



EQUITY



ACCESS IN EDUCATION

Students of color continue to be underrepresented in degree attainment. In 2000, they earned 21.8% of all bachelor's degrees awarded, however, they accounted for more than 28% of all undergraduates.

Every year underrepresented minorities enter undergraduate engineering and science curricula; however, underrepresented minorities represent less than five percent of the recipients for advanced degrees in engineering and science.

Members of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups make up about 25 percent of the U.S. population. However, their representation among health professionals is only about 10 percent.

? **How can we increase the number of underrepresented students pursuing math- and science-based careers?**

The Ventures Scholars Program has helped me throughout my years as a high school junior and senior as well as during my freshman year of college. Each newsletter contains pertinent information about career choices, internships, scholarship opportunities, and other general learning experiences that are of benefit to minority students seeking to forge ahead in the fields of Mathematics and the Sciences. I feel as if this program is an integral part of the success of students of color in America, and am grateful for my ability to participate in it.

Damara Hamlin, Undergraduate Ventures Scholar, Biology College

✓ VENTURES SCHOLARS PROGRAM ... DEVELOPING A PATHWAY FOR YOUNG ADULTS INTERESTED IN MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED CAREERS

Mission – The Ventures Scholars Program identifies, recognizes, and supports students of underrepresented groups and helps them pursue math, science and technology-based education and careers.



What is the Ventures Scholars Program and how does it work?

The Ventures Scholars Program is a national resource that helps increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue math, science and technology undergraduate and graduate degrees, and ultimately careers in related professions.

Starting in high school, students who express an interest in math or science, demonstrate academic excellence, and perform well on national standardized examinations are recognized and invited to become Ventures Scholars. As Ventures Scholars, they are offered a range of free services to help them better connect to resources, manage their college planning process, and make informed career decisions.

When Ventures Scholars graduate from high school, they are invited to utilize the college and career planning resources for undergraduate students.

Venture Scholars are linked to universities and professional societies through the Ventures Scholars Program Consortium, a group of over 200 undergraduate institutions, graduate and professional schools, and professional associations who have become Ventures in Education members. In return for their financial support, VIE provides them with access to the Ventures Scholars database and facilitates their contacts with interested Ventures Scholars.

The Ventures Scholars Program also provides a variety of communication tools to help high school and undergraduate Ventures Scholars learn about resources and opportunities. This includes message boards where high school Venture Scholars can contact and link up with Venture Scholars now in college and who now act as mentors.





Who are the Ventures Scholars and how does the Ventures Scholars Program help them learn about opportunities and resources?

SNAPSHOT OF 2004-05 VENTURES SCHOLARS

High School Ventures Scholars

Over 13,000 high achieving high school students, from 50 states, have joined the Ventures Scholars Program.
 39% Male and 61 % female
 48 % African American or Black,
 44 % Hispanic,
 4 % are Native American,
 .04 % Asian,
 .1 % are Caucasian
 18 % are first generation college bound students.
 33 % are from families that make under \$40,000 per year.



Undergraduate Ventures Scholars

Over _____ students, from 50 states, have continued free membership with the Ventures Scholars Program.
 _____ % Male and _____ % female.
 _____ % African American or Black,
 _____ % Hispanic,
 _____ % are Native American,
 _____ % Asian,
 _____ % are Caucasian.
 18 % are first generation college bound students.
 33 % are from families that make under \$40,000 per year.

BENEFITS FOR VENTURES SCHOLARS

The Ventures Scholars Program offers high school and undergraduate Ventures Scholars a variety of support services that can help them link to college and career resources.

High School Student Benefits

Through their participation in the Ventures Scholars Program, high school students receive recognition and gain access to comprehensive information about the college and career planning process.

- Ventures Scholars gain special access to over 200 member colleges, universities, and professional associations.
- College and career planning resources are conveniently available to Venture Scholars directly from the Ventures Scholars Program web site.
- Biweekly e-newsletters and other written material provide invaluable information to Venture Scholars on a variety of college and career planning resources.
- E-communication tools instantaneously connect Ventures Scholars to each other from high schools, colleges, and universities nationwide.
- Regularly scheduled Venture Scholars Program events educate Ventures Scholars and their families about the college planning process and math-, science- and technology-based careers.
- Knowledgeable Ventures Scholars Program staff are available to Ventures Scholars and their families to answer challenging questions.
- Public and private high schools are notified to acknowledge Ventures Scholars at their award ceremonies
- Ventures Scholars may continue to benefit from membership at the undergraduate level.

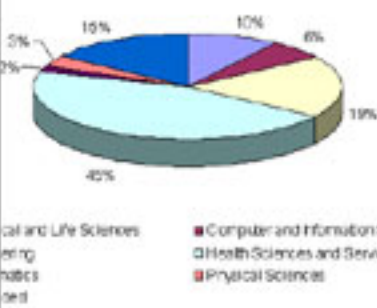
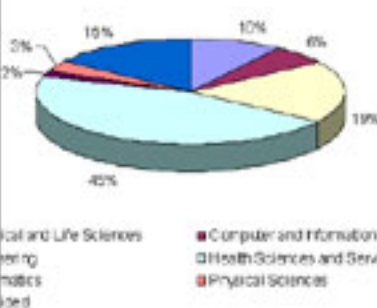
Undergraduate Student Benefits

As Ventures Scholars enter college or university, they are invited to continue utilizing the support services to help them access important information about experiential learning, post-baccalaureate and workplace opportunities.



- Member graduate and professional schools share information with Ventures Scholars as early as their freshman year of college or university.
- Professional associations continue to provide extensive career-related information and link undergraduate Ventures Scholars to resources.
- Undergraduate Ventures Scholars continue to receive the biweekly e-newsletter that provides timely information about undergraduate and post baccalaureate resources.
- Undergraduate Ventures Scholars across the country coach each other and offer high school Ventures Scholars advice and information about success in college or university.

When I went to the Ventures Scholars seminar, I realized there were many other students like me... For me, math and science careers were a little intimidating until I saw other students seriously considering these fields... The Ventures Scholars Program helped me to see that the opportunities in the fields of math and science are abundant and growing, as our society progresses technologically.
 ~Jaryn Fields, High School Student Location





How do undergraduate institutions, professional and graduate schools, and professional associations benefit from membership with the Ventures Scholars Program?

The Ventures Scholars Program brings together undergraduate institutions, graduate and professional schools, professional associations, and organizations and provides a platform for institutions and associations.



Using the Ventures Scholars Program, Consortium members can work together in a variety of ways:

- Undergraduate institutions, graduate schools, and professional schools can utilize the Ventures Scholars Program to improve their recruitment and retention efforts.
- Undergraduate institutions, graduate schools, and professional schools that share the same campus can work with the Ventures Scholars Program to increase the number of underrepresented and first-generation college-bound students attending the campus at the undergraduate level and continuing on to graduate or professional school.
- Graduate and professional schools, professional associations, and organizations can begin communicating with Ventures Scholars and their families as early as high school to help them better understand career requirements and expectations.
- Professional associations and organizations that develop programs with undergraduate institutions, graduate and professional schools can utilize the Ventures Scholars Program to track Ventures Scholars at the high school and undergraduate levels.

Benefits to Consortium Members

- Member institutions can utilize the Ventures Scholars Program database to send or email information to high school and undergraduate Ventures Scholars. The database includes academic and career-related information about the Ventures Scholars.
- A member institution or association can highlight information about open houses, multicultural support programs, majors, research opportunities, fee waivers, scholarship opportunities, and enrichment programs on the Ventures Scholars Program Web site.
- The Ventures Scholars Program offers consortium members a variety of venues to share information about programs and opportunities, including biweekly e-newsletters and targeted emails to high school and undergraduate Ventures Scholars. Members can also send targeted emails to the Ventures Scholars' families.
- Consortium members can utilize the communication tools to provide important information to a growing number of guidance counselors joining the Ventures Scholars Program.
- Consortium members can collaborate with the Ventures Scholars Program and develop seminars to help Ventures Scholars better understand the college and career planning process.
- Members can use the Ventures Scholars Program to utilize the VSP tracking system for recruitment and retention efforts.



I was offered scholarships by some of the member institutions that I would never have learned about if it were not for the program. I was also provided information about internships in the science field I want to pursue, college fairs in my area, [and] career information...from the biweekly e-newsletter.... I gained valuable information and experiences, and I am grateful to the Ventures Scholar program for helping to provide them for me.

-Valarie Davis, High School Student, Biology Location

The Summer Medical Education Program (SMEP) has benefited greatly from the important work of the Ventures Scholars program. A number of the SMEP sites are members of the Venture's network, as well as the SMEP National Program Office. Ventures Scholars has helped us to increase our presence among a very talented group of students who are aspiring to become physicians. It is not uncommon to meet a SMEP alumnus who learned about the program through the one of the numerous Ventures information vehicles. Professional members are also given opportunities to connect with the day-to-day issues of our youth through the Ventures Scholars e-newsletter and the 'VSP Question of the Week'. I encourage any organization seeking to draw from a wonderful pool of talented youth to become a member of and support Ventures Scholars. Thanks Ventures!

-Kevin Harris, Deputy Director, Summer Medical Education Program, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

The Ventures Scholars Program is one that I have observed from two perspectives - that of a College Admissions Professional and now as a College Counselor. The students whose applications I had the pleasure to read during my time in admissions were almost always the strongest of the students of color in our pool especially among those considering careers in the fields of engineering and the sciences. As a college counselor, Ventures provides me useful information and linkages to colleges and professional organizations that are most interested in connecting with my most talented students from diverse backgrounds. The electronic communications we receive are always full of useful information and tools that can be of use to many of the students I counsel.

-Mrs. Malika M. Johnson, Assistant Director of College Counseling, The Bryn Mawr Schoolm Baltimore, MD

