“Imagine if the only history you were taught was somebody else’s history,” says Dr. Keith Mayes. He’s working with Minneapolis public schools and others to create programs and courses infused with the experiences of students of color. The aim is to reduce dropout rates and suspensions and increase attendance. “When we started offering high school students classes in black history and culture, we learned they became more engaged in all of their classes,” Mayes says. “And once that light comes on, it stays on.”

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