



PRESIDENT  
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE  
Atlanta, GA

*The mission of Morehouse College is to develop men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership and service. A private historically Black liberal arts college for men, Morehouse realizes this mission by emphasizing the intellectual and character development of its students. In addition, the HBCU college assumes special responsibility for teaching the history and culture of Black people. — Morehouse Mission Statement*

## THE SEARCH

The Morehouse College Board of Trustees seeks an inspirational, innovative, and strategic leader to serve as the institution's 13th president—someone who will honor Morehouse's historic legacy and build upon its achievements. Morehouse is the only institution of its kind in the world. Founded in 1867, Morehouse is a private, residential, liberal arts institution with a legacy of excellence in education and leadership development. This is a call for a leader equipped to advance an ambitious vision for the future of the College, cultivate substantial investments to realize that vision, enhance the operational and academic enterprise of an exemplary liberal arts institution, and continue Morehouse's renowned tradition of producing academically exceptional, morally grounded, and service-oriented leaders for a rapidly evolving world.

Over the past seven years, Morehouse has experienced a remarkable trajectory of increasing strength, with significant gains in both finances and enrollment. This is an extraordinary opportunity to harness this momentum and continue to build on Morehouse's storied legacy. The president will collaborate with a committed Board of Trustees, dedicated faculty, skilled administrators and staff, ambitious students, and engaged alumni to guide the College toward continued excellence and impact.

Isaacson, Miller has been retained to assist in this recruitment. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

## HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

For nearly 160 years, Morehouse College has been a beacon of academic excellence and leadership development. Founded with the mission to educate and empower Black men, Morehouse has a proud legacy of producing leaders who shape the world. The College has prioritized intellectual and character development with a goal of developing men with disciplined minds to lead lives of leadership and service.

Before it became Morehouse College, the Augusta Institute was founded in Augusta, Georgia, in 1867, two years after the Civil War concluded. It began in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, with the primary purpose of preparing Black men for ministry and teaching. In 1879, the Augusta Institute relocated to Atlanta, becoming Atlanta Baptist Seminary, then Atlanta Baptist College, before ultimately being named Morehouse College, in honor of Henry Lyman Morehouse, corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission and a prominent supporter of education for African Americans.

Under the leadership of Dr. John Hope, who became the College's first African American president in 1906, the college shifted its focus toward a more rigorous academic curriculum, challenging the prevailing vocational education model advocated by Booker T. Washington. Dr. Hope's transformative vision established Morehouse as a leading institution for Black, male education, enabling its graduates to achieve success across various fields. The college attributes its early growth in enrollment and academic reputation to Dr. Hope's leadership.

The College has an active alumni base and a distinguished reputation among its many stakeholders in the greater Atlanta metropolitan area and national constituencies. Today, its success in the education of Black men is unparalleled; alumni hold prominent positions in Fortune 500 companies, the U.S. Government, Hollywood studios, and fields and industries in all major sectors – leading the nation through private industry and public service.

As one of the most impactful institutions of higher education in the world, Morehouse has been recognized by the National Science Foundation as the leading institution for producing Black, male college graduates who earn doctorates in education, science, mathematics, computer science, social sciences, and the arts and humanities. The College has also been recognized as the best liberal arts college or university in Georgia and the #1 producer of Rhodes Scholars among HBCUs. Approaching 160 years of proud excellence, the College continues a long and unique history of delivering an exceptional educational experience that meets the intellectual, moral,

and social needs of students representing 43 states and seven countries. Morehouse continues to be a distinguished institution dedicated to producing outstanding men and ethical leaders.

## **THE ROLE**

Morehouse College is seeking an exceptional leader to serve as its next president. This is a chance to lead a college rich in legacy, and to propel it to new heights of academic excellence, societal impact, and institutional strength. The next president will sustain growth, enhance the College's financial position, and advance the College's reputational value and demonstrated impact as measured by key internal and external metrics and outcomes.

At Morehouse, the community is diverse and vibrant. The next leader of the College will foster a culture of collaboration, respect, and meaningful engagement across all constituencies—students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni. With Morehouse's commitment to shaping the next generation of Morehouse men, the next president must be open to a broad range of perspectives, attuned to the complexities of identity and diversity in today's multifaceted world, and eager to empower the College's community to achieve its shared goals.

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT**

Building on a strong foundation, the next president will confront specific challenges and leverage them as opportunities to continue to advance the strength and impact of the College:

### **Invest in the Academic Enterprise to Drive Excellence**

Morehouse has a committed and highly regarded faculty who are teaching a growing student body. Retaining and attracting the caliber of faculty Morehouse deserves at the scale its ambitions require will take focused investment and careful leadership. The next president will work closely with the academic leadership to catalyze rigorous, high-impact programs that equip students with the broad knowledge base and acuity to thrive in a rapidly changing world. This includes supporting the recruitment of a diverse and talented faculty, fostering a strong research agenda that elevates Morehouse's national and global reputation, and ensuring the academic experience is aligned with the evolving needs of students and broader society.

Additionally, the president must be deeply committed to shared governance, building trust, promoting open dialogue, and ensuring transparent decision-making processes. As the principal leader and advocate, the president will ensure that faculty and staff are supported, valued, and empowered to contribute to the College's continued excellence.

### **Enhance the Student Experience and Improve Measurable Outcomes**

Morehouse has steadily expanded its reach and appeal, drawing an increasingly talented and diverse student body from across the United States and around the globe. With students representing 43 U.S. states and territories, as well as 7 countries, Morehouse continues to enrich its community with a wealth of perspectives and experiences. The next president will lead the charge to ensure that Morehouse remains a top choice for prospective students. While enrollment success serves as a strong foundation, improving student retention and graduation rates remain critical priorities. (As of 2023, the first-year retention rate is 80%, with a 4-year graduation rate of 40% and a 6-year graduation rate of 59%.) Improving these metrics must be a top priority for the next president as part of a broader commitment to enhancing student success and ensuring that every Morehouse student has the support needed to thrive and graduate with distinction.

Morehouse's reputation depends on the success and well-being of its students. Morehouse students choose the College not only for its academic rigor but also for its vibrant campus culture and the sense of pride they feel in being part of an institution with a powerful legacy. The next president must build on this pride – fostering a sense of belonging and engagement among students, while also prioritizing their academic success. Central to this mission will be creating programs and services that support student persistence, address barriers to success, and build stronger connections between students and the College. By focusing on improving retention and graduation rates, the president will directly impact the College's ability to maintain its reputation as the premier institution for Black, male excellence.

### **Sustain and Accelerate Fundraising**

Philanthropy at Morehouse has experienced a remarkable transformation in recent years, with record-breaking donations and investments from an increasingly diverse mix of sources. The president must not only be adept and agile in fundraising but also enthusiastic about both attracting and pursuing financial resources that will significantly advance the College's academic mission. The president will consult broadly to define the next set of institutional priorities, ensuring that Morehouse continues to build on its financial strength.

### **Develop and Empower a Strong Leadership Team that Drives Operational and Service Excellence Across the Institution**

As a complex academic enterprise, service excellence, operational efficiency, and seamless business processes are essential. The president will be responsible for building, empowering, and ensuring the accountability of a senior leadership team that facilitates effective management and service excellence across the institution. The president will work closely with the senior leadership team to ensure Morehouse is an efficient and well-managed institution. The president will bring a systems-oriented approach to the College's operations, driving improvements across the enterprise. This includes modernizing and implementing effective systems that ensure the efficient execution of projects and daily operations, reviewing staffing structures, and expanding professional development opportunities while maintaining a commitment to exceptional service for students, parents, faculty, alumni, and potential donors. Many of these initiatives will require long-term planning and investment to ensure their success.

### **Upgrade Campus Facilities and Infrastructure to Support Student Life, Teaching and Learning, Research, and Connectivity**

To build an even more attractive and adaptive campus, Morehouse must prioritize the upgrading of its facilities and infrastructure to create an environment that supports enhanced student life, teaching, learning, and research. As the needs of today's students and faculty continue to evolve, the next president will need to lead efforts to modernize campus spaces, ensuring that Morehouse remains a cutting-edge institution that meets the demands of the 21st century. This includes the development of state-of-the-art classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, and research facilities that foster innovation, creativity, and academic excellence.

Additionally, upgrading student housing, recreational facilities, and common spaces will strengthen the sense of community on campus and provide students with a well-rounded collegiate experience. To further expand the College's reach and influence, Morehouse must also invest in technologies and infrastructure that connect the campus to the world—building on its current digital programs and initiatives and enabling global collaboration and engagement. These improvements will ensure that Morehouse is equipped to foster the next generation of leaders, preparing them to thrive in an interconnected, rapidly evolving world.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The 13th president of Morehouse College will lead with the intellectual acumen, emotional intelligence, moral clarity, and strategic foresight necessary to guide Morehouse to achieve its mission and ambitions. The ideal leader will embody a profound commitment to Morehouse's mission to educate and empower Black men to become leaders in society. The president will be a constant, effective advocate for the College—communicating a compelling institutional vision and marshaling the relationships, resources, and capacity essential for success.

The successful president will bring a wealth of experience, personal integrity, and values that resonate with Morehouse's rich legacy and its future aspirations, with particular attention to the following:

- A strong executive leader who fosters accountability, drives innovation, and builds the organizational infrastructure that supports long-term success.
- A highly skilled communicator who will inspire, motivate, and educate internal and external audiences; strong listening skills and the ability to foster meaningful, respectful, and productive relationships with the College's varied constituencies, stakeholders, and partners.
- Proficiency in fundraising and financial management to secure necessary resources for institutional growth.
- A deep commitment to student development, well-being, and overall success.
- Experience working effectively with a supportive and engaged governing board.
- A leader for whom equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values, with a strong record of advancing diversity and fostering a culture of compassion, cultural fluency, and emotional intelligence.
- A steadfast defender of academic freedom and the values of a liberal arts education that creates space for a range of perspectives on complex intellectual, social, and political topics.
- A creative problem-solver, skilled in building consensus and challenging conventional thinking to develop innovative, forward-looking solutions.

**TO APPLY**

Morehouse College has engaged Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed electronically and in confidence to:

***Isaacson, Miller***

Ernest Brooks, Partner  
John Isaacson, Chair  
Alycia Johnson, Managing Associate  
Lehman Robinson, Associate

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/morehouse-college/president-2025>

*Nominations and applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Submissions by February 15, 2025, will receive priority consideration.*

*Morehouse College is an equal opportunity employer. No employee or applicant will be discriminated against in any condition of employment because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.*

## **APPENDIX – MOREHOUSE: THE ESSENTIAL CONTEXT**

### **LOCATION AND CAMPUS**

The City of Atlanta is a dynamic and historically significant metropolis known for its rich cultural heritage and its role as a major economic and transportation hub in the southeastern United States. Often called the "City in a Forest" due to its abundance of trees, Atlanta played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement and is home to landmarks such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. Today, Atlanta thrives with a diverse population, a vibrant arts scene, and a strong economy anchored by industries like technology, finance, and film production. With its unique blend of history and modernity, the city continues to attract residents and visitors from around the globe.

Morehouse College is situated in the heart of this vibrant city. Located just minutes from downtown Atlanta, Morehouse's 66-acre campus sits within the Atlanta University Center (AUC), the largest consortium of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the world. The AUC is also home to Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, and the Morehouse School of Medicine – creating a thriving academic community and collaborative environment.

Morehouse College's faculty and staff are thought leaders, researchers, innovators, mentors, and industry experts, all of whom contribute to the institution's mission of producing leaders with intellectual, moral, and ethical strength. The College is fortunate to have a dedicated, loyal staff committed to the institution's goals. With a steadfast commitment to maintaining a low student-to-faculty ratio, Morehouse employs more than 270 full-time and part-time faculty and over 600 full-time and part-time staff, all focused on providing personalized attention and support to ensure each student receives a high-quality education.

For more information about Morehouse College, please visit <https://morehouse.edu/>

### **CAMPUS LIFE & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

Morehouse College serves a dynamic and diverse student body of approximately 2,800 individuals, both on-campus and online. Nearly 86% of students are enrolled full-time, with 14% pursuing part-time studies. Approximately 98% of students identify as Black or African American, representing 43 states and territories, with the largest groups coming from Georgia, Maryland, California, Texas, and New York. The student body also reflects global diversity, with students hailing from 7 countries, including Kenya, Nigeria, and countries from the continent of South America.



The College's unwavering commitment to academic excellence is exemplified by the Class of 2028, which boasts an impressive average GPA of 3.7. For the Fall 2024 admissions cycle, Morehouse received over 7,000 applications, admitting just 43%. The demand for a Morehouse degree has never been stronger, with the College dramatically increasing its selectivity over the past decade—from an admission rate of 70% to just 43%—cementing its position as one of the nation's most selective and sought-after HBCUs. This growing selectivity reflects Morehouse's rising reputation and the increasing desire among prospective students to join its vibrant and distinguished community.

Since its founding, Morehouse College has been dedicated to inspiring, engaging, challenging, supporting, and mentoring students with the express goal of fostering both intellectual and character development. Morehouse employs a uniquely comprehensive curricular and co-curricular approach to student development and identity formation deeply rooted in demonstrating intellectual acuity, exemplifying integrity, exhibiting agency, committing to brotherhood, and leading lives of consequence. Students, known as Men of Morehouse during their matriculation, are imbued with what has come to be known colloquially as the 'Morehouse Mystique' en route to becoming a Morehouse Man upon graduation. Today's Morehouse Men are prepared to shape the future as leaders across a wide range of fields, industries, and settings.

While a Morehouse education begins in the classroom, it flourishes through a wide range of extracurricular activities and student-driven interests. The vibrant Morehouse campus is home to over 80 registered student organizations, each offering Men of Morehouse the opportunity to build community, explore hobbies and career aspirations, and develop leadership skills. From academic and athletic pursuits to cultural and artistic endeavors, these organizations empower students to lead on campus and prepare them for a lifetime of civic engagement. At Morehouse, education transcends traditional boundaries, nurturing students to become leaders with purpose, ready to impact the world.

## ALUMNI

Morehouse alumni have reshaped the world in countless ways – occupying prestigious positions across a wide range of fields. From artists and educators to corporate leaders, engineers, entrepreneurs, disruptors, scholars, and advocates, Morehouse graduates continue to make an extraordinary impact in their communities and beyond. Over the past century, Morehouse College has produced more than 22,000 distinguished alumni, including transformative figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Julian Bond, Maynard Jackson, Lerone Bennett, Jr., and George

Crockett, Jr., whose contributions have shaped history and advanced human progress. Today, Morehouse Men such as Raphael Warnock, Jeh Johnson, David Satcher, Spike Lee, Samuel L. Jackson, Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., and C. David Moody, Jr. continue this legacy, embodying bold, visionary leadership.

More than 16,000 living alumni are connected through the Morehouse College National Alumni Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1900 and one of the oldest such associations among HBCUs. With an active and engaged alumni base, the Association is organized into nine regions, each led by a regional vice president. In addition to its hub in Atlanta, alumni chapters are active across the nation, engaging in community service, networking, and professional development projects in major metropolitan areas such as Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.

## **FACULTY AND ACADEMICS**

The faculty at Morehouse College are mission-driven educators deeply committed to student success. They challenge and inspire students, transforming them into leaders in their respective fields. Morehouse professors have a long history of going beyond traditional teaching roles, often serving as mentors and investing in the academic and personal growth of their students. Faculty members recruited to Morehouse come from some of the most prestigious graduate and post-doctoral programs, both nationally and internationally. Many are drawn to the College's mission of developing men of character and leadership, and they are dedicated not only to teaching and student mentorship but also to ongoing research and scholarly engagement.

Morehouse College is the nation's only institution dedicated exclusively to empowering and developing Black men—a mission that now extends globally through online learning. The College offers 34 academic programs across four divisions: Business and Economics; Humanities, Social Sciences, Media, & Arts; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); and Professional and Continuing Studies. Morehouse's robust academic curriculum is complemented by extracurricular and co-curricular activities designed to enhance students' oral and written communication skills, foster an appreciation of world cultures and artistic expression, and deepen their understanding of the physical sciences. The College also emphasizes the development of critical professional skills, preparation for graduate studies, critical thinking, and the cultivation of personal attributes such as self-confidence, appreciation for diversity, ethics, spirituality, servant-leadership, a global perspective, and a commitment to justice.

The faculty is comprised of 136 full-time, tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty; 23 full-time visiting or temporary faculty, and 127 part-time instructional faculty. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1, excellence in teaching and student development are key expectations of faculty, as well as continuous engagement in research and scholarship.

### **Centers and Institutes**

Morehouse is home to a wide range of centers and institutes that empower students to lead, research, innovate, and create social change. The [Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership](#) fosters global citizenship through programs in social justice, civic engagement, and leadership development, while the [Black Men's Research Institute](#) advances inclusive scholarship focused on Black masculinities and social justice. The [Center for Black Entrepreneurship](#) and the [Morehouse Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center](#) provide vital resources, education, and mentorship to eliminate barriers for Black entrepreneurs, offering both academic curricula and co-curricular programs. The Morehouse Center for Excellence in Education (MCEE) develops future educators and leaders committed to transforming education outcomes in underserved communities. The Morehouse College Makerspace Exploration Center promotes hands-on learning and innovation, encouraging creativity and cross-disciplinary collaboration through emerging technologies like 3D printing and laser-cutting. The [Public Health Sciences Institute](#) (PHSI), established in partnership with the CDC, enhances diversity in the public health workforce, offering the only undergraduate Public Health minor in the Atlanta University Center Consortium, along with career counseling, leadership development, and Project Imhotep—an internship program dedicated to increasing underrepresented minority students in public health graduate programs and careers. The [HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success Research Center](#) focuses on improving outcomes for STEM students at HBCUs. Together, these centers provide Morehouse students with the knowledge, resources, and experiences to lead change, drive innovation, and create social impact both locally and globally.

### **Morehouse Online**

Morehouse College launched an online undergraduate program designed to complement its renowned traditional on-campus experience. [Morehouse Online](#) is a key part of the College's digital transformation strategy to offer innovative and comprehensive programs for non-traditional students and to expand Morehouse's reach beyond the physical campus in Atlanta.

The first programs were introduced in Fall 2021, beginning with a bachelor's degree completion program in business administration, with a concentration in management. These programs are

tailored for non-traditional students who have existing college credits and adult life experience, including those who previously enrolled at Morehouse but were unable to complete their degrees.

## **SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The [senior leadership team](#) of the College includes the following direct reports: Provost and Senior Vice President; Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Chief Brand Officer and Vice President of Strategic Marketing, Communications, and Admissions; Chief of Staff to the President; Dean of the College and Vice President of Student Services; Vice President of External Relations and Alumni Engagement; Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Chief Advancement Officer; Associate Vice President for Human Resources; and the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The [Board of Trustees](#) serves as Morehouse College's governing body. It is composed of distinguished individuals who have achieved remarkable success in their careers. Representing an array of fields, including higher education, business, consulting, religion, law, medicine, and civic engagement, the Board plays a crucial role in advancing the College's mission.

Historically, the Board has been a vital source of support and collaboration for the president of the College, facilitating connections with influential leaders across the nation and providing avenues for interaction with government officials. Driven by varied perspectives and lively discussions, the Board remains united in its purpose and is deeply committed to securing the College's future.

The next president will collaborate with the Board to ensure that Morehouse is well-equipped to navigate the challenges and opportunities within the ever-changing landscape of higher education and the global economy. While the Board is proud of the College's achievements, its members are dedicated to ongoing innovation and progress.

## **FINANCES**

Morehouse has a strong and stable financial position, reflected in its annual operating budget of approximately \$137.8 million. Enrollment and fees contribute 30 percent of this revenue, while

the remaining funds primarily derive from government grants and contracts (\$16.1 million in FY 2024), private gifts and giving (\$25.6 million in FY 2024), and auxiliary enterprises (\$23.65 million in FY 2024).

The College's endowment has seen significant growth in recent years, rising 16.5% to a market value of \$291.9M by the close of FY 2024, compared to \$250.4M the previous year. This growth is a testament to prudent fiscal management, stable enrollment, and an upswing in philanthropic contributions, all contributing to a much stronger financial position for Morehouse.

A \$500M capital campaign, [\*Making Men of Consequence: The Campaign for Morehouse College\*](#), was launched in 2021. To date, the campaign has raised approximately \$300M. Among the most notable gifts is a \$20M anonymous donation dedicated to expanding academic programs and establishing six endowed professorships to foster teaching and research across disciplines. Prologis Inc., the global leader in logistics real estate, contributed \$3M to support operations and academics within the Morehouse Real Estate Institute. Similarly, Dominion Benefits LLC, a national leader in affordable housing ownership and development, donated \$1.5M to bolster academic initiatives.

In FY 2024, alumni participation climbed to 16.5%, a 5-percentage-point increase from the previous year. Contributions from alumni nearly doubled, reaching \$9.8M compared to \$4.9M in FY 2023. These gifts have supported student scholarships, innovative academic programs, campus improvements, athletics, and faculty research and recruitment. From Giving Tuesday contributions to record-setting investments in student scholarships during the College's annual *A Candle in the Dark* Gala, alumni have reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to Morehouse's mission.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The College's current [2021-2026 Strategic Plan](#) aims to advance Morehouse's mission of attracting and educating Black men and other individuals who share the College's values. It also seeks to establish Morehouse as the national and global leader in the education of Black men while fostering a thriving, financially robust institution renowned for its commitment to excellence, social justice, and producing exceptional leaders.

The next president will play a vital role in collaboratively and inclusively shaping the vision for the next iteration of the College's strategic plan.