Capri launches scholarship program for fashion diversity

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Fashion conglomerate Capri Holdings' Foundation for the Advancement of Diversity in Fashion is starting a new scholarship program.

Through the program, the foundation will fund scholarships for nearly 100 students from historically underrepresented communities, including the BIPOC community, who are pursuing degrees in fashion and merchandising. Students will be selected from the program's partners Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), Howard University, Pensole Academy and Central Saint Martins University of the Arts London.

"Our brands are deeply committed to helping students of all backgrounds have greater educational opportunities and real-world experiences," said John D. Idol, chairman/CEO of Capri Holdings, in a statement.

"These scholarships are not just designed to ease students' financial pressures, they are also part of a larger effort to help remove systemic roadblocks and increase opportunities for racially and ethnically diverse students within the fashion industry."

Diverse fashion

The new scholarship program is part Capri Holdings' $20 million pledge to advance equality and promote long-term change in the fashion industry.
Capri launched the Foundation to promote diversity earlier this year. Image credit: Versace

In addition to tuition, room and board, the scholarships will also fund internship-related expenses for students obtaining internships within the fashion industry.

Through the development of on-campus recruitment, mentorship and scholarship programs, the foundation looks to position the next generation of talent and prepare students for successful careers in fashion.

"Our fashion design program was initiated in the fall of 2011 with the goal of preparing the next generation of artist-scholars and designers for careers in fashion design and related industries," said Phylicia Rashad, dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard University, in a statement.

"While our interdisciplinary program focuses specifically on critical elements of forecasting, production, evaluation, branding and sustainability of textiles, apparel and home furnishings in a global marketplace, we are committed to nurturing socially conscious leaders who can visually and verbally articulate their ideas and compete locally, nationally and globally."

The Foundation for the Advancement of Diversity in Fashion was established in February 2021 (see story).