

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

## Alums raise more than \$50,000 for scholarship honoring OU's pioneer for diversity and inclusion

Dr. Manuel H. Pierson was the original pioneer for diversity and inclusion at Oakland University. He led many diversity and equal opportunity initiatives, including the creation of **Project Upward Bound**, **Pre-College Programs**, the **McCree Scholars** and the **Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI)**.

Since first being hired as a counselor in 1965, until his retirement as Associate Dean of Student Services, Dr. Pierson fought for those who were under represented. His mentorship mentality allowed him to influence and retain many of Oakland's aspirant students.

"He helped me with my confidence to appreciate that a young, black, urban kid from the city of Pontiac had the ability to be successful in college," said the Honorable Leo Bowman, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge and Oakland University alum (CAS '75).

He also added a quote from Dr. Pierson himself. "A light comes on for different students at different times and it doesn't come on for all at the same time."

The OU Black Alumni Chapter, which Dr. Pierson helped develop, recognized all that the late Dr. Pierson had accomplished during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

The endowment fund was created to keep Dr. Manuel H. Pierson's memory alive and to keep students on the track for success. The planning behind the endowment started during Homecoming 2014 and was launched in January 2015. The OU Black Alumni Chapter leadership set a two-year goal to raise \$50,000, and they exceeded that goal in less than a year during Homecoming 2015



*A two-year fundraising goal of \$50,000 was exceeded during the Center for Multicultural Initiatives and Black Alumni Chapter Social over the 2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.*

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Try watching this video on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.

with several gifts  
and pledges.

*A video tribute to Dr. Manuel H. Pierson, a pioneer of OU's diversity and inclusion efforts.*

"You don't have to be a millionaire to have a million dollar heart and if you just give a little something, it will go a long way, this endowed scholarship has been a collective process," said Dr. Janice Green Assistant Dean, College of Education, Wayne State University, and Oakland University alum (CAS '74 , SEHS '76)

The Dr. Manuel H. Pierson Scholarship Endowment is the product of many contributors. With new pledges and continued annual contributions the endowed scholarship honoring Dr. Pierson will grow in perpetuity.

Recipients of the endowment must have successfully completed at least 12 University credits and demonstrated financial need. Awards will be applied towards the recipients' cost of attendance at the University and eligible recipients may apply for renewal of awards. The Center of Multicultural Initiatives is looking forward to awarding the first Dr. Manuel H. Pierson Scholarship recipient during the 2016-17 academic year.

For more information on the scholarship see the video link below. For any questions regarding how to contribute to the Manuel H. Pierson endowment, please contact Luke Fleer, Regional Director of Development at [fleer@oakland.edu](mailto:fleer@oakland.edu) or **give directly to the scholarship online.**