

David T. Kearns Center

► David T. Kearns '52 was a tireless champion of diversity in the workplace; an inspirational leader at Xerox, where he was CEO for eight years; and a relentless advocate for educational reform both at the U.S. Department of Education, where he served as deputy secretary, and in his private life. He was a member of the University's Board of Trustees for almost three decades and also served as its chair.

In his honor, the University established the David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity in Arts, Sciences, and Engineering in 2002. The center is guided by a vision in which all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or familial education level, have access to support in achieving their highest academic aspirations. The center's goal is to expand the number of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented minority students pursuing undergraduate and graduate education. It serves more than a thousand students each year, from elementary school through doctoral programs.



Programs That Make a Difference

The center offers programs that support students at every stage of the academic experience.

Undergraduate and Graduate Support

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

This federally funded program began at the University in 1992 and

boasts a 99 percent college graduation rate. More than 80 percent of the University's McNair Scholar students enroll in graduate school, compared to the national average of 45 percent. As undergraduates, McNair scholars receive extensive preparation for graduate school, including faculty mentorship, writing courses, GRE prep, independent research, and engagement in national conferences. McNair Scholars have won Fulbright, National Institutes



"Everyone at the Kearns Center has become my family. They have given me the tools to make the right decisions for myself, and their support has put me on the road to success. I will carry these relationships with me for the rest of my life."

Xavier Beckwith '12, Warner School '14W, McNair Scholar

of Health, National Science Foundation, National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (GEM), and NASA fellowships.

The Xerox Engineering Fellows Program

Created in 2009 with a gift from the Xerox Foundation, this program provides engineering undergraduates with intensive summer research experiences, followed up with independent study courses throughout the remainder of the undergraduate career. More than 70 percent of Xerox Fellows continue their educations in graduate school. At the graduate level, the center focuses on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students in Arts, Sciences & Engineering graduate programs.

Graduate Visitation Program

This effort recruits a national pool of underrepresented minority college juniors, bringing them to campus in September to meet with deans and faculty members, learn about programs, attend workshops on preparing applications for national fellowships, and more. In 2012, of the 11 participants, 10 applied to the University, 7 received offers of admission, and 3 are now enrolled in graduate programs here.

The Pipeline Project

Begun in 2011, this effort connects underrepresented minority graduate students from across the

University with undergraduates for the purpose of social, academic, and career mentoring. In 2012, more than 45 pairs were developed, and both graduate students and mentees are excited about the program's continued development.

Pre-College Support

At this level, the center's programs focus on students in the Rochester City School District, where the most recent district-wide graduation rate was just 43 percent.

The Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science Programs

These year-round federally funded programs provide academic enrichment and advising for more than 120 high school students each year, with students entering the program in the summer between 8th and 9th grades and continuing through college completion. More than 250 students have participated with great success: 95 percent graduated high school on time, and 96 percent have been accepted to or are attending college.

College Prep Centers

Open full time throughout the academic year, the College Prep Centers at East High School and at the Franklin Educational Campus expand the center's reach to include all students, parents, and teachers in these buildings. Through guidance and hands-on support, students see themselves as college-bound and

have assistance in reaching high academic expectations. At the college level, the center's work revolves around efforts to retain and graduate targeted students on time and increase enrollments into graduate programs.

How You Can Help Grow the Endowment

The work of the center is supported by federal, corporate, and foundation entities and hundreds of private donors. The center relies heavily on endowment funding to sustain its many students and to develop the new initiatives needed on campus and in the community. Gifts made to the center are George Eastman Circle eligible.

In 2011, when David T. Kearns passed away, his family directed those who felt so inclined to make a gift in his memory to the Kearns Center. These funds were deposited in the center's endowment. Consider making a gift to the fund and help sustain and grow these invaluable programs. Additional targeted giving opportunities are also available.



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For more information on giving opportunities, please contact
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