

# DIGITAL LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE TIMELINE

## PAUL QUINN COLLEGE

Over the past five years, Paul Quinn College has designed, piloted, and implemented an online learning program to accommodate the needs of traditional and adult students stemming from its vision of active learning online for social impact. Its flagship Urban Scholars Program builds on longstanding opportunities to recruit and engage students through structured coursework and advising, devised by faculty committed to online and hybrid learning approaches.

The timeline presents major milestones in Paul Quinn College's recent efforts to build its digital learning infrastructure (DLI), addressing the major events and contextual factors enabling its DLI to evolve to its current form. It provides insight into the institution's journey to build the Urban Scholars Program and scale it with administrative and faculty support.

### 2015

#### PAUL QUINN COLLEGE ADOPTS A NEW URBAN COLLEGE MODEL

A new student financial structure is implemented to reduce student tuition and fees and provide students with the ability to graduate with less than \$10,000 of student loan debt. The centerpiece of the New Urban College Model is Paul Quinn's decision to become the country's only "urban work college," laying the foundation for innovative program structures with greater reach.

### 2017

#### ONLINE AND HYBRID LEARNING EXPERIMENTATION

Paul Quinn leaders start experimenting with online and hybrid learning strategies to maintain the quality and flexibility of its corporate work program. Leaders spend time determining best strategies for coursework using only an hour and a half of real-time instruction. This strategic choice considers both emerging research on hybrid learning and the increased need for flexible course delivery for students.

# PAUL QUINN

## 2018-2019

### ALL CLASSES BECOME HYBRID

Paul Quinn moves from standard online classes to a hybrid model for each class with all pedagogy moved to Canvas as the Learning Management System (LMS).

## 2020

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC REQUIRES PAUL QUINN TO PIVOT ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION

The rollout of the Urban Scholars Program coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic, at which time Paul Quinn pivots to being fully remote for the academic year. COVID-19's disruptive effect on students' lives intensifies the realities students already faced: caregiving demands, intense work schedules, and the potential for illness and disability to impede their program progress.

### FACULTY LEAD ONLINE LEARNING PRACTICE

A small number of faculty form a committee to guide the creation of standards, norms, and training. Faculty share knowledge to elevate each other's expertise and instill a culture of continuous improvement.

## 2021

### BETA TEST OF FULLY REMOTE, SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE PROGRAM

The Urban Scholars Program, under the umbrella of the Honors College, utilizes Minerva University's proprietary Forum platform, creating a narrow set of degree offerings with a cross-curricular focus on social impact. Three program cycles are implemented with 20-25 students who were in traditional courses and are now in honors.

## 2021

### **LAUNCH OF ADULT LEARNER PROGRAMS SEPARATE FROM USP**

During summer 2020, Paul Quinn partners with Guild Education to offer a program menu to corporations (Chipotle, Lowes, and Waste Management) for their employees to attend Paul Quinn virtually. During summer 2021, Paul Quinn partners with the Student Resource Center to recruit union workers from the AFL-CIO and United Auto Workers (UAW) to attend virtually from select cities.

### **BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION AWARDS PAUL QUINN DIGITAL LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING GRANT**

Paul Quinn College is awarded the Digital Learning Infrastructure Capacity and Knowledge Sharing grant by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant focuses on capturing and broadly disseminating lessons learned and other key insights to increase awareness of equity-minded digital learning initiatives happening in the field.

## 2022

### **TWO DIRECTORS TO MANAGE ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

In the spring of 2022, Paul Quinn solidifies plans to hire two new directors to manage different facets of the online learning programs. A senior director will oversee all the online learning programs, including course development, curriculum, and Paul Quinn's certification programs. Another director will manage the Honors College and oversee its recruitment, enrollment, and administration.

### **URBAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM EXPANSION**

In fall 2022 Paul Quinn assesses plans to expand the Urban Scholars program to a full-scale immersive online program (Urban Scholars 2022). Hybrid Pedagogy Learning Communities are strengthening to train all faculty in both the Minerva Forum platform and design principles to cultivate faculty cohorts capable of continuously improving a hybrid learning model across all courses, regardless of platform.

## ABOUT THE SERIES

This timeline of Paul Quinn College is part of a series of knowledge sharing resources created as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Digital Learning Infrastructure Capacity and Knowledge Sharing investment. As the learning consultant, Equal Measure partnered with the foundation's Postsecondary Success team and with Howard University, Morehouse College, Paul Quinn College, and UNCF to inform foundation strategy as well as awareness about digital learning infrastructure that drives success for HBCU students specifically and equitable student success in higher education more broadly.