

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contacts:**

Thurgood Marshall College Fund: Chevonne Mansfield, (401) 867-1313  
[tmcfpress@tmcf.org](mailto:tmcfpress@tmcf.org)

Baxter: Lauren Russ, (224) 948-5353  
[media@baxter.com](mailto:media@baxter.com)

**THURGOOD MARSHALL COLLEGE FUND AND THE BAXTER INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION PARTNER ON NEW \$3.5 MILLION MINORITY STUDENT PROGRAM**

- *Scholarships assist students pursuing STEM fields at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)*
- *Supports Black and Brown teachers to boost retention and quality in the classroom*
- *Mentorship opportunities with Baxter employees will further extend impact*

**WASHINGTON and DEERFIELD, Ill., JANUARY 13, 2022** – The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College community, and the Baxter International Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Baxter International Inc. (NYSE:BAX), introduced today a new collaboration called the Baxter HBCU STEM Scholars Program. The three-year, \$3.5 million initiative funds scholarships and mentoring as part of a multi-faceted approach to support students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) pursuing careers primarily in STEM as well as education. The partnership is focused on addressing lower graduation rates for Black students (44 percent) completing undergraduate college degrees within six years compared to 63 percent of students overall.<sup>1</sup>

“The Baxter HBCU STEM Scholars Program is designed to help students from under-resourced populations address common challenges to increase the likelihood of graduation and early career success,” said Dr. Harry L. Williams, president and CEO, Thurgood Marshall College Fund. “We know that many students experience unforeseen financial hardships that put their plans for pursuing higher education in jeopardy. By reducing financial pressures and creating support networks, students can concentrate on academics and build the experiences needed for achievements at school and beyond.”

TMCf has a history of success supporting nearly 300,000 students that attend HBCUs and creating pathways to economic mobility through degree attainment and lucrative careers. Since its

founding in 1987, TMCF has awarded over \$300 million in scholarships for students and boasts a 97 percent graduation rate for students in its programs.

The core of the new initiative is a scholarship program for approximately 40 students for three years who are pursuing careers in STEM fields. The inaugural group of students will receive scholarships for the Fall semester in 2022. To further assist students and to help ensure their long-term success, Baxter employees will also provide mentoring opportunities throughout the partnership and in alignment with the company's [ACT: Activating Change Today initiative](#) to advance inclusion and racial justice.

“Our partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund unites Baxter’s longstanding commitment to expanding STEM education with our focus on advancing racial justice,” said José (Joe) E. Almeida, Baxter’s chairman, president and chief executive officer. “Addressing the underrepresentation of Black and Brown students in the science, engineering and medical fields is essential for nurturing new generations of talent, and ensuring that tomorrow’s innovators and clinicians are serving the needs of a diverse society. We are honored to help the Thurgood Marshall College Fund extend its work to positively impact future scientists, engineers, healthcare providers and more.”

The Baxter HBCU STEM Scholars Program also supports TMCF’s Teacher Quality & Retention Program (TQRP) to help keep Black and Brown teachers in the classroom. TQRP Fellows receive mentorship and professional development starting during their junior year of college and continuing through the first three years of teaching. Additionally, the annual TQRP Summer Institute provides Fellows with rigorous, hands-on training to build the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in competitive and challenging teaching environments, and to be leaders in their schools. In the last 10 years, TQRP Fellows have taught more than 30,000 students, mostly in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at schools serving students in lower income communities.

### **About the Thurgood Marshall College Fund**

Established in 1987, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) is the nation’s largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. TMCF member-schools include the publicly-supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly Black Institutions, enrolling nearly 80% of all students attending black colleges and universities. Through scholarships, capacity building and research initiatives, innovative programs, and strategic partnerships, TMCF is a vital resource in the K-12 and higher education space. The organization is also the source of top employers seeking top talent for competitive internships and good jobs. TMCF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization. For more information about TMCF, visit: [www.tmc.org](http://www.tmc.org).

## About the Baxter International Foundation

Every day, Baxter and the Baxter International Foundation strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people who depend on our products, and in the communities where our employees live and work. The Foundation helps advance Baxter’s mission to save and sustain lives by partnering with organizations around the world to increase access to healthcare for the underserved, develop the next generation of innovators who will lead the way in advancing healthcare and to create a positive, long-lasting impact in communities globally. For more information, please visit our [Corporate Responsibility](#) page.

## About ACT: Activating Change Today

Baxter’s ACT: Activating Change Today program is a multidimensional and multiyear initiative to advance inclusion and racial justice within the workplace, communities and markets the company serves. Working in close collaboration with the Baxter Black Alliance business resource group, Baxter’s commitment through ACT is about taking action and driving results to achieve meaningful, sustainable change. For more information, please visit our [ACT: Activating Change Today program](#) page.

Baxter is a registered trademark of Baxter International Inc.

###

---

<sup>1</sup> USA Facts: College graduation rate at four-year institutions, within six years of start. <https://usafacts.org/data/topics/people-society/education/higher-education/college-graduation-rate-4-year-institutions-within-6-years-after-start/> Accessed December 3, 2021.