

Impact Report

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



Together with our higher education and employer partners, we're proving what's possible when you empower the next generation of leaders with the skills, networks, confidence, and experience necessary to launch a strong career.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Juviny Noriega



Software Engineer,
Bank of America

 Chris Joyce

What does this report cover?

Together with our dedicated partners, Braven is reigniting the promise of the American Dream.

By 2032, **we aim to serve 80,000 to 100,000** students, equipping 25,000 new undergraduates each year with the career-readiness skills, networks, confidence, and experience to thrive through the Braven model.

So far we've helped to empower nearly **14,000 Fellows across the country**—and we're just getting started. In this report, we shine a spotlight on the powerful journeys of these remarkable leaders as we explore **five critical questions about Braven's impact**:

- 1 Are our Fellows securing quality career outcomes that put them on the path to the American Dream?
- 2 Are we impacting more students and maintaining program quality?
- 3 Are we supporting Fellows to secure internships and complete college?
- 4 Are our Fellows developing the career readiness skills, networks, and confidence needed for success?
- 5 Are we building employer and higher education partnerships with true shared value?



DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY
Eunica Samuels

Master's in Forensic Molecular Biology,
George Washington University



Kat Goduco



SPELMAN COLLEGE
Maya Daniels

Peace Corps,
Vietnam

Why our work matters

Only about one quarter of the 1.4 million students who are the first in their family to go to college or who have limited financial resources will graduate and secure a strong first job or enter graduate school.¹

That's about one million students every single year who aren't on the path to the American Dream.



GRADUATE & SECURE A STRONG JOB OR ENTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

~ 400k

ARE NOT ON THE PATH TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

~ 1 million

1.4 million

STUDENTS WITH LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES OR THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

Mission

In collaboration with our higher education and employer partners, Braven empowers promising college students with the skills, networks, confidence, and experience necessary to transition from college to strong economic opportunities, which lead to meaningful careers and lives of impact.

Vision

The next generation of leaders will emerge from everywhere.

The Braven Equation

In combination with students earning a four-year degree, Braven seeks to support career readiness, thereby ensuring students graduate ready to secure a strong first opportunity.

Braven refers to the sum of these four career-readiness factors as the Braven Equation.



Career-Ready College Graduate

Who Secures a Strong First Opportunity or Attends Graduate School within 6 Months of Graduation

The Braven Experience

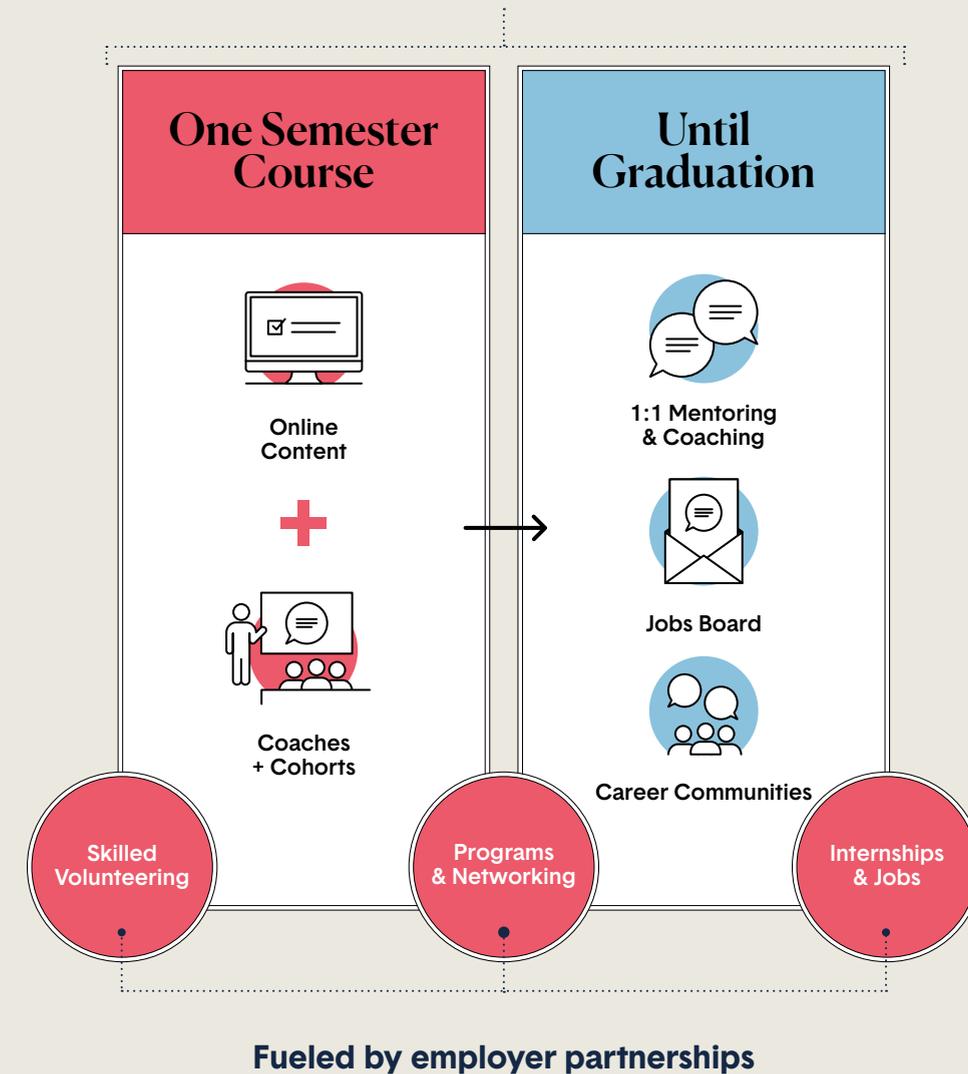
Braven empowers promising college students on their paths toward quality economic opportunities through a semester-long, cohort-based course—developed with input from our higher education partners and faculty—and support that extends beyond the course, continuing through six months after college graduation.

In our core higher education model, students take the course for credit. Students who come through BravenX via college success organizations receive a financial stipend in lieu of credit.

OUR PARTNERS



In partnership with higher education institutions and college success organizations





1

**Are our Fellows securing
quality career outcomes
that put them on the path
to the American Dream?**

NIU Braven Fellows Secured Strong Roles Post-Graduation



Of the 143 Braven Fellows who graduated from NIU in 2024, 85% are employed or enrolled in graduate school and 76% secured quality or pathway outcomes.²

QUALITY OUTCOME

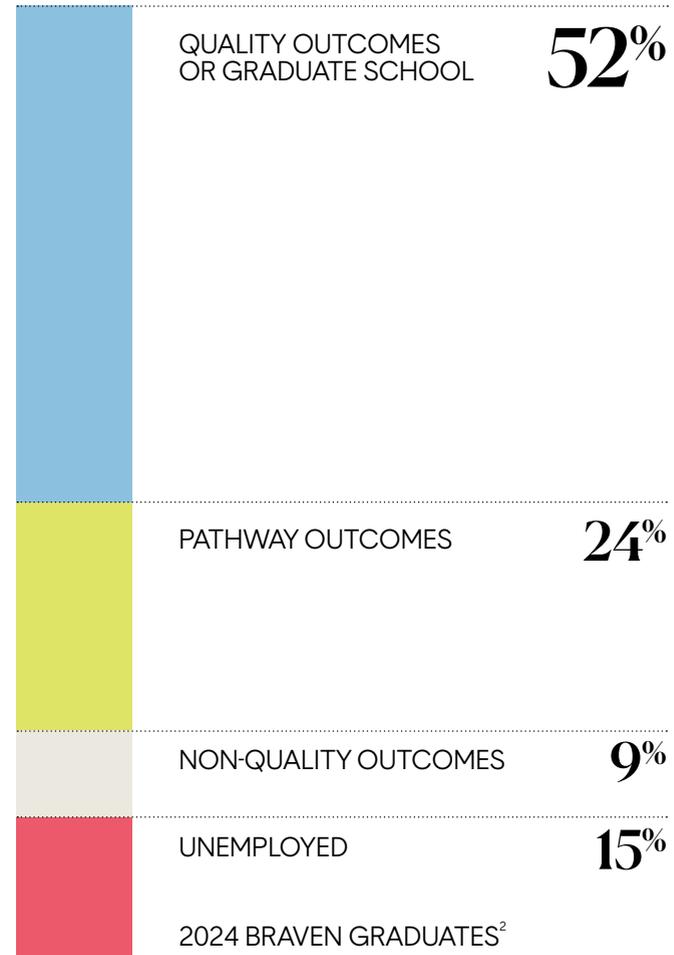
a full-time role that requires a bachelor's degree and includes some combination of promotion pathways, employee benefits, and a market-competitive starting salary, or enrollment in graduate school

PATHWAY OUTCOME

a role that does not require a bachelor's degree but helps students' financial sustainability, is aligned with career interests, and will likely lead to more career-accelerating possibilities through skill development

NON-QUALITY OUTCOME

a role that does not require a bachelor's degree, offers limited runway to additional career-accelerating opportunities, and is not aligned with students' career interests



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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Sterlen Johnson

Tax Auditor,
Franchise Tax Board California

NLU Braven Fellows Secured Strong Roles Post-Graduation



Of the 124 Braven Fellows who graduated from NLU in 2024, 77% are employed or enrolled in graduate school within 6 months of graduation.²

QUALITY OUTCOME

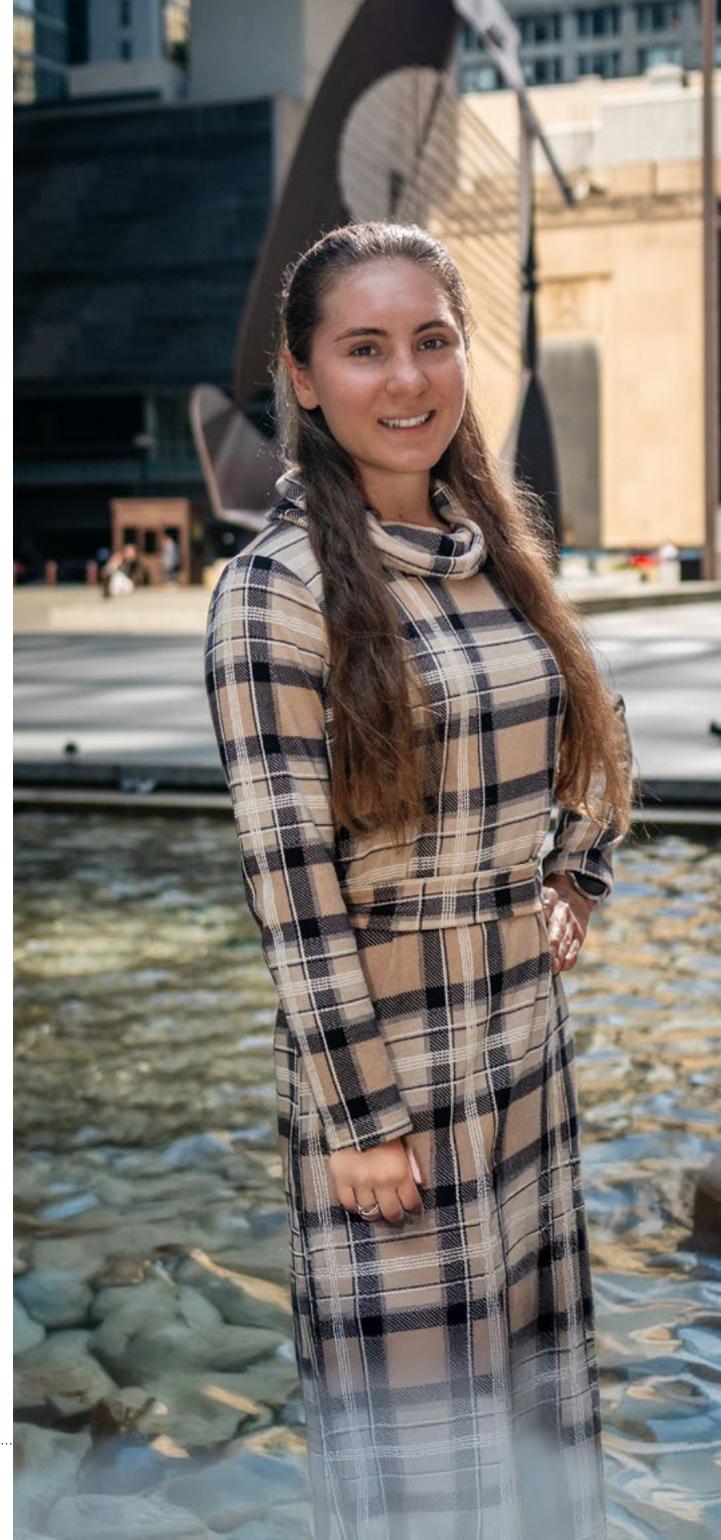
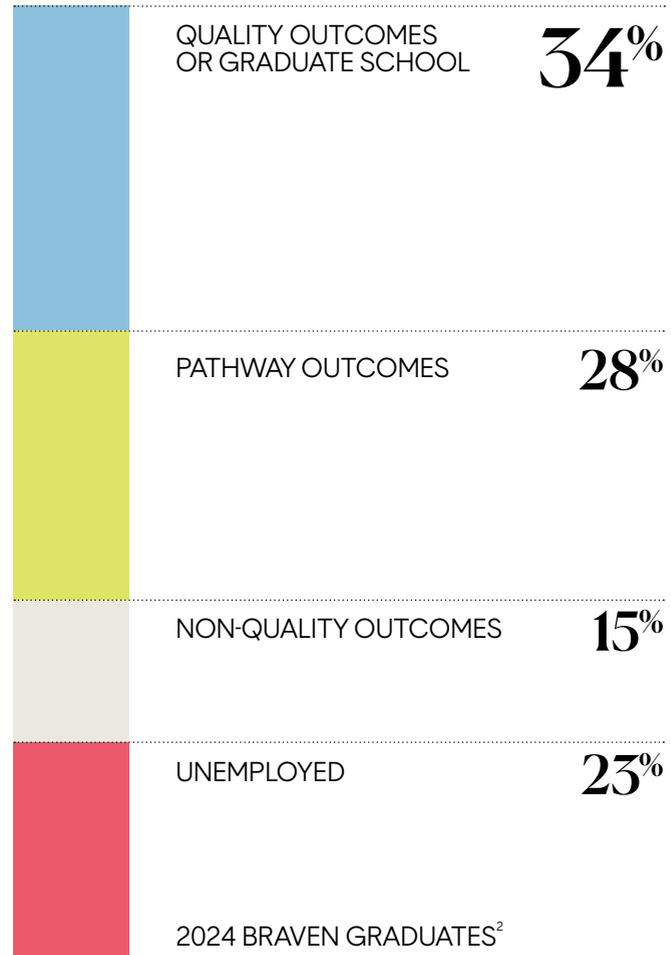
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a role that does not require a bachelor's degree, offers limited runway to additional career-accelerating opportunities, and is not aligned with students' career interests



Chris Joyce



NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Olga Subtselnaia

Business Analyst Intern, Ashling Partners

MS Power Platform Consultant, Ashling Partners



With NIU and Braven’s help, Juviny Noriega built the foundation for his path to the American Dream.

SKILLS

The Braven experience equipped Juviny with 5 key career competencies:

- Career Navigation
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Organization & Leadership

NETWORKS

Paired with Leadership Coach Lisa McTigue, an educator and student mentor at Community High School District 99 in Downers Grove, who provided Fellow Juviny with 60 hours of mentorship.

CAREER-READY
College Graduate

EXPERIENCE

After the Braven course, Juviny secured a high-quality internship:

Software Engineer Intern,
Bank of America

CONFIDENCE

“Northern Illinois University, in partnership with Braven, helped me build the professional skills and confidence I needed to thrive in a competitive internship and launch a successful career. I sharpened my ability to craft tailored resumes, navigate interviews with poise, and network strategically. Thanks to these experiences, I feel fully prepared to excel in any professional environment.”

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

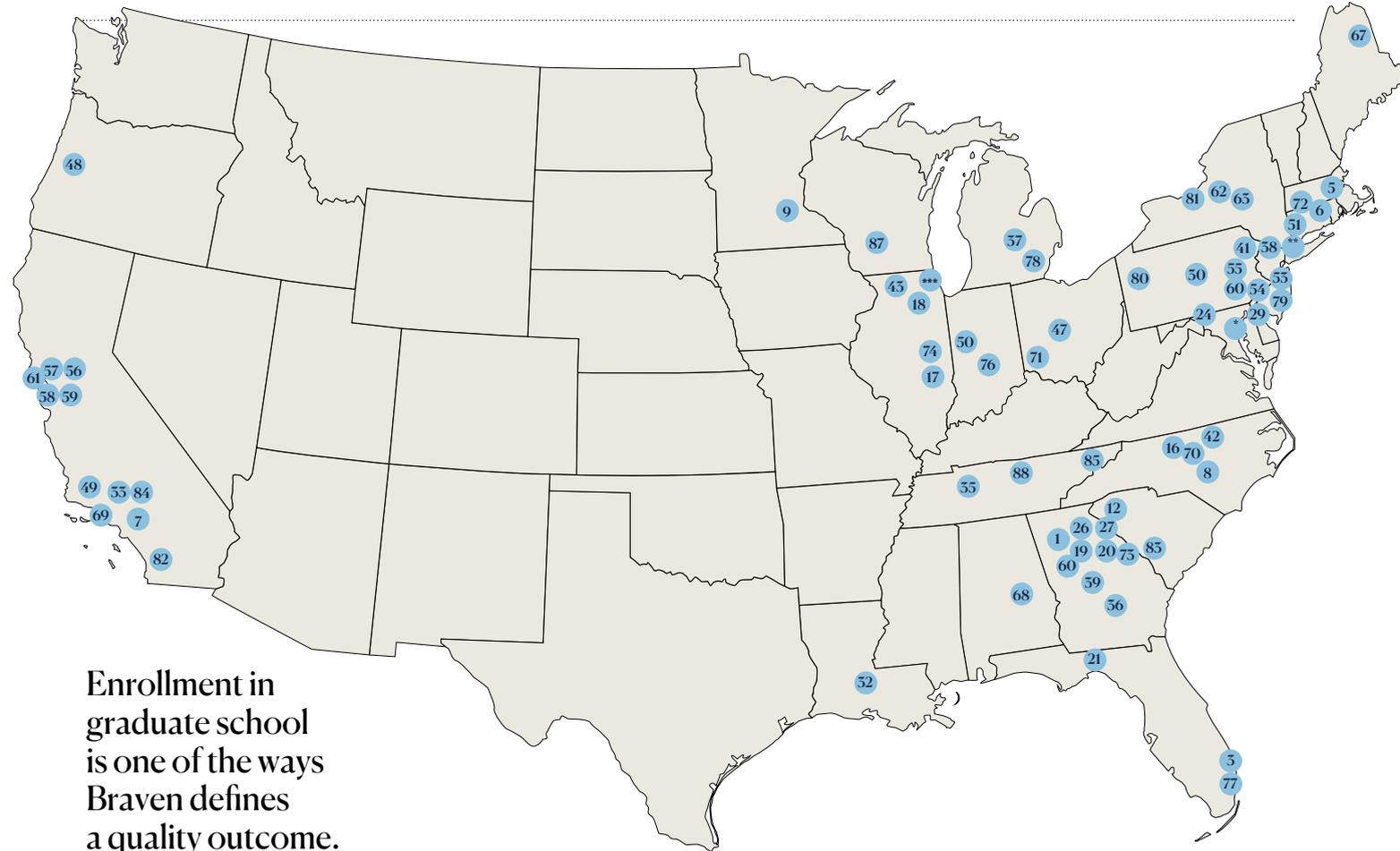
Juviny Noriega

FALL 2022 FELLOW

Software Engineer,
Bank of America

Fellow Enrollment in Graduate School

23% of our 2024 graduates nationally went onto graduate school within six months of graduation.



Enrollment in graduate school is one of the ways Braven defines a quality outcome.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Agnes Scott College | 29. Howard University* | 53. Rutgers Business School | 77. University of Miami |
| 2. American University* | 30. Lebanon Valley College | 54. Rutgers School of Public Health | 78. University of Michigan |
| 3. Barry University | 31. Lehman College** | 55. Rutgers University - Newark | 79. University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine |
| 4. Baruch College** | 32. Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College | 56. Samuel Merritt University | 80. University of Pittsburgh |
| 5. Boston University | 33. Loyola Marymount University | 57. San José State University | 81. University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry |
| 6. Brown University | 34. Loyola University Chicago*** | 58. San José State University - Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering | 82. University of San Diego |
| 7. California State University, Long Beach | 35. Meharry Medical College | 59. Seton Hall University School of Law | 83. University of South Carolina |
| 8. Campbell University | 36. Mercer University | 60. South College Atlanta | 84. University of Southern California |
| 9. Capella University | 37. Michigan State University | 61. Stanford University | 85. University of Tennessee |
| 10. Chicago School of Professional Psychology*** | 38. Montclair State University | 62. State University of New York Upstate Medical University | 86. University of the District of Columbia* |
| 11. Chicago-Kent College of Law*** | 39. Morehouse School of Medicine | 63. Syracuse University | 87. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee |
| 12. Clemson University | 40. National Louis University*** | 64. The City College of New York** | 88. Vanderbilt University |
| 13. Columbia University** | 41. New Jersey Institute of Technology | 65. The City University of New York** | |
| 14. Cornell University** | 42. North Carolina Central University | 66. The George Washington University* | International Schools |
| 15. DePaul University*** | 43. Northern Illinois University | 67. Tufts University | 1. British Academy of Dramatic Arts |
| 16. Duke University | 44. Northwestern University*** | 68. Tuskegee University | 2. London School of Economics |
| 17. Eastern Illinois University | 45. New York University** | 69. University of California, Los Angeles | 3. University of Manchester |
| 18. Elmhurst University | 46. New York University Silver School of Social Work** | 70. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | |
| 19. Emory University | 47. Ohio State University | 71. University of Cincinnati | |
| 20. Emory University Goizueta Business School | 48. Oregon State University | 72. University of Connecticut | |
| 21. Florida A&M University | 49. Pepperdine University | 73. University of Georgia | |
| 22. George Mason University* | 50. Purdue University | 74. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | |
| 23. George Washington University* | 51. Quinnipiac University | 75. University of Illinois Chicago*** | |
| 24. Georgetown University* | 52. Rush University*** | 76. University of Indianapolis | |
| 25. Georgetown University School of Medicine* | | | |
| 26. Georgia State University | | | |
| 27. Georgia State University College of Law | | | |
| 28. Hofstra University** | | | |

* Denotes schools in Washington D.C. area (8)
 ** Denotes schools in New York City area (9)
 *** Denotes schools in Chicago area (8)



Kyle James, Put You On Stage

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

Alanis Omar

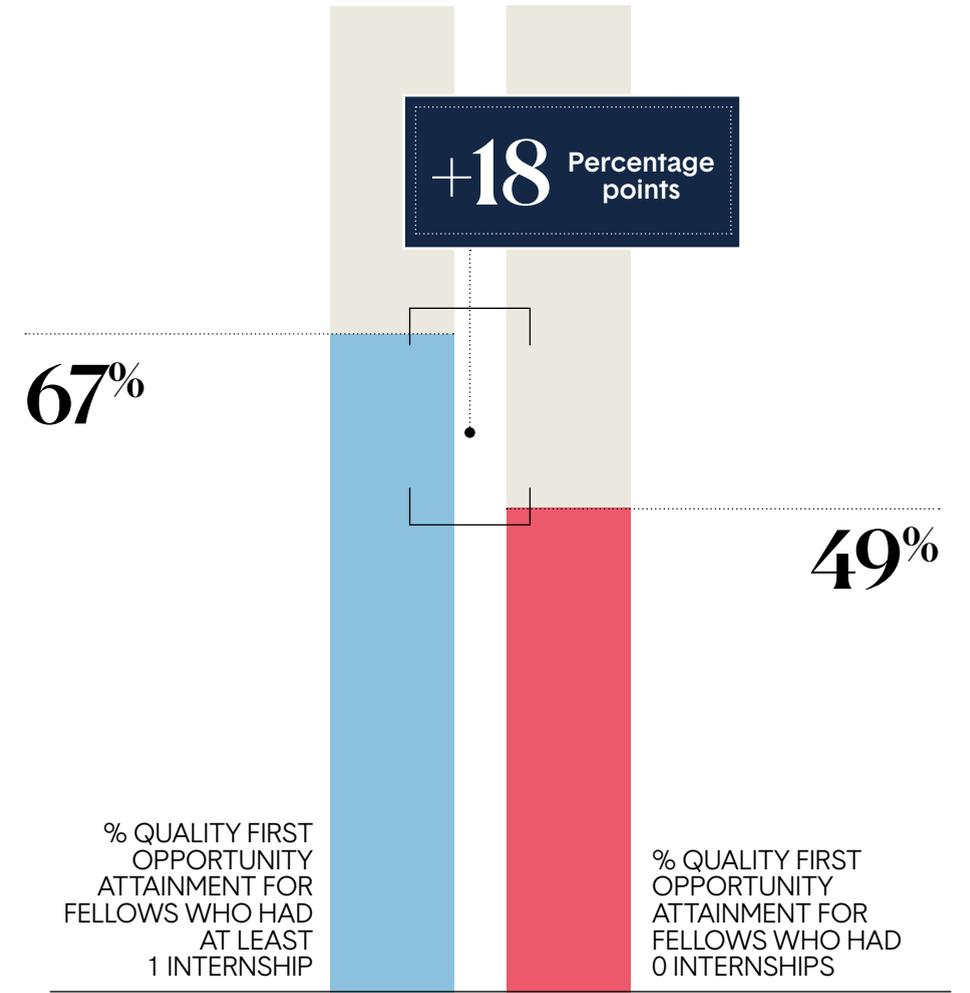
FALL 2022 FELLOW

Legislative Intern,
United States Senate

Internships Often Lead to Strong First Opportunities After College

For college students, internships serve as critical proof points of experience that open professional doors.

The influence of internships on post-graduate success is underscored by our data: Braven Fellows nationwide who have completed at least one internship in college are 18 percentage points more likely to secure a quality first opportunity than Fellows who have not (67% vs 49%).



% QUALITY FIRST OPPORTUNITY ATTAINMENT FOR FELLOWS WHO HAD AT LEAST 1 INTERNSHIP

% QUALITY FIRST OPPORTUNITY ATTAINMENT FOR FELLOWS WHO HAD 0 INTERNSHIPS



Rise of AI Presents Opportunities and Concerns for New Graduates

AI is likely to automate tasks that are tedious and routine—those typically performed by entry-level talent.³ But in the rapid rise of AI, there is still tremendous value in a college degree.

With the advancement of AI, the human skills students practice while earning a college degree are more important than ever: problem solving, communication, collaboration, real-world experience. Just as important is students' AI literacy: the ability to leverage AI thoughtfully, strategically, and confidently to enhance their work and impact.

College helps early career professionals develop:

Higher-order problem-solving skills to make ethical decisions.⁴



Strong teamwork skills to effectively lead teams and leverage AI across disciplines.⁵



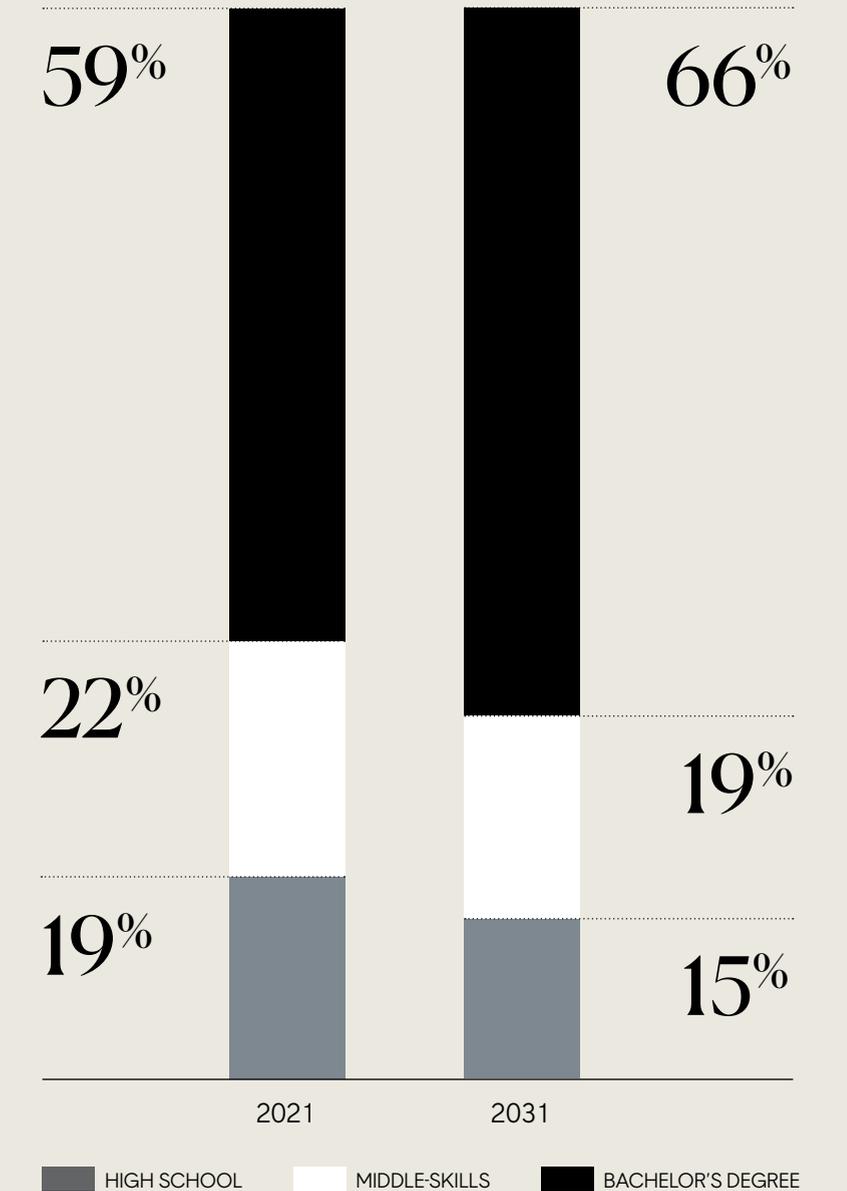
Foundational knowledge to lead and brainstorm creative, innovative solutions to complex problems.⁶



While no one is certain of the true impact AI will have on the job market, research shows that economic opportunity will increasingly favor workers with higher levels of education and training.

According to *The Future of Good Jobs* report produced by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, while there will be good jobs in every educational pathway in 2031, only 15 percent will be available to workers on the high school pathway, compared to 66 percent on the bachelor's degree pathway and 19 percent on the middle-skills pathway.⁷

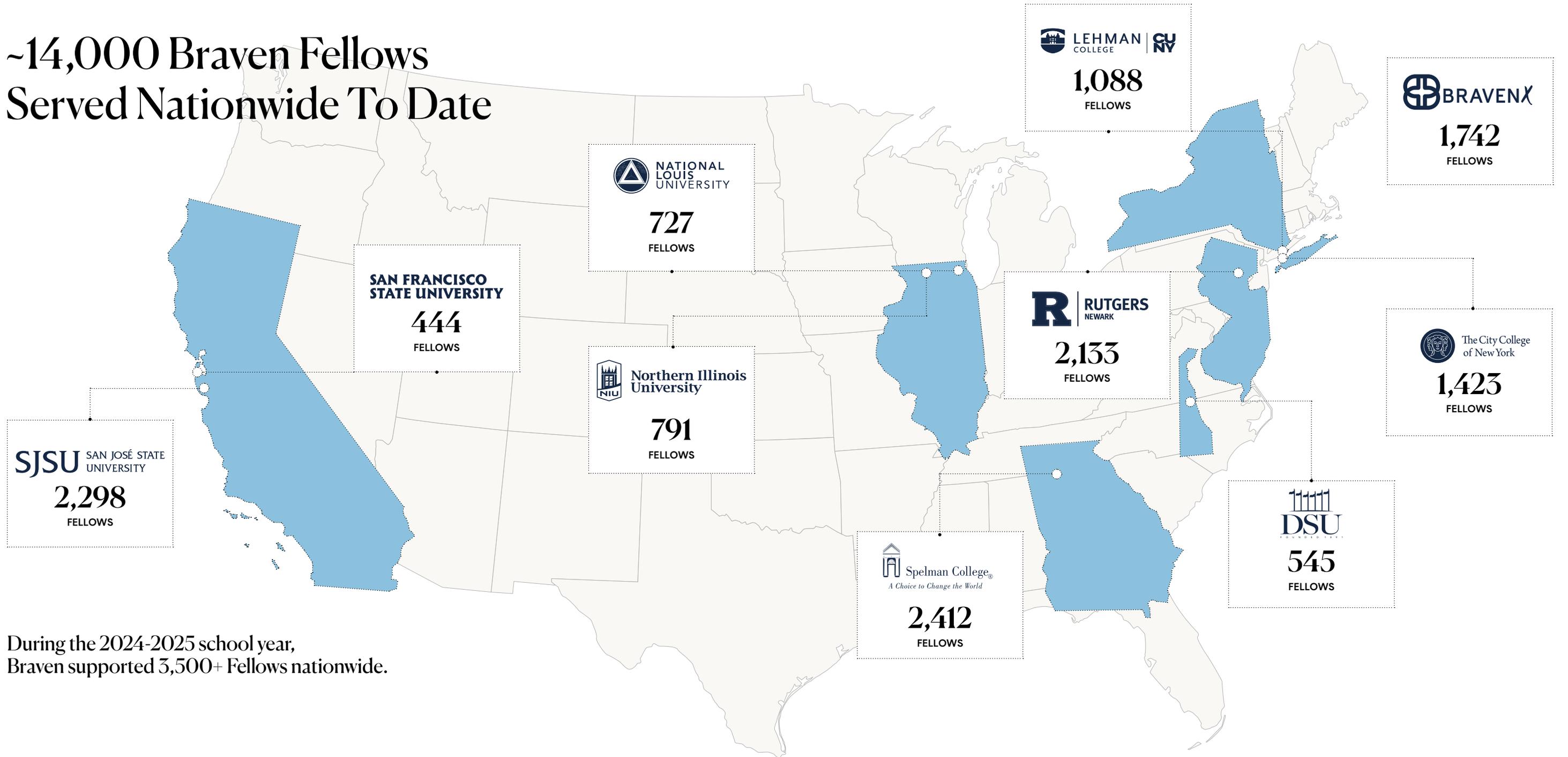
Distribution of Good Jobs by Educational Pathway





**Are we impacting
more students and
maintaining program
quality?**

~14,000 Braven Fellows Served Nationwide To Date



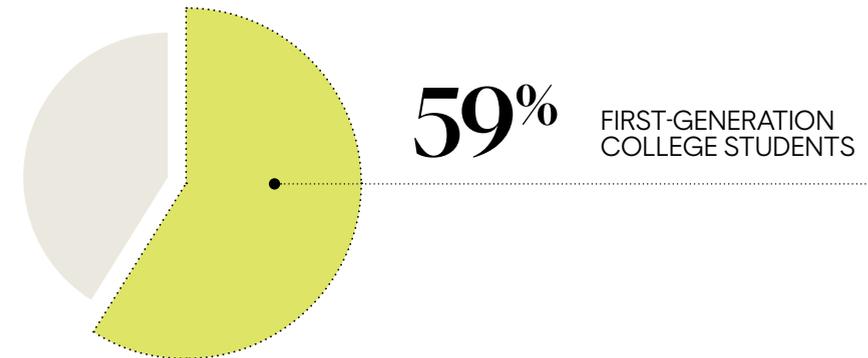
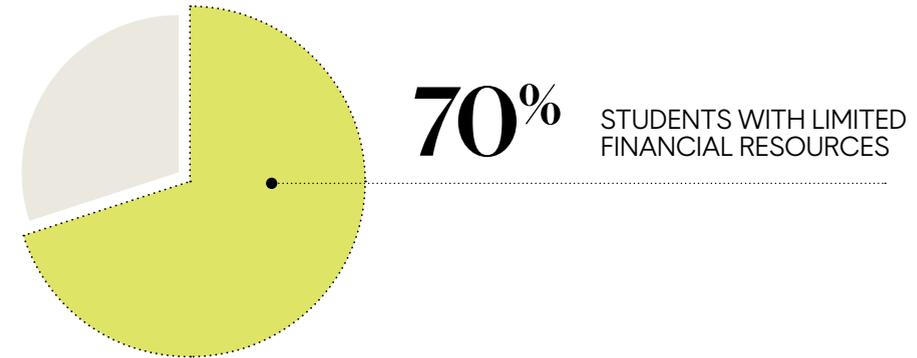
During the 2024-2025 school year,
Braven supported 3,500+ Fellows nationwide.

2024-2025 Northern Illinois University Braven Fellow Class

176 Fellows completed the Braven course in the 2024-2025 school year at Northern Illinois University.



2024-2025 NIU Braven Fellows are:



75% of NIU Braven Fellows who take the Braven Accelerator Course feel Braven has improved their chances of getting a job a great deal or quite a bit.

58 Net Promoter Score: a widely used customer satisfaction metric on a scale of -100 to 100 that measures how likely a Fellow would recommend Braven to a friend. Above 0 is good, above 20 is favorable, and above 50 is excellent.

Top 5 Majors



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



COMPUTER SCIENCE



PSYCHOLOGY



HEALTH SCIENCES



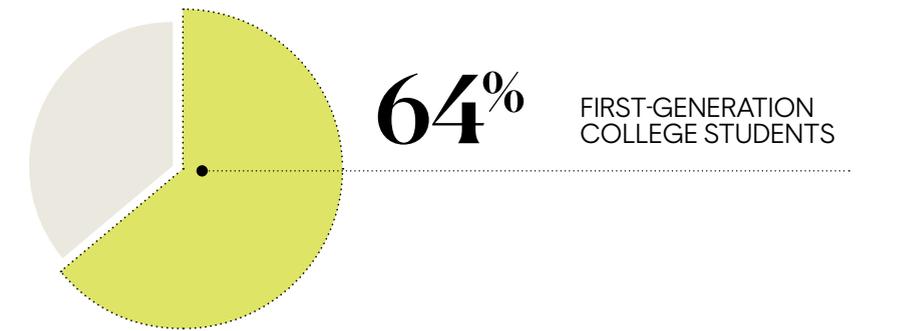
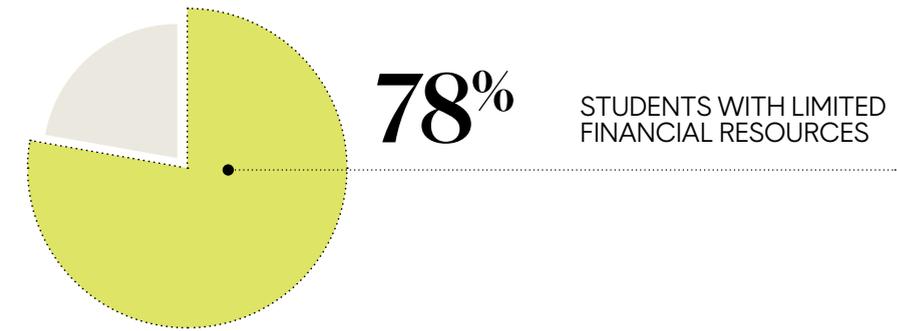
EDUCATION

2024-2025 National Louis University Braven Fellow Class

50 Fellows completed the Braven course in the 2024-2025 school year at National Louis University.



2024-2025 NLU Braven Fellows are:



88% of NLU Fellows who take the Braven Accelerator Course feel Braven has improved their chances of getting a job a great deal or quite a bit.

64 **Net Promoter Score:** a widely used customer satisfaction metric on a scale of -100 to 100 that measures how likely a Fellow would recommend Braven to a friend. Above 0 is good, above 20 is favorable, and above 50 is excellent.

Top 5 Majors



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



PSYCHOLOGY



EDUCATION



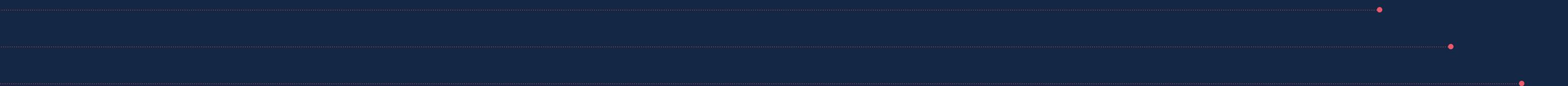
COMPUTER SCIENCE



HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL WORK



**Are we supporting
Fellows to secure
internships and
complete college?**



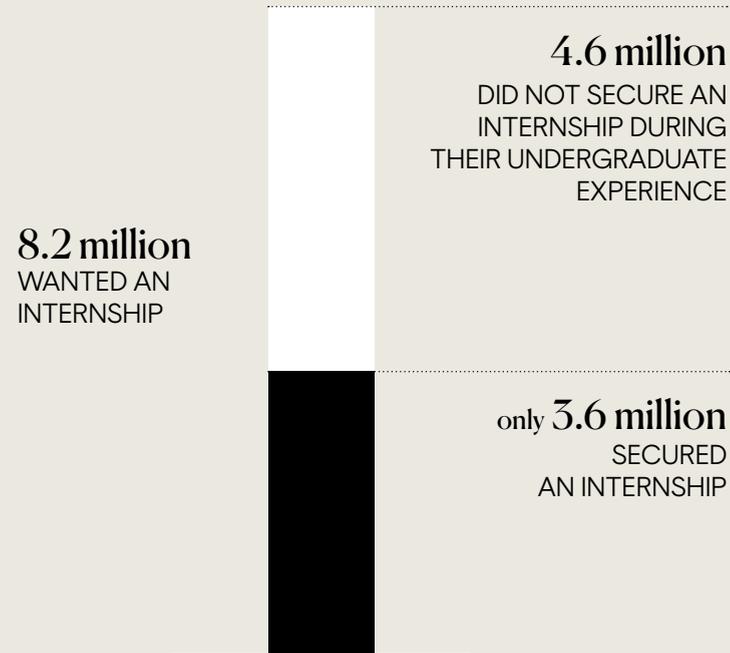


Pathways to Securing Internships for All Students

Securing an internship during college is challenging.

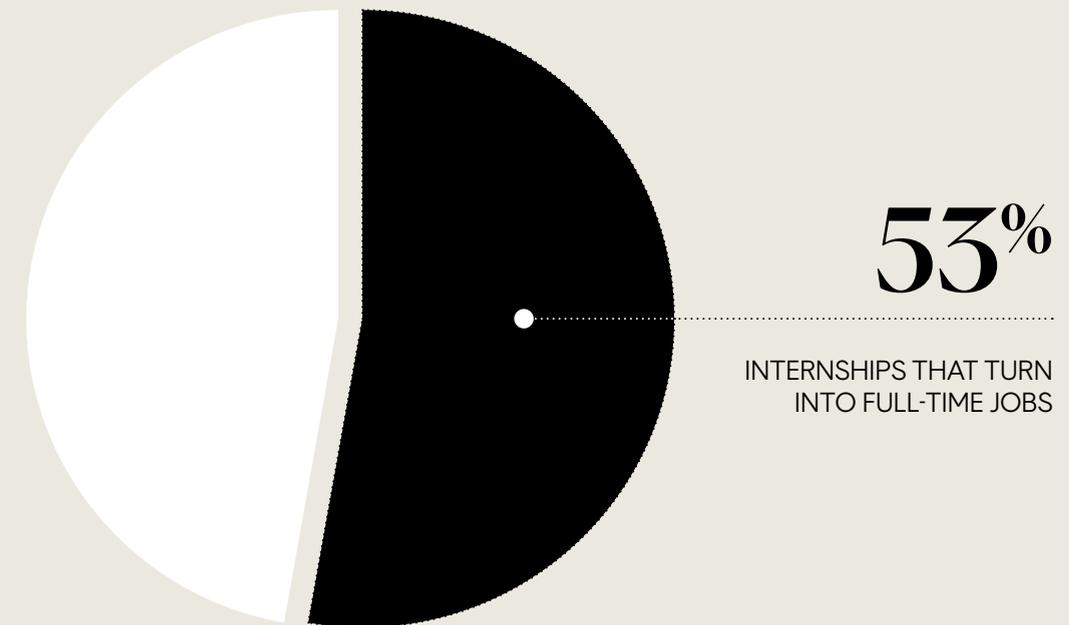
Common reasons students cite for not interning include prioritizing paid work over unpaid internships due to financial need and the difficulty of finding and securing an internship due to a lack of social networks, managing heavy course loads, and a lack of awareness about how to find internships.¹⁰

In 2023, approximately **8.2 million students** wanted an internship, but only 3.6 million had the opportunity.⁸ This means only about four in ten college students secured an internship during their undergraduate experience.



Even in light of these barriers, internships remain an important means for organizations to recruit college-level talent for entry-level roles.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) 2024 Internship & Co-op Survey, 53% of eligible interns on average were converted into full-time, entry-level hires by their employers in the 2023-2024 academic year.⁹





Chris Joyce



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Jaelyn Logan

Digital Marketing Intern,
Aligus Packaging

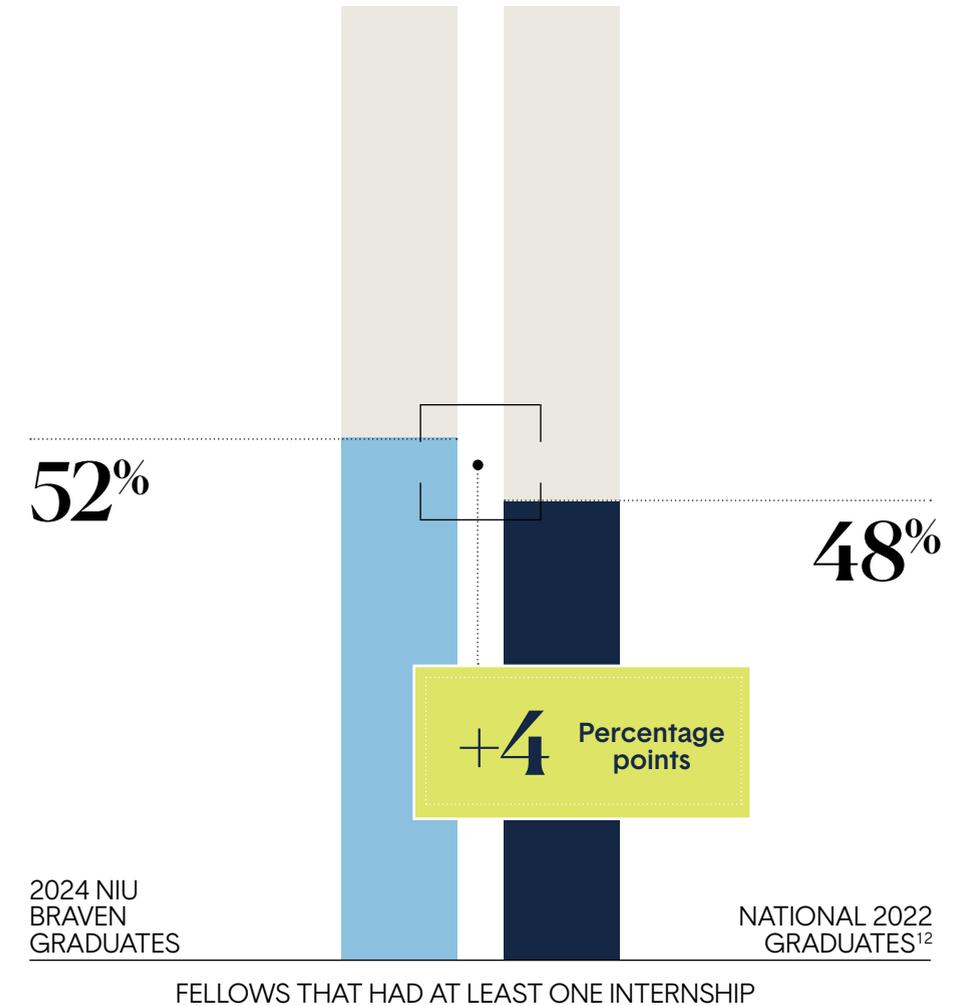


NIU Braven Fellows Outpace Graduates Nationally in Internship Attainment



Northern Illinois University

Compared with graduates nationally, NIU Braven 2024 graduates were 4 percentage points more likely to have at least one internship during their college experience.

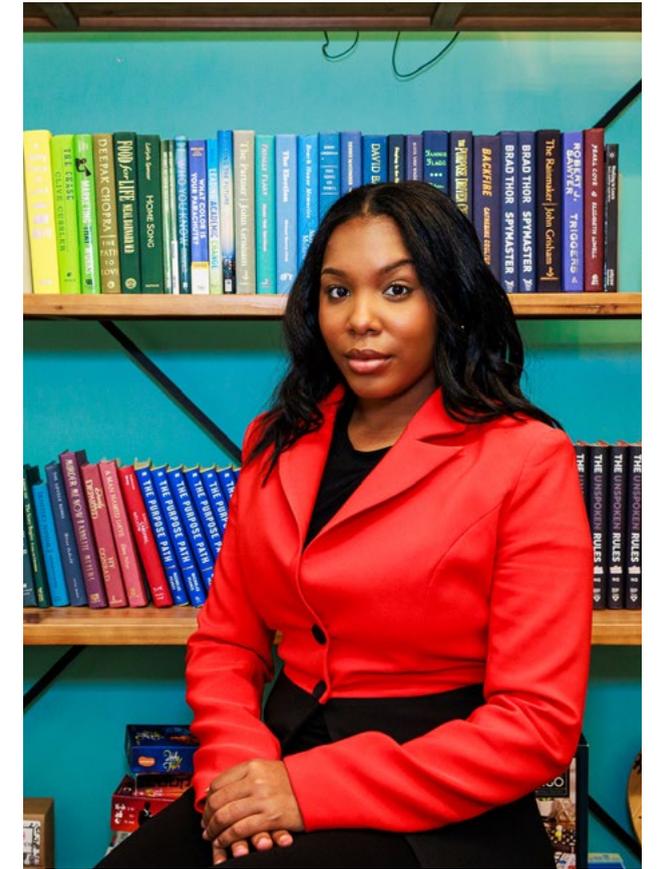
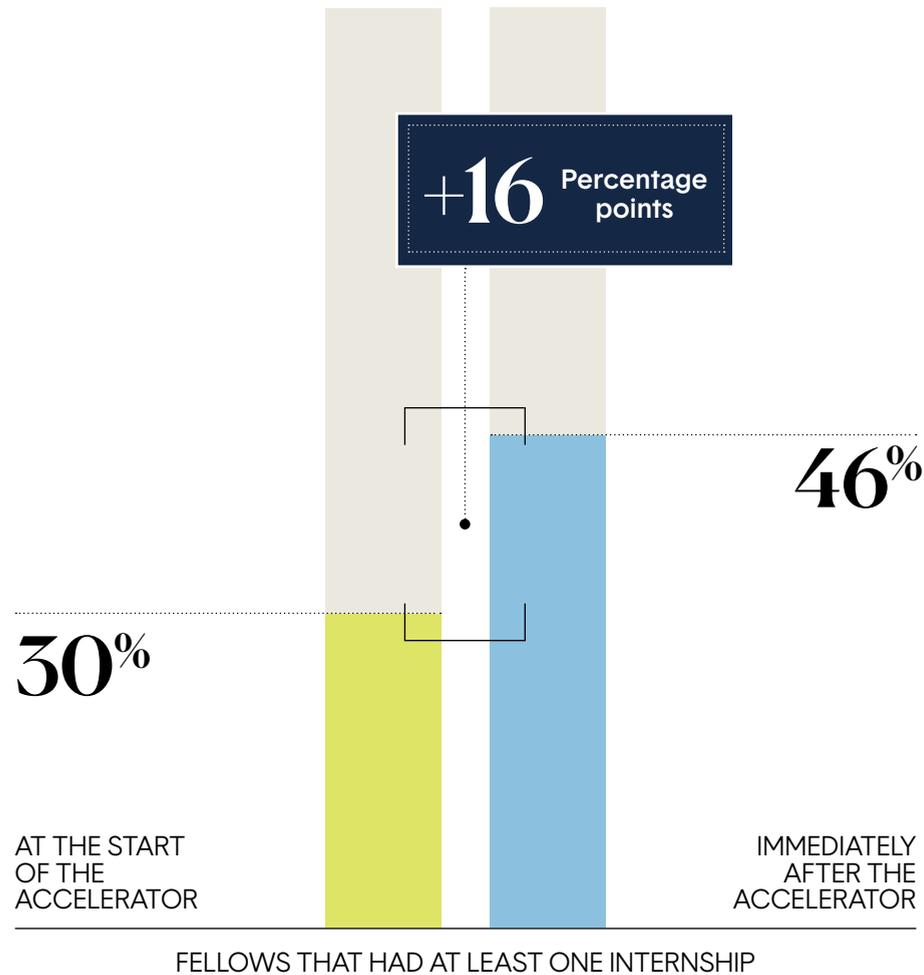


At NIU, the Braven Experience Drives Meaningful Increase in Internship Attainment



Internships are a key step toward strong career outcomes.

In the 2024-2025 school year, NIU Braven Fellows saw a 16 percentage point uplift in internship attainment between the start and end of the Accelerator course, speaking to an important element of the immediate impact of the Braven experience.



Chris Joyce

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Kailah Stewart

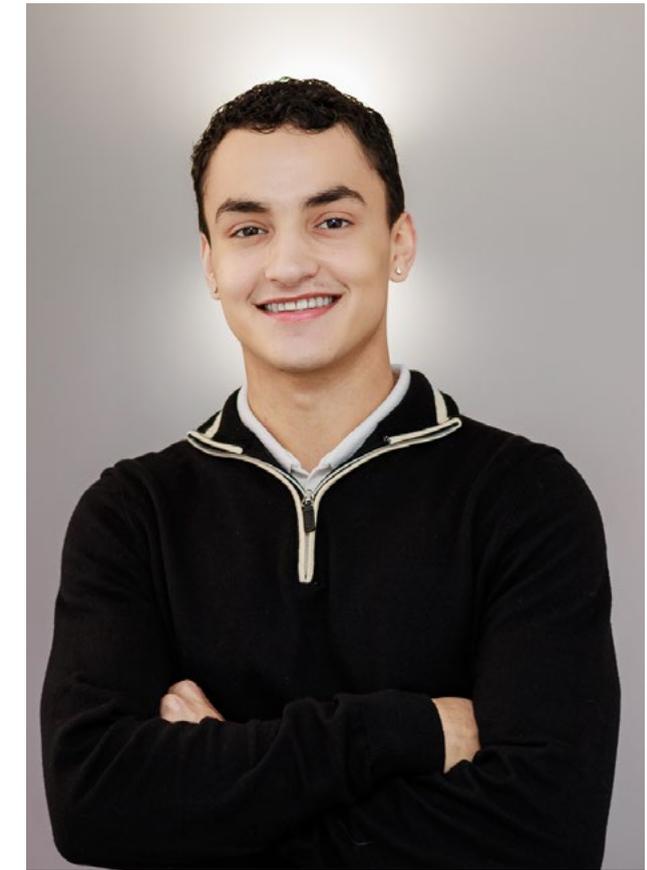
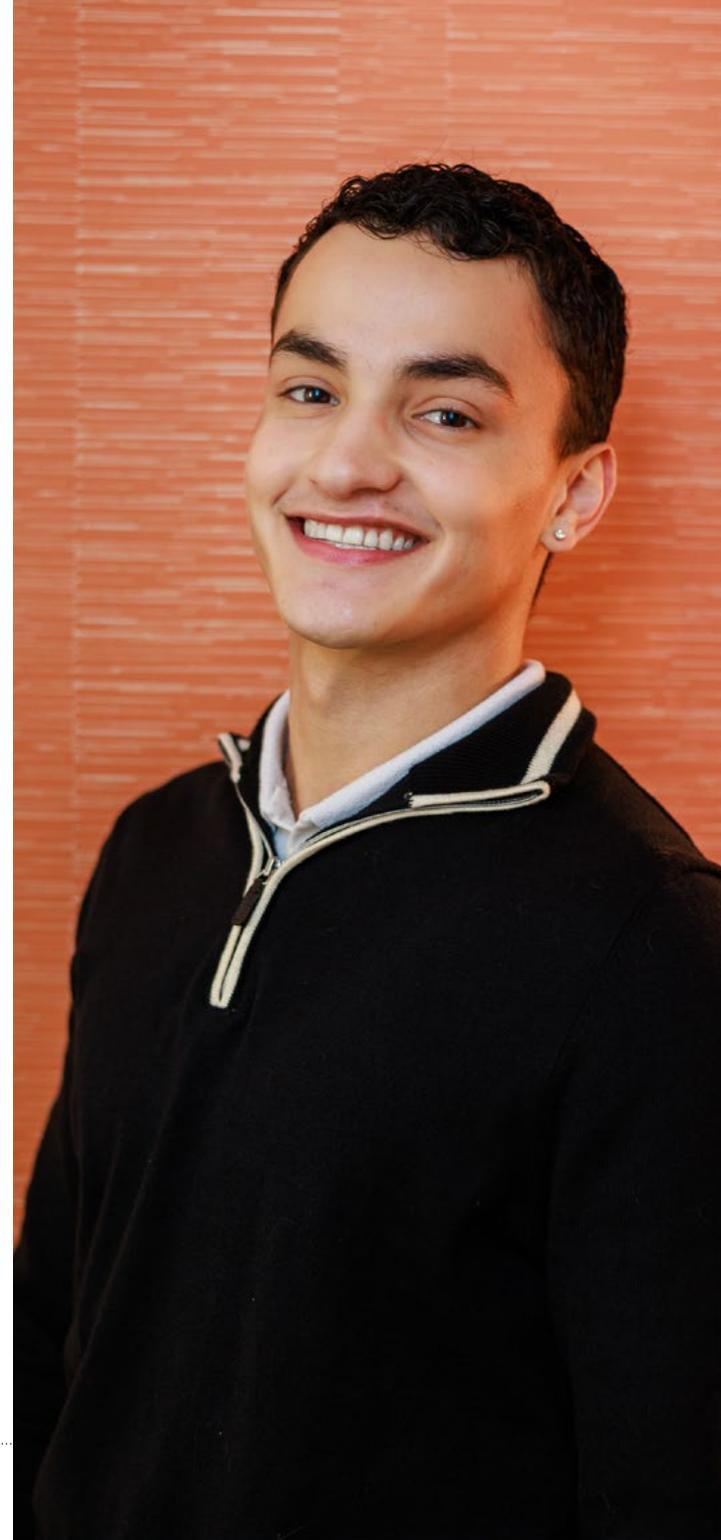
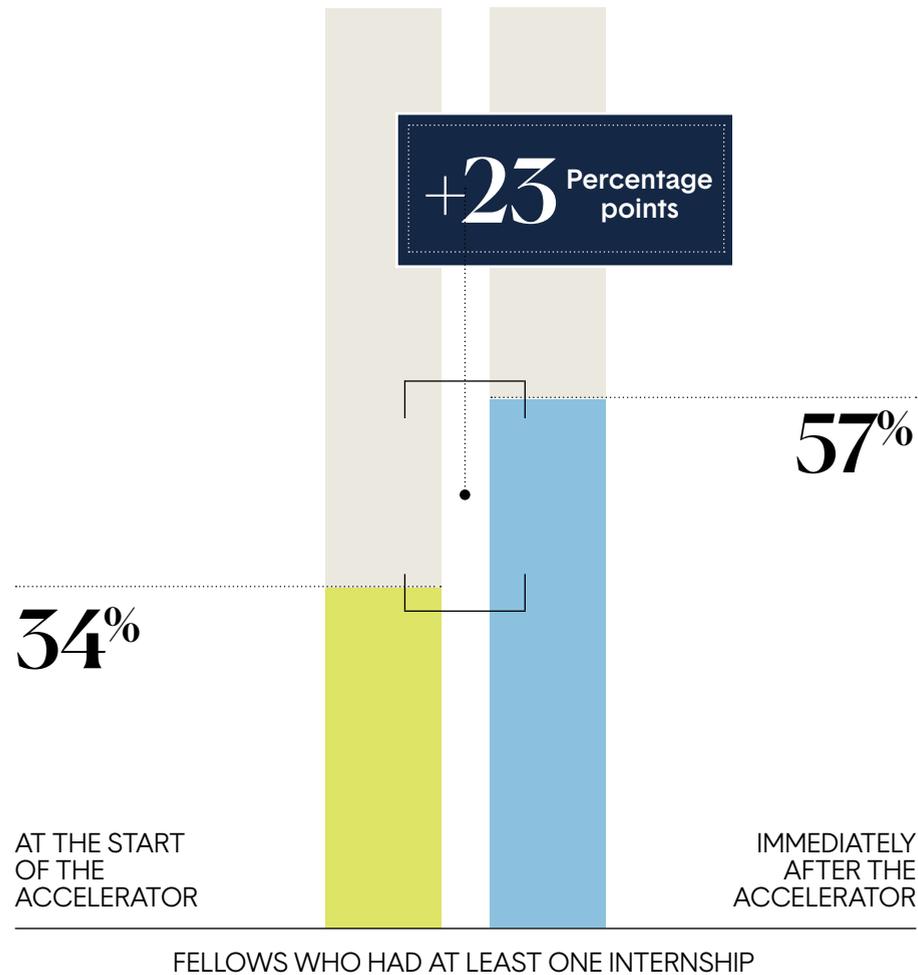
Public Relations Assistant,
Cook County Sheriff

Similarly at NLU, the Braven Experience Drives Meaningful Increase in Internship Attainment



Internships are a key step toward strong career outcomes.

In the 2024-2025 school year, NLU Braven Fellows saw a 23 percentage point uplift in internship attainment between the start and end of the Accelerator course, speaking to an important element of the immediate impact of the Braven experience.



Chris Joyce

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY
Juan-David Cardona Londoño
 Master in Business Administration,
 DePaul University





Chris Joyce



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Jaylan Peebles

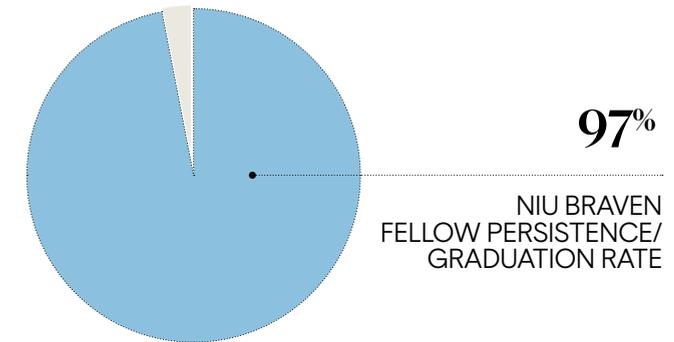
Client Service Analyst,
Societe Generale

NIU and NLU Fellows Show Encouraging Levels of College Completion

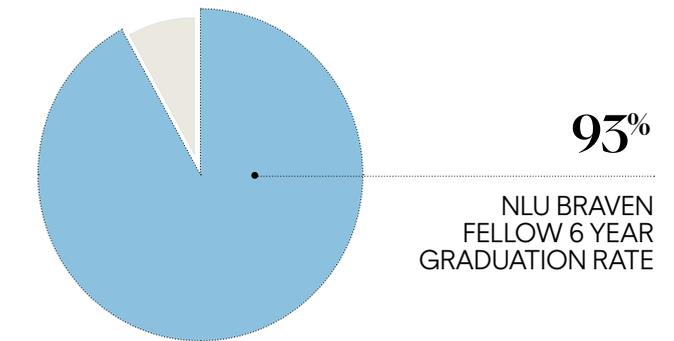
97% of NIU Braven Fellows are persisting in college or have graduated.¹³

NLU Braven Fellows have achieved a 93% six-year graduation rate.¹⁴

Nationally, only about 7 in 10 students graduate within six years of college enrollment.¹⁵ Braven Fellows, who typically join us during their sophomore or junior year, are persisting and graduating at an encouraging rate.



97%
NIU BRAVEN FELLOW PERSISTENCE/
GRADUATION RATE



93%
NLU BRAVEN FELLOW 6 YEAR
GRADUATION RATE



**Are our Fellows
developing the
career readiness
skills, networks, and
confidence needed
for success?**

NIU and NLU Fellow Growth in Career-Readiness Skills

The Braven experience focuses on the following six career-readiness skills: career navigation, problem-solving, teamwork, communication, organization, and leadership.

Why these career-readiness skills?
These career-readiness skills are:

1. Grounded in what research says is needed to successfully secure a strong first opportunity^{20, 22}

2. In high-demand from employers (however, employers report recent graduates have not sufficiently developed these skills)^{18, 19, 21}

3. Aligned with other career-readiness frameworks such as the National Association of College Employers (NACE) career-readiness competencies and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)'s VALUE rubrics^{16, 17}

In 2024-2025, Northern Illinois University Braven Fellows achieve an average Accelerator course pass rate of 92% and average final grade of 82%, showcasing strong career-readiness skill mastery.

National Louis University Braven Fellows achieved an 89% course pass rate and average final grade of 81%.

Career Navigation



- Reflects on strength, values, and interests
- Explores multiple career options
- Takes career actions such as making plans, creating a portfolio, and building networks

Leadership



- Leads from values
- Grounds in purpose and assets
- Learns continuously from feedback and reflection

Organization



- Plans and prioritizes tasks
- Monitors progress and adjusts when faced with challenges
- Gets things done

Communication



- Presents ideas clearly and purposefully
- Listens actively to understand and asks questions
- Demonstrates empathy and respect

Teamwork



- Works effectively towards shared goals
- Navigates differences
- Holds self and others accountable for deliverables

Problem Solving



- Defines the problem and identifies root causes
- Designs potential solutions
- Tests and implements solutions

Network Strength

Extensive research has illustrated the importance of networks or social capital in career navigation and success.²³

Braven supports students to build professional networks that are large, diverse, and consist of strong relationships, and to build the skills necessary to mobilize those networks to advance their career goals.

To measure students' Network Strength, we leverage resources from the Search Institute.

Network Strength

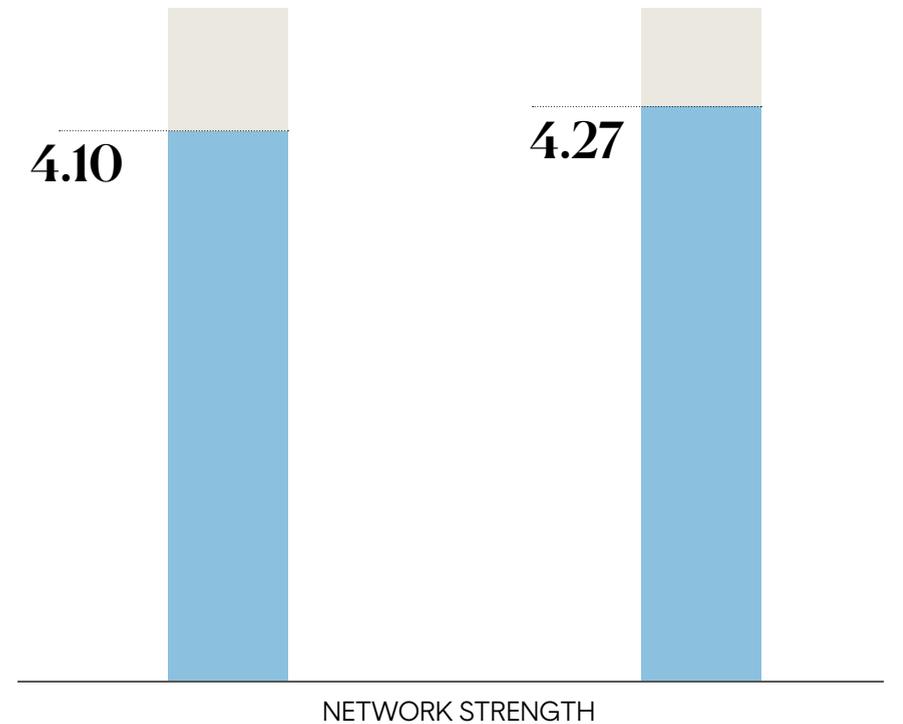
Indicates whether students have people in their network who they could go to for help, are trusted, and they feel close to, as well as those who they feel less close to but who may make a connection or help them access opportunities to achieve their goals.

NIU and NLU Fellows' Network Strength

To put these results into context, on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), Braven Fellows report that by the end of the Accelerator, their networks encompass trusted strong ties and valuable weak ties that they can rely on for professional support.

In 2024-2025, NIU Braven Fellows scored a 4.10 out of 5.0 in Network Strength.

In 2024-2025, NLU Braven Fellows scored an 4.27 out of 5.0 in Network Strength.

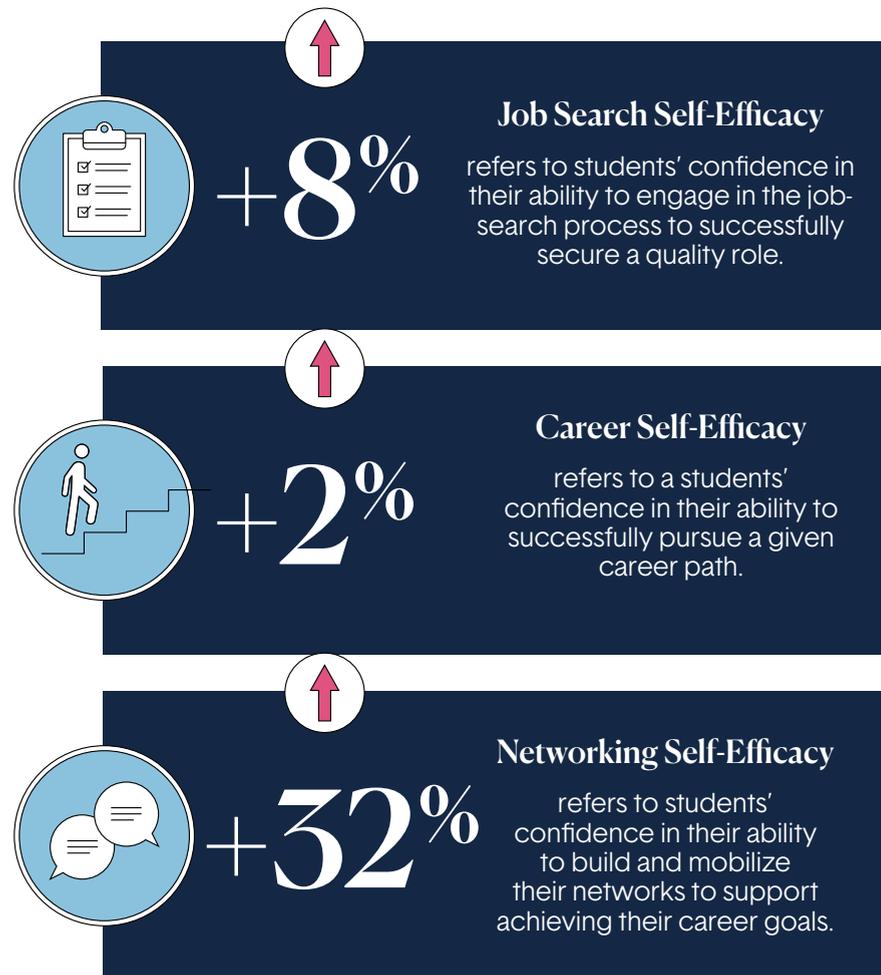


NIU Fellows' Growth in Confidence: Self-Efficacy Measures

Each semester, Braven measures growth in self-efficacies from the start to the end of the Braven Accelerator.

Self-efficacy is a person's belief in their ability to succeed in various situations and is associated with academic and lifetime success. It is not typically measured through traditional assessments like standardized tests, but plays a large role in explaining job search, career search behaviors, and career outcomes.

In 2024-2025, NIU Braven Fellows showed growth across all three self-efficacy measures.



Chris Joyce

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Donna Gillespie
Administrator,
Transdev North America

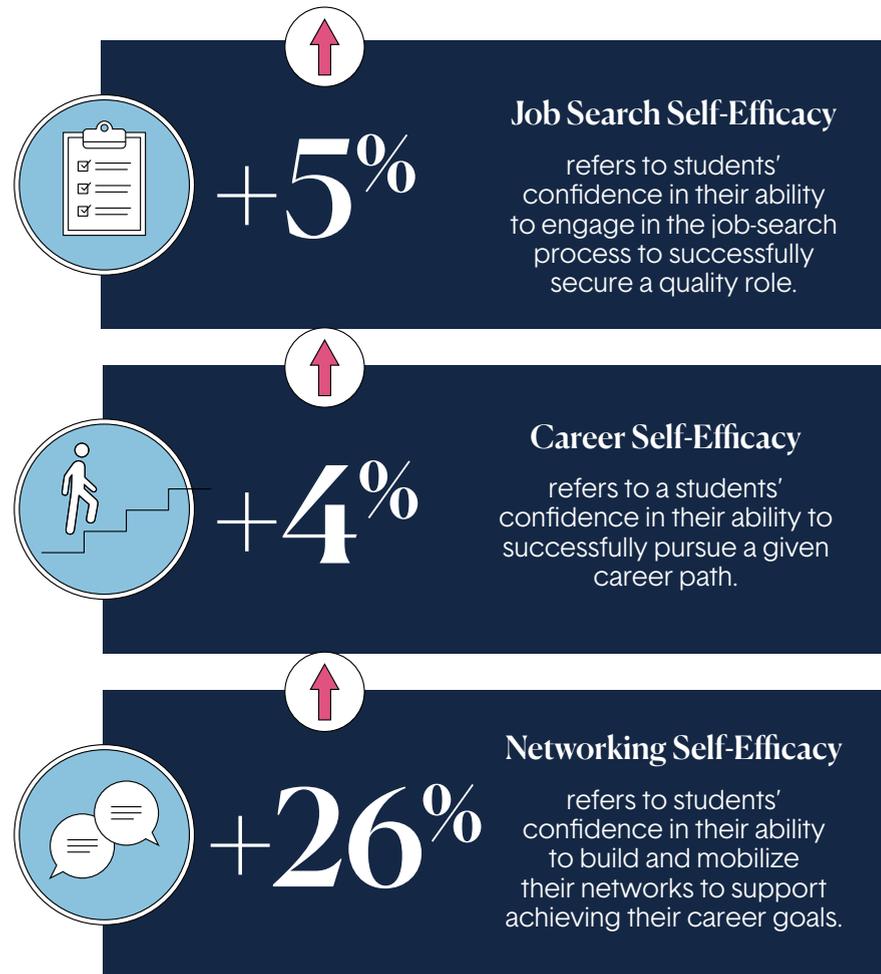


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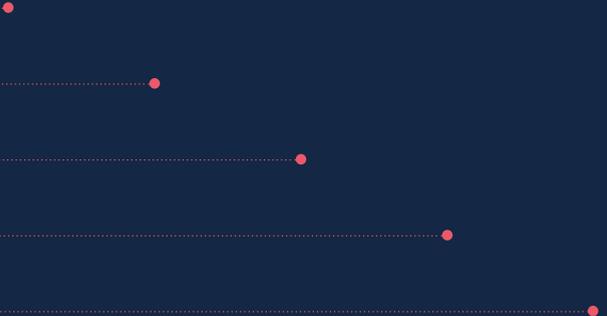


Chris Joyce

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY
Lyna Haddad
Marketing Intern,
Cramer Krasselt



**Are we building
employer and
higher education
partnerships with
true shared value?**



Employer Spotlight:

This year, Atlassian is one of Braven's partners investing \$250,000 and providing crucial programmatic support.



Braven has 14 projects in Jira Service Management across all departments at Braven.

Atlassian provided \$75,000+ in product support, fueling Braven's ability to scale impact.

Braven's collaboration with Atlassian helps open doors to the American Dream.

IMPACT

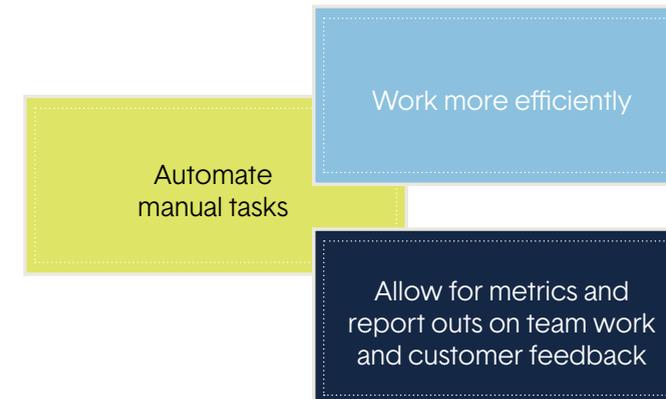


Dr. Grace Cadiz
Partnerships Manager,
Global Education
Atlassian

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERISM



Braven's transition to the Atlassian suite enables our teams to:



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Pre-Summit Fellow Mixer

Host site for San Francisco State University launch

Virtual career treks for Fellows

"Partnering with Braven has given our employees a meaningful way to invest in the next generation of talent. The experience has been incredibly rewarding, both professionally and personally."

Braven National Faculty Council

The Braven National Faculty Council is a distinguished collective of faculty leaders from Braven's partner institutions.

Faculty have deeply informed our model from the start. This past year we formalized their engagement through our Inaugural Faculty Council. These trailblazers serve as strategic advisors in shaping the evolution of our curriculum. They've discussed topics ranging from Braven's approach to generative AI in the curriculum to strengthening alignment between the Capstone Challenge and AAC&U's high-impact practices.



Alicia Schatteman

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor, **Northern Illinois University**



Hyacinth Miller

Assistant Teaching Professor Africana Studies and Political Science Internship and Study Abroad Director, **Rutgers University-Newark**



Kimeu Boynton

Associate Professor, Sociology and Criminal Justice; Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Humanities, Education & Social Sciences, **Delaware State University**

Director for Liberal, Integrated & Leadership Studies, **Delaware State University**



Kaleena Rogers

Associate Director of Field Education & Teaching Instructor, **Rutgers University-Newark**



Ryan Skinnell

Professor of Rhetoric & Writing and Director of First-Year Writing, **San José State University**



Phyllis Brooks Collins

We couldn't do it without you!

Higher Education Partners & Employer Partners

Higher Education Partners

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National Louis University
Northern Illinois University
Rutgers University - Newark
San Francisco State University (launched Fall 2024)
San José State University
Spelman College

BravenX Partners

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Ascend Public Schools
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Carmen Schools of Science & Technology
Chicago Scholars
Chicago State University
City Year Chicago
Coney Island Prep Public Schools
Cooperman College

Scholars
Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas
Cristo Rey Network
DREAM Charter School
DSST Public Schools
Evanston Scholars
Excel Academy Charter School
Excellence Community Schools
Freedom Preparatory Academy Charter Schools
IDEA Public Schools
Judson University
KIPP Metro Atlanta
KIPP Forward
KIPP NJ
Lehman College
LISA Academy
National Association for Urban Debate Leagues
Newark Youth Career Pathways Program
North Central College
Noble Schools
Rivet School
SEEDS
The Academy Charter School
The Wight Foundation
Uncommon Schools
Uplift Education
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Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Deloitte
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
LinkedIn
Morgan Stanley
NBA Foundation

ANCHOR
(\$100K+ and programmatic support)
Allstate
Cognizant US Foundation
Salesforce
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UBS

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(\$25K+ and programmatic support)
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CBRE
CIBC Bank USA
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Northern Trust
Silver Lake
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Ron Sonenthal
Liz Thompson



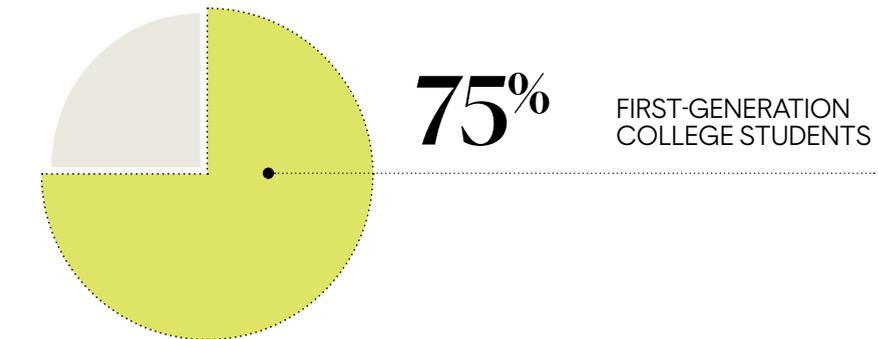
Addendum

Course outcomes for 2024-2025 BravenX Fellows

580 Fellows completed BravenX during the 2024-2025 school year.



2024-2025 BravenX Fellows are:



79% of BravenX Fellows who take the Braven Accelerator Course feel Braven has improved their chances of getting a job a great deal or quite a bit.

74 **Net Promoter Score:** a widely used customer satisfaction metric on a scale of -100 to 100 that measures how likely a Fellow would recommend Braven to a friend. Above 0 is good, above 20 is favorable, and above 50 is excellent.

Top 5 Majors



PSYCHOLOGY



COMPUTER SCIENCE



BIOLOGY



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



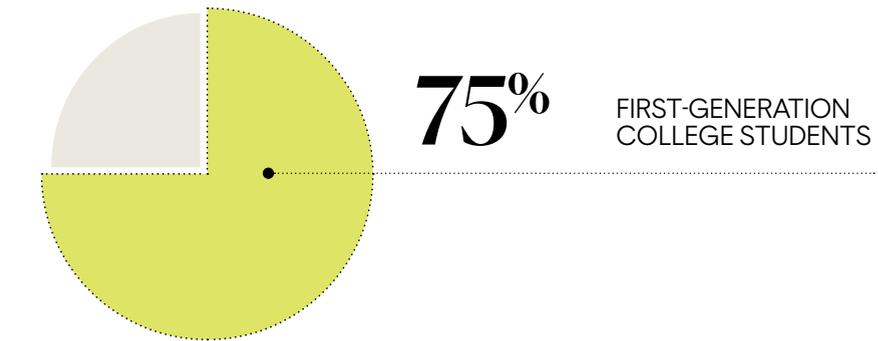
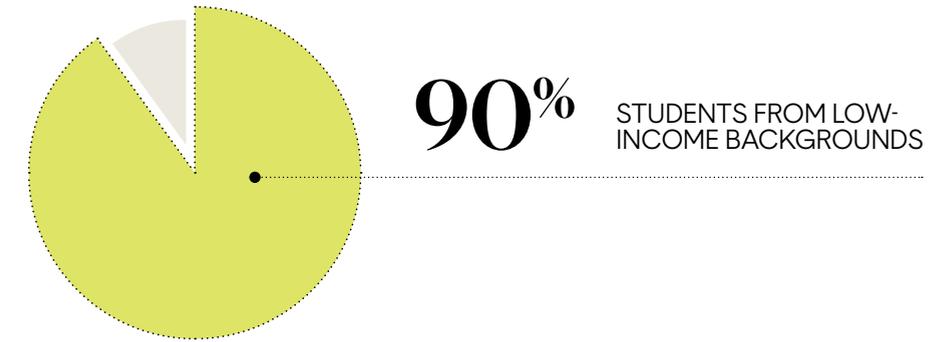
ECONOMICS

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Top 5 Majors



PSYCHOLOGY



COMPUTER SCIENCE



BIOLOGY



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



ECONOMICS

All-time BravenX Impact



1,742
Total BravenX Fellows served all-time



BravenX Partners





“Participating in the BravenX Accelerator has been one of the most impactful parts of my college experience. It gave me the structure and space to reflect on the kind of professional I want to become and helped me align my personal goals with my career aspirations. I especially appreciated being able to apply my current skills through a capstone project that felt both relevant and exciting. Because of BravenX, I feel more prepared and confident in the job search process—I truly believe it’s given me an edge in recruitment.”

**BRAVENX
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
Erik Berlanga Vazquez
Media, Content &
Communications Strategist
Columbia Undergraduate Student Life

FALL 2024 FELLOW

Spotlight: IDEA Public Schools



IDEA Public Schools believes that each child can go to college. Since 2000, IDEA Public Schools has grown to a network of tuition-free, K-12 public charter schools in the United States, currently serving 87,000 college-bound students in 145 schools across Texas and its affiliates.

In the last 17 years, IDEA has sent nearly 100% of its graduates to college and remains on track to uphold that legacy.

“At IDEA Public Schools, our Alumni Affairs Team proudly partners with Braven to drive real, measurable outcomes for our alumni.

With 15,000 alumni today, and on track to serve 50,000 by 2030, we’re scaling and engineering an alumni support model that proves positive 60%+ college graduation rates amongst our alumni.

Braven shares our commitment and urgency. They’re not just leading a movement. They’re transforming what success looks like for students. This partnership directly fuels our mission: to prepare our graduates for success in college and life, generally, and



José-Luis Vasquez

Managing Director
of Alumni Affairs,
IDEA Public Schools

to democratize college completion, specifically. We’re not just imagining change, we’re building it, together through real partnership.”

Endnotes

1. Statistics are drawn from data provided by the National Center for Education Statistics, including figures from its Digest of Education Statistics (January 2024 table) and a report on Pell Grant recipients (February 2018). Further data is from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's "Transfer and Progress" report (February 2024) and the IPEDS Trend Generator (data as of Winter 2020–21).
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13. Cumulative persistence/graduation rate is calculated for the 417 eligible NIU Braven Fellows who completed the Accelerator course as a freshman, sophomore, or junior through Spring 2024.
14. Six-year graduation rate of Braven Fellows includes students who enrolled as first-time freshmen at National Louis University not including those who took Braven as seniors, not including those who took Braven as seniors, transfer students, or international students.
15. National comparison is the implied six-year graduation rate for Pell Grant recipients who were full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students in the 2017 starting cohort (adjusted) at four-year public Title IV institutions, after accounting for those who persisted from freshman to sophomore year and from sophomore to junior year. Sources for data: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Winter 2023–24, Graduation Rates component (provisional data); Pitcher, McCall, and Parson, Kelle. "More to the Retention Story: Exploring Second- to Third-Year Retention at 4-Year Colleges and Universities." *American Institutes for Research*. July 2023.
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