KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- Establish an advisory board with direct access to the Office of Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

- Provide college scholarships (recruitment and retention) to low-to-moderate income African American students who have expressed a desire to attend college and have shown academic promise.

- Provide support to the Black Affairs Council and host key events that will attract African American students from across the country. Such events will address academic and professional development topics, which will enhance personal development and community engagement.

If you would like to join in supporting the Dunbar Leadership Society, please contact Kevin Clark, director of development at the SIU Foundation.
618/453-6742
INTRODUCTION
Southern Illinois University was founded in 1869 and from the university’s inception, African American students could attend without specific admission barriers. The Dunbar Society was established in 1904 to organize the activities of African American students, but it was not until 1925 that the Dunbar Society began organizing academic, athletic, and social activities. The society served as a precursor to the university’s Black Studies Program (currently Africana Studies) and the Black Affairs Council, both of which were founded in the 1960s.

“Being a first-generation college student and growing up in a single-parent household from a disadvantaged area, my education at SIU Carbondale was life-altering and provided me with the necessary skills and confidence to make it in the corporate arena. The Dunbar Leadership Society will provide similar opportunities for generations to come.”

— Kennard Tucker, Class of 1991 and Chair of the Dunbar Leadership Society

Since the 1960s, Southern Illinois University has maintained one of the highest African American enrollments of state-funded universities in Illinois. Current African American enrollment at SIU is 14.3 percent. The Dunbar Leadership Society will actively engage with the Africana Studies program, which helps ensure SIU students have access to a diverse, socially enriching educational experience.

GIVING LEVELS
Enhancing support for the Dunbar Leadership Society is a focal point of the Forever SIU campaign. Our immediate financial goal is to raise $300,000 by the end of 2022. The long-term financial goal is to establish an endowment of at least $1.5 million. We encourage you to select the giving level that meets your capacity and join this unique effort today.

Platinum $25,000
Gold $15,000
Silver $5,000
Bronze $1,000

*Giving levels are cumulative, and subsequent pledges will count toward the next highest level.