

LINK PROGRAM



The LINK Program established in 1988 to fulfill the corporate demand for students of color to participate in co-ops, internships and permanent employment. LINK promotes student retention, academic and career success, and graduation of students of color at Cleveland State University (CSU). This goal is accomplished by providing comprehensive support to students in a number of areas including: transition to college life, personal and professional development, career preparation, internships, individual mentors and assistance from a LINK Program Coordinator. The LINK Program creates a diverse talent pipeline that is designed to positively impact the economic development of the Northeast Ohio region.

The professional mentoring component is significant in facilitating the student's learning experience in his or her career field. It also increases the Scholar's corporate awareness and career development skills that promote success in today's competitive job market. LINK Scholars are exceptionally prepared both academically and professionally. The LINK Program has an overall graduation rate of 66%, much higher than the University average.

The LINK Scholars Program can serve up to 45 full-time undergraduate students each year. Students are eligible to apply for LINK during Spring semester of their first year at CSU and transfer students can also apply. Students receive a \$2,000 scholarship upon acceptance into the program. The scholarship is renewable for each subsequent year that the student is enrolled at CSU and meets program requirements for a total of three years.



The LINK Program is generously supported by:



THE DARWIN AND MYRA SMITH GIFT FUND



**Ohio Association of Minority
Architects and Engineers**

The LINK Scholars Program is an initiative of the Division of Diversity, Inclusion and University Engagement. The Division of University Engagement oversees three distinct yet interdependent outreach functions at Cleveland State University that equip students for these public roles: Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement, the Diversity Institute and Division of Diversity, Inclusion and University Engagement. All three areas reinforce CSU's unique contribution to Greater Cleveland – its civic well-being, economic vitality and diverse culture – and are central to the University's commitment to develop students through *engaged learning*.



**Division of Diversity, Inclusion
and University Engagement**

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*Celebrating
More Than
30 Years*
**LINK
Program**

1988-2019

Linking Minority Students to Careers

LINK Program

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
engaged learning

EXAMPLES SUCCESSFUL LINK ALUMNI



RONALD V. JOHNSON, JR.

Senior Vice President & Senior Counsel
KeyBank National Association
BBA Finance



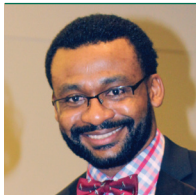
RAMONA LOWERY

Deputy Commissioner
City of Cleveland, Department of Public Utilities
Division of Water Pollution Control
BS Civil Engineering



LATOYA SMITH

Assistant Vice President
Talent Acquisition Manager
Fifth Third Bank, NE
BBA Marketing



MICHAEL CHUKWUONYE

EMS/GMS SCADA Design Engineer
First Energy
BEE and MBA



DIANE LAWONG

Florida State University
Ph.D. Student — Organizational Behavior
and Human Resources
MLRHR
BS Biology, minor Chemistry, BS Health Sciences



CHRISTOPHER SNYDER

Software Engineer I
RoviSys
Bachelor of Computer Engineering

REQUIREMENTS OF THE LINK PROGRAM

APPLICATION, ESSAY AND INTERVIEW. CRITERIA INCLUDES:

- Achieve and maintain a 2.5 GPA
- Demonstrate the tenacity, grit and determination needed to successfully graduate CSU and
- Pursue a career upon graduation. Must complete a co-op or internship before graduation, and participate in a variety of LINK Programing activities.

WHY JOIN LINK?

- Improve academic and career success
- Receive a professional mentor
- Gain leadership and professional skills
- Career preparation and assistance with co-ops, internships and permanent employment

EMPLOYERS CAN PARTICIPATE BY:

- 1 Establishing an endowment for LINK students with CSU
- 2 Providing co-op/internship placements; Full-time job placements upon graduation
- 3 Become a LINK Mentor and/or speaker on interviewing skills, customer service, professional dress, and career advice
- 4 Host a professional luncheon and/or reception for LINK Scholars and mentors
- 5 Make a donation to the LINK Scholarship Fund



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LINK SCHOLARS PROGRAM
please visit: <https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/link-program>

Cleveland State University (CSU) has over 17,000 students, nine colleges and more than 175 academic programs, and is listed year after year among America's best universities by U.S. News & World Report. CSU has been ranked No. 1 in the nation for increases in research expenditures, and we are among the Top 3 public universities in Ohio whose graduates enjoy the greatest mid-career earnings boost.

Founded in 1964, CSU has proudly served as one of Cleveland's anchor institutions for more than 50 years. With dedicated partners spanning the private, public and nonprofit sectors, CSU continues to share knowledge, research and resources — for the benefit of all — as CSU redefines the urban university for the 21st century.

