

DREXEL LEBOW **BRIDGE**

IMPACT REPORT





BRIDGE Student Success Pillars



Academic Excellence

Students are provided one-on-one academic support and advising to ensure their retention, persistence and graduation.



Community Service

Students participate in community service experiences to better themselves, their community and society.



Financial Literacy

Students are equipped with the skills to understand personal financial management and planning for a strong future.



Social Engagement

Students are provided space and activities to learn about themselves and others in a comfortable environment.

DEAR LEBOW BRIDGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

As we begin another academic year, I am reflecting on the progress and impact the LeBow BRIDGE Program has made on our BRIDGE scholars, Drexel University and our surrounding communities over the last two years.

We continue to be the “gold standard” of academic enrichment programs designed to support minoritized students not only here at Drexel, but in my humble opinion, across the nation. This past year has been one of change for BRIDGE as we welcomed our new associate director, Vanessa Herrera. As program lead, Vanessa has ensured the high quality and standards of excellence for which BRIDGE is known. Additionally this fall, a new position of academic advisor/program manager was created and assumed by Dashiyah Green. Dashiyah’s responsibilities include being the exclusive academic advisor, coach and mentor to BRIDGE students and managing day to day programming and events. I am delighted to report that we are on target to meet many of the strategic goals identified this year for student engagement and external relations (including the creation of this impact report).

Student Wellness is on Our Mind

According to the American Psychological Association (APA) college students today are juggling an array of challenges, from coursework, relationships and adjustment to campus life to economic strain, social injustice, mass violence and various forms of loss related to COVID-19. With the exacerbation of many of these challenges in minoritized communities and stigma around seeking mental health issues on the decline, LeBow BRIDGE is preparing to intentionally support our scholars in all aspects of wellness. The identification of a new wellness pillar is well in the works, with an emphasis on both academic and co-curricular activities.

Impacting Our Communities

Serving our community has always been and will remain a priority for LeBow BRIDGE. In addition to our external community, which we have served for well over ten years, LeBow BRIDGE has continued to support the Drexel community. We have provided the programmatic framework and guidance to support central administration and other colleges and schools at Drexel, including the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions, and College of Computing & Informatics, as they create BRIDGE and BRIDGE-like programs. Additionally, we have opened our annual Saturday Sit-in to all historically underrepresented Drexel students.

Strength in Numbers

Now that we have an alumni base of over 170+ strong and continued support from friends of the program, the BRIDGE program is strong and has access to funding opportunities, programmatic resources and leadership development opportunities. We are grateful to our supporters for providing the resources that allow us to sustain and serve our student scholars and surrounding community. [Please consider how you and your networks can continue to support LeBow BRIDGE](#), as we continue to cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Ellis'.

BRIAN ELLIS, PHD

Associate Dean, Academic Programs
Administration, LeBow College of Business

Executive Director, Goodwin College of
Professional Studies



Scan to support
LeBow BRIDGE
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HIGHLIGHTS



Students, alumni, faculty and staff celebrate at the BRIDGE 10th Anniversary Gala.



BRIDGE 10th Anniversary Gala

The Drexel community gathered on June 24, 2022, to commemorate BRIDGE's 10-year anniversary of academic and student enrichment at the LeBow BRIDGE Gala 2022. It was a full night of festivities, including recognizing our BRIDGE inaugural class, applauding our stakeholders who have made a positive impact and, of course, dancing the night away. Guests included Provost Paul Jensen, PhD; Dean Vibhas Madan, PhD; and members of the Dean's Advisory Board. Special guests recognized at the event included Randy Holmes '70, Jerry Martin '77 and Nate Cohen '85.

We were excited to honor a decade of BRIDGE and the strength and resilience of each student that has been part of the program as we remembered the past 10 years and kicked off the next chapter. LeBow's BRIDGE program has been so successful since its inception in 2012 that other Drexel schools and colleges have used the program's model to form BRIDGE programs of their own, including current programs in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and the College of Arts and Sciences, with some still in development across campus.

Community Service Through Camps

BRIDGE scholars served as mentors for middle and high school students through two summer camps in 2023. In collaboration with the Drexel University Police Department, the Building BRIDGEs Camp focused on exposing participants to the importance of holistic wellness. The academic-enriching summer commuter camp is designed to give underserved students from area middle schools an intensive introduction into self-efficacy, critical thinking, motivation, social skills, physical fitness and creativity.

The NAIOP (National Association for Industrial and Office Parks) Greater Philadelphia Chapter has partnered with Drexel for the NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program for five years. The program, which welcomed 30 students from all over the country this year, works to introduce historically underrepresented students to careers in commercial real estate. With BRIDGE students serving as camp ambassadors and the sponsorship from NAIOP Greater Philadelphia, this year's program featured numerous corporate site visits, including to Schuylkill Yards, Wexford One uCity, Riverwalk apartments and the Navy Yard.

2023 Cultural Immersion Spring Break Trip

Twenty BRIDGE scholars had the opportunity to travel to Austin, Texas. During the trip, our scholars had the opportunity to visit Fortune 500 companies (Google, Accenture, Yeti, Whole Food Market), visit the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum, participate in community service with Caritas of Austin, and meet fellow Drexel Dragons during a Drexel alumni networking reception. The main objective of the cultural immersion trip is to expose our scholars to the business industries, network with potential employers and learn about the city.

Prestigious Co-Op Appointments

BRIDGE scholars obtained prestigious co-op and internship opportunities with Google, NASA, Comcast, CBS Sports, SAP, JP Morgan & Chase, and many more for 2022-2023.

Annual Saturday Sit-in

We hosted our Annual Saturday Sit-in in February 2023. The theme of the sit-in this year was "The GOAT: Toolkit to Become the Greatest of All Time," which focused on providing students with resources and techniques to maximize their experience as a student, community member and individual. The keynote speaker was Erika Whyte, vice president and director of diversity, equity and inclusion at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC.



Students make connections during visit to YETI offices.

Drexel Alumni Fireside Chat

BRIDGE supporters Lenny Comma '92, former chairman and CEO, Jack in the Box, and Randy Holmes '70, retired vice president, Prudential Financial, dedicated time during the 2022-2023 academic year to engage with our BRIDGE scholars and provide them with lifelong lessons and advice for student success.

2023 LeBow Dean's Advisory Board Luncheon

LeBow BRIDGE was identified as a top academic program within the LeBow College of Business. During the luncheon, our BRIDGE scholars had networking opportunities with board members, sharing their experiences as LeBow students and discussing impacts of the LeBow BRIDGE program on their student experience.

Wellness Pillar Introduction

With the assistance of BRIDGE Partners and our BRIDGE Advisory Board, we are currently working on creating and implementing a wellness pillar for the LeBow BRIDGE Program. The main objective is to introduce our BRIDGE scholars to the importance of all the dimensions of wellness: Physical, social, occupational, spiritual, emotional, environmental, intellectual and financial wellness. We will be introducing a new wellness pillar for the upcoming academic years.



The BRIDGE Class of 2023 celebrates at the end of the academic year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our total alumni numbers increased, with currently **more than 170 alumni actively involved.**

BRIDGE graduated its **largest cohort of 45 students in June 2022** and graduated 31 scholars from 2022-23.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, BRIDGE scholars participated in multiple civic engagements within the Philadelphia community and beyond including:

- » Book Drive with Crayons to Cradles
- » MLK Day of Service with Redeemer Tabernacle Baptist Church
- » Hygiene supplies arrangements with Caritas of Austin
- » High school mentorship with Teenshop
- » Making of valentine's cards for patients in University City's Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
- » Food Drive with Philabundance

AWARDS



2023 Inspiring Program in Business Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine*

The nomination recognizes programs and initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion in business schools and beyond.

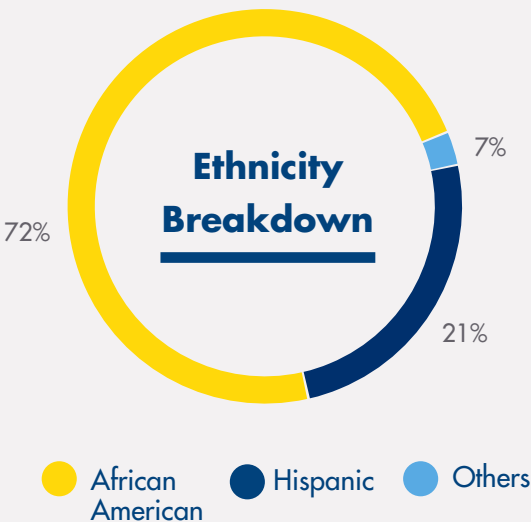


BRIDGE scholars won first and second place in the case competition during LeBow's Second Annual Inclusive Impact Day, an event highlighting women thriving in male-dominated industries.

BY THE NUMBERS

143

Total BRIDGE scholars

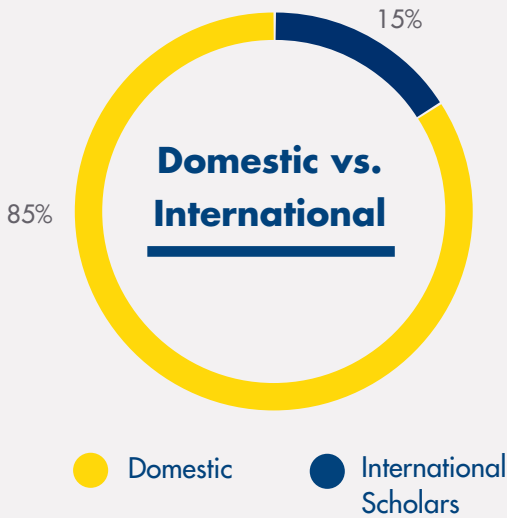


AVERAGE GPA PER CLASS

Fifth-year: 3.38
Fourth-year: 3.37
Third-year: 3.40
Second-year: 3.45
First-year: 3.35

TOP 5 MAJORS

Finance
Marketing
Business Analytics
Management Information Systems
Economics



31

Incoming First-year
Students 2022-2023

66%

2022-2023 Graduating
Senior Employment Rate

5 Years of Partnering
with NAIOP

170+ Total
BRIDGE Alumni

STUDENT AND ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



"BRIDGE has created an incredible amount of community and provided me with invaluable resources and opportunities that have contributed to my personal and professional growth.

MAKEDA DARING

THIRD-YEAR
BRIDGE STUDENT



"BRIDGE has given me a community to be myself even when facing adversity in and out of the classroom."

MARIA MIXON

FIRST-YEAR
BRIDGE STUDENT



"I genuinely could not see my life without this program and am proud to give back to my extended family in every way that I can."

MALCOLM JONES

BRIDGE ALUM '23



"BRIDGE is like Google. If I need a textbook, I can ask anyone in BRIDGE, and I'll most likely receive it. If I need academic or life advice, I can always come to the BRIDGE room and get a multitude of perspectives.

BRIDGE is a place I can go for answers, and it will be answered no matter what it is."

HILARY SACKOR

FIFTH-YEAR
BRIDGE STUDENT

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



ANDREW ANTWI '22

Marketing and Technology Innovation
Management Major

When former BRIDGE scholar Andrew Antwi '22 joined Mastercard as a marketing analyst, he opened the door to his professional future, and closed a door on the integral chapter that got him there. As a student, he combined his skills with his passion for extracurricular activities and served in a leadership position for BRIDGE for several years. He recently reflected on his BRIDGE experience.

How did BRIDGE help you during your college career?

BRIDGE was truly instrumental for me during my time at Drexel. The leadership and community kept me accountable academically, professionally and socially. It was great to know that I had genuine support when I had questions and also encouragement in some moments when I was genuinely lost. I look back at my freshman and sophomore year when BRIDGE upperclassmen offered me career advice, reviewed my resume and helped me with interviews. It was also great to be in classes with other BRIDGE members so we could study together and help each other in areas we found difficult. The networking opportunities were endless, and I learned early on that BRIDGE provides a lot of opportunities to elevate yourself — but you can only benefit from them when you get involved.

How did BRIDGE help prepare you for your current role at Mastercard?

I'm a marketing analyst at Mastercard and I also serve as the marketing chair for Mastercard's NY black employee resource group. In this role, I'm able to leverage some of my expertise in impactful programming for other black employees after being on BRIDGE's board for four years. The networking skills I learned have also been very helpful in making and maintaining new connections across the company.

What are some of your best memories from your BRIDGE experience?

My best memories will be the conversations we had in the BRIDGE room and in Porsche's office. Those moments really built genuine friendships, and it was also nice to hear about people's various experiences.

How are you involved in BRIDGE as an alum?

As an alum, I try to help out as a panelist or volunteer for any of the BRIDGE events I'm invited to. I'm also trying to build a pipeline for other BRIDGE students to intern and get full-time offers at Mastercard.

ADVISORY BOARD

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Associate Director, LeBow BRIDGE
LeBow College of Business

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Drexel University
Chair, LeBow BRIDGE Advisory Council

“The LeBow BRIDGE Program has established itself as a *vibrant and inclusive community*, fostering an environment where *students can thrive academically, personally and professionally*. Witnessing the achievements of our students and their successful transitions into the next chapter of their lives is truly gratifying.”

JERRY MARTIN

LEBOW BRIDGE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

STUDENT MOMENTS



"BRIDGE has been *the most positive and empowering part of my Drexel career*. Community could never encompass all that BRIDGE has become."

JAY MARCIAL
BRIDGE STUDENT '25



TOP: BRIDGE students on the quad.

LEFT: BRIDGE students visit Austin during their spring break trip.

BELOW: BRIDGE students celebrate their achievements at the end of the academic year.





Learn more!



LEBOW COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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DREXEL UNIVERSITY
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