How will you contribute to the success of the CSS Scholars?
The College Success Scholars Program (CSS) provides structured personal, academic, and professional support to Black and Latino males at the University of Maryland to ensure that each Scholar has the opportunity to become fully engaged in all aspects of university life and is able to succeed academically, personally, and professionally.

Each of these young men created his own successful road map with the support of the College Success Scholars (CSS) program at the University of Maryland. As a result, each young man has created a bright future filled with service and leadership.
A Brotherhood for Life

Our program is not only a community of Scholars but a brotherhood for life. Our Scholars have demonstrated talent, know-how, and leadership across multiple industries upon graduation from the University of Maryland. Together, they have developed an extensive alumni network spanning top-tier graduate schools, Fortune 500 companies, government entities, and non-profits across the globe. Here are just some of the organizations where our Scholars have worked over the past few years:

Organizations that have provided research, internship and employment opportunities to our Scholars over the years.
The College Success Scholars program recognizes the innate abilities and the potential for growth of each of our student Scholars. We work to help each Scholar develop resilience, agency, purpose, and a sense of brotherhood. Our program helps Scholars to develop a road map for their academic journey and includes internships, fellowships, research, study abroad, leadership positions, mentoring, tutoring, community service and extracurricular activities that will strengthen their minds and characters to prepare them well for what lies ahead.

College Success Scholars with their parents.
Measures of Success and Outcomes

The CSS curriculum is centered on the premise that these young men can and will succeed in college when they have access to the right tools, academic support, and professional opportunities.

CSS students have retention and graduation rates that continue to support the University’s goal of closing the Achievement Gap.

Our original Cohort, who participated in the program from 2007 through 2009, achieved a successful retention rate of 90%, and for Cohort 2007 a six-year graduation rate of 100%.

The following years, Cohorts 2010–2015 had an overall retention rate of over 90%

Cohort 2016 is maintaining a similarly high retention rate and we look forward to seeing this group of Scholars successfully through to graduation.

The College Success Scholars program provides enrichment opportunities that build a strong community and lifelong friendships.
What resources do we provide?

For incoming freshmen, the CSS program begins with a six-week summer seminar. The summer seminar serves as a pivotal transition from high school to college for minority males that exposes them to various academic fields, personal and professional real-world issues, a support network, and a community of Scholars and brothers. From there, these newly admitted Scholars are assigned Team Leader “mentors” who provide guidance and support over the course of their college career. CSS Scholars are provided with tutoring services, professional development opportunities, diversity and leadership workshops, mentoring, and much, much more.

Dr. Christopher Lester leads an internship/research panel discussion for students and parents.
Parents’ Involvement

Recognizing that students thrive when they are fully supported at home and in school, College Success Scholars provides a variety of ways for parents and guardians to become involved in our work. Families are an integral part of CSS and are invited to participate in a wide-range of supporting activities.

The **Parents’ Involvement Working Group** includes parents and caretakers of undergrads currently enrolled in CSS. Parents actively participate in program activities and committees until their Scholars graduate from the University of Maryland.

The CSS parents and caretakers on the steps of Marie Mount Hall in attendance at the Parents’ Involvement meeting.
Ways you can contribute:

- Attend, provide sponsorship, and advertise in our Annual Gala program at css.umd.edu/gala
- Make a financial contribution to support our program at css.umd.edu/giving
- Designate your contribution to a specific program component or the Emergency Scholarship
- Provide an internship or research opportunity for which our Scholars can apply.
- If you are a leader or business owner in our local community, facilitate a professional development workshop or offer your mentorship to one of our Scholars
- Speak to our students about professional opportunities available to them in our local community
- Make an in-kind donation to our program or Annual Gala
- Contact Dr. Christopher A. Lester, Director clester1@umd.edu, or 301-405-5617

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