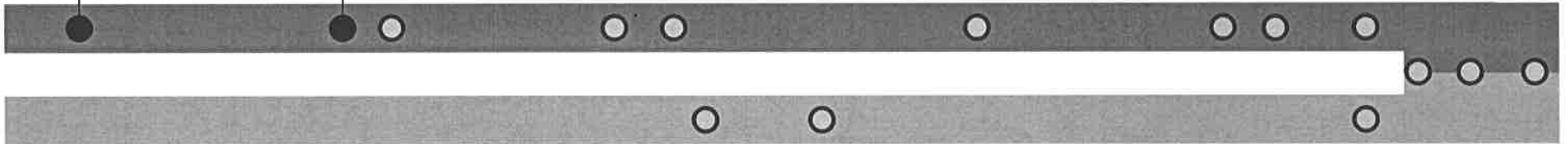


June 6, 1844

George Williams founded YMCA in London, England as a Christian organization for young men. The YMCA triangle symbol represents the principle of developing mind, body, and spirit.

October 21, 1821

George Williams is born.



**George
Williams
College**
of Aurora University

1851

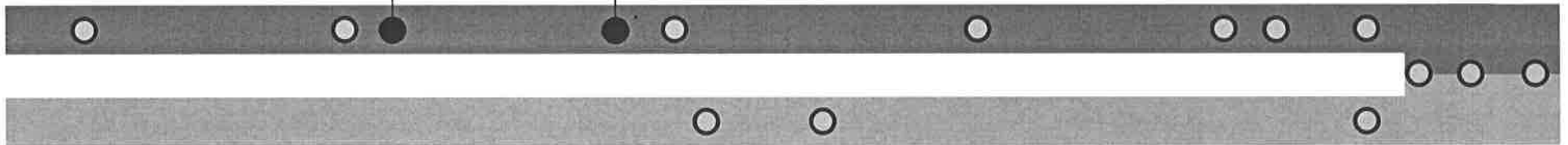
In November and December of 1851, YMCA opens in Montreal and Boston respectively.

1853

The first African-American YMCA opened in Washington, D.C. in 1853 by freed slave, Anthony Bowen.

1886

I. E. Brown, William Lewis, and Robert Weidensall open a professional YMCA training camp in Lake Geneva, WI.



**George
Williams
College**
of Aurora University

1890

The YMCA training camp moves to Hyde Park and transitions to a higher learning institution for human services professions including parks and recreation, education, and social work.

1893

Mendota Seminary is founded in Mendota, IL to prepare ministers in the Advent Christian Church. The name was changed within a few years to Mendota College and opened to liberal arts students.

GWC

**George
Williams
College**

of Aurora University

1933

The YMCA training school officially named George Williams College in honor of YMCA founder.

1966

George Williams college moved from Hyde Park to Downers Grove. The school's African-American population of approximately 20% caused racial tensions with the move to suburbs with a mostly white population.

1911

With donated money from Charles Eckhart, Mendota College moves to Aurora and changes the name to Aurora College. Classes begin in April 1912.

GWC

**George
Williams
College**

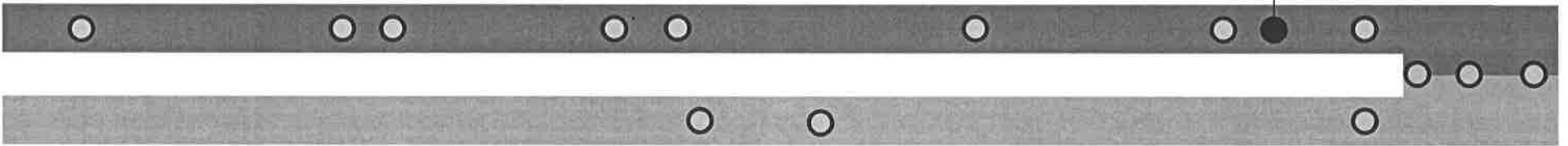
of Aurora University

1970

MSW Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CWSE).

1974

BSW Program is accredited by CSWE.

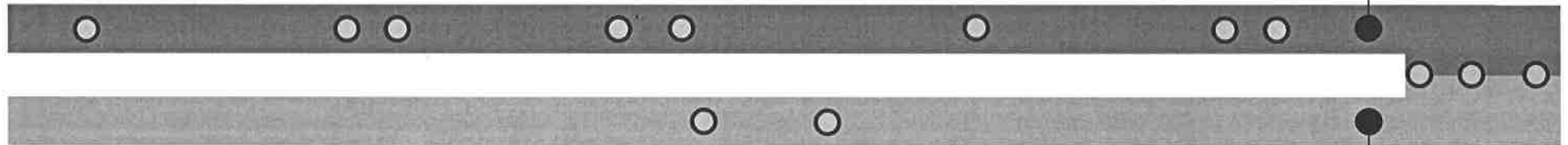


**George
Williams
College**

of Aurora University

1985

For financial reasons, George Williams College in Downers Grove closes. The social work and recreation programs continue through Aurora University.



1985

Aurora College changes its name to Aurora University with three degree-granting colleges.

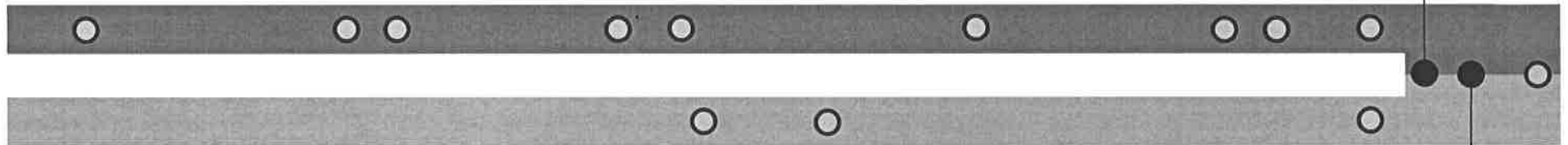


**George
Williams
College**

of Aurora University

1992

Aurora University and George Williams College begin formal affiliation.



2000

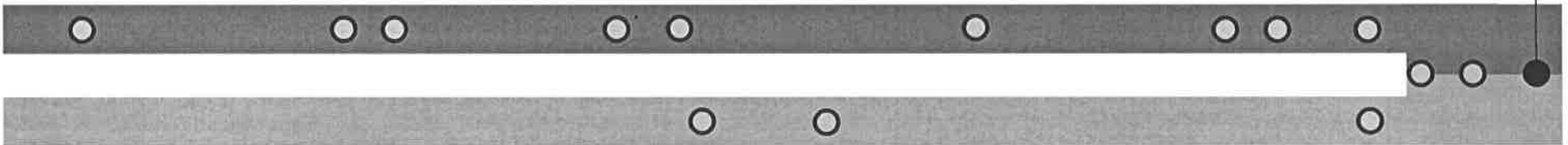
George Williams College and Aurora University fully merge as one institution with campuses in both Aurora, IL and Lake Geneva, WI.



**George
Williams
College**
of Aurora University



Currently, the School of Social Work at Aurora University offers Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate degrees at both Aurora campuses as well as George Williams College in Lake Geneva, WI.



**George
Williams
College**
of Aurora University