



KIRCHNER
FOOD FELLOWSHIP
HBCU

“An unprecedented opportunity for HBCU students to be an impact venture capitalist for an academic year.”

The mission of the Kirchner Fellowship is to strengthen impact investing ecosystems in areas underserved by capital markets through training and empowering a diverse next generation of investors to allocate equity investments into early-stage companies.

HBCU Program

What:

A year-long training program where fellows will be “impact venture capitalists”, working towards a potential investment in an early-stage company with a mission to address food security. Fellows will have full discretion over \$50,000 of investment capital.

Why:

The field of capital allocation is in dire need of diversification. Just 6% of investment professionals in venture capital are people of color. A 2018 study found that 40% of venture capitalists surveyed attended either Harvard or Stanford University. Our alumni represent dozens of institutions, numerous countries, and gender parity compared to a VC industry standard of approximately 82% male. The program aims to bring diversity to capital allocation via workforce development and increase the access to capital in underserved regions and communities.

Offerings:

- Fellows continue their current studies while participating in an academic year-long program
- Problem-based learning and solutions approach
- Primarily virtual program with a series of face-to-face meetings for more intensive sessions
- Full discretion over real investment decision
- Direct and guided experiences allow Fellows to develop the skills and attributes required for effective capital allocation and post-investment value add
- Network of past fellows and directors for professional development
- Open to graduate and undergraduate students with professional experience
- Scholarship provided to fellows

Application Form

Application Period March 1st – April 30th

“This fellowship has been one of the most transformative programs that I have ever been a part of, and it has truly been an honor to be a member of the inaugural HBCU cohort.”

- Martin Adu-Boahene, Morgan State University



55+

Academic institutions represented



800+

Individuals impacted by related training



30+

Alumni representing 14 countries



\$350k+

Invested by students