

INVEST

# Tennis Champion Coco Gauff Gifts UNCF \$100,000 to Create Scholarship for HBCU Students Playing Competitive Tennis



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNCF, THE COCO GAUFF TENNIS SCHOLARSHIP WAS CREATED FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES COMPETING ON INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS TEAMS AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUS). THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS UP TO \$8,500 IN NEED-BASED AID TO HELP COVER RISING TUITION COSTS. (PHOTO CREDIT: WANG HE / STRINGER)

**I**n Fiscal Year 2025, UNCF announced a \$100,000 gift from tennis champion Coco Gauff to provide scholarships for historically Black college and university (HBCU) students playing competitive tennis.

“We are incredibly grateful to Coco Gauff for her generous \$100,000 gift to UNCF, which will significantly impact the lives of HBCU students aspiring to excel in competitive tennis,” said Maurice E. Jenkins, Jr., executive vice president and chief development officer, UNCF. “Her commitment not only showcases her dedication to education and athletics but also inspires the next generation of student-athletes to pursue their dreams. This gift reinforces the importance of supporting our young leaders and ensuring they have the resources necessary to succeed both on and off the court.”

At 20, Gauff is one of UNCF’s youngest major gift donors. She supports HBCUs because she recognizes their value and the role they play in communities. Several members of Gauff’s family have attended or currently attend HBCUs.

“My family has a deep-rooted history with HBCUs, going all the way back to my great, great grandfather,” Gauff shared. “From aunts and uncles to cousins, HBCUs have played a huge role in shaping who we are. Supporting UNCF in creating opportunities for student-athletes in tennis means a lot to me. As a young Black athlete, I understand how impactful it is to see people who look like me thriving in both sports and education. I want to help the next generation of student-athletes continue pursuing their passion for tennis while reaching their academic goals. My hope is that this scholarship gives more young Black players the confidence to chase their dreams, knowing they have a strong community behind them and a bright future ahead.”

In recognition of Gauff’s 2023 U.S. Open victory, the United States Tennis Association committed \$3 million to refurbishing tennis courts across the country. North Carolina Central University, a public HBCU in Durham, NC, was also granted \$21,000 as a part of this initiative.

Gauff has won nine Women’s Tennis Association (WTA)-tour level singles titles including the 2023 U.S. Open and the 2024 WTA Finals. She has also won nine doubles titles including the 2024 French Open.

Coco Gauff’s generous gift demonstrates how individual donors can create meaningful opportunities for HBCU students to excel academically and athletically. By supporting scholarships for student-athletes who are competitive tennis players, Gauff helps remove barriers and build confidence among future student-athletes. Her investment and financial example not only strengthen HBCU programs, but also contributes to a future in which all

young people—regardless of background—have the resources and encouragement to achieve their potential. A perfect ace, ensuring better futures for all Americans.