

Fall 2026

“A Mind Is...”[®] Giving Society



We are excited to share this issue of our **“A Mind Is...”[®]** Giving Society newsletter with you. The “A Mind Is...”[®] Giving Society honors UNCF donors who make an annual gift to the organization of \$1,000 and above. Each year, qualified donors are inducted into the society and receive special recognition noting their membership. In this issue, we feature AMI society members who partner with us in educating the next generation of leaders and changemakers as well as a student who is a recipient of a UNCF scholarship.

If you would like to be featured, or to learn more about the AMI society, please contact us at 202.810.0168 or visit [here](#).

AMI Member Spotlight



Why I Give: Attorney Reginald J. Brown Invests in Community and Education

Attorney Reginald J. Brown's commitment to UNCF is rooted in his educational journey. From an early age, he was supported by a community that rallied around him, helping set him on a path to Harvard University, a career in law, and a strong commitment to giving back.

Brown, a partner in the Washington, DC, office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and a former attorney in the White House Counsel's Office, continues to support UNCF as a major-gift donor, helping to expand educational opportunities for students nationwide.

As a member of the Ambassador Andrew J. Young Society, he celebrates UNCF's expansion of educational access, which equips all students with the tools for success. "If you work hard, get a good education, and play by the rules, you have a chance to get your piece of the American Dream," he shares. "UNCF expands the number of people who get a chance to achieve America's promise."

Inspired by his community's selflessness, Brown adopted an outlook that defied limiting circumstances. "This [experience] greatly broadened my horizons and gave me a sense of what was possible," he explained.

Click [here](#) to read more of Mr. Brown's story.

Student Spotlight

Your support is far-reaching and life changing. You make a difference in the lives of countless deserving students when you donate to UNCF. Students like Maxwell, who feels empowered by your support and is committed to finishing strong.



Maxwell M.
Business Administration
and Political Science

"I'm achieving things I never thought possible. This scholarship allows me to focus on my academic journey and my development as a leader without the financial stress that often comes with pursuing a degree.

I am so thankful for your investment in me and for being a vital part of my success."

To learn more about Maxwell, please click [here](#).

AMI Events

UNCF area offices in San Francisco, Michigan, South Florida and Houston honored members of the "A Mind Is..."® Giving Society with a special recognition at their UNCF events. Congratulations to the inductees!



(L-to-R) Tony Lee, Craig Lee, Honorable Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, Dr. Michael L. Lomax, President & CEO, UNCF, Monica Sudduth, Vice President Western Division, UNCF, and Wayne Jackson.

The Honorable Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, an Ambassador Andrew J. Young Society member, received the President's Award in March, at the Bay Area "A Mind Is..."® Gala. She celebrated the occasion with her friends and family.

Mayor Lee shared the importance of this night on her social media page. *"Saturday night, I was humbled to receive the President's Award at the United Negro College Fund "A Mind Is..."® Bay Area Gala. I don't take recognition like this lightly. Fighting to expand funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and first-generation students was some of the most important work I did in Congress — so to be recognized by UNCF for that fight means everything."*



The Honorable Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee with Maurice E. Jenkins, Jr., Executive Vice President/CDO, UNCF.



(L-R) Rod Gillum, Linda Gillum, Jay Charles Levine (President's Giving Society), Patrice M. Neal, Regional Development Director - Michigan Region, UNCF, Tawanna Streater, Vice President, Development - Midwest Division, UNCF and Rose Davis.

In February, the UNCF Michigan "A Mind Is..."® Gala "*Lighting the Way to Better Futures*" honored their AMI Giving Society members in attendance.



(L-R) Roxanna Blissett, Development Director, UNCF, Sunrise Mayor, Michael J. Ryan, President of Florida Memorial University William McCormick, and Maurice E. Jenkins, Jr., Executive Vice President / CDO, UNCF.

AMI members in South Florida were honored at the 25th Annual South Florida Leader's Luncheon at the Marriott Harbor Beach, Fort Lauderdale.

UNCF South Florida's 25th Anniversary Leader's Luncheon was not only a beautiful celebration but also a powerful reminder of what happens when a community comes together and says, "Our students matter, and their dreams are worth investing in." As we continue to 'Light the Way from Promise to Prosperity,' thank you for standing with us.



(L-to-R) Therese Badon, Senior Vice President - Southern Division, UNCF, Zarinah Poole, Area Development Director - Houston, UNCF, Mrs. Diana White and Mr. Elijah White.

Elijah and Diana White were honored at the 36th Annual UNCF South Texas – Houston “*A Mind Is...*”® Gala for their membership in the Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole Society. To learn more about their legacy of supporting education, please click [here](#).

“A Mind Is...”[®] Giving Society



Dr. Frederick D. Patterson
\$10,000,000 +



Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
\$1,000,000 - \$9,999,999



UNCF President's
\$100,000 - \$999,999



Ambassador Andrew J. Young
\$25,000 - \$99,999



Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole
\$5,000 - \$24,999



Investors in Better Futures
\$1,000 - \$4,999



1944 Society
Planned gifts

The UNCF “A Mind Is...”[®] Giving Society honors individuals who have generously invested in the future of UNCF and our students. Your contribution helps UNCF achieve our mission to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of students at HBCUs and help them become highly qualified graduates and leaders in our society. Donors receive membership at the appropriate society level based on their giving within the calendar year. Membership is renewable annually.

For information on how you can be a part of the “A Mind Is...”[®] Society or to make a gift, please contact LaJuana Chenier, Senior Vice President Major Gifts, at 202.810.0168 or email Lajuana.chenier@uncf.org.

UNCF Major Gifts

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