

SAVING LIVES  
SALVAGING DREAMS

2022  
2023

# SAAB ANNUAL REPORT

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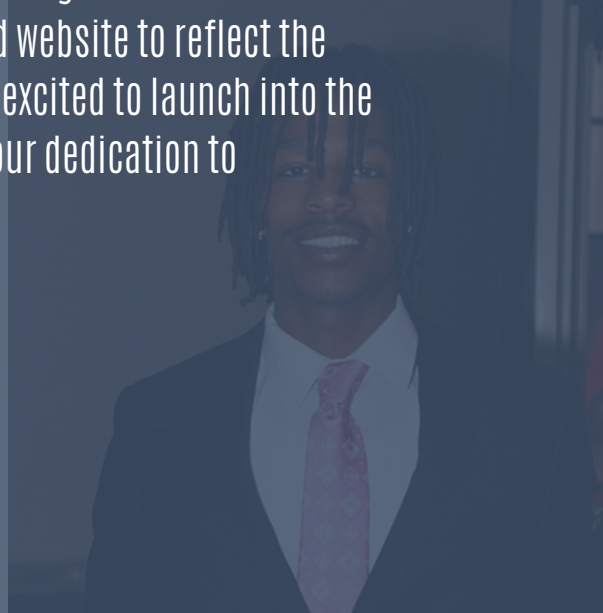
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# Introduction and Overview

SAAB is a national leader providing successful systems and educational pathways to support young men of all backgrounds with their educational pursuits at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels.

On October 17, 1990, Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe founded SAAB (formerly known as Student African American Brotherhood) on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University to address the dire academic and social challenges facing Black men on campus. However, these problems and challenges were not exclusive to Georgia Southwestern. Dr. Bledsoe recognized this need existed across many colleges and universities. Since 1990, the organization has grown to meet that need and has provided thousands of men of color with the mentorship, resources, and support needed to thrive. SAAB chapters are now on college, university, and high school campuses in more than 40 states. In July 2020, after spending 15 years in Toledo, Ohio, SAAB moved its headquarters to Springfield, Missouri.

The world is constantly evolving and at SAAB, we are evolving too. In the summer of 2020, we decided it was time to refresh our brand and website to reflect the evolution of our mission and the men we serve. We are excited to launch into the new year with a new look and a new style that reflects our dedication to brotherhood, community, and inclusion.



# Our Cause

01

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*Ensure that young men of color throughout the nation have the education-to-career support they need to achieve lives of purpose and success.* This will have a major impact in strengthening our communities and our workforce. But it will require an even broader and deeper array of partnerships than SAAB has built to date.

02

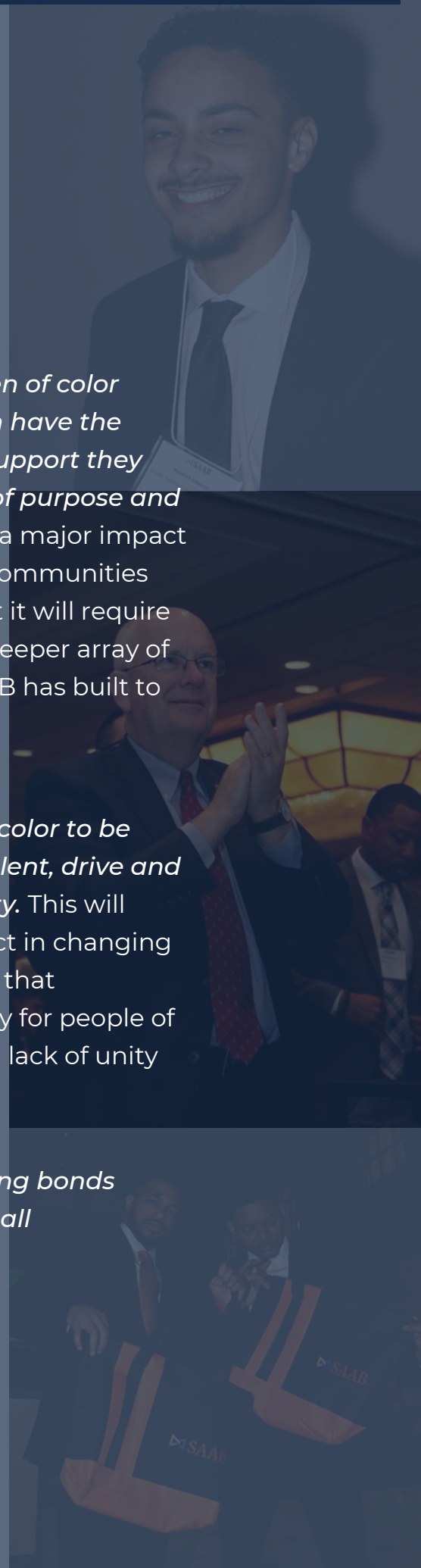
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*Enable young men of color to be recognized for their talent, drive and contributions to society.* This will have a profound impact in changing persistent perceptions that undermine opportunity for people of color and perpetuate a lack of unity across our culture.

03

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*Build and sustain strong bonds among young men of all backgrounds.*





# A Message From Our Founder-CEO

Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe is embarking on 33 years of sustainable success for men of all backgrounds.

Dear SAAB Family!

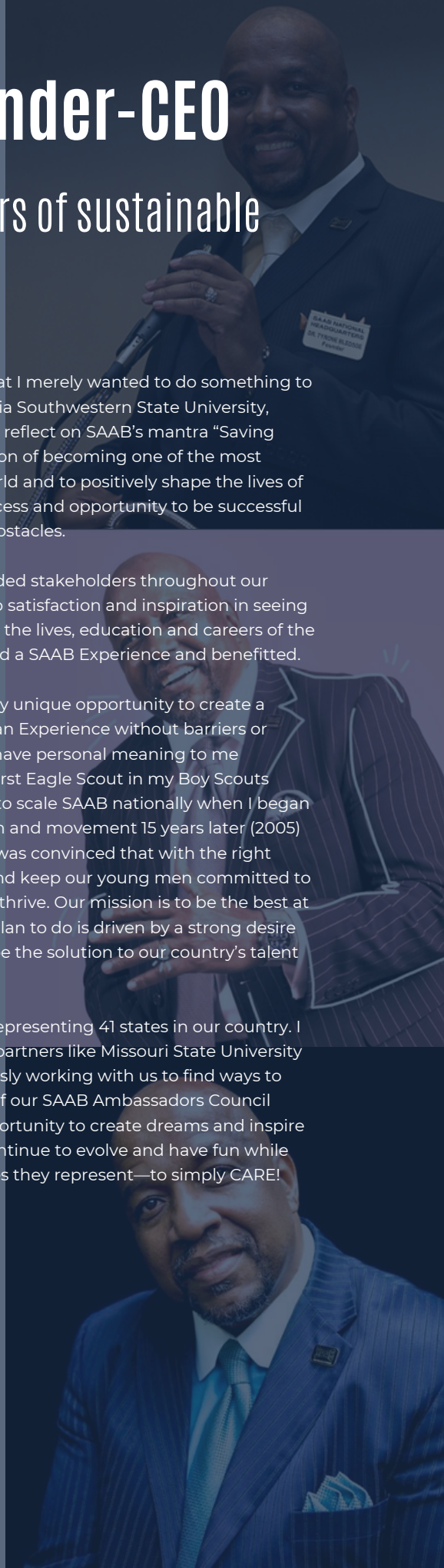
In 1990, I founded SAAB. The beginning of the SAAB story is pretty simple in that I merely wanted to do something to help a few young men fulfill lives of purpose on the founding campus of Georgia Southwestern State University, which happens to be the alma mater of 39th US President (Jimmy Carter). As I reflect on SAAB's mantra "Saving Lives and Salvaging Dreams", I immediately think about our overarching mission of becoming one of the most transformative experiences in the country designed to 'make a dent' in the world and to positively shape the lives of all of our SAAB participants. In other words, I wanted to humbly give others access and opportunity to be successful against the odds and in the face of what many described as insurmountable obstacles.

We are deeply appreciative and sincerely value our relationships with like-minded stakeholders throughout our headquarters city (Springfield, Missouri) and around the country. We find deep satisfaction and inspiration in seeing our ideas, innovations and plain hard work result in real, solid improvements in the lives, education and careers of the many thousands of young men who embrace the privilege to say they have had a SAAB Experience and benefitted.

Being the Founder of such an amazing social innovation has afforded me a very unique opportunity to create a Vision for what I felt was missing for young men in our country; and to design an Experience without barriers or constraints for participants. I have been able to establish the core values that have personal meaning to me especially being a longtime member of Rotary coupled with having been the first Eagle Scout in my Boy Scouts Troop {372} out of Grenada, Mississippi. Although I didn't initially have a vision to scale SAAB nationally when I began the work in the fall of 1990, I eventually saw the need for a national organization and movement 15 years later (2005) while serving as Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of Toledo. I was convinced that with the right partners, we could create a stellar national organization designed to engage and keep our young men committed to a culturally sensitive community that would allow them to not just survive but thrive. Our mission is to be the best at helping SAAB participants reach their fullest potential. Everything we do and plan to do is driven by a strong desire to nurture the much-needed talent of our young people so they can prove to be the solution to our country's talent shortage.

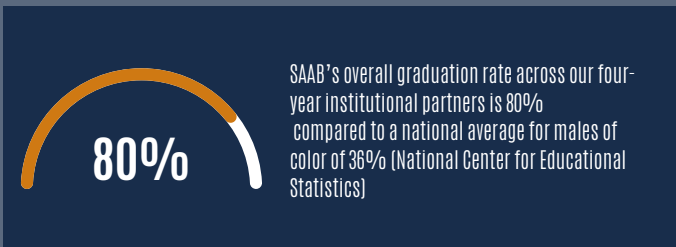
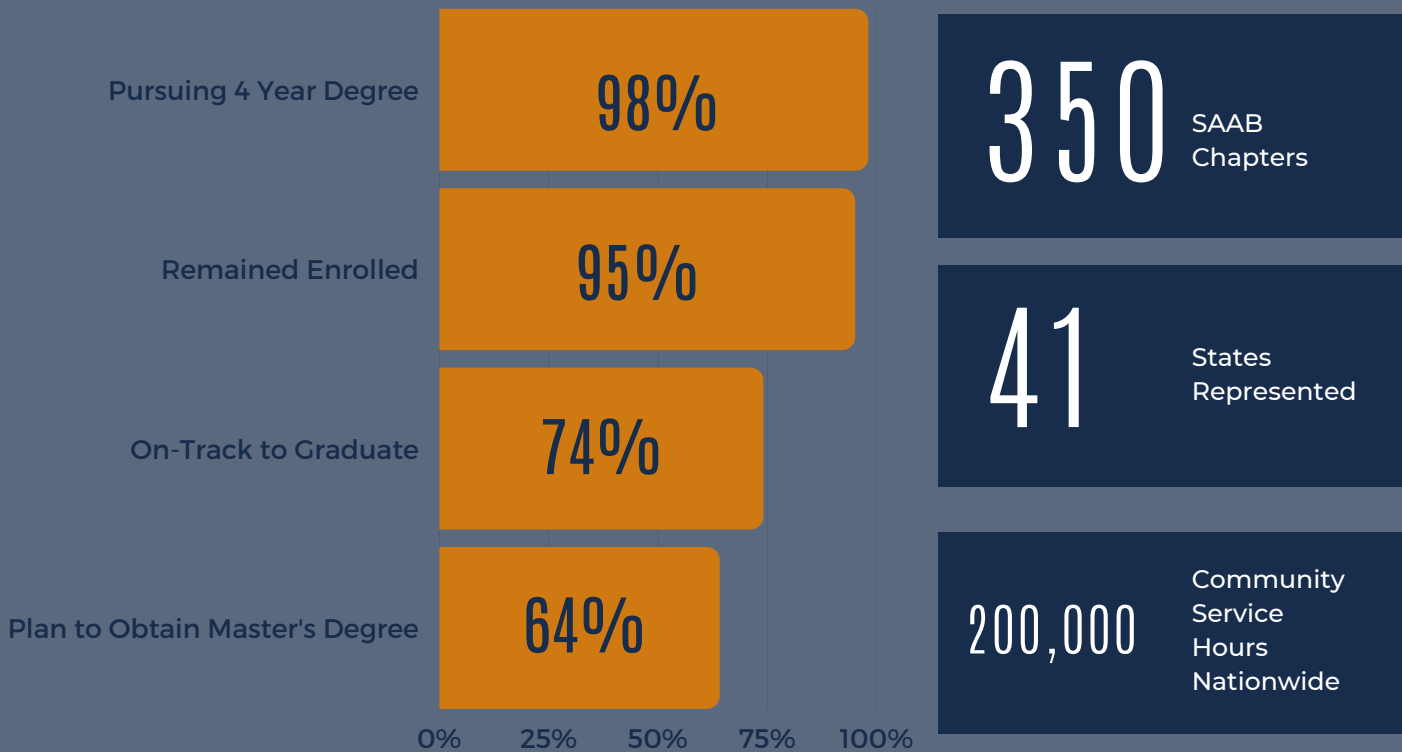
We are very proud of the fact that we have grown SAAB to over 350 chapters representing 41 states in our country. I am extremely excited for our future especially having platinum level member partners like Missouri State University who has supported our operational efforts beyond measure and are continuously working with us to find ways to deepen our partnership. Words cannot begin to express our gratitude for all of our SAAB Ambassadors Council members. We are certainly in a very privileged position: we have a unique opportunity to create dreams and inspire excellence in our participants. Only time will tell what lies ahead but we will continue to evolve and have fun while we create priceless moments and inspire our participants and the communities they represent—to simply CARE!

Founder-CEO



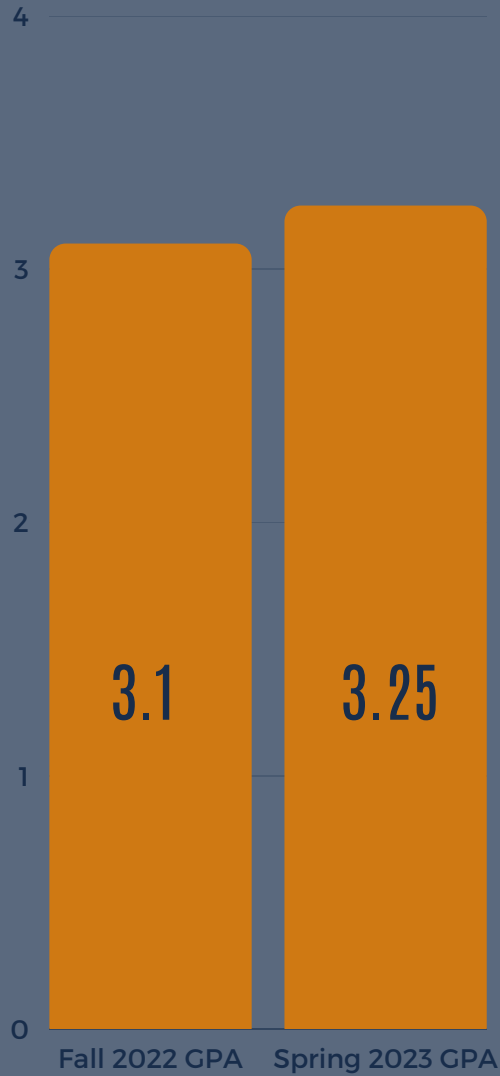
# Measuring SAAB's Progress, Success and Student Satisfaction

More than 80% of SAAB participants are African Americans, 15% are Latino/Hispanic and 3% are Caucasians and 2% are another ethnicity. Half have no parent who have a college degree, and one-third have one parent who did. A national, formative evaluation of SAAB at the four-year level conducted by Equal Measure about a decade ago involving a group of 18 SAAB chapters and 900 SAAB members during an academic year representing a variety of institutional characteristics including the age of the SAAB chapter, 4-year colleges, predominantly white institutions as well as historically black colleges and universities, and geographic location (e.g., Southeast, Midwest and Southwest) showed that:

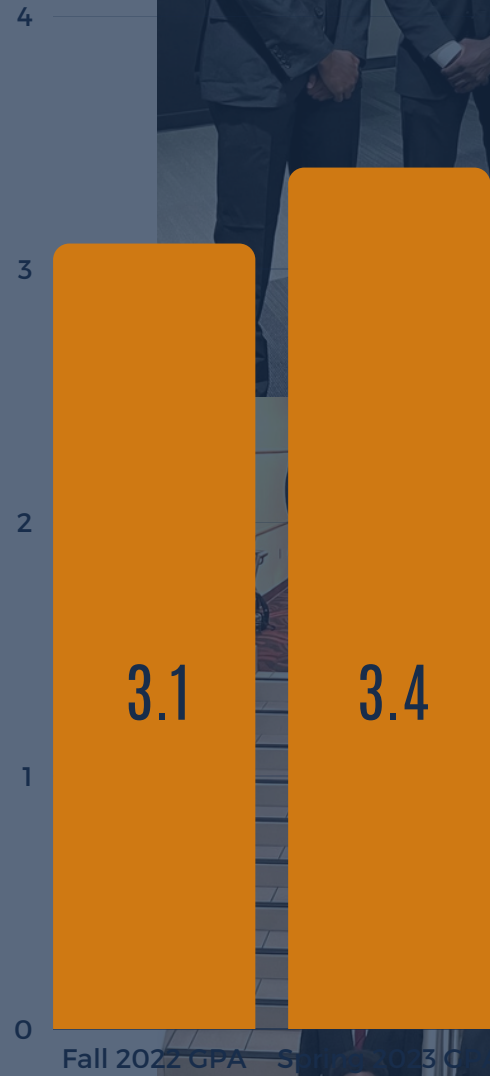


# In The SAAB Spotlight: Evangel University and Missouri State University Cumulative Chapter GPA

## Evangel University



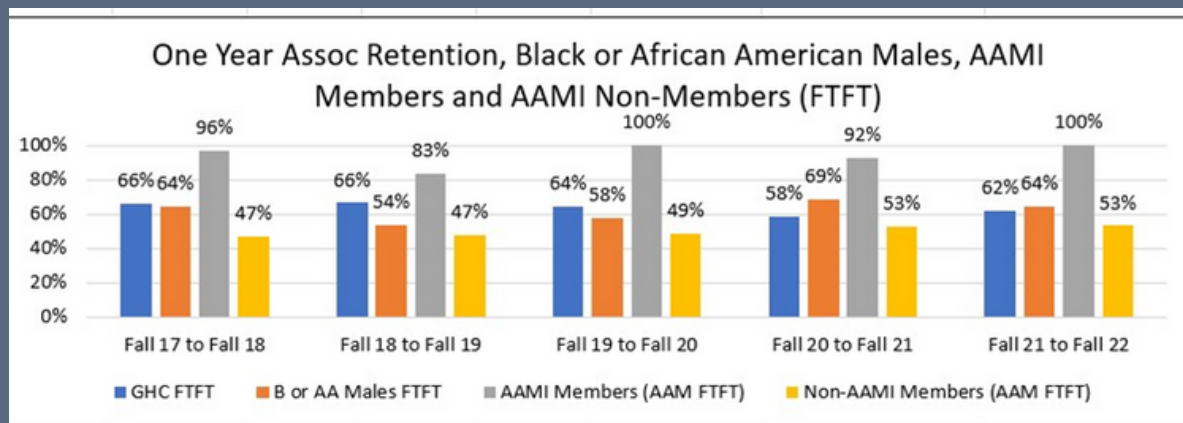
## Missouri State University



# In The SAAB Spotlight: Georgia Highlands College

Georgia Highlands College retention rates for participants in the Brother 2 Brother chapter (all campus sites) continue to be extremely high. For the most recent academic year, fall 2021-fall 2022, B2B members at Highlands had a 100% retention rate. By comparison, the overall student body had a 62% retention rate, and African American male students who were not part of the B2B organization had a 53% retention rate. Over the past five academic years, the lowest retention rate for Highlands B2B was 83% in Fall 2019. The remaining years have been in the upper 90% range or a perfect 100%.

At Georgia Highlands, B2B members are part of an African-American Male Initiative (AAMI). This chart shows the retention rates for the men who are members of B2B (noted as AAMI here)



In fact, Georgia Highlands has had the highest retention rate for African American Men in its University System of Georgia sector 7 out of the last 11 years, including the last four years in a row. Membership in B2B clearly makes an impact for GPA rates among men of color at Highlands.



# SAAB Student Testimonials

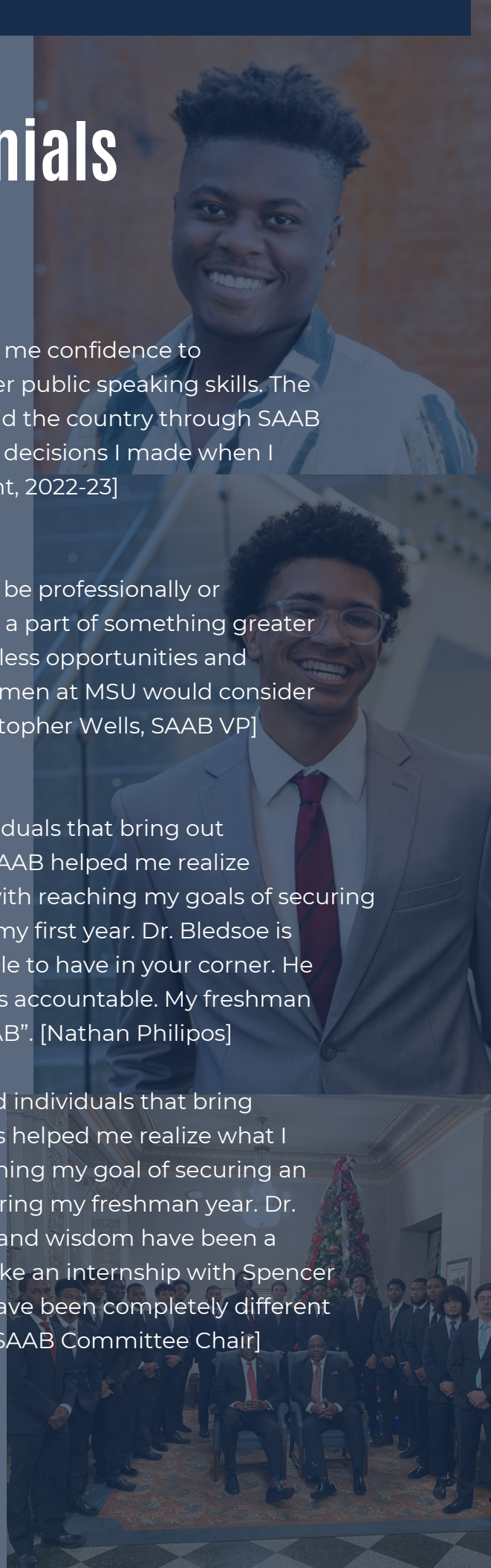
MSU SAAB Student Testimonials (2022-23) (Selected Few)

"SAAB has impacted me in so many ways. It has given me confidence to speak in front of large groups resulting in better public speaking skills. The network I've established on campus and around the country through SAAB is incredible. Joining SAAB was one of the best decisions I made when I arrived at MSU" [Anthony Lakin, SAAB President, 2022-23]

"SAAB has changed my life intentionally whether that be professionally or academically. Once you're apart of SAAB you're a part of something greater than yourself. My life began to change with endless opportunities and guidance bestowed upon me. I wish all young men at MSU would consider being a part of SAAB and that's our goal". [Christopher Wells, SAAB VP]

"SAAB has provided me a network of motivated individuals that bring out the best in me. Over the past academic year, SAAB helped me realize what I am capable of doing, and assisted me with reaching my goals of securing a summer internship and earning straight A's my first year. Dr. Bledsoe is one of the most inspirational and reliable people to have in your corner. He keeps all of our members on track and holds us accountable. My freshman year wouldn't have been the same without SAAB". [Nathan Philipos]

"SAAB has provided me with a network of motivated individuals that bring out the best in me. Over the past year, SAAB has helped me realize what I am capable of doing and assisted me with reaching my goal of securing an internship and earning straight A's during my freshman year. Dr. Bledsoe is a very inspirational and his reliability and wisdom have been a huge boon. He has helped me find resources (like an internship with Spencer Fane Law Firm). My freshman year would have been completely different without the help of SAAB." [Gabriel Patino, SAAB Committee Chair]



# Next Era of Work

Over the next 3-5 years, SAAB will focus its effort to develop a new strategic path to achieving the following objectives:

01

Expand the number of educational schools and institutions that have high-functioning SAAB (B2B) chapters.

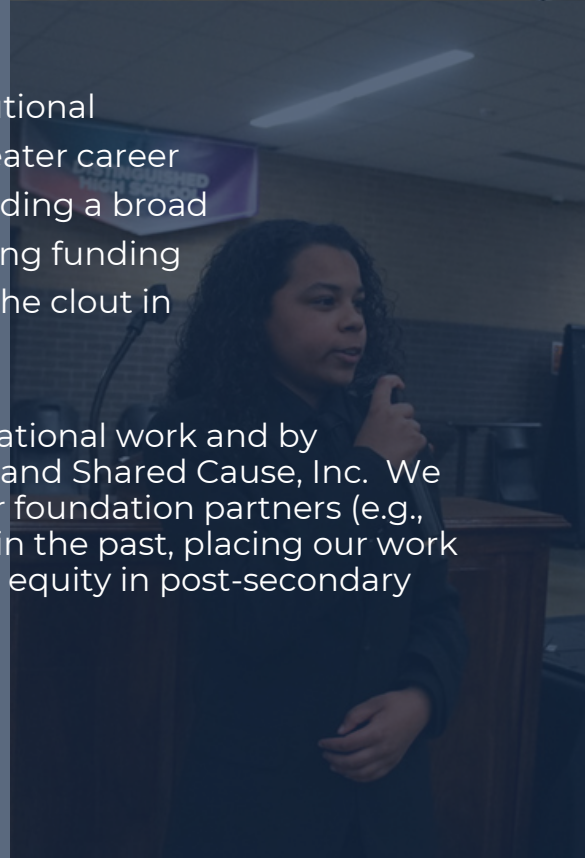
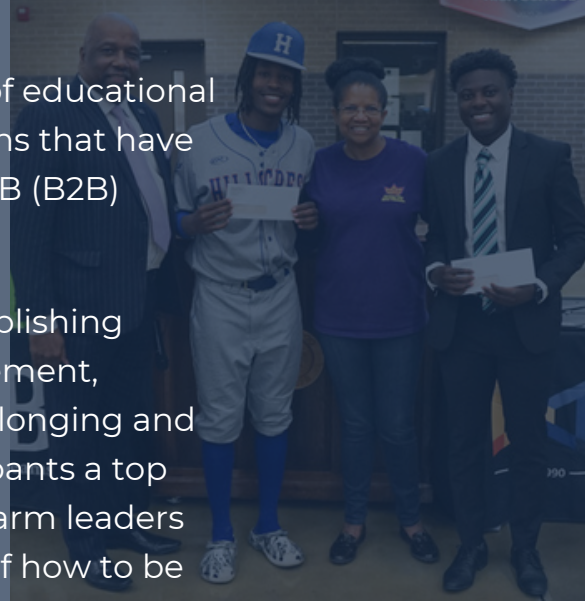
02

Make the goal of establishing systems of encouragement, guidance, sense of belonging and support for all participants a top national priority, and arm leaders with the knowledge of how to be successful at it.

03

Expand SAAB's institutional capacities, adding greater career pathway support, building a broad and continually growing funding base, and increasing the clout in support of our Cause.

Our strategies have been guided by our ongoing national work and by organizations such as Equal Measure, NEX Impact, and Shared Cause, Inc. We have also had the opportunity to assist many of our foundation partners (e.g., Kresge, ECMC) with various completion initiatives in the past, placing our work in the context of comprehensive efforts to increase equity in post-secondary attainment.





# A Special Thanks To Our Partners

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to SAAB.

SAAB Ambassadors Council (Local, Regional and National Partners):

Missouri State University  
Ozarks Community College  
Evangel University  
Drury University  
Community Foundation of the Ozarks (Missouri)  
Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation  
Springfield Public Schools (Missouri)  
Community Partnership of the Ozarks (Missouri)

Commerce Bank

Central Bank

Simmons Bank

Great Southern Bank

Arvest Bank

Guaranty Bank

City of Springfield

City Utilities

O'Reilly Auto Parts Headquarters

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Spencer Fane Law Firm

Burrell Behavioral Health Center

Springfield Area Rotary [5 Clubs] (Missouri)

Kresge Foundation

BMe

Dr. & Mrs. Algerian Hart (Missouri)

Galanes Family Foundation (Missouri)

Fogle Family Foundation (Missouri)

John Oke-Thomas & Associates Architecture Firm (Missouri)

JMARK Business Solutions Inc.

To help SAAB in its efforts to continue "Saving Lives and Salvaging Dreams", please donate at [saabnational.org/donate](http://saabnational.org/donate)

## Contact

SAAB National HQ  
P.O. Box 1961  
Springfield, MO 65801

[www.saabnational.org](http://www.saabnational.org)  
[saabnational@aol.com](mailto:saabnational@aol.com)  
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