

## EDUCATION

### Meeting needs where they exist.

Rust College, one of the oldest historically black liberal arts colleges in the United States, continues to play a critical role in higher education, particularly in the Mississippi delta community. While at first glance our grant to Rust College to help build a science and math facility appears to be a typical Kresge challenge grant, we see it and other grants like it, as emblematic of where we are headed. The values of creating opportunity for those with low-incomes, having a community impact and strengthening diversity are vital parts of our new work and our grant to Rust College is a perfect illustration.

The college engages an underserved population where 60 percent of entering students come from the 23 poorest counties in northern Mississippi and 89 percent receive Pell grants. In addition, 42 percent of Rust's students represent the first generation in their families to attend college. Our commitment at Kresge is to provide access to the very people Rust College chooses to serve.

Providing support at this time also is transformative for the college; in this capital campaign they will have raised five times as much as their previous private fundraising effort in 1990.

Our education work is rooted in a desire to address systematic and pervasive inequities. We support organizations and institutions working to address the critical challenges brought about by the global economy and the issues associated with educating a workforce capable of competing successfully in this economy. Four values represent our top priorities: creating opportunity/access, promoting diversity, advancing environmental conservation and community impact.