

Martin Luther King, Jr. Endowed Internship Fund

**“Never allow it to be said that you are silent onlookers,
detached spectators, but that you are involved
participants in the struggle to make justice a reality.”**

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking at Oberlin's
1965 Commencement

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program:

- ▶ A tangible, impactful, and immediate way that alumni can directly support low income students at Oberlin
- ▶ Established in 2014 by the Oberlin Class of 1965, and joined by the Class of 1966
- ▶ During the past 10 years, 200 alumni have contributed more than \$715,000 to provide summer stipends of \$5000 (now \$5500) to low-income students in the College and Conservatory
- ▶ Those students experience professional-, career-, and potentially life-changing advancement through summer internship opportunities
- ▶ Stipends are available only to federal Pell Grant eligible students and undocumented and international students who would meet Pell Grant eligibility. All alumni contributions go to support student stipends

The MLK, Jr. Internship program has been successful because it:

- ▶ Speaks to the social justice values of Oberlin alumni
- ▶ Prioritizes funding for students who need it most
- ▶ Positions career readiness as part of education at Oberlin

Accomplishments:

- ▶ Stipends provided to over 100 students
- ▶ Majors: Social sciences, interdisciplinary, humanities, conservatory, natural sciences
- ▶ Example employers: Social, arts, private, academic, public
- ▶ Experience locations: all regions of the US, plus Africa, Europe, Americas, & Asia

Student Testimonial: **T.H., MLK '22**

“Coming from a low-income household in Appalachian Ohio, I always feared that internship opportunities would be out of my reach. The support that I received from MLK Internship Fund enabled me to pursue an internship in the law & public policy field.”

Student Testimonial: **C.B., MLK '20**

“Growing up in a Black low-income community on the West Side of Chicago and attending a charter high school that lacked arts programs/education, I was often faced with the reality that art is inaccessible for so many people.”

Student Testimonial: **D.G., MLK '18**

“Thank you for giving me a chance to succeed in the healthcare workforce and providing me the funds to thrive as a low-income, Latinx, first-generation college student. When I become an excellent doctor, I promise to give back as you all are.”

The Path Forward: Creating the Martin Luther King, Jr. Endowed Internship Fund

- ▶ In December 2023, Peter and Laura Kemper ('66 and '68) generously established an MLK, Jr. Endowed Internship Fund
- ▶ The Fund's goal: raise \$1,500,000, whose annual returns will support 10-12 students
- ▶ An opportunity for donors to support the program in perpetuity
- ▶ 80 alumni have contributed over \$815,000 in cash, pledge commitment and planned gifts – achieving 54% toward the goal
- ▶ The MLK, Jr. Endowed Internship Fund will grow as the College's overall endowment grows

How You Can Participate:

- ▶ The MLK, Jr. Endowed Internship Fund is supported by the College's Office of Advancement and the Center for Engaged Liberal Arts/Career Exploration and Development Center; the College does not charge any administrative fee or overhead tax
- ▶ To learn more about how you can contribute, contact Lauren Hayes in the Advancement Office at 440-775-5671 or lhaynes@oberlin.edu
- ▶ To receive a copy of the February 2024 Committee Report: "10 Years of Impact for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Internship Program," contact Phillip Singerman '65 at phillipsingerman@gmail.com

Click **here** to see a video testimonial from Taiyo Scanlon-Kamura, Oberlin class of 2015.