

INNOVATE

Innovations at HBCUs: Spotlighting Groundbreaking Research and Achievements



SEVERAL UNCF-MEMBER INSTITUTIONS ARE MAKING STRIDES IN RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT. TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY IN TUSKEGEE, AL IS LEADING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES AND IS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS WORK IN BIOETHICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have long been pillars of academic excellence and cultural significance. From fostering influential leaders to advancing social justice, HBCUs have consistently led the way in driving progress. Today, institutions supported by UNCF continue to innovate, making remarkable strides in research, technology and community impact.

Leading Research in Health Disparities: Tuskegee University and Morehouse School of Medicine

Several UNCF-member institutions are leading efforts to address health disparities. Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL is recognized for its work in bioethics and public health including research aimed at improving health outcomes for underserved populations. Meanwhile, Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA continues to produce culturally competent and highly skilled physicians while advancing research in areas such as cardiovascular disease and maternal health—both of which disproportionately impact Black communities.

Tech and STEM Innovation: Benedict College and Clark Atlanta University

UNCF-member institutions are also driving innovation in STEM education. Benedict College in Columbia, SC, has established a cutting-edge Cybersecurity Center to equip students with the skills needed to address global security challenges. Similarly, Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA, leverages its data science and machine learning programs to provide students with hands-on experience in rapidly growing technology and analytics fields.

Sustainability and Environmental Justice: Florida Memorial University and Dillard University

Environmental sustainability is another area in which UNCF-member institutions are making significant contributions. Florida Memorial University in Miami, FL, has launched a Climate Resiliency Center to promote renewable energy solutions and educate students on environmental stewardship. The center addresses the disproportionate impact of climate change on Black communities, which face higher risks of displacement from extreme weather events and greater exposure to industrial pollution.

Similarly, Dillard University in New Orleans, LA integrates climate resilience into its curriculum through its Center for Sustainability, empowering students to tackle ecological challenges in urban and coastal areas. By addressing these environmental injustices, these institutions advance research while fostering solutions that benefit the communities most affected by climate change.

Supporting Student Success Through Innovation: Spelman College and Xavier University of Louisiana

UNCF-member colleges continue to prioritize student success through innovative programs. Spelman College in Atlanta, GA offers a Center for Innovation & the Arts, which promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and encourages students to explore the intersection of art, technology and

entrepreneurship. Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, LA, operates a renowned pre-med program that combines rigorous academics with mentorship and research opportunities, resulting in one of the nation's highest medical school acceptance rates.

Embracing Digital Transformation: Livingstone College and Miles College

UNCF-member institutions are embracing digital transformation to enhance the student experience. Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC, recently introduced a state-of-the-art e-sports lab, blending academics with competitive gaming to attract and engage students. Similarly, Miles College in Fairfield, AL, is integrating virtual reality into its curriculum, providing students with immersive learning experiences that bridge theory and practice.

Innovation has always been at the heart of HBCUs—a reflection of resilience, creativity and an unwavering belief that education has the power to change lives. From cutting-edge research to impactful community programs, these institutions continue to break barriers and create opportunities for future leaders. Across UNCF's 37 member institutions, innovation is not only transforming classrooms and research labs; it is driving economic mobility, advancing technology and strengthening communities nationwide. By investing in UNCF, you support these centers of progress and advance America's collective future—one where the breakthroughs born on HBCU campuses help create a more equitable, prosperous and educated society for all.