

INVEST

UNCF and Edward Waters University host Inaugural Jacksonville Mayor's Masked Ball



Making a significant impact during FY 2022—especially for a first-time fundraising event—UNCF hosted the inaugural Jacksonville Mayor's Masked Ball. Championed by Edward Waters University President Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr., and Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, this event highlighted the importance of a vibrant historically black college or university (HBCU) to the city of Jacksonville and raised more than \$400,000.

A relentless champion of HBCUs throughout her tenure, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole was honored with the Champion of Education Award at the event, and Edward Waters University students Brianna Pendergrass and Davon Davis delivered passionate remarks about their school's impact on their ability to succeed.

Davon noted, "We have all heard the saying, 'Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it.' My 90% involves graduating valedictorian of my high school class and making the decision to attend Edward Waters University on a full scholarship as a first-generation college student. During my tenure, so far, at Edward Waters University, I serve as Freshman Class President, I am a presidential scholar and an honors college scholar. And this is just the beginning for me."

The event was a smashing success. Highlighting the outstanding synergy between the city, the school and UNCF, Curry noted, "It was an honor to work with UNCF and Edward Waters University to bring the Mayor's Masked Ball to Jacksonville. I look forward to continuing to grow this event to benefit students throughout our community."



Sponsors of the inaugural Mayor's Masked Ball included Sissine's Office Systems, the Leb Family Foundation, CSX, Florida Blue, Ellucian, Follett, FIS, JTA and The SAC Collective. The event's media partners were ActionNews JAX and iHeart Radio.

Everyone who supported the event know that their talents and treasure were given in earnest support of the ensuring better futures for all of us. And, that's an impact you cannot underestimate.