



Press Release

CONTACT

Robin Byrd
UNCF Richmond – Virginia
804.359.1581
robin.byrd@uncf.org

Hampton Roads UNCF Mayors' Masked Ball Announces Co-chairs Alexis N. Swann and Dwayne B. Blake

Local Virginia mayors, celebrities and corporate plan to come together virtually to benefit deserving students and historically Black colleges and universities.

Newport News, VA (Jan.07, 2021)—The fourth annual Hampton Roads UNCF (United Negro College Fund) Mayors' Masked Ball, a signature black-tie fundraising event will be re-imagined as a digital experience packaging together an extraordinary virtual gala affair due to COVID-19 to take place online at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, March 20, 2021. This year's UNCF Masked Ball honorary co-chairs are Alexis Swann, president, Towne Bank, and Dwayne Blake, corporate vice president, investor relations, Huntington Ingalls Industries.

“Alexis and Dwayne are both incredible people who've done a tremendous amount of good for their community,” said Robin Byrd, area development director, UNCF. “As proud HBCU graduates of Howard University and Hampton University, respectively, we are honored to have them serve as honorary co-chairs for this event and extremely grateful for their support.”



Swann received a Women in Business Award in the category of finance by *Inside Business* magazine and the YWCA “Women of Distinction Award.” As president of both the Peninsula and Williamsburg regions at Towne Bank, Swann oversees six branches and more than 50 banking professionals. She also provides direction for community support and Towne's regional philanthropic efforts. With more than 29 years of experience in the financial services industry, Swann volunteers her time doing presentations in fairs, schools, and expos within the market. Active in her community, she serves as a member of the Board of Visitors for

Virginia Commonwealth University, the State Board for Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, the Fear to Freedom Board and the Riverside Hospital Board and the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation Board. Swann received the Community Builders Award by HRCAP and was honored as one of the Peninsula Humanitarians of the Year by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities in 2019.



As corporate vice president, investor relations, Huntington Ingalls Industries, (HII). Blake acts as the primary interface between the investment community and the company. Blake educates institutional investors and research analysts on the company's business strategy, operations, and financial results. Active in his community, in 2018, Gov. Ralph Northam appointed Blake to the Norfolk State University Board of Visitors. He also serves on the board of directors for Boys and Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, Riverside Regional Medical Center and Habitat for Humanity Peninsula/Greater Williamsburg. In recognition of his professional accomplishments and extensive community involvement, he was recognized as Role Model of the Year by the Virginia Peninsula chapter of 100 Black Men of America in 2015.

The virtual event will be featuring special entertainment, a digital booth experience, a paddle raise, silent auction, an HBCU charge with a special recognition of the 2021 UNCF Masked Award Honorees and more. The previous event enabled the local UNCF office in Richmond to provide more than 1.5 M in scholarships in the 2019-2020 academic year to deserving Virginia students.

Award-winning actress Wendy Davis and journalist Roland Martin will serve as emcees for the event including the mayoral host committee, Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander (Norfolk), Mayor Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer (Virginia Beach), Mayor Michael D. "Mike" Duman (Suffolk), Mayor McKinley L. Price, DDS (Newport News) as Host City, Mayor Shannon E. Glover (Portsmouth), Mayor Donnie Tuck (Hampton), Mayor Dr. Richard W. "Rick" West (Chesapeake), and Dr. Hakim J. Lucas, President and CEO of Virginia Union University, UNCF member institution. The Honorable Dr. McKinley L. Price is the Host Mayor.

"UNCF has strived to change the HBCU narrative across the nation," explained Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO, UNCF. "Events such as the Hampton Roads Mayors' Masked Ball raise awareness of our mission and equip more students of color with the resources necessary to transition into college, graduate and ultimately expand and diversify America's highly educated workforce."

For information on sponsorships or to donate, please call 804.359.1581, e-mail robin.byrd@uncf.org or visit www.uncf.org/hamptonroadsmmb

Follow this event on social media #UNCFHamptonRoads #UNCFVirginia #UNCF @UNCF

##

About UNCF

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) 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, supports and strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding nearly 20% 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 60,000 students at over 1,100 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized trademark, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."[®]

Learn more at UNCF.org or for continuous updates and news, follow UNCF on Twitter at [@UNCF](https://twitter.com/UNCF).