

# HOWARD

## forever



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UNIVERSITY

## Howard and Fulbright: A Partnership Rooted in Scholarship

It has been an impactful year for Howard University and the Fulbright Program. This fall, Howard was named among Fulbright's top 20 HBCU Institutional Leaders for the 2024-2025 academic year.

We are proud to announce that six of our distinguished Howard graduates have been awarded prestigious 2025-2026 Fulbright U.S. Student Program grants.

The Fulbright Program is an international academic exchange program founded in 1946. The organization's mission is to increase mutual understanding and support friendly and peaceful relations between the people of the United States and people of other countries. More than 400,000 scholars from over 160 countries have participated in the program since 1946 – including more than 165 Howard alumni.

This year's Fulbright grant recipients plan to use their Howard education to create positive change in the world. After completing law school at Howard, Ellis Walton, (J.D. '25) began his career as an environmental attorney in Chicago. Through Fulbright, he will attend the London School of Economics and Political Science in pursuit of an MSc in environmental policy and regulation. After completing his studies, Ellis plans to continue shaping and implementing policies that advance environmental justice.

Diane Fakinlede (Biology Degree '25) is a Howard University summa cum laude biology graduate and a 2024 Astronaut Scholar. She continues her scientific pursuits at the Aarhus University in Denmark where she will investigate the role of protein aggregation in immune cell activation and its potential link to Parkinson's disease. See the sidebar for a complete list of this year's Howard Fulbright Scholars.

Howard's strong partnership with the Fulbright Program exemplifies the university's commitment to fostering academic excellence and global citizenship. Our newest Fulbright scholars will continue Howard University's 158-year legacy of creating solutions to contemporary global problems, particularly ones impacting the African Diaspora.

Congratulations to Howard's 2025-2026 Fulbright Scholars



### Courtney Bartlette

HU '25, Public Relations  
*English Teaching Assistant Award, Costa Rica*



### Diane Fakinlede

HU '25, Biology  
*Open Study/Research Award, Denmark*



### Ananya Hota

HU '25, Biology  
*Open Study/Research Award, Germany*



### Ariella Williams

HU '25, Spanish and Interdisciplinary Studies  
*English Teaching Assistant Award, Colombia*



### Ann Laurie M. Pierre

HU '25, Biology  
*French Government English Teaching Assistant Award, France*



### Ellis Walton

HU '25, J.D.  
*London School of Economics and Political Science Award, United Kingdom*

To read more about these outstanding scholars, please visit: [giving.howard.edu/2026FulbrightScholars](https://giving.howard.edu/2026FulbrightScholars)

# Expanding Our Team to Better Serve You:

## Welcome Courtney Ross

Courtney Ross was drawn to Howard University because of its excellence, tradition and community. Howard has a strong lineage of multi-generational alumni families. It is not uncommon for an alumnus to have grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins and other relatives that are also HU alumni. As Howard's new Executive Director of Family Philanthropy, Courtney is excited to be a resource to these individuals and their families in thoughtfully creating meaningful impact at Howard.

A graduate of The Ohio State University, Courtney brings many years of fundraising experience to Howard. After working for four years at the Alzheimer's Association, she returned to her alma mater for nine years, most recently as the Senior Director of Development for the College of Engineering.

Courtney's passion for philanthropy is rooted in building strong, authentic relationships with alumni, donors, and friends. In her experience, this is the best way to work together to ensure donors can have the impact they desire. As a first-generation college graduate, she understands, first-hand, that furthering your education is not always easy, however it is necessary and powerful. She is excited to be able to support students from the diaspora as they pursue their educational dreams.

Paying for college was never a "given" for Courtney's working-class family. Without complaint, her parents made sacrifices for her future. She fondly recalls the many times she and her mom jumped in the car to race to the post office to meet midnight scholarship application deadlines – so often that they got to know the postal worker on the late shift.

When she was applying to college, Courtney wanted to attend an HBCU. In the end, she made the practical decision to go to the school that offered more scholarships. She had a great experience at Ohio State. But she couldn't pass on the opportunity to finally join an HBCU.



"Being at Howard is not just about my journey but about contributing to a rich history and tradition that is much bigger than me. It is also about being part of this dynamic community. At Howard, students are nurtured, developed, and empowered to boldly go out into the World. Helping others support Howard's purpose is truly a high calling and I'm honored to be here."

*Courtney Ross*

Committing to Howard was a big change for Courtney and her husband – neither of them had ever lived outside of Ohio. They are excited to explore their interest in the arts, movies and music in a new city.

We are delighted to welcome Courtney as the newest member of our Bison family and look forward to watching her make her mark on Howard's future. Feel free to email Courtney at [Courtney.Ross@Howard.edu](mailto:Courtney.Ross@Howard.edu) to add your own welcome.

### DID YOU KNOW?

## *Howard is...*

1 of Princeton Review's 2026 Best Colleges

#1 HBCU for Forbes Magazine for the second straight year

#1 HBCU on LinkedIn for setting alumni up for long-term success

#1 national university for social mobility in the DMV in U.S. News & World Report

# Your IRA Can Move Howard Forward, Tax Free

If you are age 70½ or older, you can transfer as much as \$108,000 annually from your IRA directly to Howard. Often called a QCD or Qualified Charitable Distribution, your gift will support our mission and have an immediate impact, bridging the gap for students affected by adjustments to federal student loans. Additionally, if you are over age 73, your gift may count toward your required minimum distribution.

For more information, contact Quina De Laine, Planned Giving Officer at [quina.delaine@howard.edu](mailto:quina.delaine@howard.edu) or 202-238-2518. You can also visit [plannedgiving.howard.edu/QCD](http://plannedgiving.howard.edu/QCD).



I am a loyal supporter of Howard University with 25 years of giving. I love my Alma Mater. For years, I've made annual gifts. Recently, my qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allowed me to give directly from my IRA to Howard, tax free, and it satisfied my Required Minimum Distribution. It's a seamless process, and it feels good to know that the money I've been saving for my future is also helping to build a better, stronger Howard! **Bison always and forever...**

*Bruce H. Williams (BA '74)*

## 5 Reasons to Leave a Gift to Howard

When you leave a gift to Howard University through your will, trust or by beneficiary designation, your impact lasts for generations.

### **How You Benefit:**

1. Retain control of your assets during your lifetime.
2. Flexibility to update your plans if your circumstances change.
3. Provide for loved ones and have a lasting impact on Howard's future.
4. Leave a gift in honor or memory of someone special.
5. Enjoy the benefits of membership in our Legacy Giving Society.

Return the enclosed form to request our free guide, *Gifts that Cost You Nothing Now, Bequests and Gifts by Beneficiary Designation*. Or download a complimentary copy, including language to share with your advisor, from Howard's website at [giving.howard.edu/PlannedGiving](http://giving.howard.edu/PlannedGiving).



# Paying it Forward

"I majored in German and was encouraged by Howard faculty mentors to apply for a Fulbright fellowship for study abroad. My year as a Fulbright student in Berlin from 1961-1962 was a transformative experience and offered a year-long immersion into another culture, an in-depth view of another way of life, and even more importantly, an ability to view my own country through different eyes. The friendships that I formed during this year lasted for decades, and I am still in contact with the surviving member of my host family. I'm so pleased that Howard graduates are continuing to garner this invaluable award and opportunity."

*Carolyn Olivia Frost, PhD (BA '61)*

Dr. Frost, once a scholarship recipient, is paying it forward by including Howard University as a beneficiary of her Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This gift will establish the Carolyn Olivia Frost Scholarship Fund in the College of Arts and Sciences.

## Your DAF only works if you use it!

You created your donor-advised fund to make a difference. Use it today to help current and future Bison students receive the world-class education they deserve. Make a grant from your DAF to Howard University today.

*Find out more at [plannedgiving.howard.edu/DAF](http://plannedgiving.howard.edu/DAF)*



## We're Here to Help

We're growing our team to better support our alumni and friends in making their impact at Howard. For more information, please contact:

**Courtney Ross**  
Executive Director, Family Philanthropy  
[courtney.ross@howard.edu](mailto:courtney.ross@howard.edu)

**Quina De Laine**  
Planned Giving Officer  
[quina.delaine@howard.edu](mailto:quina.delaine@howard.edu)

*This information is not intended as tax or legal advice. We recommend you consult with your financial advisor for information specific to your circumstances.*



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