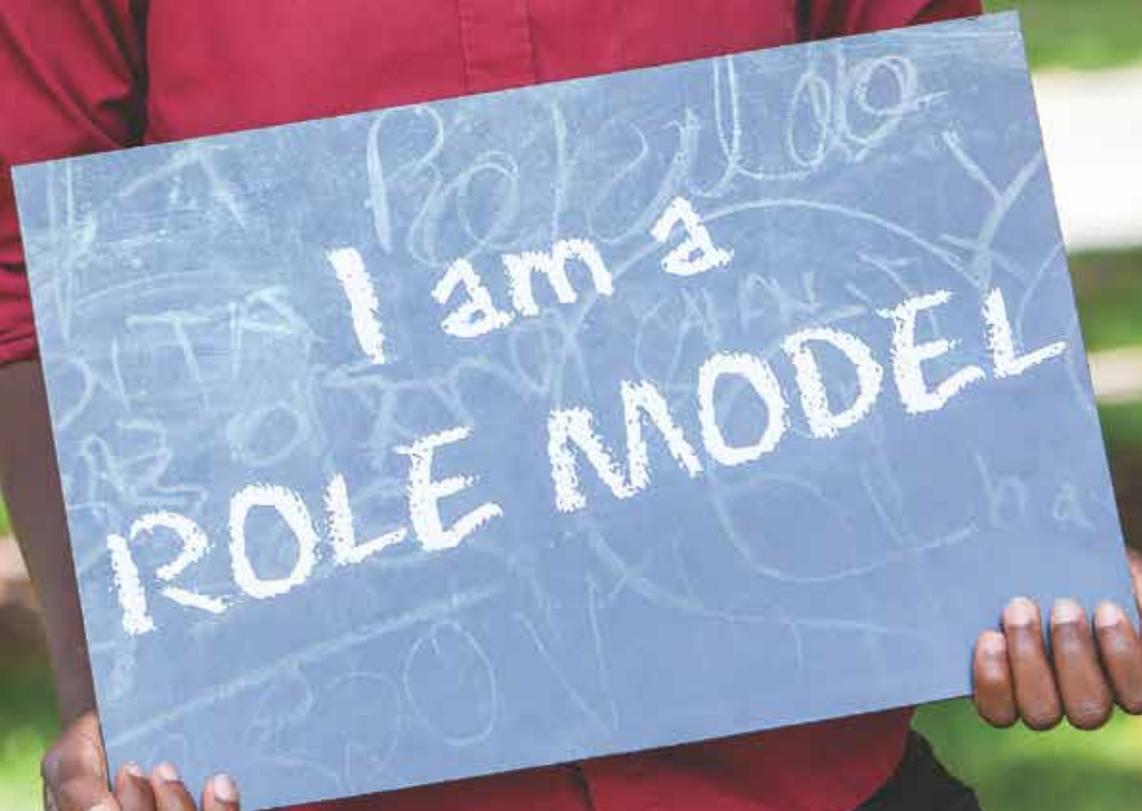
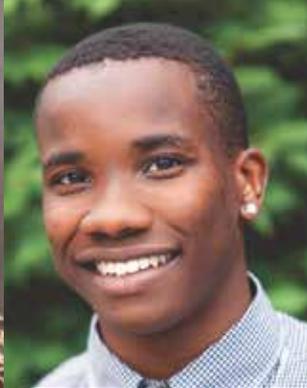
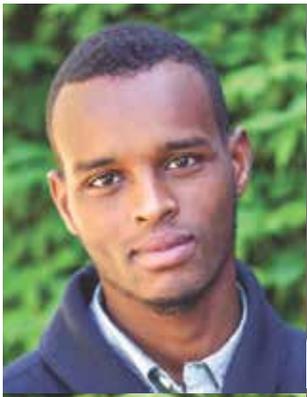
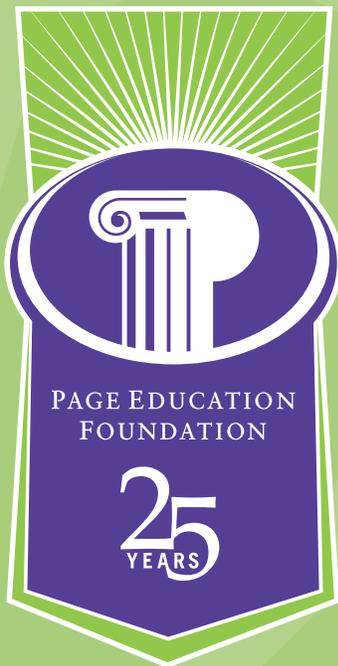


Community Report





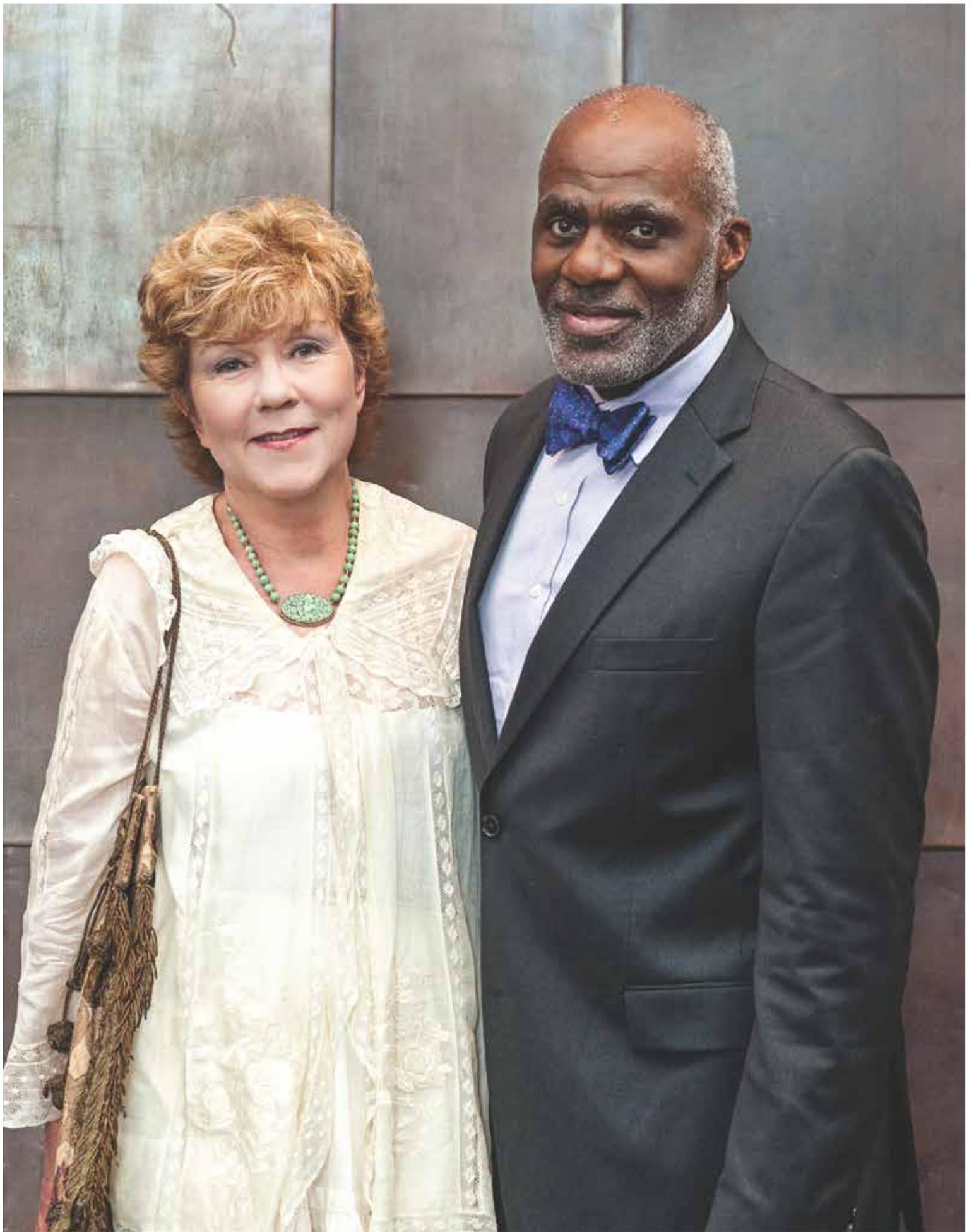


“ You gave me the best and most valuable gift of all and that is believing that I can and will succeed. ”

Susan Xiong, Page Scholar

The mission of the Page Education Foundation is to increase participation of Minnesota's youth of color in post-secondary education. This is accomplished by using role models and financial aid to encourage students who might not otherwise pursue their educational opportunities.

The Page Education Foundation offers hope to promising students of color who continue their education. We know there is no shortage of potential – only a shortage of appropriate support and encouragement. By collaborating with educators, schools, community organizations, business leaders, colleges, and volunteers, we have found a way to make a difference in the lives of these students by investing in their post-secondary education.



It Started With A Simple Idea...

Alan Page's 15 years as a professional football player were full of standout moments. He was awarded All-Pro honors six times, played in nine consecutive Pro Bowls, and was named the AP's NFL Defensive Player and Most Valuable Player of the Year in 1971 – the first defensive player ever named MVP. Alan was, by any measure, a great football player, but he wanted more than football on his résumé. While playing for the Minnesota Vikings, he was a full-time law student, earning his Juris Doctor in 1978. His legal career has included work at the Minnesota Attorney General's office and at a large law firm. He has been a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice since 1993.

Alan's parents instilled in him a deep belief in the value of education, a belief that guided his own life and accomplishments. He wanted to open the same kind of opportunities to others. When he learned he would be inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1988, he decided to use the occasion to do something meaningful for young people.

The Page Education Foundation was launched at the induction ceremony in Canton, Ohio—which also happens to be Alan's hometown. Alan and Diane Sims Page, with the support of their children, established the values of the Foundation: post-secondary education scholarships for young Minnesotans, mentoring and support for the Page Scholars, and a volunteer commitment by each Scholar to tutor and mentor younger students. That Service to Children requirement—a sort of “paying it forward”—is as important as the scholarship support for Page Scholars in helping young people understand the value of education.

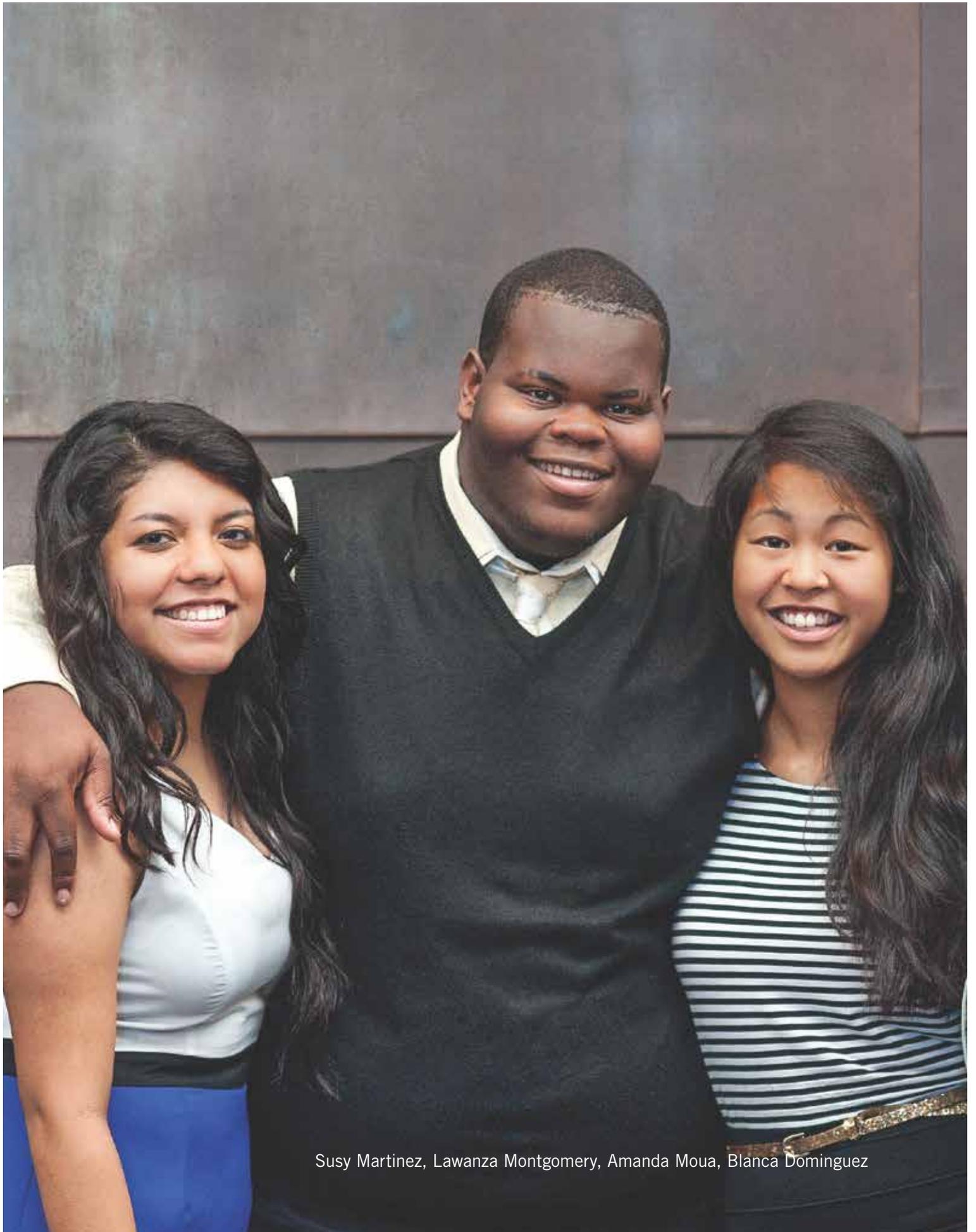
In its first year, the Page Education Foundation provided 10 students with

scholarships for post-secondary education. This year, it has over 500 Page Scholars. Over 25 years, the Page Education Foundation has helped more than 5,000 young people finance their education—and they, in turn, have impacted the lives of tens of thousands of children.

“ Our intent in creating the Foundation was to try to create hope, to let young people know that their futures could be better than their present. ”

Justice Alan Page

Alan explains, “The fact is that I see a lot of young people who engage in anti-social behavior. Some of those young people simply have no moral compass. But for many of them—indeed, I suspect the majority—there is a lack of hope. And so, to the extent that the Page Education Foundation and Page Scholars create hope, we make the world a better place not only for ourselves, but also for those around us.”



Susy Martinez, Lawanza Montgomery, Amanda Moua, Blanca Dominguez

Opportunity

PAGE GRANTS

“ When I go to college, I will be the first from a family of eight to go. I want to show my younger siblings that, with a little determination and dreams, they can go a long way. ”

Jacinda Adams

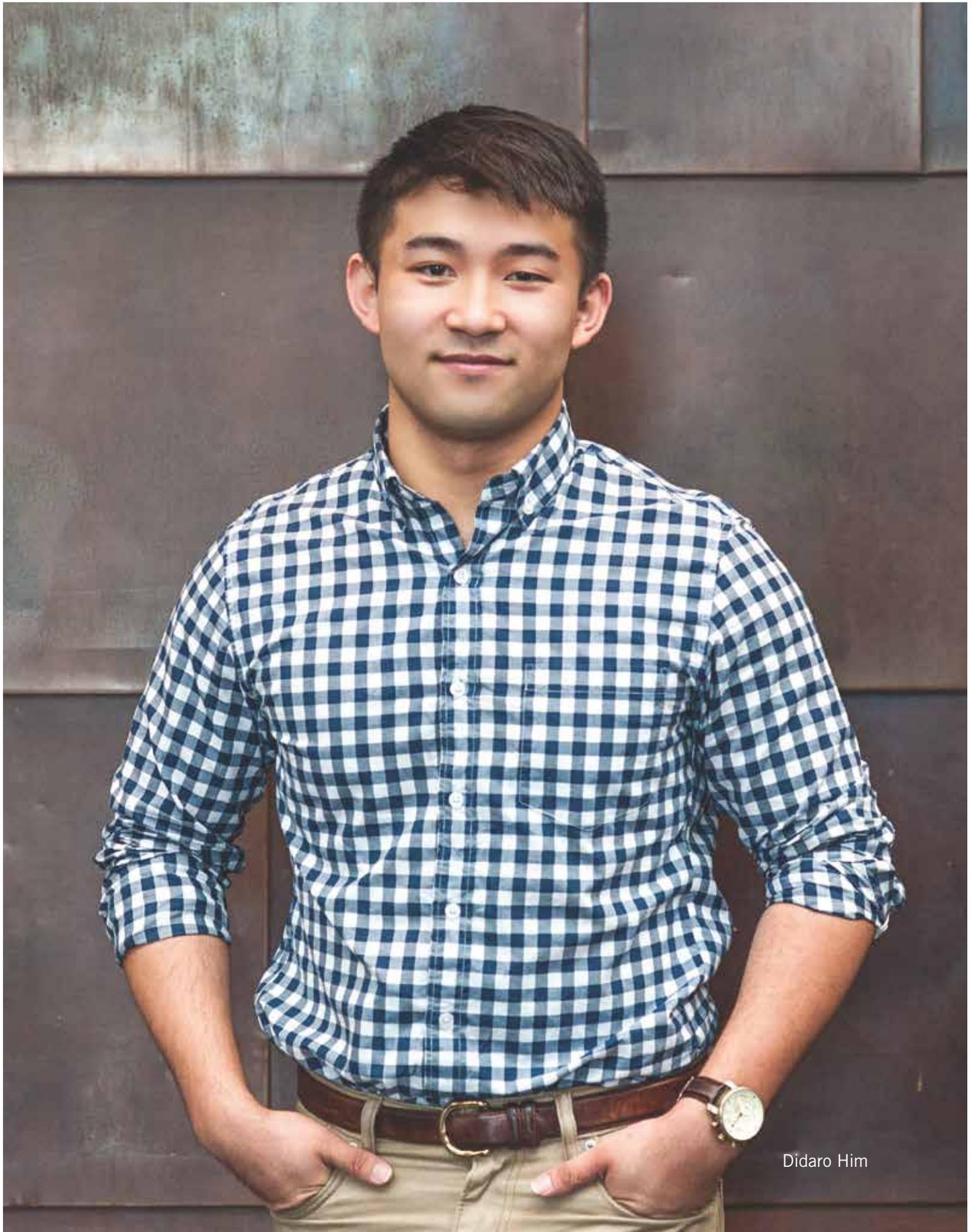
The Page Education Foundation awards annual, renewable financial grants to Minnesota students of color who attend colleges, universities, and technical colleges throughout Minnesota. Students who accept Page Grants commit to perform clearly defined service projects with younger children of color.

Our awards consist of annual grants of \$1,000 - \$2,500. The selection process focuses on an applicant's attitude toward education, willingness to provide service to children, and financial need. Recipients reapply each year they attend a post-secondary educational institution.

Each year, the Page Education Foundation receives **thousands** of applications from hard-working, deserving students.

Each one is seeking **opportunities and support** to improve their futures.





Didaro Him

Didaro Him

Normandale Community College: 2011-2014

Major: Education

“It’s an honor. I won this grant for college and it’s helping me and my future,” says Page Scholar Didaro Him. Born in Cambodia, Daro moved to the United States at age 3 and graduated from Shakopee High School. “My parents moved here so that I could have a better life – to get out of the cycle,” he says. Their support encourages him to pursue a career as an English Language Learner teacher and to help other immigrant students navigate the American education system.

““ The Page Scholarship helps me focus on me. ””

““ The financial assistance gives a lot of people like me opportunities we simply couldn’t have without your help. ””

For Daro, classes and homework are a small fraction of what keeps him busy. He works 25 hours each week at a nursing home, volunteers with the college-access program LEAP (Life Evolves Around Possibilities), and, as the oldest in his family, translates for his parents and manages the household.



Angelica Torralba-Olague
Coordinator, Youth Programs
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District 622
Page Scholar: 2001-2005



Hope

SERVICE TO CHILDREN

“ Although the students look up to us and see us as role models, I look up to them because they remind me of an important lesson. That is, I can still dream big and attain the future that I want for myself if I work hard enough. ”

Anthony Murphy

The Service to Children program requires each Page Scholar to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours during the academic year mentoring students of color in kindergarten through eighth grade. With a focus on literacy and tutoring, Page Scholars encourage younger children to view education as a positive and exciting goal.

These relationships offer powerful motivation to impressionable students who look up to Page Scholars for guidance.

Children mentored by Page Scholars benefit from real-life role models who are taking advantage of their educational opportunities and creating a better future. Page Scholars also provide much needed assistance to our schools, libraries, and community organizations.

Last year, Page Scholars volunteered more than **20,000 hours** as mentors and tutors at schools, libraries, community centers, and after-school programs.



Merone Melekin with First Grader Madelyn

Merone Melekin

University of Minnesota: 2010-2014

Major: Political Science with focus in Public Policy

Minor: African-American and African Studies, Leadership

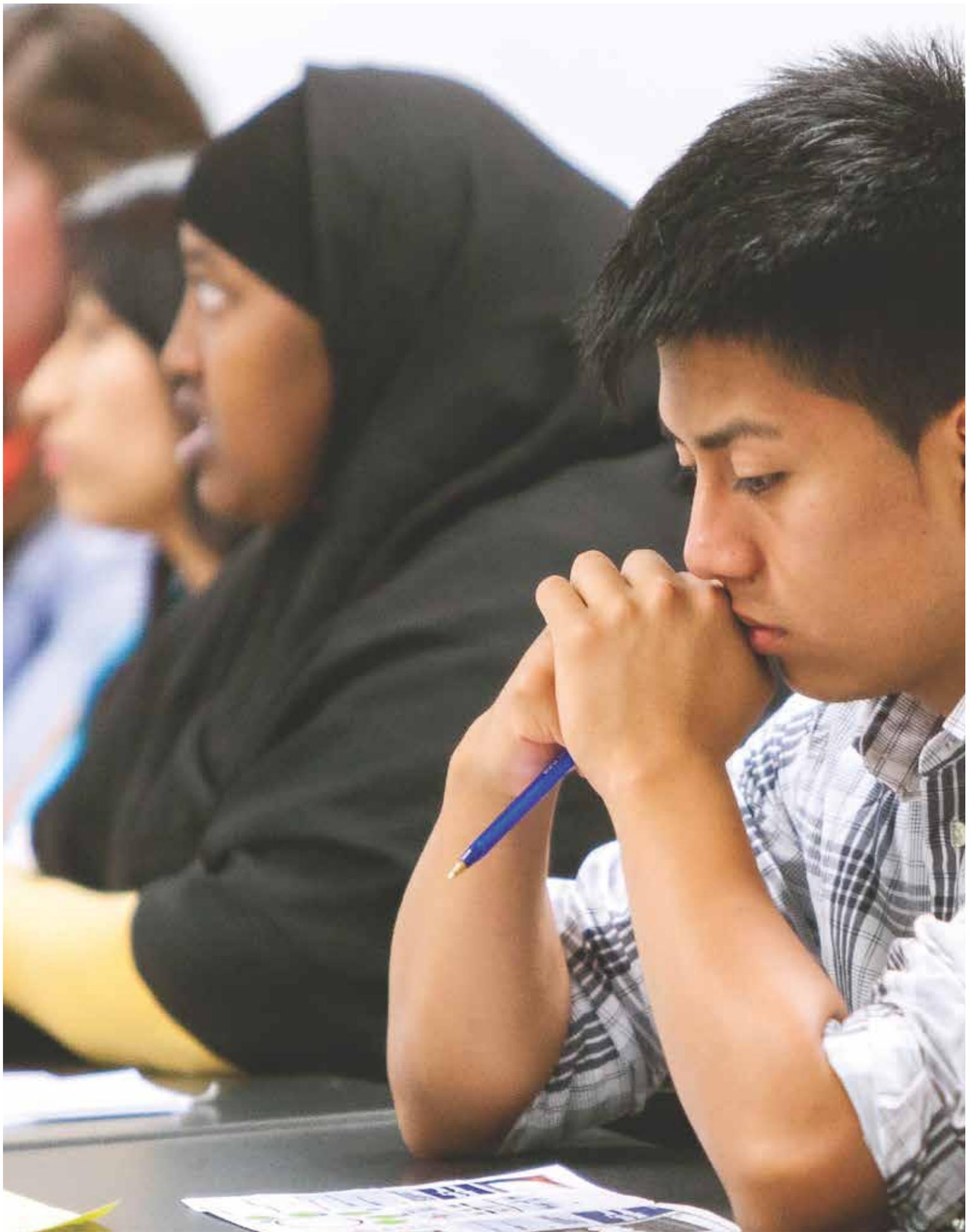
For her Service to Children project, Merone returned to her former elementary school, Phalen Lake Elementary School in St. Paul, to tutor in a third grade classroom—an experience she credits with shaping her life's work in education policy. “Being a student of color, you experience school differently, you notice things, and over time, you realize that the system has put people of color into categories. I wouldn't have made this shift to a career in American education policy without the Page Education Foundation.”

Now a senior at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, Merone Melekin exemplifies the mission of the Page Education Foundation.

“ We volunteer with youth because we care about them, and in turn, we are receiving a scholarship because the Page Education Foundation cares about us. ”

“ Nothing would have pushed me to go into a school, sit eye to eye with a young student, and see what's actually happening. PEF changed my life in that way; it made me realize that I belong in the education sector. ”

Driven to work in public service and close the achievement gap, Merone plans to pursue a master's degree in public policy after graduation. She is grateful for the financial assistance to pay for college, but even more, Merone says, “Being a Page Scholar helped me discover my passion and my role in the world as a servant leader and agent of change.”





Excellence

PAGE CONNECTIONS

“ My greatest motivation comes from the thought that I have the wonderful opportunity to obtain higher education and I intend to make great use of it. For me, education is inspiration. I am inspired by the idea that I am in control of my future. ”

Fartun Dirie

The Page Connections program focuses on supporting Page Scholars as they work to successfully complete their education and community service.

Through supportive on-campus communities, Page Connections encourages students to access support services on campus, provides Page Scholars with internship opportunities and group service projects, and connects students to professional mentors who help guide students as they transition into the workforce.



Carlos Rodrigo Vazquez and Joy Shealer Orson

Carlos Rodrigo Vazquez

Augsburg College: 2013-2014

Major: Accounting and Finance

Minneapolis Community and Technical College: 2011-2013

Major: AA in Accounting

Rodrigo is well on his way to a career in public accounting, thanks in large part to the support and guidance of his mentor Joy. Through the Page Professional Mentors program, Rodrigo met senior manager Joy Shealer Orson of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. Joy offers professional advice, job shadowing, and networking opportunities.

Born and raised in Mexico, Rodrigo arrived in the U.S. at age 18 with limited English skills, yet great determination to navigate the education system in Richfield, Minnesota. "I came here for one reason: education. In Mexico, we talked about the American Dream all the time. We thought if you get an education in the United States, you will be all set," he says.

Rodrigo is determined to make his dreams a reality. With the support of the Page Education Foundation, Rodrigo graduated

“ The financial help from the Page Scholarship was critical for me to stay in school and finish my degree. Even more, being a Page Scholar allows me to give back and see the impact you can have on someone’s life. That’s priceless. ”

from Minneapolis Community and Technical College with an Associate’s degree in accounting, and is now pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance at Augsburg College. In preparation for a career in public accounting, Rodrigo volunteers with AccountAbility Minnesota, an organization that provides tax services to low-income individuals. He also interns with the accounting team of Headwaters Foundation for Justice.

“ The Page Connections mentoring program helps me connect Rodrigo with experiences and professionals in the field and provide a real world perspective to complement his college experience. ”

Joy Shealer Orson, Senior Manager. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Legacy



1	Extraordinary Vision
25	Years of Opportunity
104	Post-Secondary Institutions
5,000	Scholarships Awarded
350,000	Hours of Mentoring & Tutoring
12,000,000	Dollars Given
INVALUABLE	The Ongoing Support of this Community.

“ The Page Education Foundation has created a legacy that is changing the future for thousands of Minnesota’s children. ”

Korina Barry

Senior Social Worker

Hennepin County – ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) Long-Term Foster Care
Page Scholar: 2005-2009

“With all of the struggles facing minority youth, I’m inspired by the Page Education Foundation’s commitment to fight the fight for the populations you reach out to.”

“I really hope to have a bigger effect on the community I come from—the Native community. I’m finding myself wanting to be more innovative and impact the community on a bigger level. I don’t want to reinvent the wheel, but I want to have a big impact here in Minneapolis,” says social worker Korina Barry.

But 10 years ago, Korina was just trying to get by. She moved a lot, was expelled from school, and never considered going to college. Thanks to her high school counselor, she found the support she needed. “She kept me motivated and made sure I didn’t lose hope,” Korina says.

She headed to the University of Minnesota, where she studied Child Psychology and American Indian Studies. Living in the American Indian Culture House provided a network of friends that helped Korina adjust to the demands of college. She also had a Page Mentor, and remembers, “I didn’t have much of a support system, so it was helpful to have



ALUMNI

a person who cared.” Through her Service to Children project, Korina says, “I found enjoyment and fulfillment, and I learned how much I loved being with kids.”

This love turned into a career. While pursuing her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Minnesota, Korina interned with foster care youth. Here, she realized her calling to work for child welfare. She’s currently a Senior Social Worker with Hennepin County’s Indian Child Welfare Act Long-Term Foster Care Unit.

Derek Francis

School Counselor

North Academy of Arts and Communications
High School

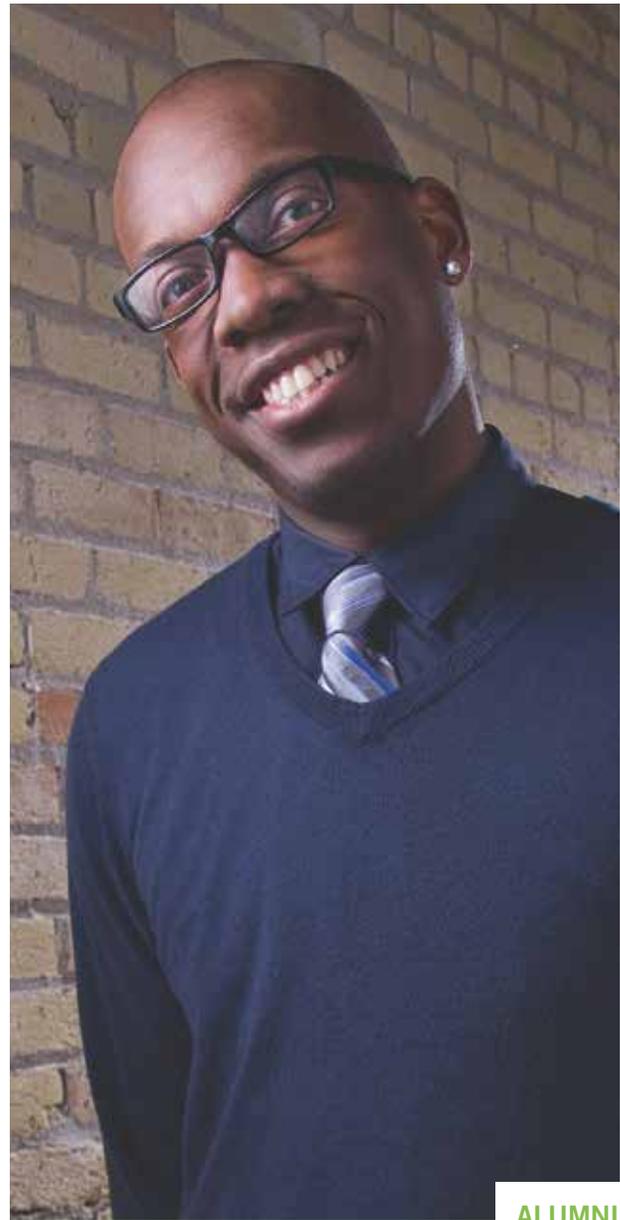
Page Scholar: 2004-2008

“ Without a doubt, the Page Education Foundation ignited my passion for working with kids. I wouldn't be a school counselor if it weren't for my time as a Page Scholar. ”

After graduating from Champlin High School, Derek Francis attended Augsburg College and became the first member of his family to attend a four-year college. His mother emigrated from Liberia and emphasized the opportunities that a college degree would bring in the United States—opportunities his parents could not afford. Derek remembers them saying “You're going for us.”

Derek earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Broadcasting and first worked in public relations for a moving company. Yet, he recalls, something wasn't right. “I missed connecting with students and helping them prepare for their future,” he says. Derek went to graduate school at the University of Minnesota in Educational Psychology and Student Personnel and is now working as a high school counselor at North Academy of Arts and Communications High School.

“Without a doubt, the Page Education Foundation is what ignited my passion for



ALUMNI

working with kids. I wouldn't be a school counselor if it weren't for my time as a Page Scholar,” says Derek. He volunteered at Longfellow Elementary for four years, and says, “I was more and more part of the school every year, and I realized I loved being there. My friends would ask why I gave up more of my time than was required. The experience helped me find my passion for helping people, especially youth. I tell people all the time that the Page Education Foundation changed my life.”

Kao Kalia Yang

Writer

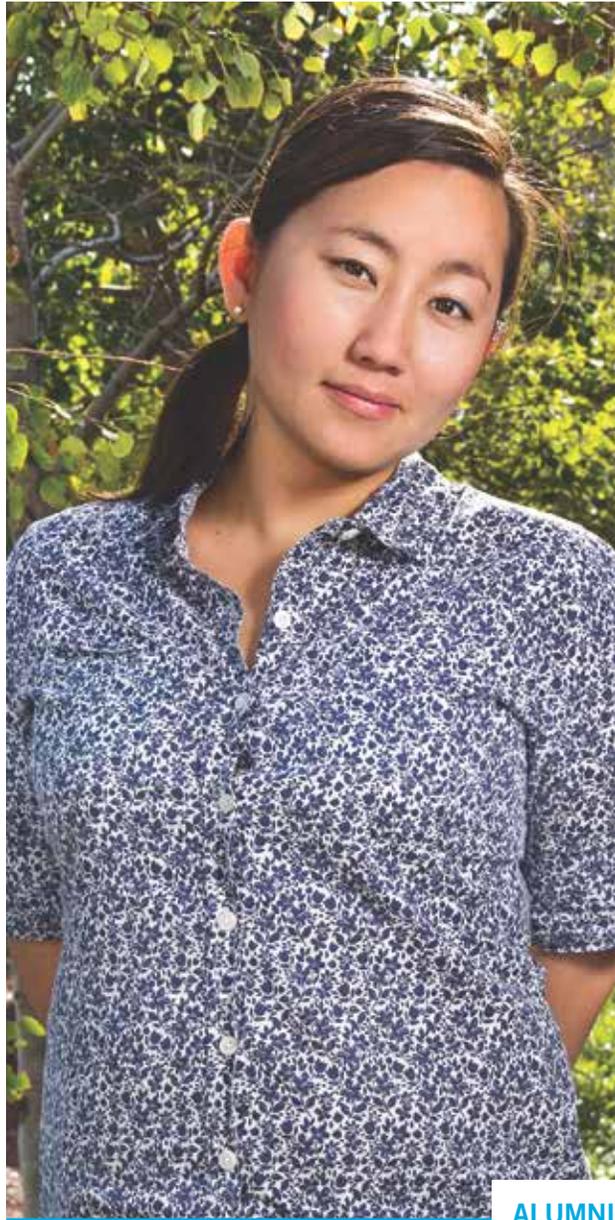
Minnesota Book Award Winner

Page Scholar: 1999-2003

“ Receiving the Page Scholarship showed me there were folks in the world who believed in my ability to go to college. ”

Kao Kalia Yang’s award-winning book, *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, tells the story of her migration and perseverance. She came from a Thai refugee camp to the McDonough Housing Project in St. Paul. Despite being poor, Kao Kalia says, “My childhood was incredibly beautiful. I grew up at the center of a large extended family of refugees where the adults exemplified the values and lessons of lives fraught with hardship, imagination, and the pursuit of a better tomorrow.” She was inspired by this collective sense of hope to graduate from high school and continue her education at Carleton College and then Columbia University for her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction Writing.

Kao Kalia needed the financial support from the Page Education Foundation to help her through college, but she’s much more aware of how the Page Scholarship changed her life. “Receiving the Page Scholarship showed me there were folks in the world who believed in my ability to go to college, people who would actually help out by giving money to the cause.



ALUMNI

The scholarship gave me confidence in society, esteem in myself and my ability, and familial and communal pride,”

Today, Kao Kalia is a celebrated local hero. *The Latehomecomer* won the 2009 Minnesota Book Award and her documentary film, *The Place Where We Were Born*, is widely taught in Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools. Her commitment to community service remains. She frequently volunteers throughout the community as a speaker, writer, and resident-teacher.

Dr. Eddie Mairura

Orthopedic Surgery Resident

University of Minnesota

Page Scholar: 2004-2005, 2008-2009

“ The Page Education Foundation helped me pursue my dream of becoming a doctor. The encouragement and support changed my life. ”

Eddie Mairura always knew he wanted to work in the medical profession. As a resident in Orthopedics at the University of Minnesota Hospital, he's making his dreams come true, preparing for a career of improving the lives of others as a surgeon. Eddie also hopes to do international medical missions, “to provide health care to other people who are less fortunate and have less access than we do here.”

He moved with his family from Nairobi, Kenya at 13, and graduated from Hopkins High School. “When I started as an undergrad, I was looking for opportunities to mentor folks along the way, looking to give back after getting so much help, that’s when I heard about the Page Scholarship and what it had to offer,” he says. Through the Service to Children project, Eddie mentored in the Y Buddies program. Recalling his time as a mentor to a young boy, Eddie says, “His dad was in jail, he had trouble in school, but it



ALUMNI

was an opportunity for me to treat him like my little brother and guide him through. We spent time on campus and did things that showed him ‘yeah, things might seem hard now, but there are opportunities to academically excel if you make important choices.’”

Acknowledgments



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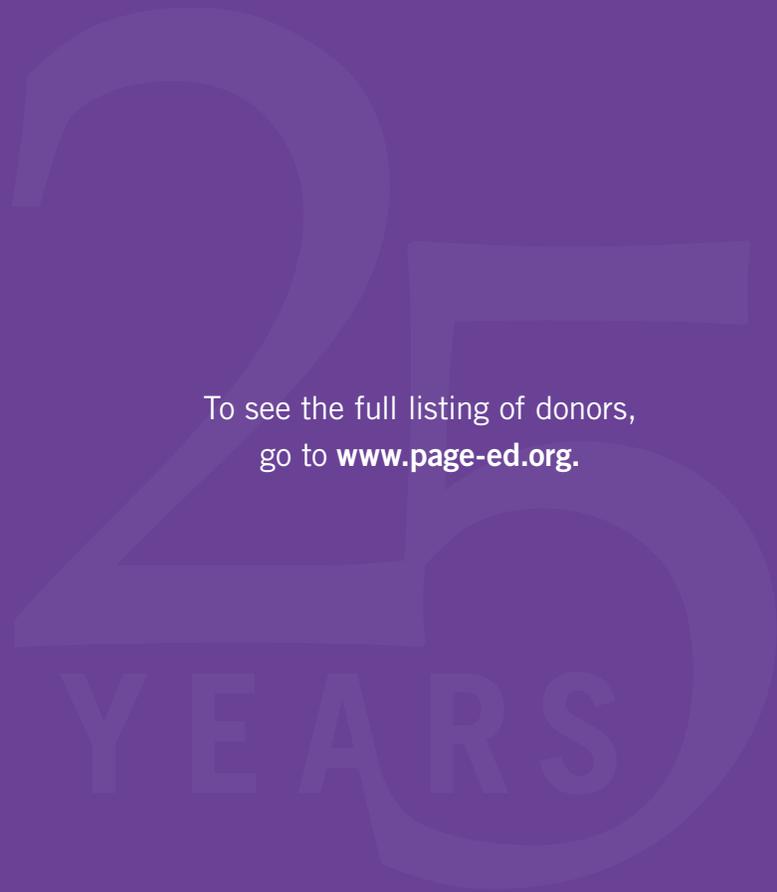
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