The Clinical Scholars Program aims to address disparities in behavioral health outcomes specifically for racial and ethnic minority youth, which include high incidents of involvement with the juvenile justice system, high rates of school dropout, high levels of suicidal behavior and economic hardships.

Approximately 10 scholarships will be awarded to incoming MSW students. Clinical Scholars will prepare for positions in mental health and behavioral health settings, hospitals, health departments, health agencies, schools and nonprofit agencies.

Program Funding

$5,000/semester ($20,000 total)
Michael Joiner-Hill grew up on Detroit’s west side, one of six kids raised by a single mother. He knows first-hand the difficulties, as well as the dangers, facing vulnerable, at-risk youth. And he credits his stern yet loving mother with being the driving force that kept her kids from the gang activity and violence in their community, steering them towards volunteerism, athletics and most importantly, education. Michael excelled in all of those areas, gaining admission into the University of Michigan, where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. One of his proudest moments came when he was offered a spot in the School of Social Work’s MSW program.

There’s a message in Michael’s story. When he earns his MSW in December 2014, he plans to bring that message back to the young people who so desperately need to hear it.

“There are so many young people living in disadvantaged situations who aren’t getting the message that, despite your circumstances, you CAN be someone who succeeds and changes the fortune of this city. I have a personal success story to share that could be helpful to them, and I am going back to Detroit to proudly represent that message.”

“My Clinical Scholars Program scholarship allows me the opportunity to work with others who share my passion for helping under-represented people and communities.”