For some the gap is wide. Minority, first-generation and low-income students in particular face enormous challenges to successfully complete their education and launch viable careers. Helping these students reach their educational goals and become leaders in their communities is what the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program is all about.

Using all of the resources available to them through the Program—from internships and mentorships to team-building and one-on-one advising, as well as a strong foundation in the concepts and skills of entrepreneurship, our students are excelling. Hillman students graduate with real business experience, a network of professionals ready to take them to the next level, and many have polished resumes and business plans in place to assure their success. Indeed, that gap lies now far in their past and for them the sky is the limit.

Recent Hillman student accomplishments include:

- Two students were awarded Women’s and Gender Studies Program Scholarships for their work in promoting awareness of mental illness.
- A recent Hillman alumna was accepted into a prestigious graduate entrepreneurship program at Oklahoma State University.
- Many students enter UMD’s Limited Enrollment Programs in the Robert H. Smith School of Business, the A. James Clark School of Engineering, Government and Politics, and Biological Sciences.

“To me, an entrepreneur is a person who thinks out-of-the-box, questions the status quo, and tries to find new and better ways to do things. We want to give people confidence to fail, to try, to walk differently than anybody else. People will be successful if they set high goals and aim to achieve them. It will make the world a better place.”

— DAVID HILLMAN, CHAIRMAN AND CEO, SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT CORP.
“The Hillman Entrepreneurs Program provides Prince George’s Community College students with an extraordinary opportunity to follow their dreams, reach new heights, expand their academic accomplishments, and achieve their future business aspirations. With the assistance and guidance of our experienced faculty and dedicated mentors here on campus, current students remain focused on their educational goals, and others have graduated and transferred to the University of Maryland College Park. I am a firm believer that our students are our greatest asset, and I am thrilled to share in this partnership supported by the David H. and Suzanne D. Hillman Foundation. This collaboration will certainly allow us to continue to nurture and support future entrepreneurs.”
— Charlene M. Dukes
President, Prince George’s Community College

“Instilling the value of innovation and entrepreneurship across the University of Maryland is one of my highest priorities. The Hillman Entrepreneurs Program inspires students in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties to develop their talents and promote this entrepreneurial vision. The program continues to enrich the capabilities of our students, our faculty, and the Maryland business community. I commend David and Suzanne Hillman for their creativity and leadership in launching this terrific program.”
— Wallace Loh
President, University of Maryland, College Park

HILLMAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS RECEIVE:
• Scholarships covering two-thirds of the cost of tuition, including fees and books
• Entrepreneurship and leadership courses
• On-site, one-on-one mentoring
• Paid internships
• Associate degree

STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO UMD RECEIVE:
• Scholarships covering up to two-thirds of the cost of tuition
• Access to the Hillman Student Entrepreneurs Center, a professional and academic workspace, replete with a seminar room, modern computing facility, lounge area with kitchen amenities and a special “Idea Room” where they can brainstorm and hatch ideas in a trusted environment
• Minor in Technology Entrepreneurship
• On-site, one-on-one mentoring
• Impact Pre-Seed Fund: $500 to $5,000 grants for business plans that have a positive impact on society
• Access to Mtech’s entrepreneurship initiatives, including Entrepreneur Office Hours, Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center, Startup Shell, and VentureAccelerator Program
• Bachelor’s degree