

Cultivating Youth Achievement, One Gold Standard Program at a Time

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Cultivating Character - Empowering Youth - Enriching Community

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About Center for Leadership Development

The Center for Leadership Development works with minority youth to put them on an academic, college, and career track so that they can become professional, business and community leaders. CLD aims to close the academic and professional achievement gaps by offering values-based programs and academic support for students 4th through 12th grade and continued support through college graduation. The success of our students can transform our entire community.

MISSION

The mission of the Center for Leadership Development is to foster the advancement of minority youth in Central Indiana as future professional, business and community leaders by providing experiences that encourage personal development and educational attainment.

VISION

Establish the Center for Leadership Development as one of the most preeminent centers in the nation for inspiring the highest character and leadership skills and the highest academic college and career achievement in African American youth.

PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Character Development
Educational Excellence
Leadership Effectiveness
Community Service
Career Achievement

Message from CLD President and Chairman of the Board

Our Vision of a Youth Program Gold Standard Continues



We remain deeply committed to our mission of preparing and inspiring African American youth to reach their highest potential. Thanks to your invaluable support, we've empowered hundreds of students, parents and families across central Indiana through our enriching and impactful programs and services. Based on the feedback we have received, these programs are having a truly life-changing effect.

At the core of CLD's success is our distinctive program model, built on the **CLD Principles for Success: Character Development, Educational Excellence, Leadership Effectiveness, Community Service** and **Career Achievement**. This holistic, values-based approach provides youth with transformative learning

experiences and role models who equip them with the skills, insights, and confidence needed to excel. Through our work, participants are building self-belief, setting goals, planning their futures, and embracing hard work and sacrifice to achieve success.

Because of the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and contributors, CLD made a significant impact in 2024:

Served **2,618 unique individuals** through enriching programs and services

Welcomed **1,439 first-time CLD participants**

Reached students from **250 schools** across the state

Delivered in-school programming at **Belzer Middle School, Crispus Attucks, George Washington High School and Arsenal Tech High School**

Our work is made possible by an exceptional board of directors, a talented and dedicated staff, and a strong group of stakeholders, volunteers, employers and higher education partners. Together, we are committed to providing Indianapolis youth and families with access to one of the nation's most esteemed program models, systematically nurturing academic, college, and career success.

We take great pride in sharing this report, knowing that our ability to deliver these impactful programs is thanks to your generosity. Your support ensures that CLD can continue offering life-changing experiences at little or no cost to those we serve. For that, we extend our sincere gratitude.

Yours for the development of youth,

Dennis E. Bland, CLD '82
President

John Otteson
Chairman of the Board

2024 Year in Review

Participant Demographics



Female
Participants
1,606
(61%)



Male
Participants
1,012
(39%)



Free/Reduced
Lunch
1298
(50%)

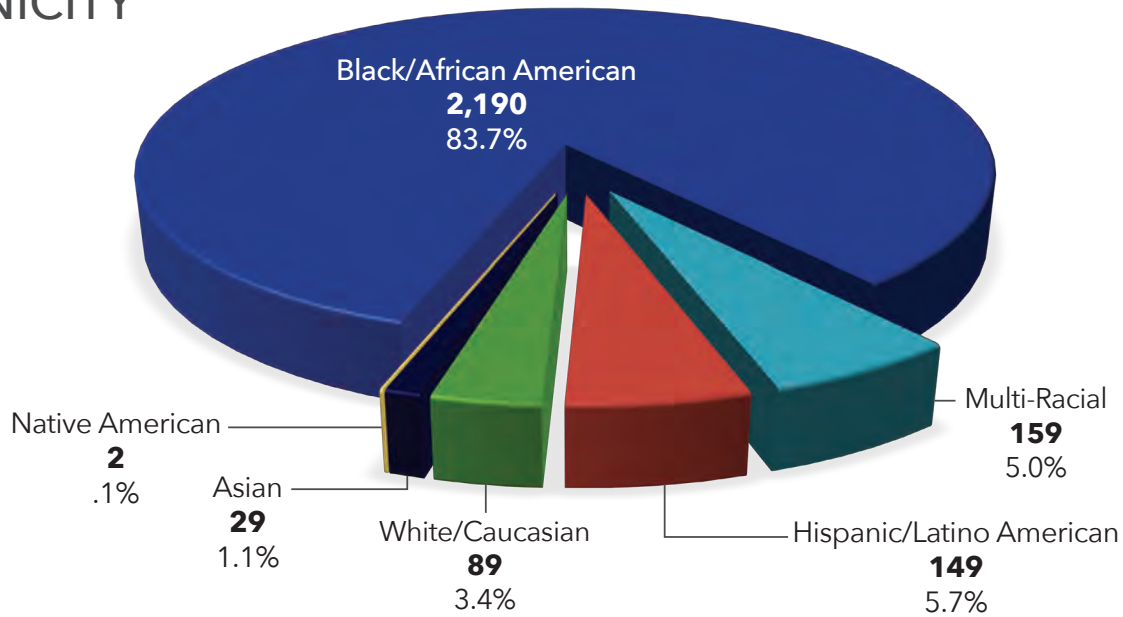


21st Century
Scholars
483
(18%)



IEP
Participants
289
(11%)

ETHNICITY



2,618

Participants
served

1,179

Returning
Participants

1,439

First Time
Participants

5,910

Overall
Touches

298

Participants with
one or more
alumni parents

2024 CLD Events

Annual Minority Achievers Awards & Scholars Gala

\$6,000,896.50

Awarded in Scholarships

96 Scholarship Recipients

81 Honored Nominees

1300+ Guests



CLD Golf Charity Classic

127 Golfers



17th Annual College Prep Conference & College Fair

50 Schools

22 Districts

19 Cities

10 Group Partners



One Experience at a Time

"They are remarkable African Americans who have made transformative contributions, leaving an enduring impact on the world. Their achievements have not only advanced progress in their fields but have also inspired generations, breaking barriers and reshaping society for the better."

- Grandparent of CLD participant



"The past several weeks have been an educational journey. When my mom introduced me to this program, I was a punter and receiver on Belzer's football team, already equipped with leadership and character-building skills. However, I needed new ideas to shape my career goals and principles for success. I was nervous during the first two sessions, unsure of what I would accomplish. Now, looking back, I'm grateful for the experience. I would especially like to thank Mr. Sargent for his guidance and support." - Chris Foster

"Bonding with others I never spoke a word to."

- Caleb Williams

"I feel like that I am doing the right thing like I'm supposed to. I think I need to keep going and going until I reach college. I want to be very nice to people and keep working hard." - J'shawn Brown

"The past weeks have been helpful, and I am thankful for this opportunity."

- Davion Wilson



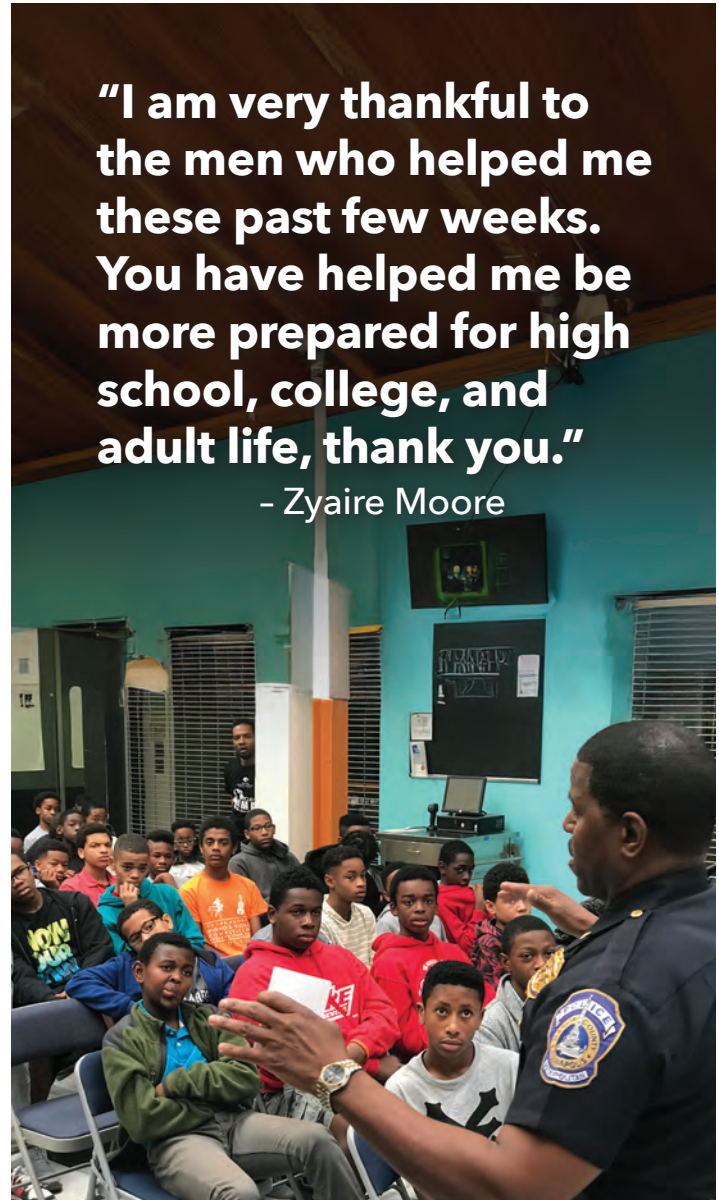
"The past several weeks that you were willing to share your time, talent, and resources has made a significant impact on my journey, and I am truly thankful for your generosity. Your guidance and encouragement has not only helped me grow personally but has also inspired me to strive for success. The lessons that I learned from y'all are ones I will carry with me throughout my life. Thank y'all once again for everything." - Daryell Williams III

"I've had a good time hanging. The physical activities were fun, especially the tug o' war. I learned more about the dangers of sex and hygiene. Being here also made me understand how important college and the future is. So, I just wanted to say thanks for the information and fun."

- Gregory Edmonds

"I am very thankful to the men who helped me these past few weeks. You have helped me be more prepared for high school, college, and adult life, thank you."

- Zyaire Moore



One Experience at a Time

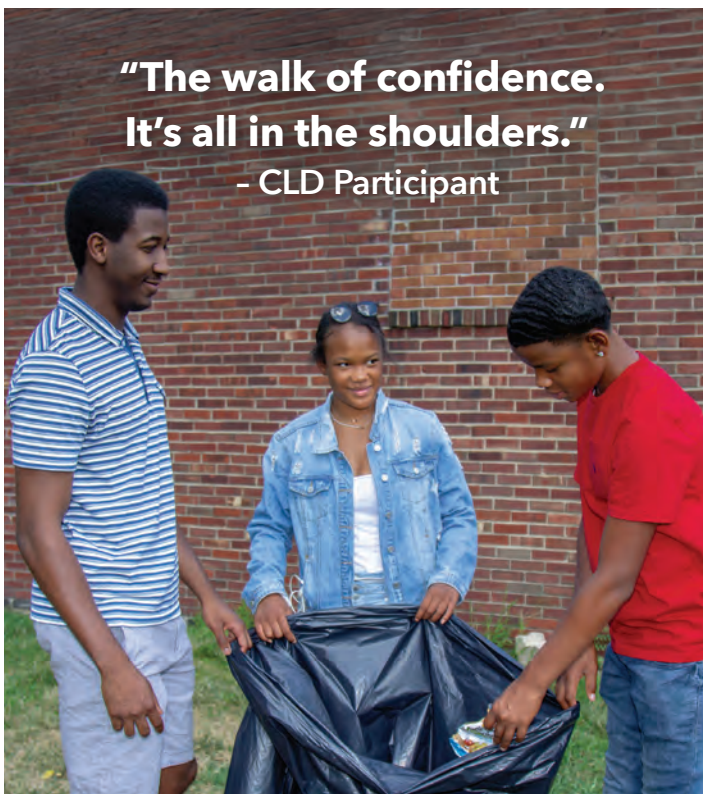
"Through this service project, I gained insight into how a tidy environment fosters a clear and focused mind. This, in turn, can enhance character development in various ways, especially by boosting confidence and concentration. Additionally, a clean space promotes educational excellence and reinforces a sense of responsibility."

- CLD Participant



**"The walk of confidence.
It's all in the shoulders."**

- CLD Participant



"I would like to thank the facilitators for everything they taught us in these past couple of weeks. It was very helpful and entertaining. It taught me how to be a man and to also know how to take care of my body, so I am very thankful for what you guys did for me and thank you." - Davion Wilson



"I learned that I am worth everything I say I'm worth."

- CLD Participant



"These past couple weeks have taught me how to budget and why not to do drugs and other valuable lessons. I will be taking these lessons with me for the rest of my life. Thank you all for teaching me and making me a better person."

- Benjamin Elliott

"The past six weeks were brisk. During this time, I have learned about decision-making and the consequences that come with it." - Josiah Dudley



Community Programs



Participating Schools and School Districts



MSD Lawrence Township



MSD Pike Township



MSD Washington Township



Indianapolis Public Schools



Hamilton Southeastern Schools



MSD Warren Township



Fort Wayne Community Schools



MSD Wayne Township



Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School



Cathedral High School



Total Charter Schools and Students served

CLD Scholars



Class of 2024 CLD Scholars

Oluwaferanmi Arise
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Adedamola O. Awonaiké
Ivy Tech Community
College

Marissa Baker
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Abdul-Aleem Balogun
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Naima Barkley
Purdue University

Nyla Benson
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Bethany Berry
Purdue University

Jaxon Brown
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Ashley Lerma Camero
Marian University

Saqib Chowdhury
Purdue University
Julia Daniels
Taylor University

Jiah Davenport
Ball State University

Brooklynn Ferrell
Ball State University

Zayb Ghumman
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Jasmine Gillett
Taylor University

Nyle Graham
DePauw University

Bryce Gray
Hanover College

Christopher Green
DePauw University

Blaise Guidry
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Gabriella Hargro
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Chandler Harris
Indiana University-
Indianapolis

Jillian Harris
Ball State University

Kennedy Hogue
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Promise Jefferson
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Sydney Joseph
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Beza Keehner
Indiana State University

Bailey Liner
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Charish Minor
Earlham College

Miles Mixon
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Simon Mudavadi
Purdue University
Jayla Myers
Butler University

Kelvin Ohaya
Indiana University-
Indianapolis

MaKirah Peoples
Indiana State University

Steven D. Peoples, Jr.
University of Indianapolis

Allen Poston
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Anthony Phillip Randolph
Rose-Hulman Institute of
Technology

Erinn Redmond
Butler University

Sanai Smith
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Rhykiah Starms
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Jordan Tate
Wabash College

Hezekirah Tipton
Ivy Tech Community
College

Ivana Walker
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Nia Walker
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Christine White
Butler University

Gavin Yarborough
DePauw University

David Young II
Indiana University-
Bloomington

Class of 2024 Private High School Scholars

Keturah Walker
International School of
Indiana

Blaine Adams
Cathedral High School

Elon Allen
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Cole Babington
Cathedral High School

Joshua Bledsoe
University High School

Elijah Booker-Marsh
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Kennedi Brittingham
University High School

Darnell Brittingham
University High School

Jaden Davis
International School of
Indiana

Sasha Davis
Park Tudor School

James Gillum
University High School

Glennndon Golder
University High School

Jaye Harper
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Marcus Hatcher
University High School

Makai Henderson
Cathedral High School

Makenzie Johnson
Park Tudor School

Priya Jones
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Jaasir King
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Joanna Livingston
International School of
Indiana

Anna Mattes
Park Tudor

Rylee Pate
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Judah Ramsay
Park Tudor School

London Rayner
University High School

London Rayner
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Kennedy Riggins
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Madison Riggins
Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School

Amelia Scott
Cathedral High School

Erin Seay
University High School

Laila Taylor
Cathedral High School

Elaiyah Winters
Park Tudor School



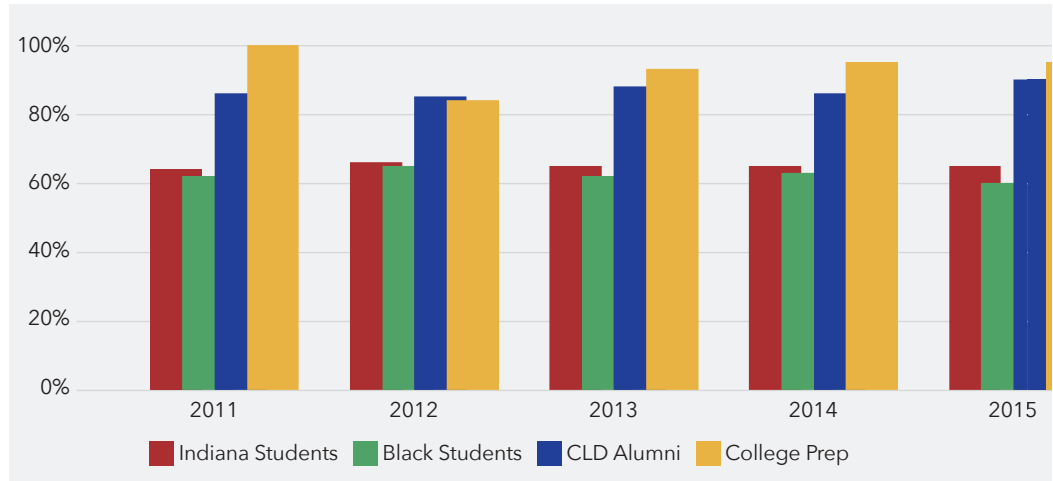
CLD Programming Makes Great Impact on Black College Success

The grids illustrate the impact of CLD programming on Black college success (CLD alumni) on their performance observed when these

College Enrollment Rate

Class of 2011-2022

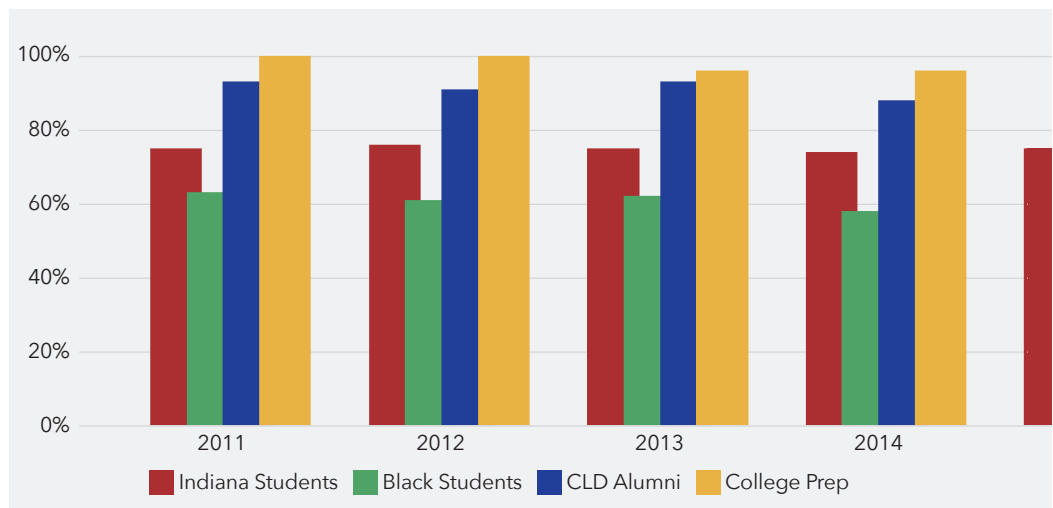
On average the college enrollment rate for all Indiana students is 61%. While Black students rate is 55%. However, the college going rate for CLD Alumni is 86%. In addition, the college enrollment rate for CLD Alumni who also completed the College prep Program is 92% surpassing all their peers.



College Persistence Rate

Class of 2011-2021

On average, the college persistence rate (persisting to the second year of college) for all Indiana students is 76%. Black students have the lowest persistence rate of 62%. Meanwhile, the college persistence rate for CLD Alumni is 89%. Furthermore, CLD Alumni who also completed the College Prep program persisted at a higher rate (95%) than all their peers.

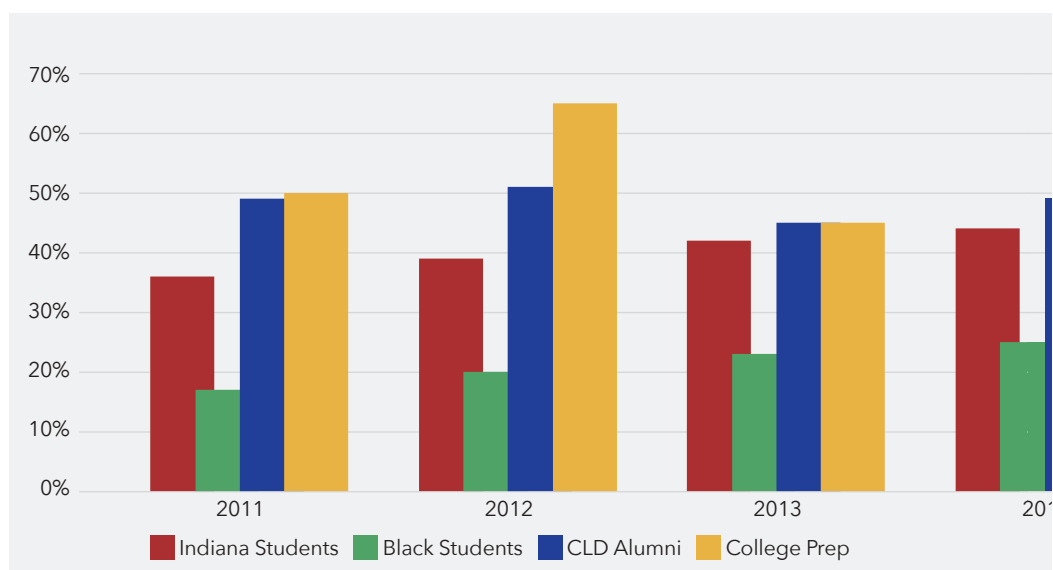


College Graduation Rate

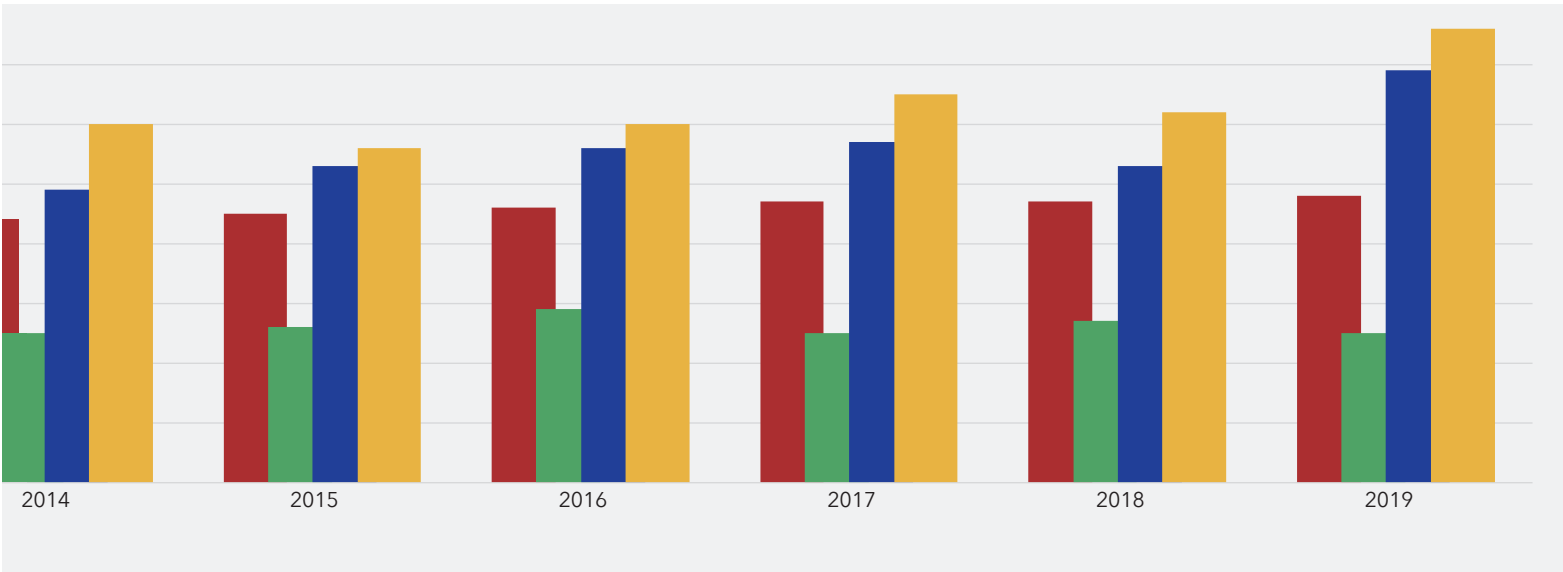
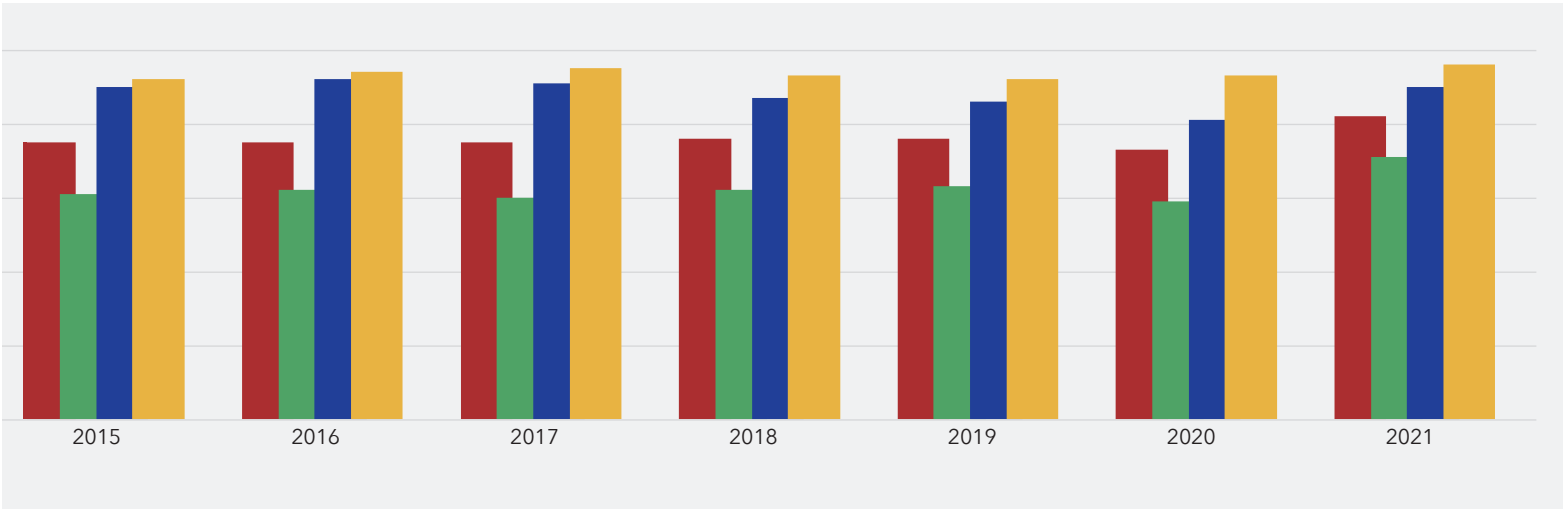
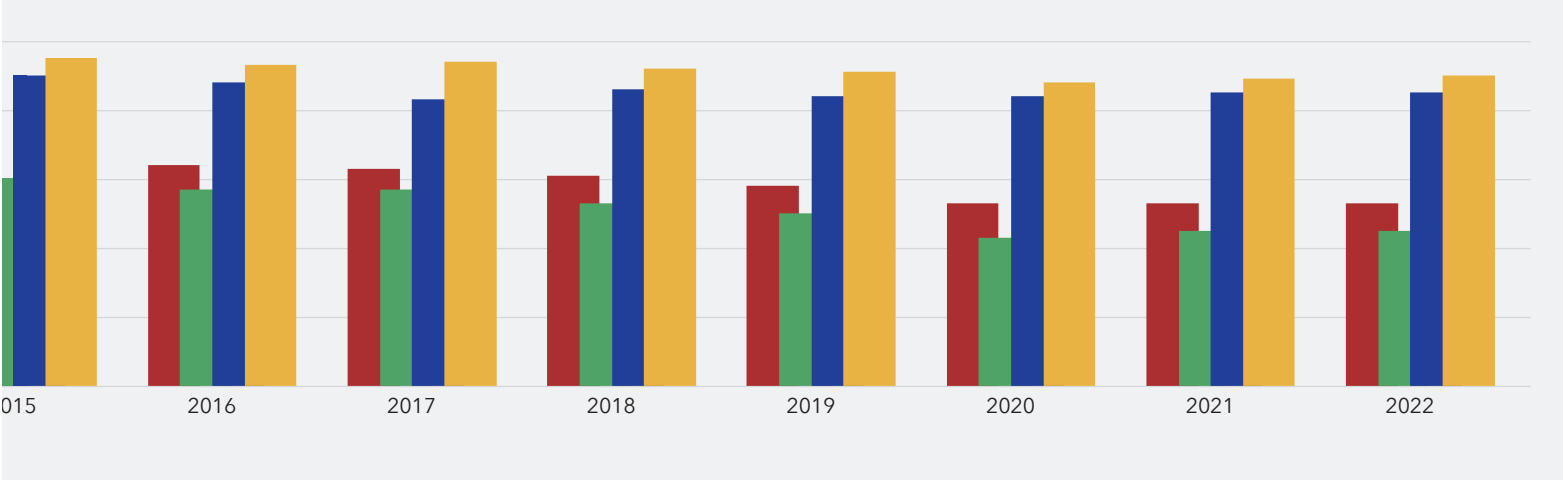
Class of 2011-2019

FOR 4-YR. ON-TIME COMPLETION

On average, the on-time college completion rate for Indiana students is 44%, while Black students graduate at 24%. On the other hand, the on-time college completion rate for CLD Alumni is 54%. However, CLD Alumni who also completed the College Prep Program graduated at a higher rate of 60%.



...the impact of students who participated in Self-Discovery/Career Exploration (CLD performance compared to all Indiana students and Black students. A greater impact is these same students also received additional support through our College Prep program.



Notable CLD Alumni



Corey Wilson, CLD '94

Corey Wilson, a proud alumnus of the Center for Leadership Development (CLD), embodies the organization's Principles for Success in his leadership and commitment to community impact. As Vice President of Community Engagement for Pacers Sports & Entertainment and Executive Director of the Pacers Foundation, Corey is dedicated to empowering youth, fostering equity, and creating opportunities for underserved communities. His work aligns with the core values of CLD—principles that continue to guide his professional journey.

Through his role, Corey leads initiatives that focus on education, health, and safety, ensuring that young people have the resources and support they need to succeed. His career path, which spans public health, government, and higher education, reflects his unwavering dedication to uplifting others and making meaningful change. By exemplifying excellence, discipline, and servant leadership, Corey Wilson stands as a shining example of what it means to be a CLD graduate, using his platform to inspire and impact the next generation.



Rhyan Smith, J.D., CLD '02

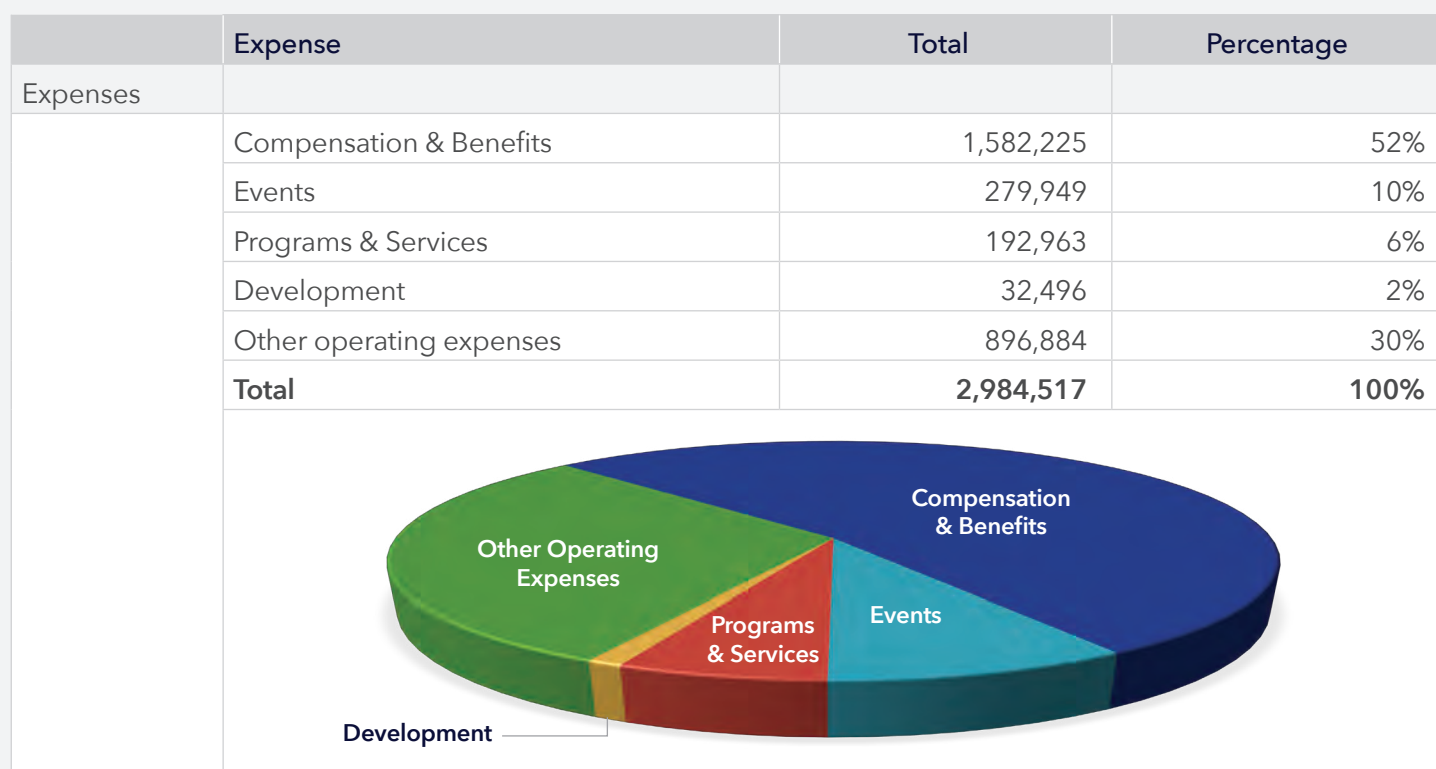
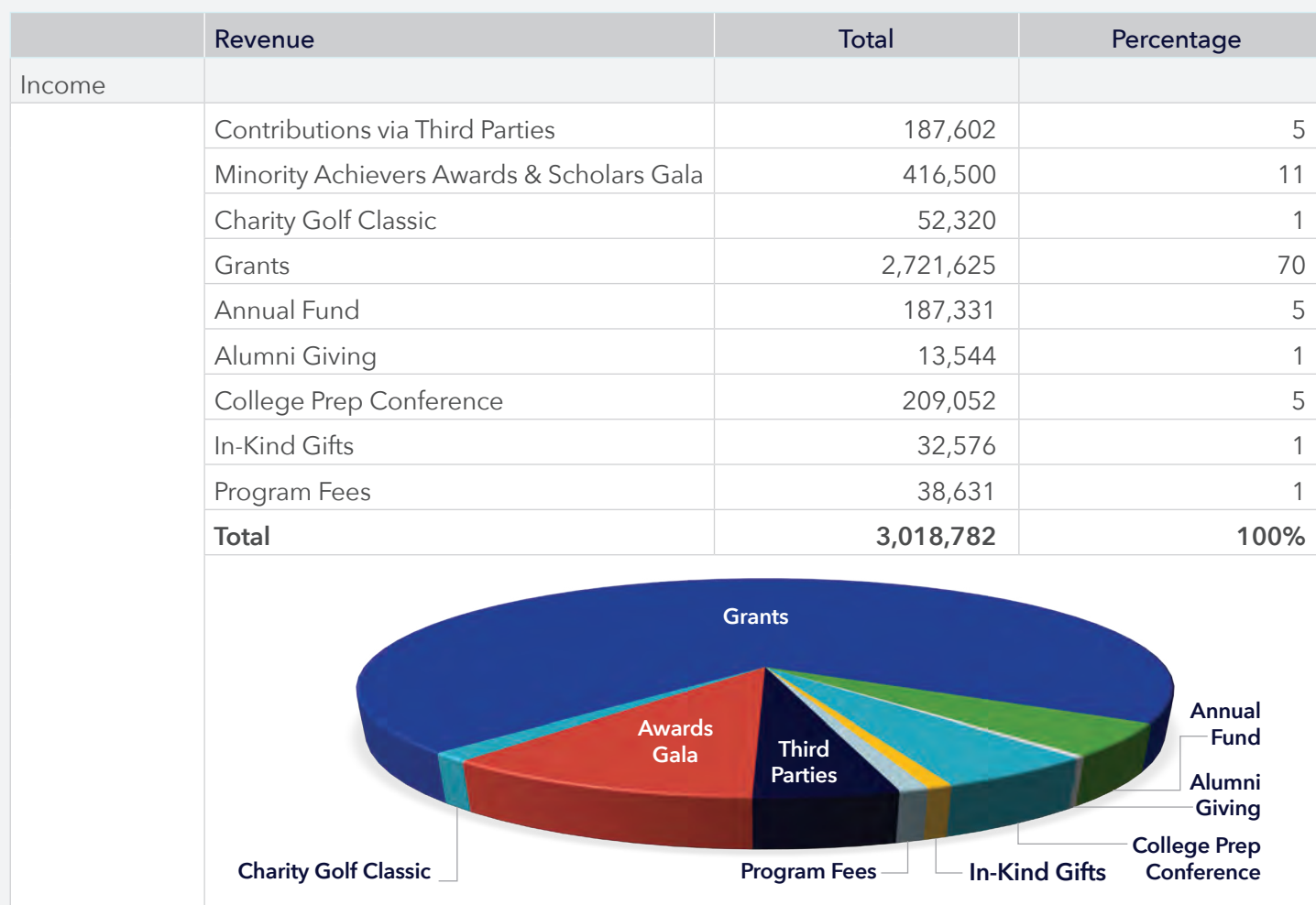
Rhyan Smith, J.D., is a proud CLD alumna whose passion for equity and justice has guided her career in higher education. As the Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Director of Compliance at DePauw University, she plays a vital role in ensuring the university's commitment to Title IX regulations, fostering an environment where all students, faculty, and staff feel safe, respected, and empowered.

Her journey as a leader began with the foundational experiences and values instilled through CLD. Through CLD, Rhyan developed the skills, confidence, and commitment to excellence that have propelled her forward in her professional endeavors. Now, as an advocate for inclusion and institutional equity, she works tirelessly to uphold policies that promote fairness and protect individuals from discrimination.

With a background in law and a dedication to serving her community, Rhyan exemplifies the impact of CLD alumni who are making a difference in their fields. Her leadership and advocacy continue to inspire future generations to use their voices and expertise to create positive change.

CLD

2024 CLD Financials



2024 Support

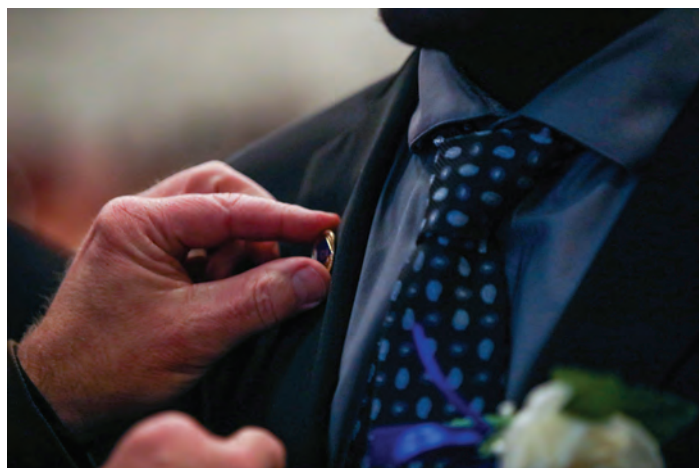
CORPORATE SUPPORT

A Total Solution CPA & Consulting Services, Inc
Achieve Test Prep
ACT [American College Testing]
AECOM Hunt
AES Indiana
African American Foundation
Allison Transmission, Inc.
American Council of Engineering Companies of Indiana [ACEC]
AMG Engineering & Machining Inc.
Amundsen Davis LLC
Anderson University
arcDESIGN
Arthur Dean Family Foundation
Ascension St. Vincent
Ball State University
Ball State University - Miller College of Business
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bowen Engineering Corporation
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
BU Wellness Network
Busey Bank
Butler University
California Polytechnic State University

Cathedral High School
Central Indiana Community Foundation [CICF]
Chamber of Commerce Building Corporation
Charles Schwab Foundation
Church Mutual Insurance
Church of Glory
Citizens Energy Group
City of Lawrence
Claremont McKenna College
CNEXT, LLC
Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc.
Comcast - Heartland Region, Indiana & Kentucky
Community Education Coalition
Corteva Agriscience
CREA, LLC
Culver Academies
Cummins Inc.
Dash Masters LLC
Davis & Associates, Inc.
DEEM First - Mechanical & Electrical
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Indianapolis Alumnae Chapter
Department of Child Services
DePauw University

Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Duke Energy Corporation
Duke Energy Foundation
Earlham College
Eastern Star Church
Eli Lilly and Company
Eli Lilly and Company Foundation
Eli Lilly Company PAC
Emmis Communications Corporation
Eskenazi Health
Everwise Credit Union
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Faegre Drinker Foundation
Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis [FHLBI]
FedEx
Fifth Third Bank
First Merchants Bank
Founder's College at Butler University
Franklin College
GangGang Culture
Glick Philanthropies
Global Special Education Association
Governor's Workforce Cabinet
Grand Canyon University
Griffith Family Foundation
Hanover College
Hirons
Hoover Family Foundation
Huntington Learning Center

Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
IAAQLI - Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Initiative
Ice Miller LLP
Impact Financial Group
Impact4Life
Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance
Indiana Sports Corporation
Indiana State University
Indiana University - Admissions
Indiana University Health
Indiana University Health High School Fellowship Program
Indiana University - Indianapolis [Office of Community Engagement]
Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
Indiana University- Luddy School of Informatics, Computing
Indianapolis Airport Authority
Indianapolis Chapter of The Links Incorporated
Indianapolis Colts
Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership [INHP]
Indianapolis Recorder



Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
Infrastructure Engineering Foundation
Intend Indiana
International School of Indiana
INvestEd
Ivy Tech Community College
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
KeyBank
Kingdom Apostolic Ministries
KMS Consulting Services LLC
Kroger Central Division
Kroger, Gardis and Regas, LLP
Lake City Bank - Central Indiana
Lewis Wagner, LLP
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Lumina Foundation
MacAllister Machinery
Manchester University
Marian University
Marion County Public Health Department
Marni McKinney Foundation
Martin University
Martindale Brightwood Community Development Corporation
Mays Chemical Company
Mays Family Foundation
McClendon Tabernacle Church CME

Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township
Metropolitan School District of Pike Township
Metropolitan School District of Washington Township
Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township
Mickey's Camp
Milhaus
Mojo Up Marketing and Media
Murdock Investments LLC
National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA]
New Revelation Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newfields
Nova Southeastern University
Nubian Construction Group
Oatts Trucking, Inc.
Old National Bank
Onebridge
OPENLANE
P30, Inc
Pacers Foundation
Pacers Sports & Entertainment
Park Tudor School
Perfect Apparel LLC
Performance 3, LLC
Powers & Sons Construction
Precise Printing Plus Signs

Purdue College of Agriculture
Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine
Purdue University - College of Engineering
Purdue University - Office of Summer and Winter Sessions
Purdue University Black Cultural Center
Purdue University Office of Admissions
Purple Ribbon Office Solutions
RCI
Recycle Force
Republic Services
Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation
Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Rose Project Counseling & Consulting LLC
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
S.E.A. Leaders, Inc.
Saint Joseph's College of Marian University
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
Sankofa School of Success
Shrewsberry & Associates
Simon Property Group
Simon Youth Foundation
Sky Indemnity
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

State of Indiana Office of Chief Equity, Inclusion & Opportunity
Office IED
Stimulus, LLC
Strada Education Network
Taylor University
The David P. Sheetz Foundation
The Glick Family Foundation
The Heritage Group
The Huntington Foundation
The Indianapolis Public Library
The Kroger Co. Foundation
The Mind Trust
The National Bank of Indianapolis
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
Thurston Springer Financial
Trine University
University High School of Indiana
University of Chicago
University of Indianapolis
University of Notre Dame
University of Southern Indiana
Valparaiso University
Vincennes University
Visit Indy
Wabash College
Washington University in St. Louis
Woodhouse Spa
WTHR-TV Channel 13



2024 Support

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Shamika Anderson
Steven Arnold
Korey Bacon
Robert and Tori Bader
Helen Baker-Bundles
Asjah Ballard
Minka Barnard
Clay Barnes
Richard Barnes
Kevin Barnett
Christopher Barney
Monica Bebley-Peacher
Terrell Bellamy, CLD '84
Linda Bingham
Mia Black, CLD '97
Dennis E. Bland, CLD '82
George Bolds
Veronica Bond
Doug Booth
Larry and Buffy Boulet
Dr. Robert L. Bowen, P.E.
Kevin Boyle
Gail A. Bradford
Billie Breaux
Gwen Brewer, CLD '78
Joe Brown
Scott Bruns
A'Lelia Bundles
Derrick Burks
Tonya Burroughs
Dr. Mary E. Busch
Michael Busk
Cynthia Cardona
John Charleston, Jr.
Wanda F. Chenault, CLD '81
Carletta Clark
Daria Clark
Tracey Clark
Eneh Clement
Troy Cole
Craig Coleman
Lisa M. Coleman
Timothy Coleman, CLD '85
Adrienne Colquitt
Anthony Crain
Augus Davenport
Natosha Davis
Shayla Davis
Stephany Davis
Ryan Dawson

Timothy Dines
Eric Dozier
Madison Dwenger
Bianca Eddy
Bowman L. Elder
Amr Elshazly
Donnette Emakirum
Clement Eneh
Michael Engledow
Michael Evans
Robert Finkbeiner
Rodney Flood
Lisa Ford
Erin Gaich
Alex Galloway
Dr. Carlos Garner
Caryn M. Glawe
Marianne Glick
Lydia Glover
Paula D. Glover, CLD '90
Cecil Golder
Layla Good
Adrian Goss
Tony Graves
The Marguerite Hackle
and Albert James
Hackl, Jr. Charitable
Fund
Shawna Harouff
Nicole Harper, CLD '92
Inga Harrington
Alicia Harris
Natasha Harris
Rhonda Harris
Tiffany Harris
Jeffrey Harrison
Cicely Hart, CLD '92
David Hatchett and Amy
Haug
Susan Hedglin
Anthony Hester, CLD '03
Elizabeth Ann Van Sant
Hoffman
Anikra Holland
Lisa Holland
Eric Hooks
Loren and Amanda
Horan
Beverly Horton
Chris Hoyt
Ashley Hutchinson
Antjuan Jackson
Jim and Christy Jacobi

Marlena Jacobs
Lorraine Jensen
Daniel Johnson
Nikola Johnson
Pamela Johnson
Krista Johnson Awomoyi
Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr.,
CLD '78
Celeste Jones
Evelyn Jones
Flora Jones
Kimberly Jones
Kimberly Kaba
Chijioke Kalu
Michael Kaufmann
Terry Kenny, CLD '17
Dr. Kraig Kinchen
Thomas A. and Verletta
King
Stacy Lawrence Grooms,
CLD '78
Dr. John and Sarah
Lechleiter
Shaneca Lee
Erin Leraris
Allen Leslie
Jarlon C. Liner, CLD '91
Megan Lingerfeldt
Amy Lipka
Brent Lollar
Carl Long
Janet Lovera
Veronica Lyte
Joseph P. Macri
Cherry Marshall, CLD '82
Muhammad Masharib
Anthony and Joy Mason
Desmond Mathews
Felechia May
Betsy and Carson McCaw
Danielle McClain
Shonda McClain
Rochelle McKinney
Bennie McPherson
Tracey Means, CLD '89
Raven Meeks
James Melton
Rolando Mendoza Lopez
Kyle Middleton
Lela Mixon
Lemar Moreland
Terrell Morgan
Dr. Millicent D. Moye,
CLD '83
Leslie Mundy
Jenice Myers

Christina Nash
Patrice Ndonga
Christian Neal
Frank Neal
Latasha Neeley
Wanda Newman
Deborah Oatts
Jamil C. Odom,
CLD '94
Nikkiya Oliver
Peter O'Scanail
John and Elizabeth
Otteson
Michael Parran, CLD '94
Mandy Parris
Antoinette Peachey
Phiandra Peck, CLD '88
Steven Peoples
Sean Pfaff
Michelle
Phanthavongsa
Diane L. Phillips
Shannon Phillips
Stacie Pircio
William Polansky
George Powell
Stefani Quarles
Lauren Ravenell
Paul and Wilhelmenia
Ravenell
Erika Redmond
Anna Reed
Adam Reiff
Rhylanda Rhodes
Mark Rice
Belinda Richardson
Lisa Richardson
N. Clay and Amy
Robbins
Norma Robinson
Geraldine Rogers
Ebony Rose
Deborah L. Ross
Edward Ross
Gary A. Ross
Paul Rothwell
Richard Ruff Charitable
Fund
Michael Russell
James and Karen Sadtler
Family Foundation
Kenneth Sauer
Robert and Alice
Schloss
Cassandra Schomer
Shondria Seaton

Jerry D. and Rosie D.
Semler
Brian Shaw
Lisha Shelby
Mark Short
Joseph A. Slash
Sandra Slaughter
David Earl Smith
David Smith
LaTanya Smith
Monica Smith
Douglas A. and Phyllis G.
Smith Charitable Trust
Heather Smith, CLD '00

Regina Snyder
Dr. Daniel and Susanne
Spitzberg
Brian and Stacy Stater
Dr. Kimberly L. Sterling
Sheila Stewart
Anita Stone
Tracey Sullivan
Mark Sundquist
Kisha Tandy
Ai'Dis and Yolanda
Thomas, CLD '89
Darien Thompson
John Thompson

The Lori Thompson
and Ben Downing
Charitable Fund
Dexter L. Thompson,
CLD '93
Stephen M. Torain
Robert Townsend
Edward Vance
Mark and Tara
Vanderwoude
Matthew Vincent
Patrick Walsh
Tiffany Watford
Alonzo Weems

Cecelia Whitfield
Caleb Williams
Charles Williams
Eric Williams
Stephanie Williams
Mary Wilson
Trina Wilson
Imani Wood
Alisa Wright
Drs. Curtis Wright and
Terri Samuel
Benjamin F. and Lanette E.
Young Designated Fund
Joe Zachery, Jr., CLD '80

Honoring James T. Morris: A Humanitarian Treasure

By Dennis E. Bland November 22, 2024

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I extend me deepest gratitude for having known one of Indianapolis' finest, the late Mr. James T. Morris. He was a rare and extraordinary man—humble, intelligent, compassionate, and selfless. A true servant leader, his impact stretched far beyond our community, yet he remained ever focused on making Indianapolis the best place to raise children.

Mr. Morris believed in the potential of every individual, encouraging us all to “give a boost” to those in need. His humanitarian efforts spanned the globe, but his warmth and kindness made him approachable and inspiring. His leadership helped propel the Center for Leadership Development, where he played a key role in achieving our



ambitious \$33 million Rise Campaign goal—transforming the lives of countless youth and families.

While society often celebrates sports and entertainment, we must also lift up figures like Mr. Morris, whose humanitarian contributions were equally worthy of admiration. If there were a Humanitarian Hall of Fame, he would surely be enshrined.

As we give thanks, let us honor his legacy

by embodying the virtues he lived by—kindness, generosity, and service. His life was a shining example of how we can uplift one another and strengthen our community. Though he is missed, his impact endures, and his philanthropic spirit will forever inspire us.

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How to Get Involved

Help us Develop the Leaders of Tomorrow

CLD prepares youth for success in school and in life. Your generous, tax-deductible contribution will help CLD in furthering its mission of fostering the advancement of minority youth in Central Indiana as future professional, business, and community leaders by providing experiences that encourage personal development and educational attainment.

The Center for Leadership Development is a not-for-profit organization that puts values into practice through programs that cultivate character, empower youth and enrich community. When you give to CLD, you're doing your part to build tomorrow's leaders, today. In fact, Center for Leadership Development is so passionate about the youth it serves that for every program participant registered, CLD makes a **\$475 investment**.

With the **average program fee being roughly \$25** for an exceptional program experience ranging from 4 to 13 weeks, we remain proud of our charitable status and rely on funders like you to keep our mission alive and thriving.

Our goal is to align your philanthropic interests with the growing needs of our organization. We're pleased to offer a wide variety of giving options, developed with you in mind.

Program Fee/CLD Investment



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Make a financial contribution to support CLD programs and services, ask your employer about matching gifts, sponsor an event, include CLD in your legacy planning, or make a tribute gift.



Volunteer

Our CLD volunteers are key to the success of our programs. You can serve as a program instructor (facilitator), become a student or parent ambassador, assist at events, help with office needs.



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Invite CLD to present at your organization, school or church, introduce CLD to your network or follow us on social media.



X @CLDincorg



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Thanks to our Facilitators and Volunteers

Facilitators and volunteers are vital to CLD's mission of advancing the success of minority youth in Central Indiana. We are so grateful for these exceptional mentors who have committed their time and support leading our youth to program completion.

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