of admissions and vice president of the university.

The program will launch during the 2020-2021 admissions cycle, beginning with the incoming Class of 2025, and includes:

**Partnerships with and support for community-based organizations**

- Regional community-based organizations (CBOs) will be provided with 100 UChicago student interns funded by the University of Chicago.
- 10 national CBOs will be provided a recent UChicago graduate as a one-year Kimpton Fellow to serve in a full-time staff position within that organization. Kimpton Fellows are recent graduates of the College who are granted paid, full-time fellowships to build professional skills and experience to launch their careers.
- Virtual programming opportunities will be provided for participating community-based organizations hosted by UChicago.
- A Community-Based Organization Advisory Council will be established to provide guidance and feedback on CBO partnerships, including the most impactful programming and resources to share with organizations that are working to promote equity in higher education. Founding members include 100 Black Men of Chicago, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Palouse Pathways, Puente Project, SCS Noonan Scholars and the Young Eisner Scholars.
• A new partnership has been established with 100 Black Men of Chicago, a CBO that provides unparalleled mentorship and programming for thousands of Black youth across the city of Chicago, emphasizing the importance of education, healthy communities and economic development. This new partnership includes:
  o Guaranteed four-year, full-tuition scholarship for any student affiliated with 100 Black Men of Chicago who is admitted to the University of Chicago.
  o A new summer series of events to expand programming in college readiness and admissions.
  o Embedded Lawrence A. Kimpton Fellow to support 100 Black Men of Chicago staff and students over the course of the year.

“We are excited to weave 100 Black Men of Chicago into the fabric of the University of Chicago to become a more impactful catalyst of change for the South Side of Chicago,” said Carl H. Tutt, president of 100 Black Men of Chicago.

Expanding equitable and responsive pathways to college

• The **Moving Online, Virtually Empowered, Unlimited Potential (MOVE UP)** initiative, an enhancement of **UChicago Promise**, will provide free post-secondary guidance and college preparatory programming for Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students, with a focus on establishing stronger pathways to leading universities that provide significant financial support and high graduation rates for Black students and other underrepresented students. This initiative includes:
  o An early, streamlined process for CPS students that will both serve as an application to UChicago and a connection to more than 150 other institutions of higher education.
  o Individual college guidance for CPS UChicago applicants, including:
    ▪ Mentorship and application advice from trained UChicago students and staff.
    ▪ One-on-one post-secondary coaching provided by the [University of Chicago College Advising Corps](#) in partnership with the National College Advising Corps.
    ▪ Enhanced guidance from UChicago Financial Aid to navigate the complexity of need-based financial aid in the time of COVID-19.
  o A new rolling Early Decision application plan for CPS applicants to UChicago. The rolling Early Decision plan will allow students to receive admissions decisions sooner, encouraging early engagement and preparation for college.

The New Stand Together Scholarship

• $15 million in new four-year scholarships will be awarded to emerging student leaders and scholars involved in serving or advancing groups that are underrepresented in higher education, critical academic fields of study, and leadership in the workplace

Programs focused on accelerating the career success of underrepresented people of color

• The **Stand Together Scholarship** will provide $15 million in new four-year scholarships will be awarded to emerging student leaders and scholars involved in serving or advancing groups that are underrepresented in higher education, critical academic fields of study and leadership in the workplace.
• The **Student-Employer Forum on Building an Equitable Future** will present an opportunity for students and employers to discuss racial equity, diversity recruiting and support for people of color in the workplace.

• A new **Equity and Access Employer Council** will be a working group of employer partners who will advise the University on best practices and direct action that can be taken to facilitate the recruitment of diverse talent in the workforce.
  
  o “Goldman Sachs is proud of its long-standing partnership with UChicago and is looking forward to supporting the University’s first Equity and Access Employer Council. Goldman Sachs and UChicago share the belief that talent knows no boundaries, but opportunities can be limited. UChicago shares our passion for advancing inclusion and providing opportunities for underrepresented students to explore careers across financial services. When we bring different perspectives to the table, we generate stronger ideas and smarter solutions for our firm and clients every day,” said Megan Hogan, global head of diversity recruiting for Goldman Sachs.

• The **Luther Foster Public Service Internship Program** will provide internships and professional development resources for students dedicated to promoting Black voices in politics and social impact. Similar programs in the future will provide career support in other industries.

• UChicago’s **Diversity + Inclusion Summit** will be expanded to a year-long series of programs, including deep-dive sessions on topics such as imposter syndrome and racial diversity in specific industries, joint programs with cultural student organizations and employers, and career fair-style events for employers in underserved communities.

  “The University of Chicago produces outstanding graduates who, regardless of their race or background, have the skills and experience to succeed in all parts of our economy. However, degrees and job titles do not make someone immune to the effects of racism and prejudice,” John W. Rogers, Jr., chairman and CEO of Ariel Investments and trustee of the University of Chicago. “I am proud that UChicago is bringing together business and public service leaders to promote collaboration and innovation in equity and inclusion efforts for its alumni and young people of color everywhere.”

**New College Pathways for Veterans**

• Streamlined application process for veteran applicants to UChicago that will open additional enrollment options and support, including assistance in completing their UChicago application or information on colleges that best match and fit their goals.
  
  o Once admitted, veterans receive support from trained UChicago staff along every step of the college journey, from navigating the transition from military service to college and, four years later, college to career.

• Expanded programming for veterans interested in pursuing higher education, including new Veteran Scholars Metcalf internships and alumni connections that will assist in engaging prospective veteran applicants and support current veteran students.

For more information on UChicago Stand Together, visit: standtogether.uchicago.edu.