



Cultivate Fellowship 2023 Wrap-Up

In fulfillment of [Ginkgo's commitment to build a more equitable society and company](#), we welcomed the second cohort of Cultivate Fellows this summer, adding eleven students to the program for a total of 23 Black STEM scholars representing 19 universities. Black STEM scholars report high rates of isolation as one reason for high rates of attrition. The [Cultivate Fellowship](#) is Ginkgo's way of trying to alleviate the barriers experienced by these talented students and reduce the marginalization of Black individuals in STEM.

The 2023 cohort of Cultivate Fellows consisted of 11 Black undergraduate students from eleven different institutions, including historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and a community college. Fellows were selected by members of the [Katherine Johnson Affinity Group](#). Professional development and networking were two focal points of the week. Fellows engaged in career exploration opportunities, discussions, and panels designed to expand their knowledge of the range of opportunities across STEM fields that are open to them.

Please refer to the agenda at the bottom of the page for details on the activities, panels, and discussions our Fellows participated in this year.

In addition to these on and off-site events and activities, the 2023 cohort had the opportunity to meet Ginkgo's [inaugural Cultivate Fellowship](#) cohort from the previous year, and engage in several meaningful conversations and panels with them. By bringing last year's group back to interact with and meet the 2023 cohort, we hope to plant the roots for a self-sustaining community of Black STEM scholars that has the potential to change the trajectory of Black individuals across all STEM fields.

In order to help build some more intra-STEM visibility for the program and its goals, Ginkgo's [Communications Team](#) and [Early Talent Team](#) worked together to feature the program in an article that was published by The Boston Globe. Please refer to the page below to read about some of the firsthand experiences of our Fellows throughout the week.

The Cultivate Fellowship on-site week in Boston was just the beginning of what we hope will be a long and meaningful relationship between Ginkgo and both our cohorts of Cultivate Fellows. Each Fellow will be paired with a mentor to continue to provide guidance and support surrounding their professional and academic journey, and will also receive an annual \$3,000 scholarship until graduation.

Lastly, the Early Talent Team would like to thank all the individuals involved in the creation and execution of this program, it could not have been accomplished without the hard work of many bioworkers across the company. Thanks to each of you for sharing your time, experiences, advice, and stories with the talented and driven young professionals who make up the 2023 Cultivate Fellowship cohort.

 [2023 Cultivate Fellowship Agenda.pdf](#)





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