The support offered to undergraduates in the Kearns Center is central to the mission of the College: providing the best possible education to our students in an environment that encourages their creativity and allows them to reach their potential. The undergraduate programs offered by the Kearns Center focus on low-income, underrepresented minority, and first-generation college students. They have had a dramatic impact, with students graduating in significantly higher percentages (96 percent) than the institutional average (84 percent). Through the Center’s pre-college programs for students from the Rochester City School District, University of Rochester undergraduate and graduate students have multiple opportunities to tutor, provide mentorship, and obtain practical experience with youth. Connections with graduate students of color through the Center provide our undergraduates the networking and near-peer mentoring they need, creating a supportive yet challenging community atmosphere. The goal of the Center is to transform lives through educational opportunity, and each of the initiatives the Center undertakes grows out of that desire, which is the charge of Meliora—Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better.

Message from Beth Olivares, Director of the Kearns Center

During the 2013–2014 academic year, the Kearns Center completed a long-awaited and multistage move into our beautiful new location on the fourth floor of Dewey Hall on the academic quadrangle. This space allows us to collaborate, provides students and staff a place to interact in formal and informal settings, and enables all of us to do our work in a more friendly and appropriate environment. Being in close proximity to colleagues in the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, Undergraduate Research, Fellowships, and Study Abroad allows for interactions with colleagues in the hallways and elevators, as well as more formal contacts. It is much easier now to connect students with other resources than it was when we were all scattered across campus. Our new location includes a space we call the “living room” where students and staff interact regularly.

This year the University acquired the papers and assorted memorabilia of David T. Kearns, donated generously by Shirley Cox Kearns, all of which we can access, and some of which are on display in our hallway. Center staff members are working with librarians to catalog the papers, which we are grateful to have.

All of the Center’s ongoing programs in the pre-college, college, and graduate student areas have continued successfully; this document highlights several new or expanded efforts and exciting events. These include short courses in biology, mechanical engineering, and chemistry for our pre-college summer students, the creation of new study groups for introductory biology classes, the creation of the Intercultural Center, and our first-ever Graduate Visitation Program for Administrators. Hope that you enjoy reading about some of our students and activities and share our excitement for a future that is increasingly free of barriers to success.

Meliora!
Since the start of the program, 97 percent of Upward Bound students have graduated from high school. Ninety-three percent of all graduates have enrolled in college.

Kearns Center Scholars have a 96 percent five-year graduation rate, 77 percent with a STEM degree; 69 percent of our Kearns Center Scholars have enrolled in graduate school.

Established in 1992, the McNair Program has served more than 400 undergraduate students. Eighty-two percent of our graduates have enrolled in graduate school; the average for McNair programs nationally is less than 45 percent. Forty-two of our McNair alumni have earned PhDs, and an additional 63 have earned terminal professional degrees (MD, JD, PsyD, etc.).

One hundred percent of our first cohort of Xerox Fellows enrolled in graduate school; 40 percent of our Xerox alumni are currently enrolled in a PhD or other doctoral program.

Since 2009, over 90 potential doctoral candidates have visited the University of Rochester through the Graduate Visitation Program.

Through our efforts in graduate recruitment, since 2010, graduate program applications from underrepresented minority (URM) candidates have increased by over 300 percent, and acceptances of URM students have increased by over 250 percent.

### Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>FUNDED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program</td>
<td>1992-</td>
<td>45 college students per year</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Education, TRIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearns Center Scholars (in science, engineering, social science, and humanities)</td>
<td>2007-</td>
<td>Up to 20 college students per year</td>
<td>National Science Foundation, Kearns Center endowment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Dissertation Scholar</td>
<td>2008-2011</td>
<td>Graduate scholars of color nationally who are about to complete their dissertations</td>
<td>Arts, Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Experiencing Research and Mentoring in Science (GERMS)</td>
<td>2009-2012</td>
<td>All UBMS females</td>
<td>Rochester Arts Community Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xerox Engineering Research Fellows</td>
<td>2009-</td>
<td>Engineering juniors</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Visitation Program</td>
<td>2009-</td>
<td>Low-income, first generation college, and underrepresented minority students nationally interested in an academic program in AS&amp;E</td>
<td>Arts, Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Prep Center at East High</td>
<td>2011-</td>
<td>All students at East, 7th-12th grades</td>
<td>JPMorgan Chase Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF Science and Math Scholars</td>
<td>2011-</td>
<td>College students</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Prep Center at Franklin High School</td>
<td>2012-</td>
<td>All students at Franklin Campus schools</td>
<td>Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augustus Thompson Speaker Series</td>
<td>2012-</td>
<td>Emerging and established scholars of color and women in engineering</td>
<td>Arts, Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Visitation Program for Administrators (GVP-A)</td>
<td>2014-</td>
<td>Faculty and research administrators at institutions with large underrepresented minority populations</td>
<td>Arts, Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2009, over 90 potential doctoral candidates have visited the University of Rochester through the Graduate Visitation Program.

Through our efforts in graduate recruitment, since 2010, graduate program applications from underrepresented minority (URM) candidates have increased by over 300 percent, and acceptances of URM students have increased by over 250 percent.
UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMS

The University of Rochester’s Upward Bound (UB) programs prepare first-generation and/or low-income high school students from the Rochester City School District (RCSD) to apply and gain admission to college. Since 2007, Upward Bound has served 372 high school students and employed several hundred undergraduate and graduate students. Of our current participants, 96 percent are low income according to federal guidelines, 95 percent are potential first-generation college students, 92 percent are underrepresented minority students, 100 percent demonstrate academic need, and 96 percent are current participants, 97 percent did so on time, in contrast to the RCSD’s graduation rate of 43 percent. Furthermore, 93 percent have successfully enrolled in college.

SUMMER SCIENCE FOR UPWARD BOUND

The Kearns Center is partnering with faculty across the University’s science and engineering disciplines to provide faculty-led short courses for Upward Bound summer students. Students are able to take up to five unique science mini courses, including:

- TASTE OF BIOLOGY
  In the diverse world of biology, one day you could be looking at humans and the next day insects. Whether it is testing the body’s ability to taste, observing the behavior of aphids, investigating the world of flies, or learning more about DNA repair, this course takes students on a tour of biology that will not soon be forgotten.

- CHEMICAL IMBALANCES
  What is the real color of human blood? What makes food different colors? Why did that beaker just explode? Through labs and group work, we discover the ways, chemists solve world problems through modern chemistry.

- HOW MATH SAVED THE WORLD
  Join us as we travel through time, from algebra to calclulus, to understand how fast superheros fly, at what angle the leaning Tower of Pisa leans, does $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, if really - $c^2$, and just what’s up with all those right angles on the pyramids.

- MECHANICAL WONDERS
  Why is the tallest building in the world so tall? How do boats float? Why do we create bridges? What is F = mc² exactly? Why is my car really faster than yours? Students learn all this and more as we find out how to become mechanical engineers and use science to design our world.

- DIGITAL REVOLUTION
  Understanding the way the world works sometimes means diving into the anatomy of machines and electronics. In this course, students learn the fundamentals of using the visual-based programming languages Scratch and Python. Students use Scratch to make short animations and to understand the concept of algorithms. Those who come to the class with more experience will have the opportunity to design games in Scratch and/or Python.

- COLLEGE PREP CENTERS

  “They are the help I never thought I needed. They go above and beyond their job duties, make sure that I am on the right track, and help take the stress out of college applications.”
  —12th-grade student

  College Prep Center at East: High School is the largest secondary school in the Rochester City School District, serving 1,800 students in grades 6–12. The College Prep Center ensures all students at East see themselves as potential college students by setting high expectations for academic achievement. Interactive programs and workshops encourage youth to discover their future career goals. Since 2011, the CPC has served over 2,200 students at East, through classroom activities, workshops, and one-on-one assistance with the college process. University of Rochester undergraduates visit the center twice a week to tutor, provide Regents Exam preparation, and serve as mentors for the high school students. Because School 58 is housed in Franklin High School during facility renovations, this Prep Center serves students as young as kindergarten.

  College Prep Center at Franklin: This center, located in the main hallway of Vanguard High School, is the hub for college and financial aid advising and academic support for all students at the Vanguard Collegiate High School, as well as the other schools on the Franklin campus. The Center has served over 1,000 students through classroom activities, workshops, and one-on-one assistance with the college process. University of Rochester undergraduates visit the center twice a week to tutor, provide Regents Exam preparation, and serve as mentors for the high school students. Because School 58 is housed in Franklin High School during facility renovations, this Prep Center serves students as young as kindergarten. This Center is funded by the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation through June 2015.

  “The College Prep Center helps me significantly with my work. When I have questions about college or not understanding my work, I come here for help. I usually come to the College Prep Center because they have a welcoming feel once you enter the room. They ask you if you need help with anything. This is an awesome program; I love it.”
  —Ericka Granison

Pre-College programs
By partnering with faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates in our science and engineering departments, Upward Bound provides students unique fun and engaging opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These experiences help increase the number of first generation, low-income students entering STEM fields.

Pi Day
In celebration of the term Pi (3.14159265359) on March 14, UB students take part in a daylong conference, which includes a wide variety of mathematical activities.

Getting Medieval with Science
Arm the catapults! Diving into the wondrous and wild worlds of mechanical engineering and physics, UB students work together in September and October to build pumpkin launching catapults. Students then test their engineering prowess, competing against college students in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Annual Pumpkin Launch competition, held near each Halloween.

STEM Days
These interactive afterschool programs bring the Kearns Center Science Specialist and Rochester undergraduates to the students to increase their exposure, knowledge, and excitement around the STEM fields. Whether it is looking under a microscope or exploring circuits, real science opportunities come to them in their home schools.

Upward Bound Scholars were accepted to and/or are currently attending institutions including University of Rochester, Nazareth College, Columbia College of Chicago, Spelman College, Medaille College, Monroe Community College, Kent State, Howard University, North Carolina Central, St. John Fisher College, Alfred State, Mercy College, Queens College, Columbia University, Clarkson University, Utica College, Syracuse University, and Rochester Institute of Technology.
Towards Degree Completion
Minority Students in Their Journey
Supporting Low-Income, First-
Kearns Scholars

Our advising and support model is rooted in
intensive academic advising and was developed
to address the unique complexities of the lives
of underrepresented, low-income, and first-
generation college students. We focus on
the students’ holistic, a particularly important
strategy for students whose academic, familial,
generational, and financial circumstances can
make them vulnerable to attrition. As one student puts it: “I like how the Kearns Center
undergraduate graduation rate of over 96 percent; over 80 percent enroll in graduate school. To date, over 100
of our 444 alumni have already earned a doctoral degree. Our McNair Scholars are prepared to
achieve in the future. “—Dylan Gaeta, Class of 2016

Recent Research
The Effects of External Memory on Encoding and Retrieval
—Carla Macio Ceravea 16 (Professor Celeste Kidd)
The Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Maternal and Child Health Service Programs
—Than-Nho Dang 16 (Professor Theodore Brown)
How Well Can Humans Decipher Different Emotions?
—Kenneth Imade 16 (Professor Wendi Heinzelman)
United States Participation in Multilateral Treaties: Nuclear Success versus
Environmental Non-compliance
—Kathryn Sneatha 16 (Professor James Johnson)
Implications of Palaecovenironmental Changes from Isotope Variation in Mussels Shells
—Amy Caribbean 15 (Professor Penelope Higgins)
The Effects of Uncertainty on Patient Decision Making
—Stacie Morse 16 (Professor James Dolan)

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Funded through 2017 by the U.S. Department of Education

On January 28, 2014, we remembered and celebrated Ronald Erwin McNair, the University
of Rochester’s McNair Scholars program, and welcomed our newest cohort of talented
individuals in the McNair Scholars Induction Ceremony. Currently, there are 46 McNair
Scholars enrolled; each was selected based on his or her demonstrated ability and potential
to excel through the doctoral degree.

Each McNair Scholar completes at least one mentored research experience under the
supervision of a University of Rochester faculty member. Also, each attends a targeted
seminar/workshop each semester from sophomore through senior year; these seminars offer
guidance and help to prepare students for becoming engaged in rigorous academic research,
maintaining and networking with faculty from multiple disciplines, preparing for the Graduate
Record Exam, learning about life in the academy, and successfully applying to graduate school.

Our team of advisors meets individually and in groups with all McNair Scholars, building
support and providing guidance. We review personal statements, offer rides to exams, conduct
mock graduate admissions interviews, and assist with securing research opportunities and
additional resources for research and conference travel.

For our efforts, the University of Rochester’s McNair Scholars program has an undergraduate
graduation rate of over 96 percent; over 80 percent enroll in graduate school. To date, over 100
of our 444 alumni have already earned a doctoral degree. Our McNair Scholars are prepared to
excel personally, academically, and professionally.

The McNair program has been wonderful in helping me secure a mentored research experience and preparation for getting my PhD. As a first-generation student, a doctoral degree seemed like it was too distant or too lofty of a goal, but the McNair program has opened my eyes to realizing that this is a goal I will achieve through the Culture of the Academy class. This class is very realistic about things from the application process to life as a graduate student, which makes the doctoral degree process less daunting.”—Morgan Keth, Class of 2016

McNair Program

“T’ve been a part of McNair since my junior year. I enjoy the McNair program because it is like one big family. There is someone there that everyone can relate to. In addition to advising, I also like the Kearns Center because the advisors are there to help you. They don’t force you to choose a career path. Rather, they help you formulate ideas and expand your goals”—Naaja Rogers, Class of 2015

“As a McNair Scholar, the Kearns Center has been an immense help. They have given me a huge research opportunity and fantastical mentorship every step I take towards my future. The advisors are always there for support, and they will make sure you have everything you need to succeed. Without the Kearns Center, I might have just settled for a little less than what I wanted to achieve in the future.”—Dylan Gaeta, Class of 2016

“The McNair program has been wonderful in helping me secure a mentored research experience and preparation for getting my PhD. As a first-generation student, a doctoral degree seemed like it was too distant or too lofty of a goal, but the McNair program has opened my eyes to realizing that this is a goal I will achieve through the Culture of the Academy class. This class is very realistic about things from the application process to life as a graduate student, which makes the doctoral degree process less daunting.”—Morgan Keth, Class of 2016
XEROX PROGRAM

XEROX ENGINEERING RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

Funded by a generous gift from the Xerox Corporation

The Xerox Engineering Research Fellows Program provides a nine-week, lab-based, mentored research experience for engineering students after either sophomore or junior year, continued by a semester or yearlong independent study.

The goal of the Xerox Program is to increase the number of Hajim students who graduate having had an intensive research experience. In the program’s fifth year, a total of 131 Hajim School students have participated. The program has become so popular among students and faculty that we have had to turn away more students than we are able to support.

While participating in summer research, a large fraction of our Xerox students, 70 percent, have decided to pursue graduate degrees in engineering.

Of the students, 40 percent are enrolled in a PhD or other doctoral program, 33 percent have completed a master’s degree, and 27 percent are currently enrolled in a master’s degree program.

70% have decided to pursue graduate degrees in engineering

27% are currently enrolled in a master’s degree program

40% are enrolled in a PhD or other doctoral program

33% have completed a master’s degree

XEROX RECENT RESEARCH

3D Printing for Prototype Freeform Optical Illumination systems —William Green ’16 (Professor Stephen Burns)

Visualization of Distributed Computing Over Mobile Ad-hoc Networks —Shurouq Hijazi ’16 (Professor Wendi Heinzelman)

An ECG-Embedded Weight Scale for the Measurement of the QT-interval —Rachel Niu ’15 (Professor Jean-Phillipe Couderc)

Classical Space-Time Entanglement of Optical Field —James Maslek ’15 (Professor Nick Vamvakas)
Graduate Recruitment Works!

With the addition of a Graduate Recruitment and Retention Specialist to the Kearns Center staff in 2010, applications from underrepresented minority students have increased by 313 percent for PhD programs and 125 percent for master’s programs. Annually, the Kearns Center attends 15–20 high-impact, national recruitment events, focusing on qualified potential applicants from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate school. In an effort to ensure that our underrepresented students remain at the University of Rochester until the completion of their degree, the Kearns Center has placed a special emphasis on retention. The Graduate Students of Color (GSOc) offers a community for our students to meet and discuss the unique issues faced by underrepresented students. The Pipeline Mentoring Project connects our graduates with undergraduates in a mentoring relationship and allows our students to share their experiences with, and provide guidance to, students of a similar background.

The Charles Augustus Thompson Lecture Series: Leadership and Diversity in Action

Named for Charles Augustus Thompson, the first African American to graduate from the University of Rochester, the Charles Augustus Thompson Lecture Series: Leadership and Diversity in Action consists of a series of talks by scholars who are contributing to current literature on diversity broadly stated, with particular reference to issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and identity. Past speakers include Tammy Walton, PhD candidate in experimental nuclear physics at Hampton University; Krysl Frazier, assistant professor of history at West Virginia University; and Karsonya (Kaye) Wise Whitehead, assistant professor of communication and an affiliate assistant professor in African and African-American history at Loyola University Maryland.

Pungello Master’s Fellowship

The Pungello Master’s Fellowship annually awards up to two fellowships to Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) students interested in pursuing a master’s degree in Arts, Sciences & Engineering at the University of Rochester. The ECO program is designed to teach incoming students the attitudes, skills, and social connections that characterize successful University of Rochester students. The program prepares participants for classes, introduces them to student services offered at the University, and introduces them to social life on campus. The Pungello Master’s Fellowship was developed by Elizabeth Pahl Pungello ’89 to deliver significant financial assistance to ECO students who have the academic potential to pursue a master’s degree but may not because of financial barriers. In its inaugural year, Raffaella Fasolo ’12 and Seyd Habib ’12 —two Kearns students—were awarded fellowships. Raffaella (McNair Scholar) was an economics and Italian studies major and is pursuing a master’s in literary translation. Seyd (Kearns Scholar and Xerox Fellow) was a mechanical engineering major and is pursuing a master’s in mechanical engineering. In 2013, the Pungello Fellowship was offered to two more students, Shola Fakorede and Diego De La Cruz, and in 2014, it was awarded to Daniel Bonga.

GEM

Our work with the National GEM Consortium has been fruitful. The Graduate Recruitment and Retention Specialist attended the annual GEM Fellowship judging event in Alexandria, Va. GEM’s fellowship database has also served as a very convenient way of evaluating students and contacting them early in the process of applying to graduate schools. In 2014, it is contacted over 680 GEM applicants, received responses from more than 50. 26 of whom applied to programs in AS&E. Currently, two GEM Fellows are enrolled in AS&E, one in the TEAM Program, and one in physics.
The University of Rochester facilitates the perfect balance between academic and professional growth, athletics, friendship, and a lot of fun.

As a McNair Scholar, the Kearns Center has been an immense help. They have helped me obtain a huge research opportunity and fantastic mentorship. The advisors are always there for support and they will make sure you have everything you need to succeed. Without the Kearns Center, I might have just settled for a little less than what I wanted to achieve in the future.

My goal is to obtain a PhD in physical chemistry with the intention of improving methods by which our society obtains and uses energy.

Dylan Gaeta
Jamestown, New York
Chemistry & Mathematics
Class of 2016

The Xerox Research Fellowship sparked my curiosity, innovation, and a sense of fulfillment that I never could have experienced in a classroom.

The Kearns Center has been so incredibly supportive in helping me reach for the future with their help in GRE prep courses, graduate school information, and graduate school applications. I am very grateful for the connections that I have made and the people that I have met through this program. I know that my experiences here will help me reach my goals in the future.

I plan to attend graduate school and work in the field of biomedical engineering. My specific interests are in brain-computer interfaces in relation to prostheses and similar biomedical devices.

Jessica He
Phoenix, Arizona
Biomedical Engineering
Class of 2016

The Kearns Center is an invaluable resource for students at the University of Rochester. As a Kearns Scholar, I have access to Kearns Center advisors that have helped me analyze and achieve my goals. Having the additional personal, academic, and social support helps students stay focused and motivated to do well. Additionally, by providing students with access to notable speakers and other resources, the Kearns Center strives to give students a competitive academic edge to help them succeed.

While attending the University of Rochester, I plan to create my own interdisciplinary communications major, ultimately pursuing a master’s degree in communications to become a broadcast journalist, public relations representative, and marketing CEO.

Elizana-Marie Joseph
Binghamton, New York
Public Health & Communications
Class of 2017

The Kearns Center has steered me in the right direction in reaching my goals through advising, financial assistance, and exposing me to new opportunities. The McNair program has been wonderful in providing me a research experience and preparation for earning my PhD.

As a first-generation student, a doctoral degree seemed like it was too lofty of a goal, but the McNair program has opened my eyes to realizing that this is a goal I will achieve through their Culture of the Academy class. This class is very realistic about the application process and life as a graduate student, which makes the doctoral degree process less daunting.

My goal is to earn a PhD in immunology or a biochemistry/molecular biology field and work in biomedical research.

Morgan Kath
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin
Biochemistry
Class of 2016

I am a Kearns Scholar. Being accepted into this program was one of the best experiences of my college life. The Kearns Center has helped me with my academics through advisement and has also been there for my personal, social, and emotional needs. When I became extremely ill as a sophomore, the Center sent me flowers and checked in with me daily to see how I was doing. I love the Kearns Center; they have helped shape me into the wonderful woman I am today.

My future plans after graduating from the University of Rochester are to go to medical school to become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Barra Madden
Rochester, New York
Molecular Genetics
Class of 2015

The Kearns Center has provided me with great advisors to help me throughout my college career. As a McNair Scholar, I was grateful for the opportunity to conduct research at the University of Rochester. Kearns Center advisors helped me with my applications to summer research programs, including the program I eventually attended, the 2014 Summer Public Health Scholars Program at Columbia University. In addition, the Kearns Center is currently helping me with my applications to graduate school.

I plan to pursue my master’s in health administration at Columbia University.

Kwasi Nyantakyi
New York, New York
Bioethics
Class of 2015

Being a Kearns Scholar has allowed me to see a world of opportunity. No matter the challenges I may face or the goals I want to achieve, there is always someone from the Kearns Center there for me!

—Charlisa Goodlet, Class of 2017
Pre-College Programs

Upward Bound was a life-changing experience for me. Before UB I had a poor work ethic and I did not know you could go to college; I did not know what a resume was or how to get involved.

UB helped me become a more serious student. It gave me a new perspective. I overcame obstacles, earned a 4.0, and became valedictorian of my class. I was proud to win the UB SAGE Award for being a strong student mentor and excited to give back to UB during my summers.

I am now a rising sophomore at Roberts Wesleyan College and proud to be in college. I would not be here without Upward Bound.

Ashley Sepulveda
Rochester, New York
Rising Sophomore, Roberts Wesleyan College

UB has definitely helped me in a lot of ways. It has pushed me to take more challenging classes with my experience in math and science in the summer. The classes were really challenging and if I did not take them in the summer, I would not have challenged myself to take APs and honors classes in the academic year.

UB has taught me a lot about courage. I am usually a shy person but it pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me find the courage to speak up publicly.

I love the trips because you get to learn about all the different options out there. You learn about how many colleges are in one state. Wow, New York has a lot of colleges. I would have never seen the inside of Cornell or know that SUNY Fredonia even existed! It is nice knowing what your options are outside the big name schools.

I love UB; it has taught me a lot.

Shawn Harkness
Rochester, New York
Rising Junior, East High School

I became a part of the Upward Bound program for support. UB opened doors to me that I did not realize I had access to. No matter how stressful or challenging school became, the UB staff always supported me and ensured I did not fail. They helped find what drives me to be successful and follow my dreams.

At Upward Bound I became a leader. I earned an internship in a research study, was elected to the Student Leadership Council, and won the Director’s Award. Now I am a proud student attending Nazareth College and will one day be a detective. I have Upward Bound to thank for this. I would not be here without them.

Imani Monroe
Rochester, New York
Rising Freshman, Nazareth College

The Intercultural Center completed its first full year of operation in 2013–2014. The year included several successful events: an orientation program “Global Village,” a talk by Time Wise, and a discussion of the criminalization of black masculinity and the mass incarceration of African Americans that included Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin’s mother, and the beginnings of positive dialogues among various student groups.

The College strives to produce interculturally competent graduates who will flourish in their increasingly globalized post-University of Rochester lives. Our students need to become aware of and comfortable with both similarities and differences between and among groups and be able to adapt their behavior and thinking in order to positively interact with those from other cultures (domestic and international), socioeconomic statuses, political beliefs, social and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, and religious affiliations. Learning with and by people of different backgrounds encourages collaboration and fosters innovation and creativity, thereby benecifying the entire community.

Under new leadership, Dr. Jessica Guzmán-Rea, director of the Intercultural Center, began the 2014–2015 academic year by overseeing the One Community program. The College in close consultation with current undergraduates developed the One Community program at College Diversity Roundtable meetings. The One Community program engaged over 1,000 incoming freshman students in facilitated discussions that explored the way the University of Rochester community is shaped by all of our intersecting identities. The highly successful program began with an hour-long upperclassman student panel. These six diverse students shared their personal narratives and how they positively and negatively affected their college experience. The session was followed by 160 student-facilitated small group discussions in which participants were able to also reflect on their own experiences.

Intercultural Center

This is just the beginning of these dialogues, and the ICC hopes to continue to promote programs and events that foster intercultural respect and understanding among all who participate.
THE KEARNS CENTER TEAM

Beth Olivares, PhD, Director
Collette Kettles, Office Manager
Danielle Daniel, Science Specialist
Christopher Grant, Information Analyst
Diamonique Ballard, Event/Program Assistant
Anthony Kociszewski, Associate Director
Nathalia Martinez, Academic Advisor, Pre-College
Brady Fergusson, Academic Advisor, Pre-College
Kyvaughn Henry, Coordinator, College Prep Center at Franklin High
Jerri-Ann Archer, Coordinator, College Prep Center at East
Nicholas Valentine, Assistant Director, College Programs
Stephan Hamill, Academic Advisor, College
Melissa Raucci, Academic Advisor, College
Jessica Guzman-Rea, Ed.D., Director, Intercultural Center

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard Feldman, Dean of the College
Wendi Herrickman, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Jonathan Barwick, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
Norman Burnett, Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs
Vicki Roth, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Laurel Carney, Professor, Biomedical Engineering
James Farrar, Professor, Chemistry
Paul Ampadu, Associate Professor, Electrical and Chemical Engineering
The work of the Kearns Center is supported by many funders, including the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, the Xerox Foundation, Bank of America, the JPMorgan Chase Foundation, the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation, and hundreds of private donors.

To make a gift to the Center or to inquire about supporting our work, please contact Irene Doktor
(585) 275-9827
irene.doktor@rochester.edu

We are grateful

Testimonials

“I am a part of the Kearns Scholar program, and I feel this program helped me tremendously towards fulfilling my goals. My advisor Stephon gave me great advice about how to tackle math questions in homework, practice questions, and exams. This memorable moment helps me reconsider how to approach math and helps me view math through a different lens.”
—Davon Brown, Class of 2017

“As a Kearns Scholar, the Kearns Center has provided me with a home away from home. Everyone in the center has your best interest at heart. My advisor (Melissa) has done an outstanding job with watching over me and my grades to make sure I stay on track.”
—Aleem Griffiths, Class of 2017

“I am a Kearns Scholar. Being accepted into this program was one of my best experiences of my college life. The Kearns Center has helped me with my academics through advisement and has also been there for my personal, social, and emotional needs. When I became extremely ill my sophomore year of college, the center sent me flowers and checked in with me daily to see how I was doing. I love The Kearns Center; they have helped shape me into the wonderful woman I am today.”
—Barra Madden, Class of 2015

“It’s been great to be able to get weekly advice and support from an advisor. Although professors can be helpful, as well as friends who might have taken specific classes that you are interested in, it’s still helpful to obtain a broader perspective from your Kearns advisor. Their willingness to provide you the resources you need based on your interests is extremely helpful!”
—Megan Kibler, Class of 2017

“The Kearns Center has provided me with great advisors to help me throughout my college career. As a McNair Scholar, I was grateful for the opportunity to conduct research at the University of Rochester. In addition, the advisors at the Kearns Center are currently helping me with my application to graduate school. Furthermore in the past, my advisor has helped me with my application to summer programs that I have participated in, like the 2014 Summer Public Health Scholars Program at Columbia University.”
—Kwasi Nyantakyi, Class of 2015

“I really wanted a research position that is representative of a graduate school experience, and as a Xerox Fellow I have been provided just that. There aren’t many people in my life who can give me advice on the professional world, but the Kearns Center advisors have helped me through meetings and professional development seminars and will continue to help me as I get closer to graduation.”
—Efstathios Eleftheriadis, Class of 2015
Kearns = Confidence