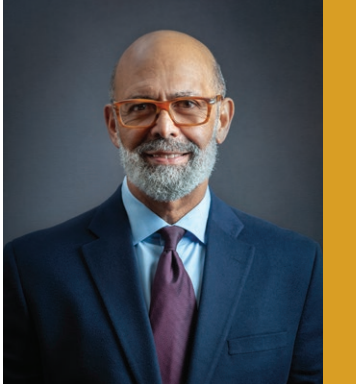
UNCF "A MIND IS..."®

GALA

WASHINGTON, DC 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

UNCF®



UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

Dear Friends,

I am truly honored to welcome you to the 82nd anniversary of UNCF's National "A Mind is..."® Gala held in the vibrant heart of our nation's capital. This evening, we gather not just to celebrate remarkable achievements but to reaffirm our commitment to the power of education and to fostering a culture of innovation and intellectual growth.

The National "A Mind is..."® Gala is a special event that brings together distinguished leaders in government, business and the community who possess the power to dismantle barriers and cultivate opportunities that will lead us toward a brighter future for all.

As UNCF President and CEO, I am eternally grateful for your presence at this event. Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless students who aspire to achieve their dreams and create a better future for themselves and their communities.

UNCF is leading the transformation of higher education in America. However, our success would be impossible without the support of partners and supporters like those we honor here tonight. Receiving the President's Award is actor, singer, entertainer and long-time friend of UNCF, Clifton Davis.

This year, I am also equally excited that we are presenting the UNCF Keeper of the Flame Award each to Pepco, FanDuel and the Jordan Brand.

Additionally, I want to extend special thanks to our gala sponsors: President's Circle sponsors—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Air Lines and The Coca-Cola Company, Legacy Circle sponsor—ExxonMobil and Visionary Circle sponsors—Alaska Airlines, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Bank of America, General Motors, Toyota and US Bank.

As we enjoy this evening of celebration and camaraderie, I encourage you to engage with one another, exchange ideas and inspire one another in this shared journey.

May this gala be a source of inspiration, connection and joy. Let us embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

Have an incredible evening!

Sincerely,

Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.
President and CEO, UNCF @DrMichaelLomax

UNCF
WHO WE ARE

SUPPORTING HBCUs
AND STUDENTS IN NEED
LEARN MORE **UNCF.ORG**

50,000+
students attending more than 1,100 colleges and universities and receiving UNCF scholarships

100,000+
annual donors including major companies, foundations and individuals

11,000+
scholarships awarded annually through more than 400 programs

37
HBCUs serving more than 50,000 students

ADVOCACY
for mission aligned institutions and underrepresented students

Last year, UNCF awarded
248 scholarships totaling $1.3 Million
to deserving students in Washington, DC.

UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

Welcome to the UNCF 82nd anniversary National "A Mind Is..."® Gala. On this important fundraising occasion for education, I am delighted for this opportunity to welcome and thank everyone here tonight.

UNCF is excited for this occasion to recognize and pay tribute to our 37 UNCF-member colleges and universities. We are proud of these institutions and take great pleasure in this opportunity to salute and thank the UNCF-member presidents for tremendous leadership and for our invaluable partnership.

We are pleased to acknowledge with deep appreciation the UNCF Board of Directors for extraordinary leadership and generosity in support of the gala this year. A special thank you to our leading 82nd annual Gala sponsors: President's Circle sponsors—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Air Lines and The Coca-Cola Company, Legacy Circle sponsor—ExxonMobil and Visionary Circle sponsors—Alaska Airlines, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Bank of America, General Motors, Toyota and US Bank. We are profoundly grateful to them and to all our corporate friends and gala supporters for partnering with us.

UNCF is honored to present the Keeper of the Flame Award to tonight's corporate honorees—Pepco, FanDuel and the Jordan Brand. We are pleased to acknowledge these distinguished honorees with this award commemorating extraordinary work that has made tremendous impact on the education of our youth.

We are extremely proud to recognize and present the UNCF President's Award to tonight's esteemed honoree Clifton Davis, actor, singer, entertainer and graduate of UNCF-member institution Oakwood University for his advocacy and steadfast support, demonstrated through his involvement in numerous UNCF initiatives beginning in 1974 with the very first national UNCF telethon.

During this evening's program, it is our great pleasure to present two dynamic individuals, Phyllis Adams and Lelia Bolden. We look forward to an unforgettable performance.

To our many special guests and to everyone joining us this evening, your presence and involvement contribute greatly to advancing the UNCF mission, and we thank you immensely for your support.

Enjoy the evening!

Sincerely,

Maurice E. Jenkins Jr. D.H.L.
Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, UNCF

A MIND IS
GIVING SOCIETY

"A Mind Is..."® National Gift Recognition Societies honor individuals who have generously invested in the future of UNCF and our students.

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AMBASSADOR ANDREW J. YOUNG SOCIETY

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INVESTORS IN BETTER FUTURES SOCIETY

1944 SOCIETY

For more information, or to make a donation, please contact **LaJuana.Chenier@UNCF.org** or make your gift online at **UNCF.org/MajorGifts.**

UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

UNCF 82nd "A MIND IS..."® AWARD RECIPIENTS

UNCF PRESIDENT'S AWARD HONOREE

Clifton Davis
Actor, Singer, Songwriter and Minister

UNCF KEEPER OF THE FLAME LEGACY AWARD HONOREES

Pepco
Accepting Award, ***Amber Perry***
Vice President of Governmental & External Affairs and Region President, Pepco

FanDuel
Accepting Award, ***Keita Young***
Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy

Jordan Brand
Accepting Award, ***Wayne Pinkney***
Director of Basketball, Sports Marketing, Nike

UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 37 private member colleges and universities and advocates for the importance of minority education. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 18% of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 50,000 students at over 1,000 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."® **Learn more at UNCF.org**.

UNCF-MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Allen University Columbia, SC
Benedict College Columbia, SC
Bennett College Greensboro, NC
Bethune-Cookman University Daytona Beach, FL
Claflin University Orangeburg, SC
Clark Atlanta University Atlanta, GA
Dillard University New Orleans, LA
Edward Waters University Jacksonville, FL
Fisk University Nashville, TN
Florida Memorial University Miami, FL
Huston-Tillotson University Austin, TX
Interdenominational Theological Center Atlanta, GA
Jarvis Christian University Hawkins, TX
Johnson C. Smith University Charlotte, NC
Lane College Jackson, TN
LeMoyne-Owen College Memphis, TN
Livingstone College Salisbury, NC
Miles College Birmingham, AL
Morehouse College Atlanta, GA
Morris College Sumter, SC
Oakwood University Huntsville, AL
Paine College Augusta, GA
Philander Smith University Little Rock, AR
Rust College Holly Springs, MS
Saint Augustine's University Raleigh, NC
Shaw University Raleigh, NC
Spelman College Atlanta, GA
Stillman College Tuscaloosa, AL
Talladega College Talladega, AL
Texas College Tyler, TX
Tougaloo College Tougaloo, MS
Tuskegee University Tuskegee, AL
Virginia Union University Richmond, VA
Voorhees University Denmark, SC
Wilberforce University Wilberforce, OH
Wiley University Marshall, TX
Xavier University New Orleans, LA

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Marriott International
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At time of printing.

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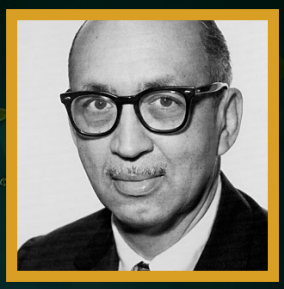
1944-PRESENT

Frederick D. Patterson
FOUNDER

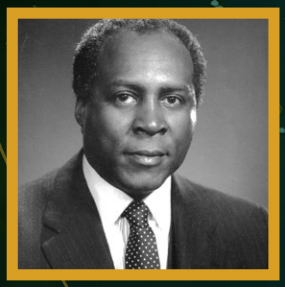


William J. Trent
1944-1964

Frederick D. Patterson
1964-1966

Stephen J. Wright
1966-1969

Harry V. Richardson
1969-1970

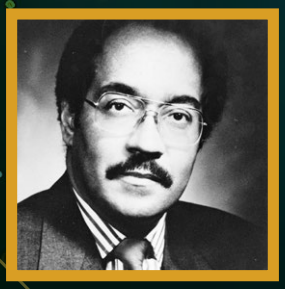


Vernon E. Jordan Jr Esq.
1970-1972

Arthur A. Fletcher
1972-1973

Christopher F. Edley
1973-1990

Virgil E. Ecton
(Acting) President 1990-1991



William H. Gray III
1991-2004

Michael L. Lomax
2004-Present

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Dr. Monique Guillory
Dillard University

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Mr. Michael J. Cleveland

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THE EVENING'S PROGRAM

PRESIDENTS' VIDEO

ANTHEMS
Star Spangled Banner

"Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"
Performed by Ronald Johnson, Morgan State Junior

INVOCATION
Dr. Christopher B. Davis
President of LeMoyne-Owen College

WELCOME
Maurice E. Jenkins Jr.
Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, UNCF

REMARKS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Dr. Michael L. Lomax
President and CEO, UNCF

Milton H. Jones Jr.
Chair, UNCF Board of Directors

Dr. George T. French Jr.
President, Clark Atlanta University
Member, UNCF Board of Directors

UNCF CORPORATE KEEPER OF THE FLAME AWARD
Pepco
Accepting on behalf of Pepco, ***Ms. Amber Perry***
Vice President of Governmental & External Affairs and Region President, Pepco

UNCF CORPORATE KEEPER OF THE FLAME AWARD
FanDuel
Accepting on behalf of FanDuel, ***Keita Young***
Vice President of Advocacy and Public Policy

UNCF VIDEO

FUND APPEAL
Taylor Jackson, Student, Miles College
Dr. Bobbie Knight, President, Miles College

SPONSOR VIDEO PRESENTATION
The Coca-Cola Company
Delta Air Lines

D I N N E R

ENTERTAINMENT
Song Rise To Thee
Phyllis Adams and Leila Bolden.

UNCF CORPORATE KEEPER OF THE FLAME AWARD
Jordan Brand
Accepting on behalf of Jordan Brand, ***Wayne Pinkney***
Director of Basketball, Sports Marketing, Nike

UNCF PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Clifton Davis
Actor, Singer, Songwriter and Minister

FINAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANK YOU
Maurice E. Jenkins Jr.

(subject to change)

UNCF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Clifton Davis

ACTOR, SINGER, SONGWRITER AND MINISTER

Clifton Davis is a versatile artist – actor, singer, composer, producer and minister – who has captivated audiences worldwide for over 40 years. He is known for his five-year portrayal of Reverend Rueben Gregory on the beloved comedy series "Amen." Davis stars as Vernon Dupree on "BEYOND THE GATES."

Davis began his acting career in New York City with the Broadway production of "Hello, Dolly!" After six years and five Broadway shows – including a Tony nomination for "Two Gentlemen of Verona" – he transitioned to Hollywood where his career flourished.

Davis would later return to the theater stage with starring roles in the acclaimed shows "Guys and Dolls," "Pal Joey," "Aladdin" and "Wicked."

His television credits include 42 episodes of "Madam Secretary", "Blue Bloods" and his trailblazing role opposite Melba Moore in "The Melba Moore & Clifton Davis Show." Additionally, he starred in "Godfather of Harlem," "Clipped," "Iron Fist," "Billions, "New Amsterdam," "The Good Fight," "Political Animals," "Mr. Box Office," "The First Family" and "Murder in Manhattan," among many others.

Alongside acting, Davis found success as a Motown songwriter, earning a GRAMMY® nomination for "Never Can Say Goodbye," famously performed by The Jackson 5, and writing songs for the Supremes and the Miracles.

Davis is a devoted advocate for social, civic and spiritual causes. He has received over 125 awards from organizations such as the SCLC, World Vision, UNCF and the NAACP. As a licensed Christian minister, his interdenominational ministry spans more than 35 years. For 26 years, he was a beloved host of TBN's "Praise the Lord" and has hosted several notable gospel music specials, including "Gospel Superfest," "Take It to the Bridge," "The Stellar Awards," "The Dove Awards" and "The Black Achievement Awards."

Davis holds a BA in theology from Oakwood University and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He has received honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Lincoln University, Paine College and Edward Waters College, a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity International University and a Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Hartford.

UNCF KEEPER OF THE FLAME
LEGACY AWARD

pepco℠
AN EXELON COMPANY

Pepco

ACCEPTING AWARD, **AMBER PERRY**
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENTAL & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
AND REGION PRESIDENT, PEPCO

As a committed funder and partner of UNCF, Pepco continues to be a loyal supporter of UNCF and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in its region (across DC and Maryland), the area which includes Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, through its Community Scholars Program, Pepco provided $400,000 in grants to these two schools, providing gap funding for limited- and moderate-income students pursuing degrees in energy related fields, such as Engineering, Mathematics, Urban Sustainability, Business Management, and Communications. In 2023, through Pepco's HBCU Power Partnership initiative, the Washington DC-based Pepco demonstrated its resolve to not simply providing scholarships – but to also building a diverse energy workforce to power the nation's future.

Understanding the needs of students around the country, and as part of a partnership with UNCF, Pepco's parent company, Exelon, and the Exelon Foundation have provided more than $3M—over nearly twenty years—to make meaningful impact to students who are building their knowledge and preparing themselves to become the future energy workforce.

UNCF KEEPER OF THE FLAME
LEGACY AWARD

FanDuel

ACCEPTING AWARD, **KEITA YOUNG**
VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY

True to its commitment to making an impact in the communities in which it operates, FanDuel has supported thousands of HBCU students with millions of dollars in grants, beginning with the 2021 launch of the UNCF/FanDuel partnership and a $1 million grant to the UNCF Emergency Student Aid (ESA) Fund. Since then, this partnership has grown to comprise four FanDuel ESA programs with a combined $4.2 million in grants, significantly bolstering UNCF's ESA Fund.

By providing crucial financial support for students' emergency needs, FanDuel is enabling these students to concentrate on and persist in their academic endeavors. FanDuel ESA programs have supported 2,610 students enrolled in 22 HBCUs across Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and North Carolina, positively impacting not only students but also HBCUs and the surrounding communities where FanDuel operates.

FanDuel is a committed partner helping UNCF expand opportunities for HBCU students and strengthen the institutions that serve them. Together, we are empowering students to excel academically and make meaningful contributions to their communities and our nation.

UNCF
KEEPER OF
THE FLAME
LEGACY AWARD

The Jordan Brand

ACCEPTING AWARD, **WAYNE PINKNEY**

DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL, SPORTS MARKETING, NIKE

For Jordan Brand, inspiration comes from the life story of basketball icon Michael Jordan himself. His journey continues to inspire young people to reach higher and define greatness for themselves.

Jordan Brand is a proud supporter of rising stars attending HBCUs, and the Wings Scholars Program was developed to provide access to educational opportunities for young people from economically challenged communities. The program is designed to support students as they pursue and further their education, paired with mentorship and wraparound support. It is intentionally built for students from all backgrounds—not just those with perfect academic records—because greatness takes many forms.

The Wings Scholars Program is rooted in the belief that education is a powerful tool for unlocking potential and expanding opportunity. With the right support, students are empowered to chart their own paths and define greatness on their own terms. Through this work, Jordan Brand continues to invest in communities and partner organizations that share a commitment to access, opportunity, and long-term impact. Today, Jordan Brand collaborates with 28 partners globally to help support students on their educational journeys and reduce barriers to success.

As Michael Jordan has said, education is one of the most valuable tools we can provide young people to help them achieve greatness. That belief is at the heart of Jordan Brand's Purpose—and why UNCF is honoring Jordan Brand as the 2026 recipient of the "Keeper of the Flame" Award.

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Investors in Better Futures Society
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Gregory George Cunningham

WASHINGTON, DC, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

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Ed Smith-Lewis
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ENTERTAINMENT

SONG RISE TO THEE

Phyllis Adams and Lelia Bolden

As we gather for this extraordinary gala, we stand united in purpose and possibility, rooted in community and called forward together.

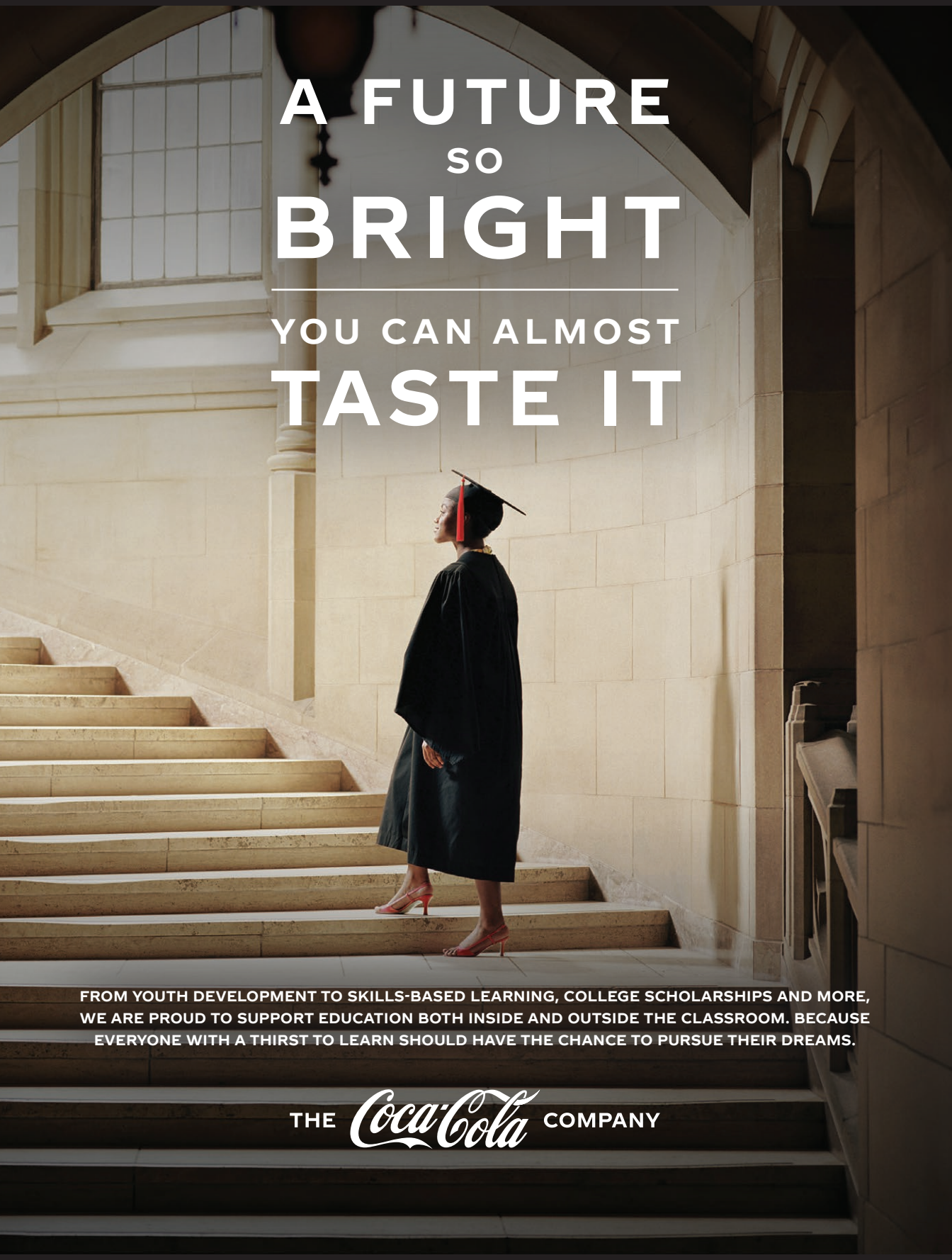
Tonight, we are honored to welcome Song Rise To Thee, a sacred music duo whose ministry has lifted hearts for nearly two decades through inspirational hymns, spirituals and classical sacred works offered with excellence and devotion.

The voice you will hear is that of Phyllis Adams, a gifted coloratura soprano whose calling is to usher listeners into the presence of God through song. Phyllis is a proud graduate of Bethune-Cookman University.

She is accompanied by the extraordinary Lelia Bolden, an accomplished pianist and music educator whose artistry and spiritual sensitivity bring depth, power and grace to every note. Lelia is a proud graduate of Clark Atlanta University.

Phyllis and Lelia recently received global recognition when they were invited to minister in song at the state funeral of President Jimmy Carter — a moment that reflected a lifetime of faith, humility and purpose.

Together, Song Rise To Thee embodies the spirit of UNCF — unity in community, creativity in expression and self-determination in using one's gifts to serve something greater than oneself.


A FUTURE
SO
BRIGHT
YOU CAN ALMOST
TASTE IT
FROM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TO SKILLS-BASED LEARNING, COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE, WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT EDUCATION BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. BECAUSE EVERYONE WITH A THIRST TO LEARN SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.
THE Coca-Cola COMPANY

HELPING BRIGHT FUTURES
TAKE OFF.
Proud to support UNCF's 2026 National "A Mind Is..." Gala.
DELTA
IN THE COMMUNITY
KEEP CLIMBING
DELTA
SKYTEAM

TOYOTA

Driving Potential, Powering Progress

Toyota Motor North America is proud to support the 82nd annual UNCF National "A Mind Is..."® Gala. Together, we are investing in brighter futures and limitless opportunities for the next generation of leaders.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated
Proudly Congratulates UNCF on their
82nd Anniversary

Thank you for Continuing to Build
the Next Generation of American Leaders.

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. celebrates with UNCF. You have made an indelible impact in the lives of more than 500,000 men and women by contributing to their educational journey. Thanks to you, communities have received countless leaders who have invested back in the communities where they work and live.

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Bank of America is dedicated to supporting the academic achievement and career success of the next generation. Together with UNCF, we're building a brighter future for the leaders who will shape our world.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO UNCF ON ITS 82ND ANNIVERSARY.

Congratulations
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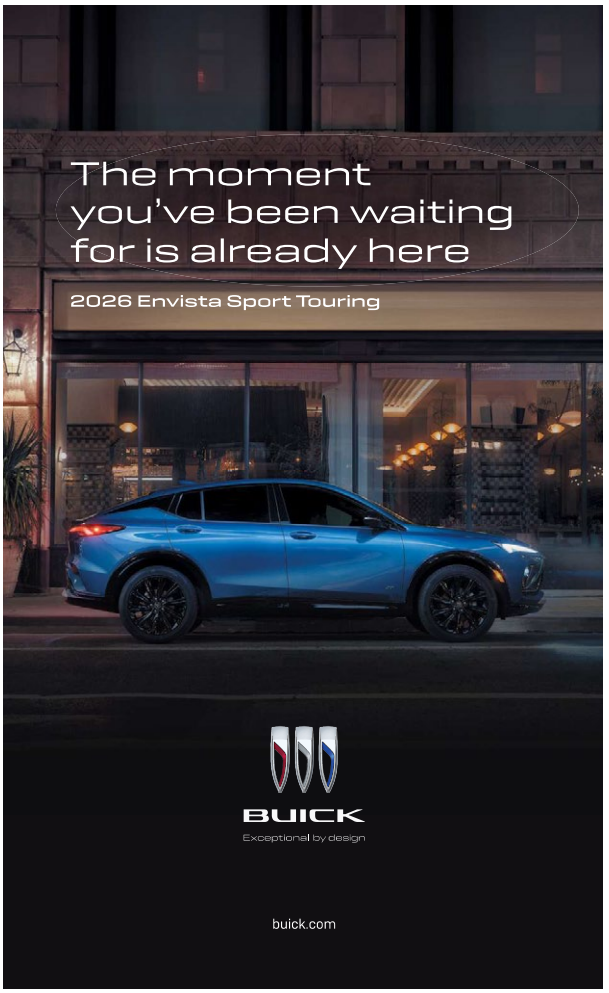

CRADLE TO Career

A college education changes the trajectory of students' lives, ending generations of under achievement.

52% OF HBCU STUDENTS ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILIES TO GO TO COLLEGE

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