



HBCU VALUE PROPOSITION

College degrees are both more essential and more expensive than ever. At the same time, household incomes for most American families – and African-American families in particular – have remained stagnant or declined in real terms. To make matters worse, federal student aid has not kept pace with the need.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are leading the way to help ensure that minority students can obtain the postsecondary education and workforce skills that they need to be successful in today's economy.

HBCUs disproportionately enroll low-income, first-generation and academically underprepared minority college students – precisely the students that the country most needs to earn college degrees in order to remain globally competitive.

HBCUs outperform non-HBCUs in retaining and graduating African Americans by 14 percentage points, after controlling for the socioeconomic status and academic preparation of enrolled students.ⁱ

Moreover, a new Gallup surveyⁱⁱ confirmed that HBCUs are successfully providing African-

American graduates with a better college experience than non-HBCUs.

- 55% of African-American HBCU graduates say their college prepared them well for post-college life versus 29% for African-American non-HBCU graduates.

HBCUs are 3% of all four- and two-year colleges and universities, but

- enroll 10% of African-American undergraduates,
- produce 18% of African-American college graduates, and
- graduate 25% of African Americans with bachelors' degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.ⁱⁱⁱ

Despite limited resources,^{iv} HBCUs have a track record of keeping costs affordable for their students.

- In 2013, the average cost-of-attendance at all HBCUs was 28% or \$8,401 lower than at other four-year public and private nonprofit colleges and universities.^v

ⁱ UNCF Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute. 2012. *Understanding HBCU Retention and Completion*.

ⁱⁱ Gallup-USA Funds *Minority College Graduates Report*. 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ UNCF Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute analysis of 2013 data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

^{iv} The average endowment across all HBCUs is only \$28 million, compared with \$115 million across other institutions surveyed by National Association of College and University Business Officers and Commonfund Institute. *U.S. Department of Education, White House*

Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities' HBCU Data Dashboard. 2014.

National Association of College and University Business Officers and Commonfund Institute. (2016). 2015 NACUBO-Commonfund Study of Endowment (NCSE) Results.

^v UNCF Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard.