



ABOUT

BACKGROUND

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THURGOOD MARSHALL

In 1925, an outgoing and strong-willed young man enrolled in Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. Tenacious, skillful, and persuasive, the young man quickly became the university's star debater. After graduating cum laude with distinction, he enrolled in Howard University Law School, where he graduated at the top of his class in 1933. At that time, no one could have predicted that in 1967, Thurgood Marshall would become the first African-American justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Marshall's commitment to education began as a young lawyer fighting the State of Maryland for equal pay for Black school teachers who were receiving the same salary as janitors. Throughout his career, Thurgood Marshall worked within the legal system to make his vision of equal access to education a reality through precedent-setting court cases. In *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the United States Supreme Court struck down the "Separate but Equal" doctrine, thus ending legalized segregation of educational institutions.

After winning a difficult racial discrimination case against the University of Maryland, Thurgood Marshall declared, "We're in the education business!" It is this legacy and commitment to education that is the foundation of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's (TMCF's) vision: *Changing the World... One Leader at a Time.*

THURGOOD MARSHALL COLLEGE FUND

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), formerly the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, is named for the U.S. Supreme Court's first African-American justice. It was established in 1987 under the leadership of Dr. N. Joyce Payne in cooperation with Miller Brewing Co., Sony Music, the NBA, Reebok, and the American Association for State Colleges and Universities. TMCF represents all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and supports nearly 300,000 students attending its 47 member-schools that include *publicly-supported* HBCUs, medical schools and law schools.

TMCF helps students with a clear intention to succeed acquire a high-quality college education at an affordable cost. TMCF also efficiently connects high performing, world-ready students with top tier employment opportunities—that students or employers might not have on their own. Throughout its scholarships and programs, TMCF plays a key role in preparing the leaders of tomorrow.

TMCF is the only national organization to provide this level of support to *publicly-supported* HBCUs, and to date has awarded more than \$250 million in such assistance to its students and member-schools. TMCF distributes 98% of its funds exclusively to HBCUs, which is more than any other organization that supports the HBCU community. TMCF member-schools are a critical source of higher education for all students. More than 80% of all students enrolled in HBCUs attend TMCF member-schools. Many TMCF member-school graduates have become leaders in the business, government and entertainment industries. However, few of these achievements would be possible without the support of TMCF and its generous financial partners. TMCF has achieved the highest level of accreditation from 2 major non-profit review groups: Guide Star (Platinum Level Participant) and Better Business Bureau - Wise Giving Alliance (20 out of 20 standards).