

UNCF SCHOLARS



The Class of 2025 Thanks You!

2025 GRADUATION EDITION

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2025



Dear Friend,

Your selfless generosity helps students achieve their dreams of a college education. Because of you, these graduates could focus on their studies and remain on course. You help to empower the next generation of leaders, teachers, doctors, nurses, business owners, engineers, scientists, culinary experts and more when you give to UNCF.

Your impact reaches across the United States! The graduates in this report hail from different states and attend some of our member institutions, including Philander Smith University, Saint Augustine's University, Tougaloo College, Tuskegee University, Virginia Union University and Xavier University of Louisiana. We hope you enjoy learning about these 2025 graduates and celebrate with us as we wish them the very best.

Thank you for being a gift to so many and for believing "A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in."®

Gratefully,



LaJuana Chenier

Vice President of Major Gifts and Individual Giving
UNCF



LIYAH '25

Biology Pre-Med
Chemistry Minor

Thank you for being such a blessing in my life. Because of your support I was able to graduate in May with an Honors degree in Biology. I couldn't have done this without your generosity. My UNCF scholarship has significantly decreased my financial debt and has tremendously helped me and my family. Because of you, I can continue my journey of becoming a physician!

In the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, UNCF awarded:

63M
Scholarship

11,543
Students awarded

1100
College & Universities

BRADEN '25

Public Health Sciences

I am thankful to UNCF for granting me a scholarship to help bridge the financial gap I was experiencing while working towards my educational goals. Your assistance afforded me the opportunity to complete my final semester of studies. I am proud to say that I graduated, having earned a bachelor's degree in public health. I am looking forward to furthering my studies in the Public Health field so that I can be a contributor to my community and help to alleviate some of the health discrepancies that plague our society. Thank you again for helping make my dreams come to fruition!

66% of undergraduates on average received Pell Grants





YOUMA, '25

English Education

I am incredibly grateful for your support in helping me achieve my dreams. Thanks to your generosity, I will be graduating this May with a degree in English Education and will begin my journey with Teach for America in Houston this fall. Your kindness has made this possible, and I cannot thank you enough.

Receiving UNCF scholarships allowed me, as a first-generation college student, to complete my studies with minimal financial burden. I am now prepared to enter the workforce as a 7-12 ELA teacher and am eager to uplift students. Your belief in students like me has been truly life changing. Thank you!

52% *are first-generation students at 4-year HBCUs.*

TAYLA '25

Political Science

Thank you for your financial contribution and support! Because of you, I was able to graduate with a degree in Political Science and will attend Suffolk Law School in the fall. My UNCF scholarship made it possible to have quality access to technology. Thank you for believing in us students and giving us wonderful opportunities!

57% *HBCU graduates will earn 57% more in their lifetime than they would without a degree.*





KALON '25

Computer Science Information Technology

I am beyond thankful for all that UNCF has done for me throughout my higher educational journey. The cost of college can be a very stressful endeavor, especially for me, however, UNCF has alleviated a great amount of the financial burden through aiding me scholarships so that I can better focus on school and obtaining my degree. Thank you!

*Since its founding in 1944, UNCF has raised over **\$5 billion** for scholarships and other direct support for its member institutions and helped more than **500,000 students** graduate with college degrees.*

JAYLA '25

Medical Laboratory Science

I am extremely grateful that UNCF awarded me a scholarship during one of the most challenging times in my life. When I applied for the emergency grant as a last resort, I was facing unexpected difficulties that threatened to derail my academic journey. Your generosity not only alleviated my immediate financial troubles but also gave me determination. I greatly appreciate UNCF's commitment to empowering students. Donors like you made a lasting impact on my education and on my career overall.

65% *of Campaign for Emergency Student Aid recipients graduated within one year of receiving their award.*





DIVINE '25

Accounting

Thank you for helping me to achieve my goals! Because of your support, I graduated in May with a degree in accounting and am on track to start full-time at Goldman Sachs this summer. I truly appreciate your generous donation and giving me this amazing opportunity!

HBCUs are more successful at moving students from the bottom 40% of the income distribution to the top 60% of the income distribution

KANYE '25

Criminal Justice

I almost withdrew from Allen University in my first year due to not having enough money to get through school. That's when I learned about UNCF scholarships. It wasn't easy but I was determined to succeed. I worked hard and was recognized as a three-time Presidential scholar. I chose my major of criminal justice because I plan to become a District Attorney. I want to ensure that all people receive justice.

The money that you give to support UNCF helps students like me to achieve our dreams. Thank you!

*Every month UNCF offers **free webinars** to high school, college and post grad students about our **scholarship opportunities**.*





JNIYA '25

Criminal Justice

Receiving a UNCF scholarship has significantly alleviated my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my academic and leadership responsibilities without constant worry about tuition and expenses. I am actively involved in campus initiatives and striving toward my goal of a career in criminal justice. The scholarship not only provides financial relief but reinforces my confidence in achieving my dreams while giving back to my community. Thank you so much for believing in me and for supporting UNCF.

*UNCF awarded **1,495 students'** professional development training in the 2023-24 fiscal year.*

RANAAR '25

Speech–Language Pathology Spanish Minor

Receiving this scholarship has changed my life. My family worked tirelessly to support my education, and now, thanks to your generosity, I can graduate with minimal debt and pursue higher education to help others—just as you have helped me. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.

*\$5,000 in UNCF scholarship assistance
increased the likelihood of graduation by
over seven percentage points.*





DIQUISHA '25

Biology

This scholarship has alleviated the financial burden of my last semester, allowing me to focus on my studies without the stress of how I would cover my remaining expenses.

After graduation, I will be working with the New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (NOEMS), gaining invaluable hands-on experience in patient care as I prepare to apply to Physician Assistant (PA) school in the future.

Thank you for your commitment to students like me. Your generosity has made a lasting impact on my education and career journey, and I am truly grateful.

70% of African American UNCF scholarship recipients graduated within 6 years.

DIANNA '25

Biomedical

UNCF has been a huge contributor to my college advancement. Without your gracious donations, I likely couldn't afford college without hefty loans and inevitable debt. So, I can't thank you enough for your support and belief in my abilities to finish school, and progress in my career.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

\$26,791:

average cost of attendance at 4-year HBCUs in 2022-23 (\$35,049 average at 4-year non-HBCUs).

27% less:

Cost to attend an HBCU versus a comparable non-HBCU in 2022-23.





DESTINY '25

Biology Pre-Med

I am deeply grateful for your support in helping me achieve my dreams. Thanks to your generosity, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology Pre-Med. I truly couldn't have done this without you—thank you!

Your belief in students and your generosity have provided an incredible opportunity, and I sincerely appreciate it.

*More than **twice as many** HBCU students came from a low income background and moved into the middle class or higher compared to the national average at 4-year institutions.*

CAMRON '25

Business Entrepreneurship

Thank you for making my dreams come true. Because of your generosity, I graduated with a degree in business and will attend graduate school at Winthrop in the fall. I couldn't have done this without your generosity. Thank you!

Nearly all (88%) of HBCUs were in the top 10% of institutions in terms of social mobility ratings





GRACE '25

Accounting and Political Science

Receiving a UNCF scholarship has been a transformative blessing, allowing me to pursue my degree in business management with a concentration in accounting and political science without the overwhelming burden of financial stress. As I graduate, I carry forward not only the knowledge I've gained but also a deep sense of gratitude and a commitment to giving back. Thank you for believing in students like me and for making this milestone possible!

UNCF's universally recognized motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste"®, proclaims the fundamental imperative for UNCF's commitment to giving all Americans the opportunity for a college education: the conviction that our young people are our most precious resource.

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2025

**We'd love to hear your thoughts about the work we do.
Please fill out a short survey at**

[UNCF.org/MajorGiftsSurvey](https://uncf.org/MajorGiftsSurvey)



**To learn more about how you
make a difference at UNCF, please visit:** <https://uncf.org/individual-and-major-gifts>

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