

## Northwestern Mutual Invests \$2.5 Million in Education to Bolster Diverse Talent in Milwaukee

Company's long-term strategy will address disparities in education to close achievement gaps

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 1, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Only [nine percent](#) of Milwaukee students will earn both a high school diploma and college degree. To boost students' long-term success to achieve their full educational and career potential, Northwestern Mutual today announced a commitment of \$2.5 million to schools, nonprofits and programming in the city of Milwaukee. These funds will support the company's newly-evolved philanthropic strategy of investing in educational pathways to close the achievement gap among talented, yet underrepresented students and drive sustainable change in its hometown.

Northwestern Mutual, through its Foundation and in collaboration with community partners, is committed to addressing social, racial and economic disparities in education by increasing the number of quality seats at targeted public, charter and choice schools in Milwaukee to create pathways and opportunities for students.

"Disparities are a contributing factor to the academic achievement gap, creating obstacles that prevent diverse and talented students from reaching their full potential," said Eric Christophersen, president, Northwestern Mutual Foundation. "We are committed to creating paths to long-term educational and employment success for students of all backgrounds, fostering a pipeline of diverse talent for career opportunities at our company and throughout Milwaukee."

For more than 25 years, the company's investment in education has focused on key areas to help bridge a child's educational success, including quality early childhood education, K-12 programmatic education partners and post-secondary education completion. In total, the company invested more than \$53 million to date. These investments and efforts led to an increase in reading proficiency by as much as 25 percent among first-grade cohorts in partner schools and have provided thousands of juniors and seniors with college preparation support as part of the high school strategy.

Northwestern Mutual is building on these successes and evolving its focus to sustain and deepen its impact at high-performing schools, helping to ensure all children can make the successful transition to college and job opportunities. This evolved strategy will follow students along their educational journeys from kindergarten to employment and connect them with high-quality, diverse teachers and mentors, along with quality education and meaningful career preparation, all of which are critical to long-term success.

The company is partnering with the following Milwaukee-based schools:

Acosta Middle School  
Bruce Guadalupe Community School  
Carmen Schools of Science and Technology  
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School  
Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy  
Forest Home Avenue School  
Golda Meir  
Hmong American Peace Academy  
Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School  
Milwaukee Academy of Science  
Milwaukee College Prep School  
Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy  
Notre Dame School of Milwaukee  
Pilgrim Lutheran School  
Prince of Peace School  
Rocketship Public Schools  
Ronald Reagan High School  
Rufus King International High School  
Stellar Collegiate  
St. Marcus Lutheran School  
Wedgewood Park International School

Northwestern Mutual recently [announced](#) its partnership with All-In Milwaukee, a college completion and career placement program, to fund its Talent of the Future program. Over the next four years, the company's

contribution of \$1.6 million will provide 80 Milwaukee-area students with impactful scholarships as well as career leadership development, mentorship and internship opportunities at Northwestern Mutual.

The company is also seeking to address heightened disparities in internet access due to the shift to virtual schooling caused by the pandemic. An estimated 20 percent of Milwaukee students currently live in homes without access to internet. Northwestern Mutual has allocated \$100,000 from its \$2.5 million investment to support City Forward Collective and Milwaukee Public Schools in addressing this digital divide by providing wireless mobile hotspots with data subscriptions and home internet services to over 5,000 students.

Beyond disparities in education, Northwestern Mutual is committed to fighting racism and discrimination in all forms. The company has a dedicated task force, [Sustained Action for Racial Equity](#), led by Chairman, President, and CEO John Schlifske, which takes a holistic look at actions that will have the greatest impact to drive sustainable change.

Locally, Northwestern Mutual also collaborates with partners to revitalize neighborhoods and support prominent local destinations. Nationally, the company supports research to find a cure for childhood cancer.

### **About Northwestern Mutual Foundation**

The mission of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation is to improve the lives of children and families in need. The Foundation has given more than \$386 million since its inception in 1992 and is designed to create lasting impact in the communities where the company's employees and financial representatives live and work. We accomplish this by combining financial support, volunteerism, thought leadership and convening community partners to deliver the best outcomes. Our efforts are focused nationally on curing childhood cancer, and locally on education, neighborhoods and making our hometown of Milwaukee a great destination. Visit [Northwestern Mutual Foundation](#) to learn more.

### **About Northwestern Mutual**

[Northwestern Mutual](#) has been helping people and businesses achieve financial security for more than 160 years. Through a holistic planning approach, Northwestern Mutual combines the expertise of its financial professionals with a personalized digital experience and industry-leading products to help its clients plan for what's most important. With \$290.3 billion in total assets, \$29.9 billion in revenues, and \$1.9 trillion worth of life insurance protection in force, Northwestern Mutual delivers financial security to more than 4.6 million people with life, disability income and long-term care insurance, annuities, and brokerage and advisory services. The company manages more than \$161 billion of investments owned by its clients and held or managed through its wealth management and investment services businesses. Northwestern Mutual ranks 102 on the 2020 FORTUNE 500 and is recognized by FORTUNE® as one of the "World's Most Admired" life insurance companies in 2020.

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company (NM) (life and disability insurance, annuities, and life insurance with long-term care benefits) and its subsidiaries in Milwaukee, WI. Subsidiaries include **Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC** (investment brokerage services), broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC; the Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company® (investment advisory and trust services), a federal savings bank; and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company.

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