Investing in the Last Mile for Women in Technology & Engineering Fields

The Last Mile Education Fund offers a disruptive approach to increasing wages and wealth for women while simultaneously addressing the diversity crisis in tech and engineering disciplines. While efforts to grow the talent pipeline in these high demand fields are working and enrollments are surging, still just 11% of students in the lowest income quartile earn a degree within 6 years of starting. We must bridge this gap.

Last Mile invests in degree completion for striving low-income technical women within four semesters of graduation. Using an abundance mindset, we provide agile, just-in-time financial support and connect students to social support resources to get them over the last mile to graduation and into career - ultimately creating a virtuous circle of investment, engagement, and reinvestment to sustain the fund long term.

Opportunity for Impact

- **76K** technical women within four semesters of graduation who live at or below 200% of poverty ($51,000 for a family of four)
- **34%** the wealthiest US students receive 34% more non-Federal financial on average than the poorest ($11,500 vs. $7500)
- **56%** of college juniors and seniors experience basic needs insecurity
- **$60M** in Last Mile investments over 10 years
- **23,000** aspiring technical women
- **$2.15B** increased wages for women by 2031
- **500K** new jobs in tech and engineering predicted through 2028
- **$43K** annual earnings premium for those with tech degrees over those with some college but no degree
- **75%** of the tech workforce was male in 2020, though women account for 57% of professional workers
Our Guiding Pillars

**ABUNDANCE**
Last Mile takes an abundance approach to who qualifies for support, selecting students based on their potential and demonstrated pursuit of their degree.

**INVESTMENT**
Last Mile views striving tech and engineering students as a high ROI investment opportunity that increases the tech talent pipeline, social mobility, and diversity of thought.

**AGILITY**
Last Mile responds quickly to the dynamic issues students encounter, provides immediate response to student needs, and directly addresses financial obstacles in their path to graduation.

**VIRTUOUS CIRCLE**
Last Mile creates a virtuous circle of investment, engagement, and reinvestment in which fund alumni pay-it-forward to those that follow.

Impact through Collaboration

Last Mile is situated within and leverages the existing ecosystem of tech inclusion organizations to deliver on our mission. Our robust Affiliate Partner program formalizes collaboration with key talent pipeline organizations that support historically marginalized groups in tech and engineering, enabling us to connect financially vulnerable students to additional resources and facilitate a ‘warm welcome’ into the networks and groups that will sustain and support them long-term.

Investment Opportunities

- **$500K** Invests in 375 women yielding $10.4M in earnings premiums over 5 years and a cumulative $67M by 2031.
- **$1M** Invests in 750 women yielding $21M in earnings premiums over 5 years and a cumulative $134M by 2031.
- **$5M** Invests in 3750 women yielding $104M in earnings premiums over 5 years and a cumulative $670M by 2031.
- **$10M** Invests in 375 women yielding $10.4M in earnings premiums over 5 years and a cumulative $67M by 2031.

"This means the world to me, and you have just restored my faith in trying and believing that there is help out there."
- Last Mile Grantee

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Last Mile is Ready to Scale

- Diverse, intersectional team of seasoned diversity and inclusion leaders with decades of experience and demonstrated successes.
- Tested and proven process and technology tools to enable rapid scale-up of program operations.
- Robust networks and relationships with the tech inclusion ecosystem of non-profits, academic institutions and inclusion advocates.