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## Our Mission

UNCF envisions a nation where all Americans have equal access to a college education that prepares them for rich intellectual lives, competitive and fulfilling careers, engaged citizenship and service to our nation.

UNCF's mission is to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of underrepresented students who, because of UNCF support, become highly qualified college graduates and to ensure that our network of member institutions is a respected model of best practices in moving students to and through college.

UNCF's North Star is to increase the total annual number of African American college graduates by focusing on activities that ensure more students are college-ready, enroll in college and persist to graduation. This is done through a three-pillar strategy:

- Positioning member institutions as a viable college option for students and investing in institutional capacity to improve student outcomes.
- Creating transformational support programs to ensure that students are enrolling and persisting through college completion.
- Building awareness of educational attainment and cultivating college-going behaviors within the African American community.

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## Our Momentum Toward Growth Continues

A message from the Chairman of the Board and the President and CEO  
Dear Friend,

We are proud to share UNCF's fiscal year 2025 annual report and invite you to read stories about our impact—made possible by the investments of donors and partners like you.

The report reveals UNCF's unparalleled position of strength. We are 81 years young and moving forward by pursuing aspirational goals with the ultimate goal of transformation.

The fiscal year was marked by significant milestones that we are celebrating while seeking to accelerate progress.

We strengthened the financial foundation of our organization. Since 2020, UNCF has raised more than \$1.3 billion. In fact, revenue exceeded our targets every year for the past five years, and we expect it to do so again this year. As a result, UNCF's endowment now stands at \$467 million—and we expect to have approximately \$500 million under management by the end of this fiscal year.

However, we are more than a fundraising organization. We are also focused on building the infrastructure, partnerships and capabilities that will fundamentally change how our member institutions deliver a quality education to their students. We are moving from helping institutions to survive to ensuring they thrive. And we continued that momentum in fiscal year 2025.

UNCF's Capital Campaign achieved 69.5% of our \$1 billion revenue goal. Accomplishments this year include establishing a pooled endowment fund to increase the endowments at our 37 member institutions, which are critical to their sustainability and future viability.

Supporting UNCF's member institutions remains our number one priority. Through the generosity of our donors and the unwavering commitment of our fundraising team, UNCF significantly enhanced the resources available to our member schools. In fiscal year 2025, we honored our commitment by providing \$46.8 million in cash support. This distribution includes \$19.5 million for unrestricted purposes and \$27.3 million for restricted scholarships, student emergency aid and UNCF's Institute for Capacity Building programs.

In fiscal year 2025, UNCF's Direct Response Program again showed its extraordinary fundraising power and resilience. Its direct mail and online channels generated \$14.1 million from more than 148,000 individual donors.

Thanks to strong donor support and the dedication of our UNCF team, we continued making tremendous progress in FY25.

That progress caught the attention of business leader Robert Kraft, who recognized UNCF's impact and legacy of service. Kraft, chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and founder of the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate, formerly the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism (FCAS), made a generous donation of \$1 million to UNCF in fiscal year 2025. These funds support educational initiatives at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other institutions that promote unity and strengthen partnerships between Black and Jewish students to combat all forms of hate. Kraft's catalytic gift allowed for the creation of a series of Unity Dinners across the country on college campuses that brought Black and Jewish students together for dialogue in the hopes of establishing lasting relationships. The Unity Dinners are resurrecting the allyship between Black and Jewish communities that dates back generations.

In FY25, we launched Project ACCLAIM, an innovative program to enhance the financial literacy of HBCU students attending Morehouse College and Howard University. The initiative, which was made possible by a transformative \$10 million gift from Adage Capital Management and Elizabeth and Phill Gross, forged new partnerships that amplify our impact. The resilience and determination of our students continue to inspire us, reminding us of the importance of our work in providing them with the resources they need to succeed.

This past fiscal year, UNCF released the most authoritative and comprehensive research on the economic impact of HBCUs. *Transforming Futures: The Economic Engine of HBCUs* revealed these institutions continue punching above their weight, contributing \$16.5 billion to the national economy and creating 136,000 jobs. If the nation's 101 HBCUs were a company, they would rank among the top 50 of the nation's *Fortune* 500 companies in job creation.

In this annual report, you will find stories of hope and perseverance from the students whose lives have been changed thanks to your generous support. Each narrative highlights the critical role that education plays in shaping futures and strengthening communities. We invite you to explore these stories, as they are a testament to the power of investing in education.

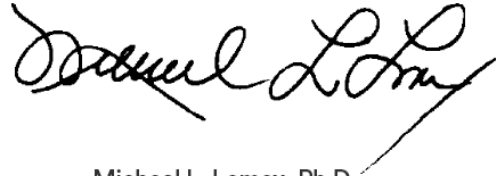
We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners and advocates. Your contributions are vital to our mission, and together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of countless students across the nation. As we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of a nation where all students have equal access to a quality education, and we have much more work to do.

Whether you've supported UNCF for decades or are considering joining us for the first time, our 81 years of impact should give you confidence that we know how to deliver. And we're just getting started. After all, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."®

Sincerely,



Milton H. Jones, Jr.  
Board Chair, UNCF

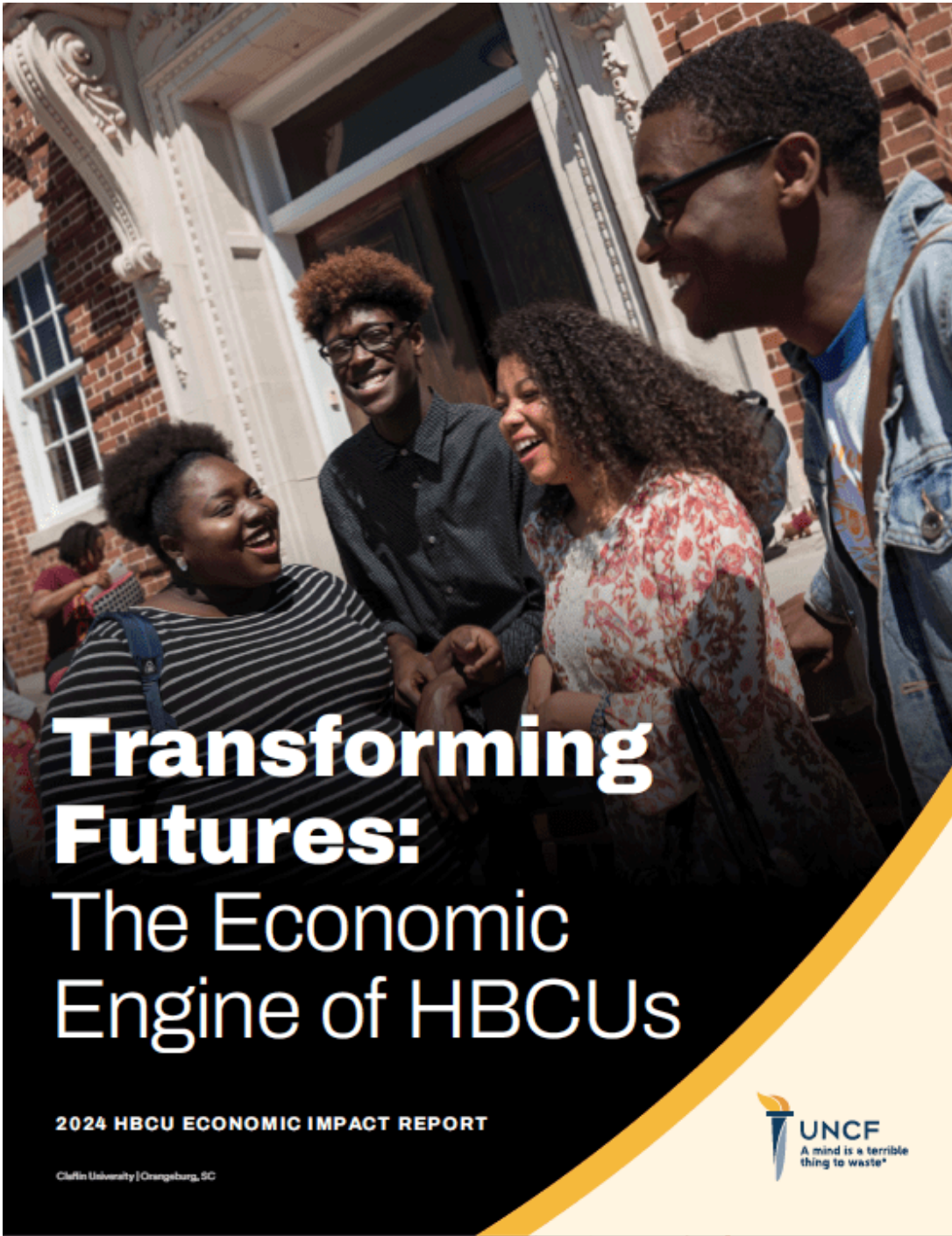


Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.  
President and CEO, UNCF

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**IMPACT**

# HBCU Economic Impact Report Reveals Universities' Unmatched Contributions, Urgent Funding Needs



2024 HBCU ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

Clifftin University | Orangeburg, SC



UNCF'S ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT REVEALS THAT HBCUS GENERATE \$16.5 BILLION ANNUALLY IN DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT NATIONALLY AND CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.



NCF's 2024 HBCU economic impact report, *Transforming Futures: The Economic Engines of HBCUs*, commissioned by UNCF's Frederick D.

Patterson Research Institute, is a comprehensive, data-driven analysis highlighting the substantial contributions the nation's 101 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) provide for their students, local communities and the nation at large.

HBCUs have long been pillars of educational excellence and economic engines, driving prosperity in their local communities and nationwide. Despite these contributions, chronic underfunding threatens their ability to sustain this impact. *Transforming Futures: The Economic Engines of HBCUs* underscores the urgent need for equitable and sustainable funding to ensure HBCUs can continue their vital role in promoting social mobility and economic growth. The report calls on the public to advocate for these essential institutions.

“This report reaffirms what we have always known about the resilience of HBCUs: despite a deadly pandemic, social unrest caused by the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the economic uncertainties of the past seven years, HBCUs continue to do more with less—not only in preparing the next generation of leaders but also in contributing to our nation's economic impact,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO, UNCF.

Learn how historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) make a vital difference for students of all backgrounds and contribute an enormous amount to the United States economy.

New report reveals \$16.5 billion in economic impact and calls for immediate action to secure the future of America's Black higher education institutions.

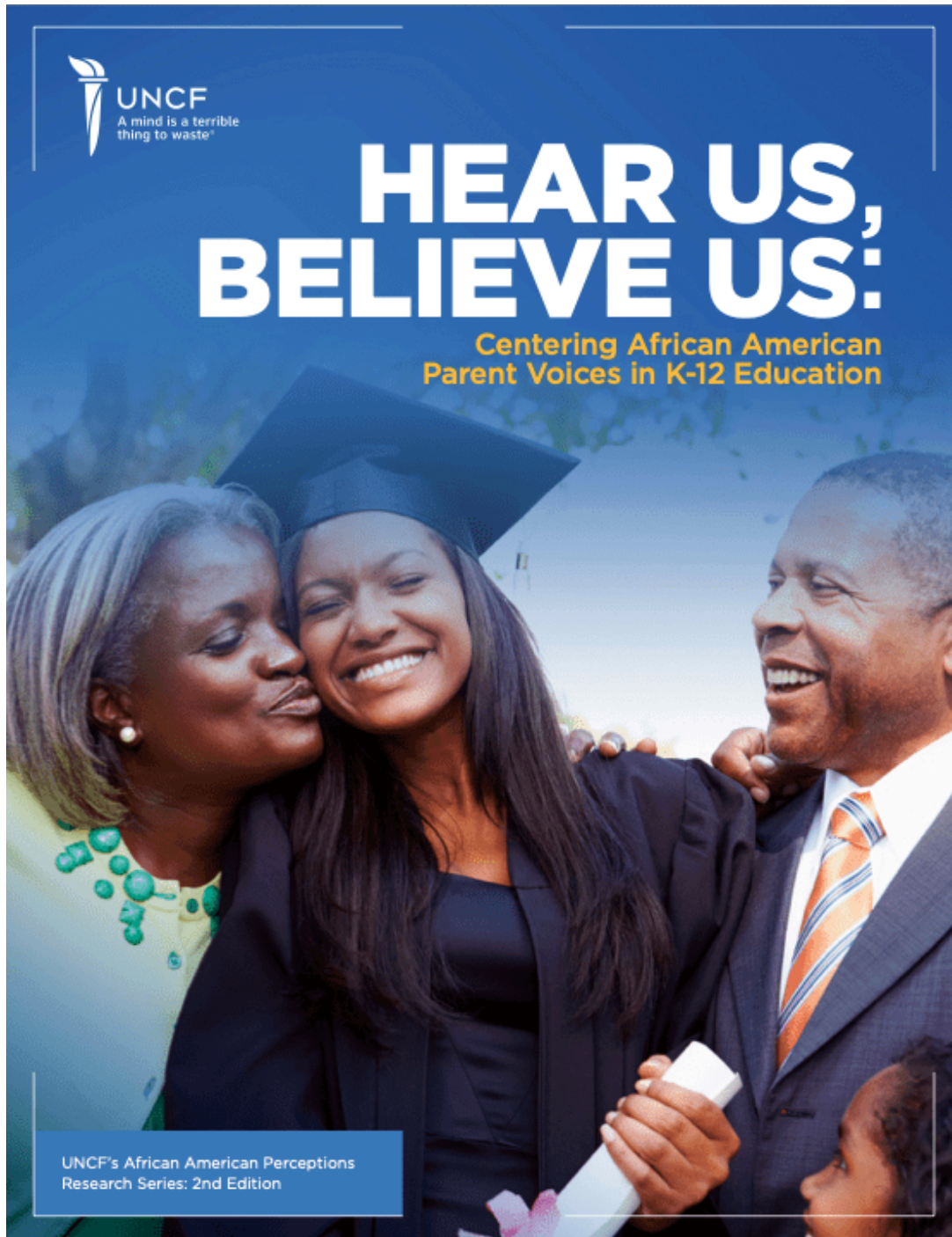
**Key findings in the 2024 HBCU economic impact report:**

- HBCUs generate \$16.5 billion in direct economic impact nationally.
- If they were a company, the nation's HBCUs would place in the top 50 of the nation's *Fortune* 500 companies in job creation.
- Collectively, 136,048 jobs exist because of HBCUs.
- On average, for each job created on campus, 1.5 off-campus jobs exist because of spending related to the institution.
- HBCUs are far more accessible to students and more successful at moving students from the bottom 40% of the country's income distribution to the top 60%, signaling social mobility.
- The 51,269 HBCU graduates in the class of 2021 can expect work-life earnings of \$146 billion, 57% more than the \$93 billion they could expect without their degrees or certificates.

As UNCF's economic impact report reveals, HBCUs and their students continue punching above their weight. UNCF continues to award scholarships and administer other programs through the generosity of committed donors, navigating the path forward to achieve better futures for us all.

**IMPACT**

# Groundbreaking UNCF Study Highlights Importance of Black Teachers



UNCF'S REPORT, "HEAR US, BELIEVE US: CENTERING AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT VOICES IN K-12 EDUCATION", OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND ASPIRATIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENTS IN RELATION TO RACE, COLLEGE READINESS, PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND MORE.

**A**s the country celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in fiscal year 2025, UNCF released a groundbreaking study that provides invaluable insights into the perspectives of African American parents on key issues in education and highlights the importance of Black teachers to Black families.

The report, entitled “Hear Us, Believe Us: Centering African American Parent Voices in K-12 Education,” offers a comprehensive analysis of the experiences, challenges and aspirations of African American parents in relation to race, college readiness, parental engagement and more.

Through the report, UNCF underscored the significant, positive influence that Black teachers have on students, families and communities. The report found that more than 90% of Black parents surveyed said they want more opportunities to be involved in their children’s education and to provide more input into education-related laws. UNCF conducted focus groups and implemented a national survey of 500 low- to moderate-income Black parents. Additionally, a subset of 1,200 Black parents was surveyed in Chicago, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Houston, Memphis and New Orleans to assess city-level trends.

“Across several indicators in the study, Black parents reported better experiences when their child attended schools with more Black teachers,” said Dr. Meredith Anderson, author of the report and director, K-12 research, UNCF. “While research abounds on the positive effects of Black teachers on students, this report emphasizes the parent voice in this important scholarship. This report substantiates what we have known for decades: Black teachers matter.”

The report, based on extensive national quantitative research and focus groups, highlights the crucial role that African American parents play in their children’s education. It underscores the importance of understanding their unique perspectives and incorporating them into education policies and practices.

Key findings from the report include:

1. Black parents report higher college aspirations for their children and lower instances of school suspensions when there are more Black teachers at their child’s school.

- For Black parents and caregivers whose children attended schools where many or most teachers were Black, the probability that their child received exclusionary

discipline is almost three times lower than if their child attended schools with fewer Black teachers.

- Black parents also felt more respected when their child attended schools with more Black teachers.

## 2. Black parents greatly value higher education and are deeply engaged and invested in their child's education.

- 84% of Black parents believe it is important for their child to attend and graduate college and over 80% check their child's homework and speak to their child's teacher on a regular basis.
- 93% of Black parents say they want more opportunities to be involved in their child's education and to provide input into education laws.

## 3. Black parents want to see more Black leaders in education.

- 70% of African American parents and caregivers believe the involvement of African American leaders and organizations will make school improvement efforts more effective.

## 4. School safety is a key concern for Black parents and caregivers.

- 80% of African American parents and caregivers rank safety as the most important factor for school selection.

“What we have known at UNCF for decades is that Black parents are deeply engaged in the educational lives of their children, yet far too often they are denigrated and deemed disengaged about their children's learning environment,” Anderson said. “Black parents are concerned about opportunity gaps and want better resources for their children. They want to see more Black education leaders and organizations in education; and they want more opportunities to be involved and have their voices heard.”

The report concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at addressing the concerns and aspirations of African American parents. These recommendations include a call to action:

### **Recommendations for the K-12 Sector**

- Invest unapologetically in Black teachers
- Create more intentional opportunities for parent involvement
- Create a learning environment that reflects African American history and culture
- Partner with local organizations to provide resources and services for families

- Value and prioritize support staff in school budgets
- Prioritize student safety

## **Recommendations for Higher Education**

- Make intentional efforts to expose students and families to college opportunities
- Create intentional pipelines with districts and charter management organizations to increase educator diversity
- Ensure teacher training programs include anti-racist, culturally relevant teaching practices
- Partner with K-12 schools and districts to provide financial literacy to students and families

UNCF is committed to utilizing the findings of this report to drive positive change in education. Through its programs, scholarships and advocacy efforts, UNCF will continue to work towards a future where every African American student has access to a quality education that prepares them for success. That commitment ensures better futures for all American students.

[Read the report.](#)

**IMPACT**

# New Research from UNCF, Healthy Minds Network Shows Strong Mental Health Outcomes Among HBCU Students



DR. AMELIA PARNELL, PRESIDENT OF NASPA (LEFT), AND DR. ZAINAB OKOLO, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR POLICY, ADVOCACY, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AT THE JED FOUNDATION (RIGHT), SHARED INSIGHTS DURING A PLENARY SESSION AT UNITE 2025 IN ATLANTA, GA, CENTERED ON ADVANCING STUDENT SUPPORT AND MENTAL HEALTH.

**U** NCF released groundbreaking research in FY25 that shows students at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) demonstrate significantly stronger student mental health statistics compared to their peers

nationally, despite facing greater financial stressors and barriers to mental health services.

The report, *Flourishing: Bolstering the Mental Health of Students at HBCUs and PBIs*, examined mental health indicators among 2,504 students across 16 HBCUs and two predominantly Black institutions (PBIs) during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years.

“This research confirms what we’ve long understood about the unique power of HBCUs to nurture, not just enable, academic achievement,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO, UNCF. “HBCUs provide a holistic well-being among HBCU students. Even with fewer resources than our peers, these institutions create environments where students are affirmed and celebrated, fostering remarkable mental resilience despite significant socioeconomic challenges.”

The study was conducted in partnership with UNCF’s Institute for Capacity Building, the Healthy Minds Network and The Steve Fund. Its findings support what UNCF researchers call “The HBCU Effect” on mental health:

- **Higher flourishing rates:** 45% of HBCU students report “flourishing” mental health compared to 36% in national samples and 38% among Black students at predominantly White institutions (PWIs).
- **Stronger sense of belonging:** 83% of HBCU students report feeling part of their campus community versus 73% nationally and 72% of Black students at PWIs.
- **Lower anxiety and substance use:** HBCU students report significantly lower rates of anxiety, substance use disorders and eating disorders than the national average.
- **More open about emotions:** HBCU students are significantly less likely to keep negative feelings to themselves when feeling sad (74%) compared to Black students at PWIs (86%).
- **Greater institutional trust:** More HBCU students believe their institutions prioritize mental well-being (78%) compared to Black students at PWIs (73%).



Despite these positive outcomes, the research identified notable mental health challenges for HBCU students:

- **Financial stress impacts mental health:** 51% of HBCU students report their financial situation as “always” or “often” stressful, with 78% of financially stressed students experiencing one or more mental health problems.
- **Unmet treatment needs:** 54% of HBCU students with moderate to severe symptoms reported receiving no mental health treatment, higher than both the national average (41%) and Black students at PWIs (47%).
- **Stigma remains a barrier:** HBCU students report higher rates of perceived stigma around mental health treatment (52%) compared to national averages (41%).

While HBCUs are achieving remarkable outcomes with limited resources, their students still face significant barriers to receiving mental health support.

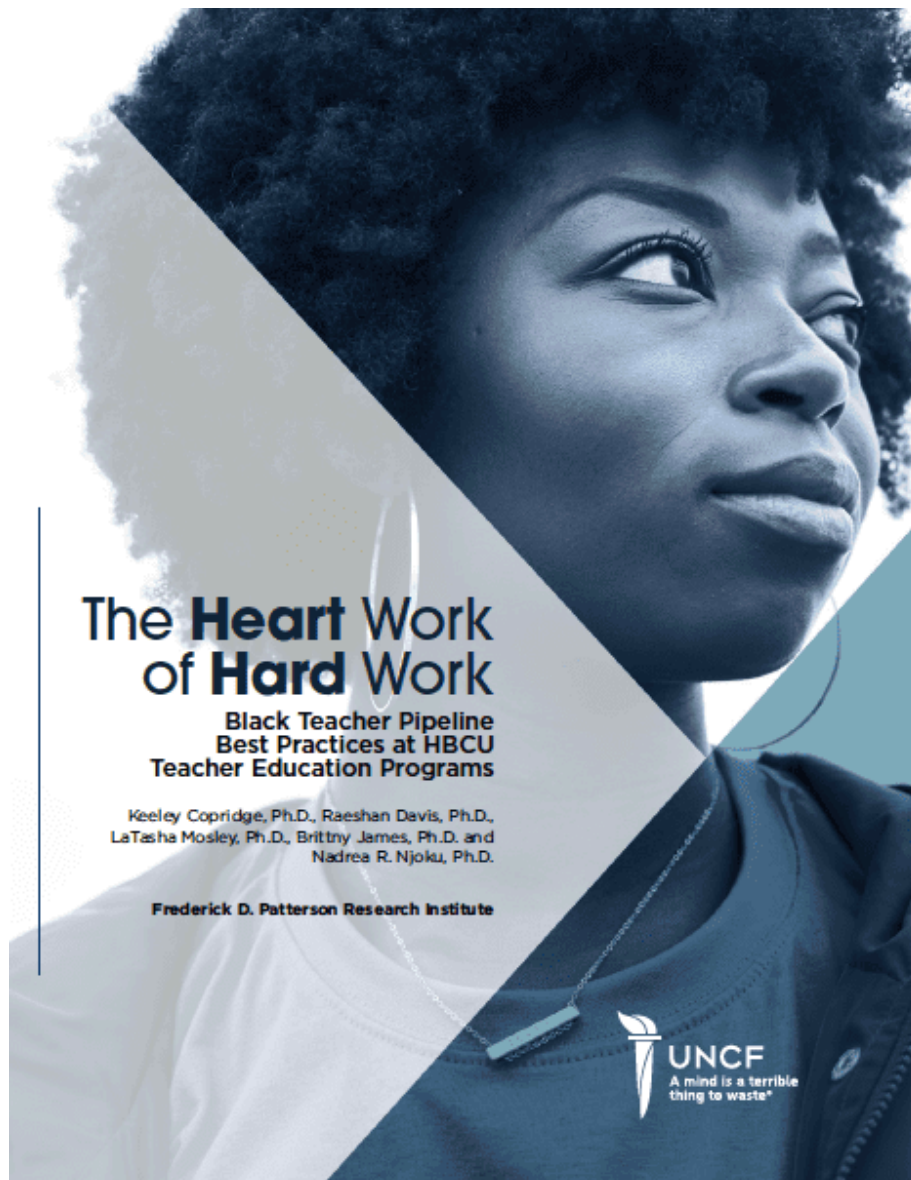
“With targeted investment and policy changes, we could dramatically improve outcomes for these resilient students. These findings demand attention from policymakers and higher education leaders,” Dr. Lomax added.

These findings reinforce what UNCF has championed for more than eight decades—that investing in HBCUs and their students strengthens not only individuals but entire communities and our nation’s future. When students are supported academically, emotionally and financially, they flourish. And when

they flourish, they go on to build stronger communities, more vibrant workplaces and better futures for us all. As UNCF's motto reminds us, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."<sup>®</sup>

IMPACT

# UNCF Report Highlights HBCUs' Role in Strengthening the Black Teacher Pipeline



## The Heart Work of Hard Work

Black Teacher Pipeline  
Best Practices at HBCU  
Teacher Education Programs

Keeley Copridge, Ph.D., Raeshan Davis, Ph.D.,  
LaTasha Mosley, Ph.D., Brittney James, Ph.D. and  
Nadrea R. Njoku, Ph.D.

Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute



THIS UNCF REPORT PROVIDES A SNAPSHOT OF BEST PRACTICES FROM FOUR HBCUS TO STRENGTHEN THE BLACK TEACHER PIPELINE. THE RESEARCH UNDERSCORES THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BLACK TEACHERS HAVE ON BLACK STUDENTS, INCLUDING SERVING AS ROLE MODELS,

**I**n fiscal year 2025, UNCF released a special report highlighting historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) as key producers of teachers for America’s public education system.

The report, *The Heart Work of Hard Work: Black Teacher Pipeline Best Practices at HBCU Teacher Education Programs*, features a snapshot of recruitment, culturally responsive teaching, curricular and co-curricular strategies that strengthen the Black teacher pipeline from four HBCUs: UNCF-member Huston-Tillotson University, Alabama A&M University, Albany State University and Fayetteville State University. The report, made possible by a donation from the Voya Financial Foundation, was authored by Dr. Nadrea Njoku, former assistant vice president, Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute (FDPRI), UNCF; Dr. Keeley Copridge, senior research associate, FDPRI, UNCF; Dr. LaTasha Mosley, graduate research fellow, FDPRI, UNCF; Dr. Raeshan Davis, a former research fellow, FDPRI, UNCF; and Dr. Brittny James, consultant, Insight Consulting and Associates. The four HBCUs highlighted in the report rank among the top 25 four-year HBCUs producing Black teacher graduates across various K-12 fields.

The research underscores the significant impact Black teachers have on Black students including serving as role models, enhancing educational experiences, boosting graduation and college enrollment rates and improving reading and mathematics proficiency and end-of-year performance.

Findings from the report were shared Feb. 13, 2024, as part of the “Equity in Education: Advancing Opportunities for Black Teachers and Parents” virtual learning series conducted by FDPRI. More information is available at [UNCF.org/EquityinEd](https://www.uncf.org/EquityinEd).

While HBCUs represent only 3% of colleges and universities nationwide, they produce 11% of all Black graduates and 50% of all Black educators, according to data from the FDPRI and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

“Black teachers are essential to Black students’ educational, social and emotional development,” said Copridge, one of the report’s authors. “Yet Black teachers represent only 7% of America’s teaching workforce. To

diversify the nation's P-12 system, it is critical to strengthen the Black teacher pipeline and HBCUs are central to that effort.”

The report identifies historical and systemic barriers contributing to the scarcity of Black teachers, including desegregation, racism and standardized testing policies that resulted in nearly 100,000 minority teachers in 35 states losing their licenses from the late 1970s through the early 1990s.

“Black teachers are intimately aware of these barriers, but they continue to maintain high expectations for their students’ success,” said Njoku, another report author. “Research shows Black teachers have a deep understanding of Black students’ lives in and outside the classroom.”

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## The Heart work of Hard work: Black Teacher Pipeline Best F

UNCF



Watch on

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are instrumental in the proliferation of Black graduates. HBCUs make up only three percent of colleges and universities, yet produce 50% of Black teachers (UNCF, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, 2008).

The report calls for continued research on culturally responsive curriculum, examination of teacher certification exams, increased federal and state funding, partnerships with private organizations, expanded resources for HBCU faculty and the promotion of nontraditional pathways into teaching.

By issuing this report, UNCF demonstrates how strategic investment in HBCUs strengthens the nation's public education system and ensures a new generation of Black educators is prepared to lead. Donor support enables HBCUs to implement innovative practices, overcome systemic barriers and cultivate teachers who inspire, mentor and transform the lives of students across the country. Through these efforts, UNCF and its partners are creating better futures for all Americans—because when HBCUs thrive, the nation's classrooms thrive.

IMPACT

# Biden Administration Announces Big Investment Totals for HBCUs



FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN SPEAKS AT THE 2024 NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCU) WEEK CONFERENCE ON SEPT. 16, 2024, IN PHILADELPHIA, PA.

**D**uring the Biden-Harris Administration’s three-plus years in office, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) received over \$16 billion in investments. This investment in HBCU funding included resources received from their COVID-19 American Rescue Plan (ARP) law and other routine, annual investments like the Education Department’s Strengthening HBCUs program and Pell Grant programs.

“UNCF works with both political parties and is nonpartisan, and even with that I can tell you no other administration has prioritized HBCUs like this one,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and chief executive officer, UNCF.

### **\$16B in ‘Whole of Government’ Investments**

“HBCUs have been chronically underfunded, systemically, since inception,” Dr. Lomax continued. “While the efforts of the Biden-Harris Administration are helpful, let me be clear: more is needed via federal and state governments as well as our philanthropic partners.”

“Big efforts like this are done purposefully, not by happenstance,” said Lodriguez Murray, senior vice president, public policy and government affairs, UNCF. “President Biden and Vice President Harris came into office proposing nearly \$9 billion for HBCUs via the ARP and their infrastructure plan.”

“The funds in the \$16 billion federal investment showcase a dual strategy that we at UNCF have also embraced, prioritizing institutions and students,” Murray added. “Infrastructure funds are necessary for institutions, and students coming from a lower socioeconomic background must have the Pell Grant doubled. We at UNCF want to work with everyone to ensure these outcomes are achieved.”

And that kind of support helps lead to better futures for all Americans.

INNOVATE

# UNCF Launches Historic PSA Campaign



THE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA) CAMPAIGN CALLED “LIGHT THE WAY” SYMBOLIZES UNCF’S LEGACY. FOR MORE THAN 80 YEARS, UNCF HAS HELPED TALENTED, DESERVING STUDENTS GET TO AND THROUGH COLLEGE SUCCESSFULLY.

**I**n Fiscal Year 2025, UNCF unveiled a new video public service announcement (PSA) campaign reinforcing its iconic message that “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.”<sup>®</sup>

“UNCF: Light the Way” marks the first national broadcast PSA the organization has released in more than a decade.

“We are extremely excited to release this new PSA demonstrating UNCF’s impact and commitment to making higher education obtainable for all,” said Monique LeNoir, senior vice president of communications at UNCF. “With this

incredible PSA, we are inspiring new generations to invest in their education and reminding them that UNCF provides the resources to help students get to and through college.”

The 30-second video, filmed on the campus of UNCF-member institution Morehouse College, draws on the iconic symbolism of the UNCF torch of leadership. The spot highlights the passing of the torch to students, symbolizing how UNCF’s legacy continues to empower the next generation to pursue their dreams and unlock new opportunities.

The video debuted during Black History Month and has reached national audiences through movie theaters, cable television, the Ad Council, UNCF’s national social media channels and major video streaming platforms.

Created by Carol H. Williams Advertising—the nation’s longest-running independent multicultural marketing firm—the PSA raises awareness of UNCF’s mission to empower students and ensure access to higher education. It stands as a powerful reminder of the importance of education and the essential role UNCF plays in expanding opportunity for students across the country.

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This new PSA helps elevate UNCF’s visibility on a national stage, shining a light on the organization’s unwavering mission to invest in the minds and futures of students across the United States. By reaching millions of Americans, “Light the Way” reminds audiences of the life-changing impact of education and strengthens UNCF’s footing to continue helping students get to and through college successfully. Through this PSA, we honor our legacy, inspire future generations and uphold our enduring motto: “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.”®

INNOVATE

# Project ACCLAIM Launches to Strengthen HBCU Students' Pathways into Financial Services



(L TO R) PHILL GROSS, CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, ADAGE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT; KIM GODWIN, FORMER PRESIDENT, ABC NEWS, AND CAREER JOURNALIST; MELLODY HOBSON, CO-CEO AND PRESIDENT, ARIEL INVESTMENTS; AND DR. MICHAEL L. LOMAX, PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNCF, HAD A CONVERSATION ON ADVANCING BLACK WEALTH AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY AT AN EVENT IN MARTHA'S VINEYARD IN 2024.

**I**n fiscal year 2025, UNCF launched Project ACCLAIM (Accelerating Learning in Asset Investment Management), a groundbreaking initiative that aims to cultivate a pipeline of students from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) entering the financial services sector. The program debuted in fall 2025 at Morehouse College and Howard University with support from a \$10 million gift from Adage Capital Management and philanthropists Elizabeth and Phill Gross.

The announcement was made on Aug. 15, 2024, during UNCF's networking reception at Harbor View Hotel in Edgartown, MA, featuring a panel of industry and philanthropic leaders including Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO, UNCF; Phill Gross, co-founder, managing director, and healthcare portfolio manager, Adage Capital Management; and Mellody Hobson, co-CEO, Ariel Investments.

“Project ACCLAIM represents a groundbreaking partnership between UNCF, Adage Capital Management and visionary philanthropists Elizabeth and Phill Gross,” said Dr. Lomax. “By empowering HBCU students with mentorship, real-world experience and access to capital, this initiative equips them to become future leaders who drive positive change within the industry and their communities.”

Project ACCLAIM provides students with rigorous coursework, hands-on investment experience and co-curricular activities designed to enhance finance and investing curricula. Students at Howard and Morehouse are now managing a \$4 million student investment pool, giving them real-world exposure to asset management while supporting institutional priorities.

“Investing in the next generation of leaders is essential to the long-term health of the finance industry,” said Phill Gross. “With UNCF's support, we aim to build a model that can expand to other HBCUs and attract additional investment while scaling to other HBCUs across the country.”

The program is administered by UNCF's Institute for Capacity Building, which plans to expand the program to other colleges and universities. Planned endowments and grant programs will be available to support HBCUs interested in establishing similar initiatives.

Project ACCLAIM exemplifies how UNCF donors and partners are shaping opportunities that have lasting impact. By equipping HBCU students with the skills, mentorship and experiential learning necessary to thrive in financial services, this initiative strengthens careers, communities and the broader United States economy. Project ACCLAIM is an innovative approach to education, ensuring that more American students are given the real-world experience to drive innovation, opportunities and growth nationwide.

INNOVATE

# Robert Kraft Donates \$1 Million to Support New UNCF Initiative Combating Hate and Bigotry



(L TO R) DR. MICHAEL L. LOMAX, PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNCF; ROBERT KRAFT, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF THE KRAFT GROUP AND FOUNDER OF THE BLUE SQUARE ALLIANCE AGAINST HATE; MILTON H. JONES, JR., BOARD CHAIR, UNCF; AND DR. GEORGE T. FRENCH, PRESIDENT, CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY.

**R**obert Kraft, chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and founder of the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate (formerly the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism), made a \$1 million donation to UNCF in fiscal year 2025 to establish the Tikkun Olam Initiative. The gift supports educational initiatives that promote unity and strengthen partnerships between Black and Jewish students attending historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other colleges and universities.

The Tikkun Olam Initiative is designed to help cultivate the next generation of leaders committed to combating all forms of hate while promoting cross-cultural understanding and student leadership. Kraft announced the donation during a national meeting of UNCF's Board of Directors in 2024, marking a highlight as UNCF launched its yearlong 80th anniversary celebration.

“We are incredibly grateful for Robert Kraft’s extraordinary generosity and his commitment to supporting UNCF’s Tikkun Olam Initiative, which promotes unity and respect among students from diverse backgrounds,” said UNCF Board Chair Milton H. Jones Jr. “This \$1 million donation will have a profound impact on our efforts to create a more inclusive society. It strengthens our ability to combat hate while inspiring others to join the fight.”

Dr. Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO, also expressed appreciation for Kraft’s leadership and partnership. “We are immensely grateful to Robert Kraft for his unwavering support of UNCF and his commitment to combating hate,” Lomax said. “This donation enables us to develop innovative programs and resources that empower students to serve as agents of change in their communities. Together, we can work toward a future rooted in mutual respect, understanding and love.”

In fiscal year 2025, UNCF convened a series of Tikkun Olam Initiative Unity Dinners to foster connection and understanding between Black and Jewish communities. Created in partnership with the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate and Hillel International, the dinners seek to rebuild historic bonds between the two communities while exploring their distinct experiences. The gatherings bring together Black and Jewish students to engage in dialogue, share personal perspectives, address social challenges and build meaningful relationships centered on a more just and inclusive future.

The Unity Dinner series launched Oct. 21, 2024, in Atlanta, with more than 80 students representing UNCF-member institutions Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College and Spelman College, along with Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University and Morris Brown College. Additional dinners were held at George Washington University in Washington, DC, with 82 students in attendance, and at Rice University in Houston, TX, with 75 students participating.

On Feb. 7, 2025, UNCF, the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate and Hillel International hosted the first Unity Summit during Super Bowl LIX at Xavier University of Louisiana. The summit convened more than 100 Black and

Jewish student-athletes from Dillard University, Loyola University New Orleans, Louisiana State University, Southern University, the University of New Orleans, Tulane University and Xavier University of Louisiana.

The summit featured panel discussions with prominent sports figures, including quarterback Jake Retzlaff of Brigham Young University, running back Leonard Fournette of the Buffalo Bills, placekicker Greg Joseph of the New York Jets and former basketball player and coach Nancy Lieberman of the WNBA and NBA. The program also included a conversation between Kraft and musician and activist Meek Mill.

During the summit, Kraft reaffirmed his commitment to fostering a society free from hate and discrimination. “I am honored to support UNCF in its mission to combat hate and promote unity,” Kraft said. “By investing in education and awareness, we can empower individuals to stand up against hate and help create a more inclusive future for all.”

Through the Tikkun Olam Initiative, UNCF is advancing its enduring mission to expand opportunity, strengthen understanding and affirm the shared humanity of all people—work that reflects its legacy and belief that “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.”<sup>®</sup> By confronting hate at its roots and empowering students to lead with empathy, education and purpose, this initiative helps build a stronger, more inclusive nation—one where the futures of Black students, Jewish students and all Americans are bettered, protected, valued and free to thrive.

**INNOVATE**

# Innovations at HBCUs: Spotlighting Groundbreaking Research and Achievements



SEVERAL UNCF-MEMBER INSTITUTIONS ARE MAKING STRIDES IN RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT. TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY IN TUSKEGEE, AL IS LEADING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES AND IS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS WORK IN BIOETHICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

**H**istorically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have long been pillars of academic excellence and cultural significance. From fostering influential leaders to advancing social justice, HBCUs have consistently led the way in driving progress. Today, institutions supported by UNCF continue to innovate, making remarkable strides in research, technology and community impact.

**Leading Research in Health Disparities: Tuskegee University and Morehouse School of Medicine**

Several UNCF-member institutions are leading efforts to address health disparities. Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL is recognized for its work in bioethics and public health including research aimed at improving health outcomes for underserved populations. Meanwhile, Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA continues to produce culturally competent and highly skilled physicians while advancing research in areas such as cardiovascular disease and maternal health—both of which disproportionately impact Black communities.

### **Tech and STEM Innovation: Benedict College and Clark Atlanta University**

UNCF-member institutions are also driving innovation in STEM education. Benedict College in Columbia, SC, has established a cutting-edge Cybersecurity Center to equip students with the skills needed to address global security challenges. Similarly, Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA, leverages its data science and machine learning programs to provide students with hands-on experience in rapidly growing technology and analytics fields.

### **Sustainability and Environmental Justice: Florida Memorial University and Dillard University**

Environmental sustainability is another area in which UNCF-member institutions are making significant contributions. Florida Memorial University in Miami, FL, has launched a Climate Resiliency Center to promote renewable energy solutions and educate students on environmental stewardship. The center addresses the disproportionate impact of climate change on Black communities, which face higher risks of displacement from extreme weather events and greater exposure to industrial pollution.

Similarly, Dillard University in New Orleans, LA integrates climate resilience into its curriculum through its Center for Sustainability, empowering students to tackle ecological challenges in urban and coastal areas. By addressing these environmental injustices, these institutions advance research while fostering solutions that benefit the communities most affected by climate change.

### **Supporting Student Success Through Innovation: Spelman College and Xavier University of Louisiana**

UNCF-member colleges continue to prioritize student success through innovative programs. Spelman College in Atlanta, GA offers a Center for Innovation & the Arts, which promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and encourages students to explore the intersection of art, technology and

entrepreneurship. Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, LA, operates a renowned pre-med program that combines rigorous academics with mentorship and research opportunities, resulting in one of the nation's highest medical school acceptance rates.

### **Embracing Digital Transformation: Livingstone College and Miles College**

UNCF-member institutions are embracing digital transformation to enhance the student experience. Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC, recently introduced a state-of-the-art e-sports lab, blending academics with competitive gaming to attract and engage students. Similarly, Miles College in Fairfield, AL, is integrating virtual reality into its curriculum, providing students with immersive learning experiences that bridge theory and practice.

Innovation has always been at the heart of HBCUs—a reflection of resilience, creativity and an unwavering belief that education has the power to change lives. From cutting-edge research to impactful community programs, these institutions continue to break barriers and create opportunities for future leaders. Across UNCF's 37 member institutions, innovation is not only transforming classrooms and research labs; it is driving economic mobility, advancing technology and strengthening communities nationwide. By investing in UNCF, you support these centers of progress and advance America's collective future—one where the breakthroughs born on HBCU campuses help create a more equitable, prosperous and educated society for all.

**INSPIRE**

# Children's Book Author and STEM Nonprofit Founder Supported by UNCF Scholarship



TORI JARRETT IS A JUNIOR AT SPELMAN COLLEGE, A UNCF-MEMBER INSTITUTION, THE FOUNDER OF A STEM NONPROFIT THAT INTRODUCES YOUNG GIRLS TO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AND A PUBLISHED CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR. SHE RECENTLY RECEIVED THE GANTT-MCCOLL SCHOLARSHIP FROM UNCF.

**T**ori Jarrett is a junior at Spelman College, a UNCF-member institution, the founder of a STEM nonprofit that introduces young girls to science and engineering and a published children’s book author.

She is a chemistry major also pursuing a minor in Spanish and a minor in management organization.

“I’ve really gained something from UNCF that’s changed the course of my career trajectory and who I am as a person,” shared Jarrett, a Gantt-McColl Scholarship recipient.

## **A Family of UNCF Scholars**

The Gantt-McColl Scholarship is offered to high school seniors projected to graduate from eligible public high schools in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina with at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). The scholarship may be renewed for up to four years.

“Getting the Gantt-McColl Scholarship took a lot of pressure off of me,” she said. “Being a private college, there’s not a lot of scholarships available. This was a lifeline for me. Now I get paid to go here and get a book voucher every semester to pay for my books, so it doesn’t have to come out of pocket.”

“Being a UNCF scholar is in my family,” Jarrett explained. Her dad also received a UNCF scholarship, while he attended Johnson C. Smith University, also a UNCF-member institution. The scholarship from UNCF “was how he was able to pay for school, coming from a one-income household.” Jarrett’s uncle also attended an HBCU, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

As a scholarship recipient, Jarrett was invited to attend this year’s Mayor’s Masked Ball in Charlotte. She recounts it as one of her favorite experiences being a Gantt-McColl scholar. “Being able to stand up there on that stage and express my gratitude was something I enjoyed,” she said. “Being able to show the impact of donating to UNCF and for them to hear those stories.”

## **Journey to Spelman**

Originally, Jarrett wasn’t interested in attending Spelman. “I didn’t want to go to Spelman at all, but my parents were like ‘just apply,’” she said.

She attended Spelman’s scholar weekend in 2023 and remembers being disappointed that the school didn’t have an engineering program. “But our student speaker was a chemistry major, and she talked about her internship at

Estée Lauder,” she shared. “After that, I thought ‘Spelman is my place, this is where I want to be.’”

Now, she is entering her final year at Spelman and serves as the president of Spelman Sisters of STEM.

She has interned with Stryker, which makes medical devices, and conducted undergraduate research at Louisiana State University (LSU). “I really loved it, but it taught me I don’t want to be in a lab for eight hours straight,” she said. “I love talking to people and being active in my community.”

While participating in research at LSU, Jarrett discovered that she enjoyed spending days with the project manager. “I’m a generalist, not a specialist,” she explained. “I don’t want to settle on one thing. He got to know marketing, sales, every aspect of the business. For me, I loved being in the lab, but [also] hearing different sides, being able to understand the story from the envisioning of the product.”

### **Sharing Her Passion for STEM**

In 2023, Jarrett founded Beauty & Brains, a nonprofit organization that introduces girls ages 7-12 to science and engineering. Through Beauty & Brains, she holds cosmetic chemistry workshops to foster the next generation of women in STEM. She estimates that she’s worked with 85 girls so far.

She got the idea for the nonprofit while working on her senior impact project. She received a scholarship from the Young Black Leadership Alliance (YBLA) for teaching young girls how to make bath bombs, perfumes and other cosmetic chemistry.

“That’s how it started, it was a project for a scholarship,” she said. “I won the scholarship, but it was something I didn’t want to stop doing. I was able to expand in Los Angeles when I had an internship there. Now I’m growing it throughout Charlotte, NC.”

## Introducing Kids to Recycling through Her Children’s Book



TORI JARRETT, A UNCF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, IS A PUBLISHED CHILDREN’S BOOK AUTHOR. HER BOOK, “THE RECYCLING RHYTHM OF ROSIE AND RON,” SPARKS CONVERSATIONS AROUND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WITH YOUNG LEARNERS AND HELPS TO BRIDGE THE LITERACY DIVIDE.

Jarrett is also a published children’s book author. Her book, “The Recycling Rhythm of Rosie and Ron,” sparks conversations around environmental justice with young learners and helps to bridge the literacy divide.

“Creative writing has always been a vessel for how I could express myself,” she shared. “If I couldn’t sleep at night as a child, I’d just write. My mom said ‘why don’t you publish something’, and I thought ‘I’ll try.’”

Jarrett wrote the book during the winter break of her freshman year. She chose to write about recycling because “it’s something I’ve been doing my whole life,” she explained. “When my family moved, I didn’t want to throw the moving boxes away. I made a mansion out of cardboard boxes, decorated Christmas trees with cans.”

She wanted to inspire children to get creative with cardboard boxes, plastics and other recyclable materials. “Children haven’t had that inspiration,” she said. “They’re not reading as much, reading doesn’t seem fun anymore. I love [Dr. Seuss] ‘The Lorax’, I wanted to put that love back into reading.”

Jarrett found a publisher who believed in her and her story. In February, she had her first book signing 30 minutes away from Spelman. “It was held in partnership with the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and they all came out,” she said. “I was able to sell out of all the books I brought—I didn’t even think I’d sell 10. People are joining Read Across America and reading my book through that.”



TORI JARRETT WON THE NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS NORTH CAROLINA TITLE IN JUNE 2025. SHE REPRESENTED THE STATE AT THE NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS COMPETITION IN ORLANDO, FL, IN NOVEMBER 2025.

Her book sold out of the first printing, so get your copy today.

## **A Multitalented Young Professional**

Jarrett also won the National American Miss North Carolina title in June, according to an [article in \*The Charlotte Post\*](#).

Next, she will represent the state at the National American Miss national competition in Orlando, FL, in November.

She is an aspiring research and development scientist interested in finding a position in chemical engineering after graduation. “There’s nothing more rewarding for me than taking on different challenges to try and solve problems, especially the medical device industry,” Jarrett shared. “Personally, I love the business side of engineering. I want to lean more into the product management side.”

**INSPIRE**

# UNCF Student Leadership Conference: Donor Support Enables Students to Lead and Succeed



THE UNCF STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS AN IMMERSIVE, HIGH-IMPACT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN THE WORKPLACE. RISING JUNIORS, SENIORS AND ENTRY-LEVEL HIRES FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE, INCLUDING HBCUS, GAINED THE SKILLS, CONFIDENCE AND CAREER READINESS NEEDED TO EXCEL IN THEIR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AND EARLY CAREERS THROUGH INTENSIVE SIMULATIONS AND COACHING FROM SENIOR BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT LEADERS.

**W** hat does it take for a student to thrive in today's competitive economy? Experience and opportunity. Thanks to UNCF's generous donors and corporate partners, hundreds of talented students from across the nation gained both at the 14th annual UNCF Student Leadership Conference

(SLC). Held May 29 through June 1, 2024, in Arlington, VA, and hosted by Wells Fargo, this multiday event brought together nearly 1,330 undergraduate scholars for a transformative experience designed to prepare them for success in internships and beyond.

Through the support of sponsors who integrate internships into their scholarship programs, students are gaining hands-on experience that bridges the gap between classroom learning and career readiness.

“Wells Fargo is excited to be involved again with the UNCF Student Leadership Conference,” said Shantae Joseph, head of employee engagement and strategic enablement, Wells Fargo. “Our leaders believe in investing in the lives of talented students with our time, talent and treasure, and we look forward to positively impacting each one of them during this great conference.”

The conference featured dynamic workshops, keynote addresses and coaching sessions led by top executives from corporate and nonprofit sectors. Students honed essential workplace skills—communication, teamwork, leadership and professionalism—while building confidence as emerging leaders in industries such as business, computer science, education, engineering, finance, healthcare and technology.



THROUGH UNCF'S PARTNERSHIP WITH MACY'S, SELECTED STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A PERSONALIZED STYLING EXPERIENCE DURING THE 14TH ANNUAL UNCF STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FROM MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2024. GUIDED BY PROFESSIONAL STYLISTS, STUDENTS CURATED POLISHED, WORKPLACE-READY LOOKS—BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SHARPENING THEIR PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE AS THEY PREPARED FOR THEIR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS.

**“Recent data confirms that more than half of undergraduate students in the United States are considered first-generation college students—and that number rises to 70% at HBCUs,” said Taliah Givens, senior director, student professional development programs, UNCF. “That means many of these students are also the first in their families to transition into careers requiring a college degree. It’s our priority, alongside our corporate partners, to provide SLC as a launching pad—equipping talented, underrepresented students with real tools for transformational internships that lead to full-time positions.”**

Each year, donor contributions for the student leadership program supports students in being able to attend, network with peers and leaders, connect with impactful internships and receive mentorship. The SLC ensures they not only earn degrees, but also enter the workforce prepared to lead with purpose and professionalism.

Together, through investment in experiences like SLC, UNCF and its supporters are creating a future where opportunity is accessible to all. Because when donors open doors for students, they open doors to better futures for us all.

**INSPIRE**

# A Banner Year for Livingstone College: New Grants and Equipment Improving UNCF-Member Institution



UNDER FORMER PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUILD BACK BETTER INITIATIVE, LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE RECEIVED \$1 MILLION IN BIOMANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT. THIS INVESTMENT ENABLES THE COLLEGE TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE JOB TRAINING THROUGH A NEW BIOMANUFACTURING HUB AND EMPOWER UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES.

**L**ivingstone College, one of UNCF's member institutions located in Salisbury, NC, has recently strengthened its position as a center of innovation and opportunity.

Under former President Biden's Build Back Better initiative, Livingstone College received \$1 million in biomanufacturing equipment, moving to the forefront of empowering underprivileged communities. This investment

enables the college to provide comprehensive job training through a new biomanufacturing hub.

In 2025, the college also received a prestigious grant from the U.S. Department of State as part of the Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) program, which supports student mobility overseas in alignment with U.S. foreign policy. The grant was only awarded to 37 colleges and universities, further highlighting Livingstone College's commitment to global education.

And throughout FY25, the college secured several significant grants and donations including a \$34,000 innovation grant from The Home Depot, Inc., a \$200,000 planning grant from The Annie E. Casey Foundation and an extraordinary \$7 million donation from an anonymous donor. These funds have allowed the college to enhance infrastructure and make substantial capital investments, such as renovating its Harris and Dancy residence halls.

Livingstone College President Dr. Anthony J. Davis introduced two pivotal programs during the year: the HOPE Emancipation Project and the Career Readiness Institute. The HOPE Emancipation Project offers youth aging out of foster care the opportunity to pursue higher education at Livingstone College through scholarships, housing and other essential services. The Career Readiness Institute provides students with critical tools to find employment or pursue graduate education, reducing the number of graduates who are unprepared or underemployed. The institute offers students career-focused instruction and college and career readiness training aligned with their academic majors as early as their freshman year.

Investment in Livingstone College represents more than support for one campus or one region—this critical funding helps fuel the future of the United States. Every scholarship, new facility and workforce training initiative helps prepare a new generation of leaders who will contribute to North Carolina's economy. Strengthening HBCUs like Livingstone builds a more inclusive and competitive workforce—ensuring better futures for all Americans.

**INSPIRE**

# Rising from the Ashes: UNCF's Lifeline Amidst the LA Wildfires



LOIE WHITE, A JUNIOR MAJORING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AT UNCF-MEMBER INSTITUTION SPELMAN COLLEGE.

**I**n the summer of 2025, the city of Los Angeles found itself engulfed in flames as wildfires raged through communities, leaving destruction in their wake. The devastation was felt not only in the loss of homes and businesses but also in the disruption of education for students. In the face of this crisis, UNCF stepped in to provide emergency funding and support.

The wildfires, fueled by extreme heat and dry conditions, swept through neighborhoods, forcing thousands to evacuate. Schools were closed, and many students lost their homes, creating a ripple effect that jeopardized their educational pursuits. Reports indicated that over 15,000 students in the affected areas were at risk of losing their academic year due to displacement and trauma.

Recognizing the urgent need for support, UNCF launched the **UNCF Los Angeles Area Wildfire Relief Fund** through three specific programs, offering emergency scholarships that were critical financial assistance to eligible students and alumni.

The relief fund was available to undergraduate and graduate students attending HBCUs; the children of HBCU alumni who suffered losses due to the wildfires; and students attending any accredited, four-year college or university whose families have been directly impacted by the wildfires.

“UNCF’s Los Angeles Area Wildfire Relief Fund was more than just financial assistance; it was a lifeline for students and families striving to reclaim their dreams after the devastation of the LA wildfires,” said Dr. Veda Ramsay Stamps, regional development director, Los Angeles, UNCF. “In the face of adversity, the spirit of community shines brightest. Our fund helped us to restore hope and opportunity for those students and families affected by the wildfires.”

Among the beneficiaries of the emergency relief fund was Jerimee Demetrius Moore, a junior majoring in child psychology at UNCF-member Stillman College. The fires destroyed his family’s home forcing Jerimee and his family to evacuate to his grandmother’s home.

“We were devastated. But me being a prayer warrior, I returned to school hoping for the best,” Jerimee recalled. “Home wasn’t an option because I didn’t have a home anymore. So God opened the door for Stillman College. God put me in touch with UNCF. When I arrived at Stillman, I didn’t have to pay anything. Scholarships covered everything. I’m grateful for all [UNCF has] done because without you, my future would have been in jeopardy. Thanks to UNCF, it isn’t.”

Similar stories emerged as emergency funding reached students across the region.

Loie White, a junior majoring in computer science at UNCF-member Spelman College, recalled when the fires struck, her family was forced to relocate from their home because of the toxicity in the soil caused by the fires. With the support of UNCF, Loie received funds enabling her to focus on her studies.



Logan Weaver, a sophomore majoring in financial planning at Arizona State l



Jerimee Demetrius Moore, a junior majoring in child psychology at UNCF-member [North Carolina Central University](#) College.



“I was happy to receive financial support from UNCF. It’s nice to know that someone is looking out for you,” she said.

Ethan Allen, Jr., a sophomore at the University of California Berkeley, planning to major in forestry, expressed gratitude to UNCF for the support, which allowed him to focus on his studies and appreciate his school more. Ethan and his family evacuated their home which was destroyed. UNCF provided Ethan with financial assistance, which alleviated some of the family’s stress. He was alerted by a cousin that UNCF was willing to help. “I was excited to say the least,” he said after learning he would be receiving help from UNCF. “It’s really helped to elevate my parents’ stress. I am eternally grateful to UNCF.”

Logan Weaver, a sophomore majoring in financial planning at Arizona State University (ASU), learned about UNCF’s emergency funding assistance program from his mother. Despite losing everything, he resumed his freshman year at ASU and continued pursuing his interest in artificial intelligence and

business. Logan expressed his gratitude for the assistance he received from UNCF. “What you guys are doing is incredible. The help UNCF provided is awesome.”

The 2025 LA wildfires served as a stark reminder of the unpredictability of nature and the resilience of the human spirit. Through its emergency funding and comprehensive support, UNCF played a pivotal role in helping students navigate one of the most challenging times in their lives. As they move forward, the stories of resilience and hope continue to inspire a renewed commitment to education and empowerment for all, ensuring that the lessons learned from this crisis will foster a better future for generations to come.

INSPIRE

# Better Futures for Target Scholars: How the Program Changes Student Lives



**T**he Target Scholars Program, a transformative collaboration between Target and UNCF, has profoundly impacted students attending historically Black colleges and universities. Offering more than just financial aid, the program creates a community of support, mentorship and lasting connections that help students thrive. Many student stories highlight just how powerful this opportunity has been.

“Prior to being recognized as a Target Scholar, I began to feel very overwhelmed and unconfident in my college education,” said Princess Dandoo of Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. “The Target Scholars Program gave me a glimpse of hope and something to look forward to. I’ve been blessed with a community of understanding Black men and women who share similarly big dreams.”

The program’s financial relief and sense of belonging motivate scholars facing challenges. Gideon Boadu, a student at Howard University in Washington, DC, said, “Just knowing that there are people who want to see you succeed and are constantly making an effort to prove that keeps me going in college. When I want to give up, I realize it’s not just me—the Target team is rooting for me. So, I keep moving.”

For Darrian Belcher, attending North Carolina A&T State University, the financial support has been life changing. “I truly appreciate the funding that the Target Scholars Program provided to help me achieve my dream of higher education. Being a Target Scholar lifted an enormous financial burden from my family and gave me a community of peers to learn and grow with,” he said.

To’nyia Richardson, also attending Howard University, highlighted the emotional support the program provides. “Being a part of the Target Scholars Program has impacted my college experience so much—financially by lifting some of the weight off my parents’ shoulders and mentally by giving me something to push and work for. I love the bonds I have made from it,” she said.



Target Scholar Taylor Jackson studies business administration and she's a musician University.



Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and chief executive officer, UNCF, and Ron Brown, community impact, Target with Target Scholars Nasir Barnes (left) and Kailynn Wa



Target Scholar Kailynn Washington studies fashion design and merchandising at Clark Atlanta University.

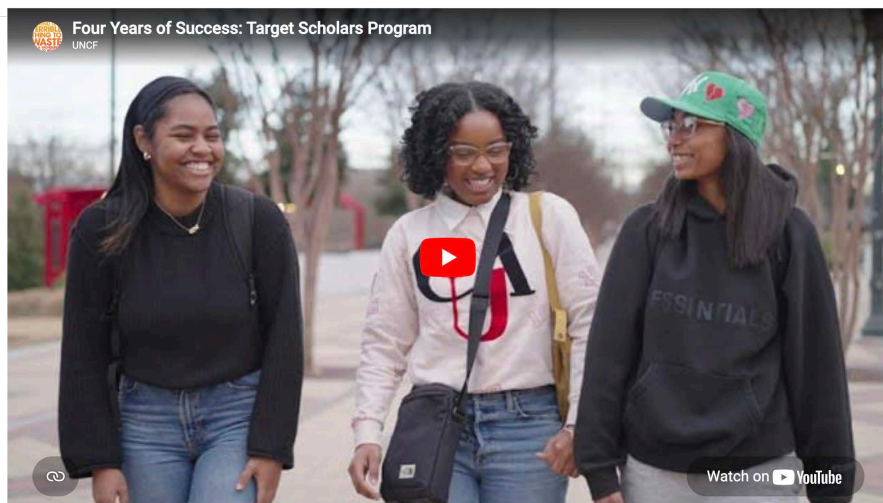
### **A Network of Support and Inspiration**

Deja Parks, attending North Carolina A&T State University, emphasized the significance of mentorship and how it made an enormous difference in her success. “My mentor was incredible—she’s been there every step of the way. She’s walked the path I want to take and is helping me navigate it with confidence.”

The experiences of these Target Scholars underscore the life-changing impact the program has had. More than financial assistance, the program provides a comprehensive support system that prepares students for success in college and beyond. Mentorship is vital as students transition from college to careers, equipping them with tools and insights for professional success.



Nasir Barnes, a student at UNCF-member institution Morehouse College, explains his success and path to achievement thanks to the Target Scholars Program and UNCF.



Learn about how the Target Scholars Program has made a real difference for students of color attending HBCUs since the program's inception in 2021.

## Meaningful Impact

The Target Scholars Program exemplifies how corporate partnerships can drive meaningful change. Target's investment in HBCU students through UNCF not only eases financial burdens, but also builds a foundation of mentorship, community and opportunity. These scholars are thriving—and their success stories are a testament to what's possible when corporations and other private entities invest in education. As we look ahead, the

continued support of donors and partners like Target will be essential in expanding this impact. Together, we can reach more students, strengthen our communities and shape a more inclusive tomorrow.

**INVEST**

# \$600M from Bloomberg Philanthropies Supports Four Historically Black Medical Schools to Train Next Generation of Doctors



BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES ANNOUNCES THE LARGEST-EVER GIFT TO THE NATION'S FOUR HISTORICALLY BLACK MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK, AUG. 6, 2024. (L TO R) DR. REYNOLD VERRET, PRESIDENT, XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA; DR. JAMES E.K. HILDRETH, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE; MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, FOUNDER, BLOOMBERG LP AND BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES; DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE; DR. DAVID M. CARLISLE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE; BEN VINSON III, PH.D., FORMER PRESIDENT, HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

**F**iscal Year 2025 proved lucrative for four historically Black medical schools. Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College and Morehouse School of Medicine collectively received \$600 million from Bloomberg Philanthropies to help stem the rising costs of tuition and operations and to strengthen their capacity to train future generations of doctors.

Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College and Morehouse School of Medicine (Morehouse College is a UNCF-member institution) each received \$175 million, and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science received \$75 million. The new funding more than doubled three of the four medical schools' endowments. Funding levels were determined by current class size and anticipated growth.

### **How this Gift Benefits Historically Black Medical Schools**

The support in HBCU funding aims to bolster the schools' endowments and strengthen their institutional capacity to respond to the rising costs of tuition and operations. The medical schools face underfunded endowments due to systemic funding inequities, such as lower federal and state support. This investment builds on Bloomberg Philanthropies' initial 2020 gift of \$100 million to the four medical schools.

Bloomberg Philanthropies also provided \$5 million in seed funding to support the creation of Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine, a new medical school founded by UNCF-member institution Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health System, a not-for-profit health system based in New Orleans, LA.

“As the only HBCU medical school in the Gulf South, Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine will train physicians who reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and help address a critical healthcare shortage in the region,” said Dr. Reynold Verret, president, Xavier University of Louisiana. “We are profoundly grateful to Mike Bloomberg and Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative for their bold vision and tremendous support which will accelerate our mission to create a healthier, more equitable, more just future for the Gulf South and for the nation.”

### **Building Institutional Strength for Lasting Impact**

The investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies, a philanthropic organization that encompasses all of the charitable giving of Michael R. Bloomberg, is part of its Greenwood Initiative—an effort with a proven track record of

supporting partners and institutions to help increase economic and social mobility across the United States.

“Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Greenwood Initiative investment will build the institutional wealth of the historically Black medical schools, boosting their ability to provide the best training possible for current and future students,” said Garnesha Ezediaro, who leads Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Greenwood Initiative. “Ultimately, the benefits of the gift will be realized in the communities where these doctors practice and the patients they serve.”

This historic investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies demonstrates how targeted support for HBCUs strengthens institutions that train the next generation of Black medical professionals. By helping medical schools expand their capacity, secure financial sustainability and educate more physicians, donors fuel not only individual student success but also the health and well-being of communities nationwide. Investments like this create better futures for all Americans, ensuring that access to quality healthcare reflects the diversity and needs of the United States.

**INVEST**

# UNCF Raises \$2 Million Through Walk for Education in 19 Cities to Support HBCUs and Students



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA STUDENTS RACE TO THE FINISH LINE AT UNCF'S WALK FOR EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.

**T**he National UNCF Walk for Education<sup>®</sup> made major strides in FY 25, delivering strong results: across 19 cities nationwide, walkers, runners,

bikers, skaters and supporters joined forces to raise \$2 million in support of UNCF's mission.

These events are more than fundraisers—they are a statement of community and commitment. From Milwaukee to Detroit to New York, participants rallied at the local level, amplifying national momentum and raising essential support for UNCF-member historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and their students.

“UNCF is 80 years young, and we're more committed than ever to pave the path forward for underrepresented students to fulfill their dream of attending college and achieving career success,” said Maurice E. Jenkins Jr., executive vice president and chief development officer, UNCF. “We're asking corporations, foundations, HBCU alumni and individual supporters to join UNCF in raising these critical funds through our Walk for Education series—and have fun doing good!”

Proceeds from the Walk for Education directly support UNCF's core mission of enabling student success, strengthening its member institutions, fostering awareness of the need for donations to UNCF, and demonstrating the impact of private financial support, both large and small.

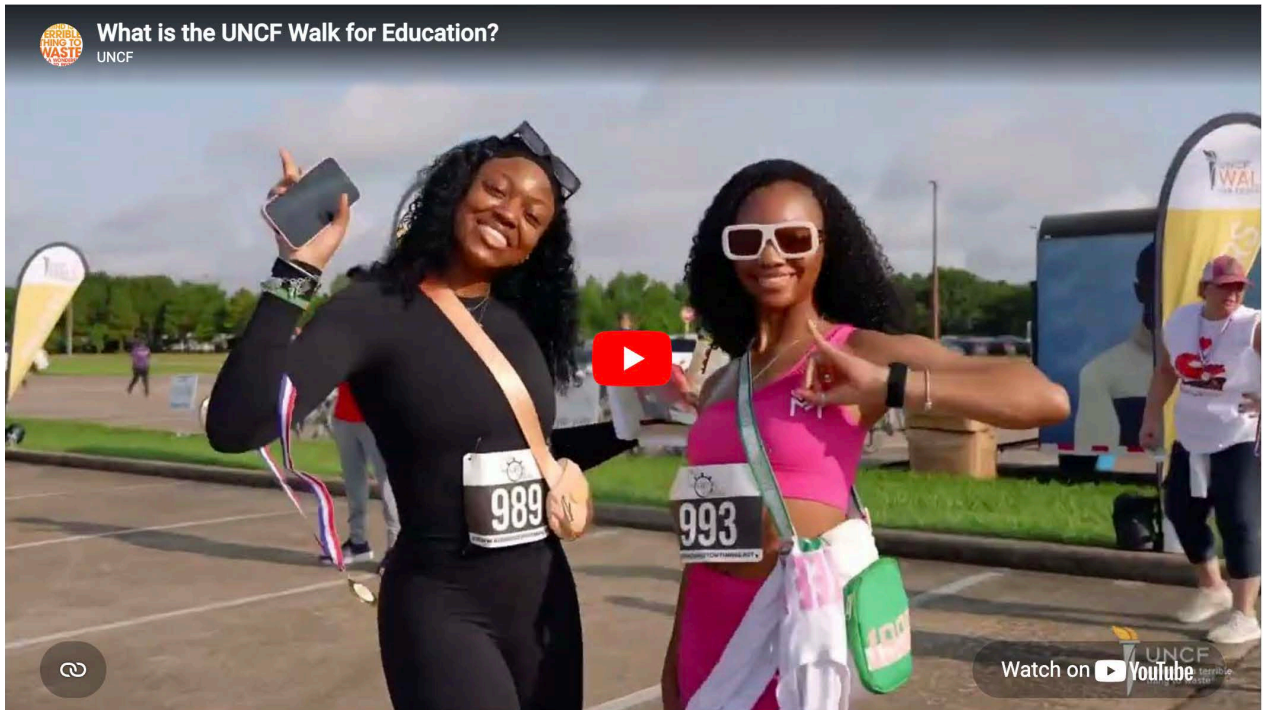
For FY25, the national UNCF Walk for Education<sup>®</sup> sponsor was Colgate-Palmolive, a caring, innovative growth company that is reimagining a healthier future for all. The company, which has supported UNCF since its founding in 1944, also proudly participated in the event. At the local level, the South Texas UNCF Walk for Education in Houston, TX, event drew considerable corporate backing. Sponsors included the Boeing Company, ExxonMobil, Southwest Airlines, Wellby Financial, Wells Fargo, Whataburger and many others.



XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA CHEERLEADERS PERFORM AT UNCF'S WALK FOR EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Additionally, General Motors, a legacy supporter of UNCF for 80 years, fielded its largest corporate fundraising team in the Detroit UNCF Walk's history. Celebrating its 36th year, the Detroit UNCF Walk for Education exceeded its \$600,000 fundraising goal thanks to support from Ph.D. Sponsor: Ford Motor Company; Master's Sponsors: AAA-The Auto Club Group, Delta Air Lines and Emagine Entertainment; Bachelor's Sponsors: AAA Life Insurance, Comerica Bank and Henkel Corporation along with our other sponsors, nearly 500 walkers and more than 80 volunteers.

These local outcomes illustrate how a \$2 million fundraising goal is built city by city and dollar by dollar—and how strong regional turnout and corporate engagement can elevate the campaign's impact.



Every dollar raised through the Walk for Education is an investment in potential—an investment in students, institutions and community progress. As philanthropic dollars big and small flow into UNCF’s mission, they help unlock scholarships, programming and capacity-building at HBCUs, enabling more students to get to and through college. Stronger HBCUs produce more graduates who contribute innovation, leadership and economic vitality across all sectors of American life. In short, investing in UNCF is investing in America’s future—ensuring broader access, opportunity and lasting impact for all of us.

INVEST

# UNCF-Style March Madness Raises \$13.6M for HBCUs and their Students



ADRIAN MITCHELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF MACY'S, INC., ACCEPTED THE CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD; NICOLE PULLEN ROSS OF GOLDMAN SACHS RECEIVED THE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM AWARD; AND ANGELA AND REGINALD GOINS, FOUNDERS OF THE REGINALD & ANGELA GOINS CHARITY FUND, RECEIVED THE LEADERSHIP AWARD.

**A**s UNCF concluded its 80th anniversary celebrations, the organization hosted 16 fundraising events in March 2025—including seven in a

single week—demonstrating an unwavering commitment to its mission. Through the support of individual and corporate donors, UNCF raised more than \$13.6 million during that month, significantly helping to financially support its 37 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) member institutions and their students.

With resolute dedication to expanding educational opportunities for underrepresented students, UNCF has achieved remarkable results over its eight decades. March 2025 proved to be an extraordinary month, with unprecedented engagement from donors, partners and the broader community.

Funds raised during this period help ensure that HBCUs continue providing a transformative education, nurturing generations of leaders who contribute meaningfully to society. By supporting UNCF-member institutions, donors help strengthen programs, enhance campus resources and empower students to reach their college and career goals.



LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. GEORGE T. FRENCH JR., PRESIDENT, CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, DR. MICHAEL L. LOMAX, PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNCF AND MILTON H. JONES JR., CHAIR, UNCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT ACTOR AND COMEDIAN ANTHONY ANDERSON (CENTER) WITH THE UNCF PRESIDENT'S AWARD.

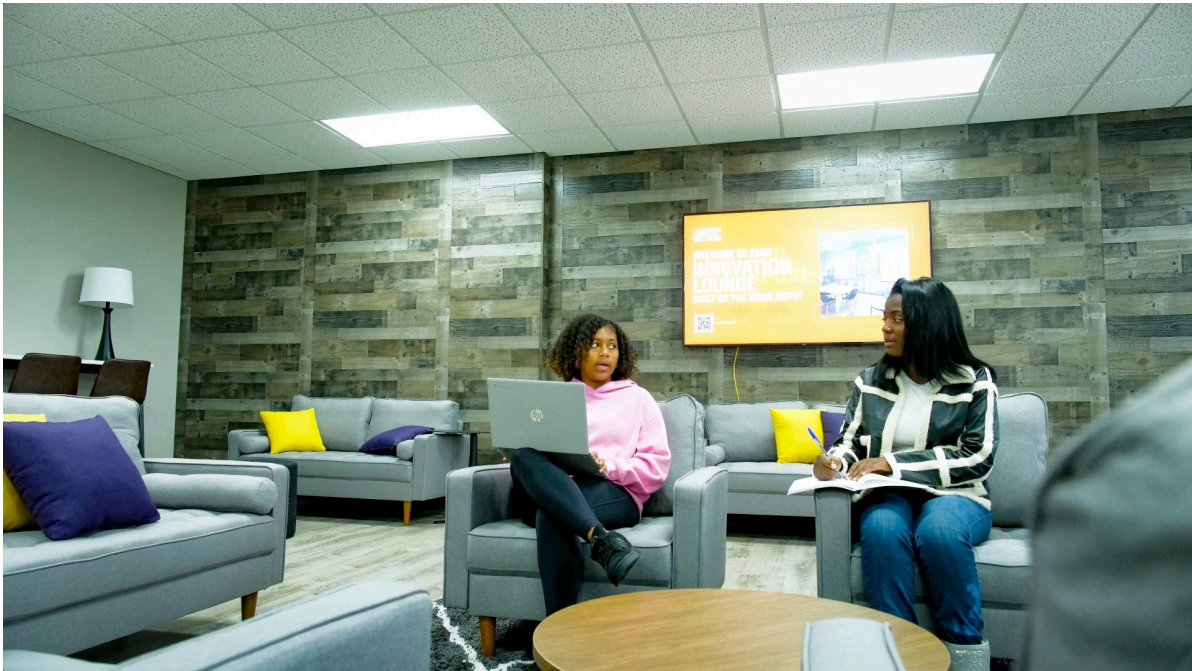
“We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support we received from donors and corporate partners during our busiest fundraising season,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO, UNCF. “It is especially gratifying that this phenomenal achievement coincides with UNCF’s 80th anniversary. We

remain steadfast in our commitment to empower our member institutions and all HBCUs as they prepare future generations to achieve their college dreams and career success.”

UNCF’s March Madness-style fundraising efforts are more than spirited competition—they are a powerful demonstration of how donor investment fuels opportunity. Every contribution helps provide scholarships, academic support and transformative experiences that shape students’ futures. By participating, donors are not only empowering individual HBCU students but also investing in better futures for all Americans, ensuring the next generation of leaders, professionals and innovators has the tools to thrive.

INVEST

# Miles College Awarded Home Depot Innovation Lounge Grant



MILES COLLEGE USED THE DONATIONS IT RECEIVED TO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORM A SPACE ON CAMPUS INTO A DYNAMIC HUB FOR CREATIVITY, COLLABORATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. THE INNOVATION LOUNGE FEATURES MODULAR FURNITURE, COLLABORATIVE ZONES AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING AREAS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE DIVERSE WAYS STUDENTS ENGAGE, LEARN AND BUILD COMMUNITY. (PHOTO CREDIT: TA'RON WILLIAMS)

**U** NCF-member institution Miles College based in Fairfield, AL, recently announced its selection as a recipient of The Home Depot's 2025 Retool Your School Innovation Lounge Grant. The Home Depot grant funds an adaptable, tech-forward space designed to foster creativity, collaboration and entrepreneurship among students and faculty.

“We are thrilled to partner with The Home Depot to bring this vision to life,” said Dr. Bobbie Knight, president, Miles College. “This Innovation Lounge will not only enhance our campus infrastructure but also provide our students with the resources and environment necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving professional landscape.”

The Innovation Lounge features modular furniture, collaborative zones and personal pods to accommodate a variety of learning styles and activities. It serves as a knowledge hub, offering workshops, guest lectures and networking events that connect students with industry professionals and alumni.

“The space also supports research initiatives and partnerships with industries and nonprofits, providing students with hands-on experience in solving real-world problems,” said Dr. Erskine “Chuck” Faush, chief innovation and growth officer and vice president of institutional advancement at Miles College.

Dr. Tonya Perry, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs at Miles College, emphasized the importance of diverse learning environments on campus. “All students learn differently—some thrive in quiet, focused pods, while others flourish in collaborative, open settings,” she said. “This Innovation Lounge gives our students the freedom to choose how they engage with their work. We’re grateful to The Home Depot for understanding that a one-size-fits-all model doesn’t serve today’s learners. With this grant, we can create something that works for all.”

Knight, Perry and Faush attended The Home Depot’s awards ceremony in Atlanta, GA, at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. President Knight proudly represented Miles College and accepted the award on behalf of the institution, joined by members of her leadership team. The event welcomed leadership from numerous HBCUs across the country who were also recognized as grant recipients, further emphasizing the nationwide impact of The Home Depot’s investment in excellence.

“As this vision moves forward, Miles College is grateful for the support of its institutional partners,” Knight added.

Investments like The Home Depot’s Innovation Lounge Grant extend far beyond campus improvements—they are catalysts for progress that uplift entire communities. When partners invest in UNCF-member institutions like Miles College, they help expand educational opportunity, strengthen local economies and cultivate future leaders who will drive innovation across Alabama and the nation. Each partnership ensures that historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) remain vital engines of talent and creativity, building a stronger, more inclusive America—one where every student can succeed and shape a better future for us all.

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.

## Directors-at-Large

### Kieth Cockrell



Kieth Cockrell, as President of Bank of America Charlotte and Head of Sports Sponsorships, is responsible for connecting banking and investment resources offered through the bank's eight lines of business to people and companies across the region, deploying Bank of America's resources to address social and economic concerns, and helping the local community thrive.

Cockrell previously served as the Global Technology & Operations chief operating officer with responsibility for programs, business controls, oversight and operations as well as external relationships, for nearly 95,000 teammates in more than 35 countries.

Prior to that, Cockrell served as head of Specialty Client Services for Consumer & Small Business and president of Bank of America Michigan. During his 39-year career in financial services, Cockrell has held several key executive roles including COO for Consumer and Small business, national community markets executive responsible for 1,800 financial centers, customer service and support responsible for all call center operations and led the debit card and ATM businesses. He also oversaw the Specialty Clients Services, Life Services, Employee Financial Services and Client Escalations teams.

Cockrell is a passionate ally and advocate for a diverse and inclusive workplace. He has served as vice chair of the Global Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Council. In this role, he was instrumental in establishing several employee networks, including the Black Professional Group; the Hispanic/Latino Organization for Leadership and Advancement; the Military Support and Assistance Group; and the Black Executive Advisory Council.

In 2019, he received the Root Award and the Vanguard Award, two D&I awards recognizing his leadership role in promoting equality, unity and multiculturalism. He is an active member and advisor in several employee networks. Active in the community, he co-chaired the 2020 Charlotte City Bond Campaign. He plays a vital role on various boards with local organizations, including immediate past chair of the Levine Museum of the New South, the incoming chair for the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Foundation for the Carolinas Community Real Property Holdings, Inc., My Brother's Keeper Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and is the vice chair of the board of trustees for HBCU Johnson C. Smith University.

Also, Cockrell has previously served on the boards of United Way, Goodwill Industries, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina and the American Diabetes Association, which previously named him Father of the Year. Cockrell is a Michigan Chronicle Men of Excellence honoree and received the Excellence in Economic Development award from the 100 Black Men of Detroit.

## Celia A. Colbert



Senior Vice President, Secretary and Assistant General Counsel  
Merck & Company (Retired)  
UNCF Board of Directors

## Gregory G. Cunningham



Vice President, Enterprise Diversity and Inclusion  
U.S. Bancorp  
UNCF Board of Directors

## Vladimir Galiothe



**CitiBank**  
**UNCF Board of Directors**

**Paul Gama**



**President, Personal Health Care**  
**Procter & Gamble Co.**  
**UNCF Board of Directors**

# Alfred G. Goldstein



President and CEO  
A.G. & Associates  
UNCF Board of Directors

# Milton H. Jones, Jr.



Peachtree Providence Partners  
Chair of the Board

Milton H. Jones, Jr., is Chair of UNCF's Board of Directors and founding member of Peachtree Providence Partners Holding Company, LLC., in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to his election as UNCF Board Chair on March 11, 2021, Jones served as vice chair of the board and chair of the Finance Committee. He has been a member of UNCF's Board of Directors since 2005. UNCF is one of the nation's largest and most effective supporters of higher education and serves as a leading advocate for college-bound students. Since its founding in 1944, UNCF has raised more than \$6 billion to support more than 600,000 students' access to higher education, provide scholarships and strengthen historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) including UNCF's 37 member institutions.

Under Mr. Jones's leadership, board members have achieved 100% participation in gifting funds to support UNCF's mission, and he has significantly grown corporate representation on the board.

In addition to his role as UNCF Board Chair, Mr. Jones is a founding member of Peachtree Providence Partners Holding Company, LLC. In this role, he advises and collaborates with client board chairs, CEO's and executives in key sectors that include financial services, healthcare, technology, government and higher education. For more than 32 years while at Bank of America, he held a series of senior executive positions with global responsibilities including roles reporting directly to the chairman and CEO.

Mr. Jones is vice chairman of the Meharry Medical College Board of Trustees; board chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.; and co-chair of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He also serves on the advisory boards of the Metro Atlanta YMCA, Boy Scouts and the Commerce Club. He is a member of the Downtown Atlanta Rotary Club and is a member and past chairman of The Atlanta Business League and of 100 Black Men of Atlanta.

Mr. Jones is an alumnus of the University of Notre Dame (BBA-Accounting '74) Leadership Atlanta ('90) and Leadership Georgia ('92). He has received degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa from Shaw University in 2007 and Allen University in 2023. Mr. Jones is a licensed Life and Health Insurance professional and a Six Sigma Black Belt.

Mr. Jones is married with an adult son and daughter and five grandchildren.

**Ben Minicucci**



**Alaska Airlines  
UNCF Board of Directors**

## Aloysius “Ish” McLaughlin



**Franklin Templeton  
UNCF Board of Directors**

# Ken Mehlman



Global Head of Public Affairs  
Co-Head of Global Impact  
Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR)

# Rhonda Morris



**Chevron**  
**UNCF Board of Directors**

## Laurie Readhead



**Executive Vice President**  
**CIO, Global Technology and Operations**  
**Bank of America (Retired)**  
**UNCF Board of Directors**

## Danette Anthony Reed



Danette Anthony Reed is the International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. She is the 31<sup>st</sup> woman to lead the nation's first African American sorority for college-educated women.

Anthony Reed ascended to the Alpha Kappa Alpha's highest office in July 2022. Her 46 years of continuous sorority service at local, regional, and international levels have well-prepared her for this role.

As International President and CEO, she sets policies and programs. In addition, she leads the sorority's 18-member Board of Directors representing other international officers and ten regional directors who oversee the management of the sorority's more than 1,061 chapters and 320,000 initiated members throughout the United States and 11 other countries.

A Dallas, TX resident and retired PepsiCo executive, Anthony Reed brings decades of corporate leadership, community engagement, service, and progressive sorority governance.

During her tenure at PepsiCo, Anthony Reed rose through the operations ranks at Frito-Lay, becoming the first African American woman plant director to lead the start-up of an \$80 million bakery facility in Dallas. She later moved to Frito-Lay's corporate office and led a cross-functional team in the commercialization of \$300 million in innovative products. She retired in 2017 after 34 years of service.

Anthony Reed holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA), specializing in Finance, from Southern Methodist University and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Northwestern University.

In addition to her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority service, Anthony Reed is a charter member of the Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated®; Top Ladies of Distinction; the Carrousel of Dallas, TX; and the National Association of Parliamentarians. Currently, she serves as treasurer of the Krugerville, TX, Community Development Corporation.

She has received numerous honors, awards, and accolades, including Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals, Women's Inclusion Network Lifetime Achievement Award, PepsiCo's Global Harvey Russell Diversity and Inclusion Award, National Council of Negro Women Outstanding Service Award, Greater Denton County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Leadership Award, Women's Inclusion Network Leadership Development Award, and Women of Color Making an Impact Award.

## Tara Parker



ExxonMobil  
UNCF Board of Directors

## Marcos Purty



**Vice President, Global Quality, Supplier Quality & Operational Excellence  
General Motors Company  
UNCF Board of Directors**

**Marcos Purty was appointed Vice President, Global Quality, Supplier Quality & Operational Excellence for General Motors in May 2024. He is responsible for leading General Motors global quality efforts as well as leadership of the Operational Excellence group.**

**Prior to this position, Marcos was Vice President of Global Workplace Safety at GM, after returning from Amazon where he was Vice President, North America Fulfillment, Amazon Robotics Sortable Operations. Marcos and his team supported GM leadership in its mission to keep employees, contractors, and visitors safe at 363 sites worldwide.**

**Marcos joined GM in 1994 at the former Pontiac Assembly plant in Michigan and led his first international assignment in Canada at Oshawa Assembly in 2002. After returning to the U.S. in leadership roles at Pontiac Assembly and Fort Wayne Assembly in Indiana, Marcos went on to additional international assignments in Australia, Indonesia, and Thailand. In 2016, Marcos returned to the U.S. as Plant Executive Director at Lansing Delta Township Assembly in Michigan before his last assignment at GM as executive director, Global Manufacturing Strategy and Planning.**

**Marcos earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Florida A&M University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.**

**Marcos was recognized by the Career Communications Group with the 2020 Black Engineer of the Year Career Achievement Award and was a 2019 Michigan Chronicle Men of Excellence Honoree. In 2023, he was recognized as a DRIVEN nominee and featured in the 2023 DRIVEN publication, a Real Times Media program.**

Marcos serves on the executive board of the Pontiac Kappa Foundation, which is a key pillar of his active support of community STEM initiatives. He is also on the board of Focus Hope, a non-profit community support organization in Detroit.

## Board of Directors

David Sable



**Vice Chairman, Stagwell  
UNCF Board of Directors**

LaSonja Scott



LaSonja Scott is an accomplished executive who brings deep financial, strategic planning and international expertise to her role as chief of staff to the chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. Scott is responsible for the operations of the Office of the CEO, as well as leading the implementation of some of the company's top business strategies.

Scott has nearly 30 years of experience in finance, strategic planning and accounting and has worked in the Coca-Cola system for the past 22 years in various finance positions at the company's global headquarters as well as in its North America and Europe operations.

As a Coca-Cola system veteran, she has led teams of increasing accountability across finance, global IT, North America Foodservice, investor relations and the Controller's Group. She also was a finance manager for the Europe Group, based in London.

Among her most notable roles, Scott helped communicate the company's growth story to investors and build global finance capabilities. Specifically, as director of investor relations, she engaged with the global investment community to provide insights on operating results and strategy while providing business and analytical support to the senior management team.

In addition, as global finance director, she created and transformed the global finance capability strategy and delivered new and more digitized ways to grow capabilities across the organization. She developed networked communities working across departments to upskill teams in the digital, finance and enterprise governance areas.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from South Carolina State University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Mercer University. She is also a certified public accountant (CPA) and a certified internal auditor (CIA).

## William F. Stasior



Senior Chairman (Retired)  
Booz Allen Hamilton  
*Chair Emeritus, UNCF Board of Directors*

## Terry Woodard



Terry Woodard is a managing director and vice chairman in J.P. Morgan Private Bank's Financial Sponsors Group. Woodard, along with his team of financial and service specialists, are responsible for handling the day-to-day banking, investment, tax and financial planning needs of individuals and non-profit organizations.

Woodard has been with the firm for over 35 years. He started his career with the Chase Manhattan Bank and attended the Credit Training Program. He has held positions in General Auditing, Risk Management, Credit Underwriting, and Client Management.

Currently, Woodard is the global co-chair of BOLD (Black Organization for Leadership and Development), co-chair and co-founder of the Asset Management Black Leadership Forum and a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC). He is the captain of the Morehouse College Recruiting Team and is actively involved in undergraduate recruiting at Howard University.

He is the chairman of the board of Jazz House Kids, chairman of the board of the Sphinx Organization, a member of the Friends of MoMA and a former board member of the Girls Scouts in Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties of New Jersey.

Woodard joined JPMorgan Chase after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Finance from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. He is the recipient of the Harlem YMCA Black Achievers in Industry Award, The Dreamer Award from the Morehouse Manhattan Alumni Chapter, Alumnus of the Year Award from the Morehouse College National Alumni Association and a Crain's New York 2022 Notable Diverse Leader in Banking and Finance.

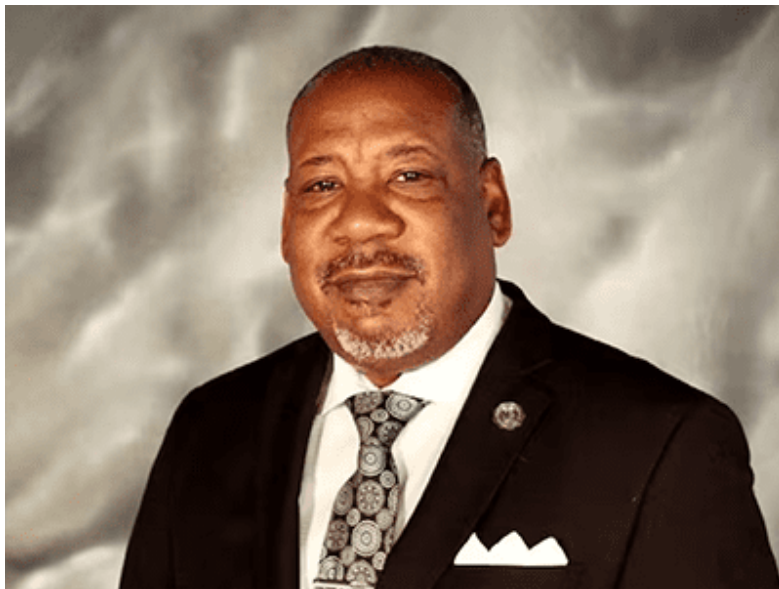
# Safroadu (Saf) Yeboah-Amankwah



UNCF Board of Directors

## Institutional Directors

### Dr. Anthony J. Davis



# Dr. Herman J. Felton, Jr.



Herman J. Felton, Jr., Ph.D., J.D., is the 17th President & CEO of Wiley University in 2018. Before his appointment at Wiley University, he served as Wilberforce University's 21st president. His leadership experience has included chief operating officer, senior vice president, and vice president at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. He is also a former director of development and lecturer in the Government, Law, and International Affairs Department at Murray State University in Kentucky.

President Felton began his service at Wiley University, signaling the Bold and Audacious Vision. Under his leadership, he has achieved several significant accomplishments, including spearheading a campaign with College alumni and supporters that has generated the renovation and modernization of every building on campus. He has successfully garnered support from various foundations and local businesses, such as the Marshall Economic Development Corporation who assisted with the renovation of KBWC 91.1, the University's radio station.

His leadership has launched the Heman Sweatt Center for Social Good and Leadership, created a training space for physical education majors, and implemented the student health, counseling, and wellness unit, now staffed with full-time licensed practitioners.

The University has received over \$20 million in grants and gifts, generating some of the largest gifts in the University's history. In addition to his accomplishments on Wiley's campus, President Felton has immersed himself in the fabric of the Marshall Community, where he is a member of the Marshall Rotary Club, the Marshall Chamber of Commerce, and the Citizens Advisory Council.

President Felton earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida. Also, he earned his Juris Doctorate from the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida and completed his graduate work at Jackson State University, where he earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration and Supervision.

He is co-founder of the Higher Education Leadership Foundation (H.E.L.F.), an organization ensuring that a pipeline of transformational, highly skilled, and principled leaders are identified and cultivated to meet the needs, challenges, and opportunities facing the Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. President Felton served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years. He is married to the lovely Katherine Anne Felton and is the father of Jamal, Paige, and Herman, III (Trey).

## Dr. Dwight Fennell



Dwight J. Fennell is the 23rd president of Texas College (Tyler, TX). He is a native of Miami, FL. Following graduation from high school, he immediately enrolled in Saint Augustine's College (now Saint Augustine's University) in Raleigh, NC, where he completed the baccalaureate degree in history and government. He pursued and completed the master of arts degree in history at Atlanta University, and a second master of science degree in education at Florida International University in Miami, FL.

He received the education specialist and doctor of philosophy degrees from Florida State University in Tallahassee. He has completed post-doctoral work in educational leadership with the American Council on Education as an ACE Fellow at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. Fennell began his professional career in higher education at Florida International University, where he worked in various capacities including community service initiatives, adult and continuing education and as assistant director of the honors program. He also worked at Florida Atlantic University as director of the Student Retention Program.

After leaving the State University System of Florida, Fennell taught at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, and later at Saint Augustine's College (his alma mater). While at Saint Augustine's College, he became a tenured associate professor of history and later vice president for academic affairs, a position he held for seven of the 11 years he spent at the institution. Fennell relocated to Dallas in 1998 to become provost of Paul Quinn College with the responsibilities of both academic affairs and student affairs. He was appointed interim president of the college in 2001, and in 2002, he received the unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees to become the 32nd president of Paul Quinn College.

During his tenure as president, the college experienced an increase in enrollment, increased student retention, enhanced community collaborations, increased funding of student scholarships, renovations to the campus buildings and increase in the college's endowment. Fennell served as Executive Director of Project Development in 2005 at The Potter's House Incorporated with the ministry of Bishop T.D. Jakes for two years. He held the overall responsibilities for design, development and construction of Capella Park, a residential subdivision featuring more than 1,000 single-family homes. He also had responsibility for the administrative oversight of Clay Academy, a private, Christian college preparatory school. Fennell led the preparatory school to accreditation, scholarship funding, enrollment and grade level growth.

As president of Texas College, Fennell leads with a focus on "student centeredness." This means that his primary direction is with creating an educational environment and processes that lead to student learning in an atmosphere that is conducive for such. Fennell's approach to leadership is that of "shared governance," and he holds his team to accountability, integrity and productivity. Fennell's "student centeredness" focus has been embraced by faculty, staff and students. The results of this focus have led to facility improvements, academic program refinement, accreditation enhancements, enrollment growth, and growth in the college's endowment along with enhanced relationships with the local communities.

Fennell is married to Angelia, and they have one son, Dwight, Jr.

**Dr. George T. French, Jr.**



Dr. George T. French, Jr., is the the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University (CAU).

Dr. French served as president of Miles College, 2006-2019 before taking the lead at CAU. During his tenure, Miles College exceeded capital campaign goals— besting previous fundraising records, achieved an unprecedented financial composite score to position the school for growth, increased student access to educational funding, and more than doubled the size of the existing campus with key land acquisitions.

Prior to serving as the president of Miles College, Dr. French served in the roles of acting and interim president for the institution between October and December 2005. Before serving as interim president, Dr. French served as a member of the president's cabinet in the capacity of director of institutional planning and development, and as such directed the offices of alumni affairs, federal contracts and grants, Title III, institutional research and effectiveness, congressional relations and public relations.

A native of Louisville, KY, Dr. French earned a bachelor of arts in political science with an emphasis in policy analysis from the University of Louisville. He was competitively accepted into the University of Richmond Law School and completed two years of studies before being recruited by Miles College to serve as the director of development. He completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School, earning a juris doctorate. Dr. French received his Ph.D. in higher education from Jackson State University.

Dr. French also has great influence off campus grounds. He served two terms, respectively, on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' Board of Trustees, and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. He is a member of the Birmingham Business Alliance's Executive Committee and Birmingham Museum of Art's Board of Directors. In 2015, Dr. French co-founded Higher Education Leadership Foundation to help prepare highly-skilled talent for positions of leadership at historically Black colleges and universities.

"I am thankful and blessed to have the opportunity to lead another great institution and serve as the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University," Dr. French said. "CAU has strong faculty, students and academics. I'm optimistic about the university's next stage of growth and eager to build on the strong foundation CAU has established."

## Dr. Ronnie Hopkins



The Voorhees University Board of Trustees named Dr. Ronnie Hopkins to serve as the 10<sup>th</sup> president of the institution, effective July 9, 2021.

“Dr. Hopkins brings a wealth of higher-education experience, expansive leadership, fundraising acumen and vast institutional knowledge. His appointment perfectly positions the college to advance and accelerate the current momentum and focus on enrollment, innovation and fiscal stability. His remarkable demeanor, skills, prudent judgement and interpersonal skills will be a great asset. We welcome him and look forward to his leadership as we ‘begin, believe and become’ in this next chapter,” said Dr. Traci Young-Cooper, vice chairperson of the board.

Prior to being named the president of Voorhees, Hopkins served as interim president and before that he was the institution’s provost and vice president for academic affairs. He is the accreditation liaison and a tenured professor of English.

Hopkins has been in public and higher education for nearly 30 years, serving in senior leadership roles and instructional positions that involve supervision of faculty, staff, students, budgeting, and strategic planning. He has authored more than 10 research articles and received \$30 million in grant funding to advance higher education priorities.

Hopkins has conducted international scholarly research and made presentations in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa; Buea, Cameroon, Central West Africa; the University of Technology at Quibdo, Choco, South America; Guilan, Beijing, and Shanghai, Republic of China; University of Ghana-Legon, Accra, Ghana, West Africa; Merida, Mexico; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; and, Cape Town, South Africa.

He actively serves as an Off-site and On-site Reaffirmation Committee Evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. He is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Possible Worlds Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides full-service career strategic directions and opportunities in education and employment for disenfranchised citizens impacted by homelessness, incarceration, and HIV/AIDS.

Before coming to Voorhees, he served at Benedict College as founding dean of the Freshman Institute and the School of Honors. Other positions in which he served at Benedict included professor of English, chair of the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communication, and dean of the School of Continuing Education, Graduate Studies and Lifelong Learning.

Hopkins earned doctoral and master’s degrees in English from Michigan State University. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English with a secondary teaching certification from North Carolina Central University. He also completed postdoctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received a Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa from Saint Monica University in Buea, Cameroon, Central West Africa.

Hopkins is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, and the Class of 2020 Executive Leadership Academy sponsored by the American Academic Leadership Institute for preparation of experienced college executive officers to become successful presidents and chancellors.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at 803.780.1191 or at [communications@voorhees.edu](mailto:communications@voorhees.edu).

## Dr. Glenell M. Lee-Pruitt



Jarvis Christian University Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Glenell M. Lee-Pruitt as the university's 13th president, effective July 1, 2023. She succeeds Dr. Lester C. Newman, who served as the JCU President for 11 years.

Dr. Lee-Pruitt brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the university, including higher education administration and academic affairs, having served as second in command and as a member of the executive cabinet since August 2012 as the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Jarvis. She has been instrumental in increasing student enrollment, increasing articulation agreements, and establishing the Renaissance Program for Adult Learners on the JCU campus and the JCU Dallas Teaching Site. She has also provided leadership in enhancing academic program offerings, which include online degree completion programs and two online graduate programs.

Previously, she served at Mississippi Valley State University as dean of University College and First Year Experience, director of Community/Service Learning, director of the Renaissance Learning Adult Education Program, and tenured professor in the Department of Social Work.

An ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Lee-Pruitt is a highly sought-after speaker and presenter. She also is active in campus, community, and ministry activities. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Jackson State University, a Master of Social Work degree from Temple University, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social Work from Jackson State University, and a Master of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary.

Moreover, she has completed the Council of Independent Colleges' Presidential Vocation and Institutional Mission Program and the Millennium Leadership Institute. She has received several honors, awards, and recognitions including Faculty of the Year and the UNCF Trailblazer Award.

Lee-Pruitt is the current pastor of St. Matthew A.M.E Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Jarvis Christian University is dedicated to empowering students to achieve their career goals through an affordable academic experience that prepares them for today's global economy.

Whether a student is a recent high school graduate or a working adult seeking career advancement, Jarvis Christian University develops students of all ages intellectually, socially, spiritually, and emotionally.

## Dr. Melva K. Wallace



For over twenty years Dr. Melva K. Wallace has worked in higher education as a leader and as a fierce national advocate. Today, she proudly serves as the seventh President and CEO of one of the top private liberal arts colleges in the country, Huston-Tillotson University, an HBCU in Austin, TX.

In 2023, Dr. Wallace was honored by the United Negro College Fund as a president in leadership. Because of her national prominence in higher education as a national spokesperson for HBCUs, she has been featured in a number of magazines and media publications expressing her views on these beloved institutions. In 2023, she was named by Austin Business Journal as one of the Texas 100 Top Influential Professionals to Watch. Wallace is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated.

Wallace received a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Grambling State University. She also earned her Ph.D. in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University.

She is married to her phenomenal husband, Dr. DL Wallace, of Flower Mound, Texas. You can follow her on Instagram at MKW7th to learn more about her views on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

## Dr. Suzanne Walsh



Suzanne Walsh earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Cornell University, as well as a master's degree in social work and law degree from Case Western Reserve University. She is a member of the Ohio Bar, and has received national recognition for her portfolio of work with organizations at the intersection of innovation, technology and learning.

Walsh will also work closely with the Board and the Bennett Reengineering Committee (BRC), which was appointed earlier in 2019 to identify ways to transform the College and keep it relevant in a rapidly changing educational environment.

Although Walsh has a storied career in education, this will be her first role at a four-year institution. Previously, she served as the deputy director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success division, where she focused on higher education issues, helping students do better in college, and assisting institutions in making changes to improve graduation rates. Prior to that, Walsh worked on an initiative to make college more affordable and increase college productivity at the Lumina Foundation in Indianapolis. She also worked as an administrator for a community college in Cleveland back in 1998.

## Officers of the Corporation

Milton H. Jones, Jr.



Peachtree Providence Partners  
Chair of the Board

Milton H. Jones, Jr., is Chair of UNCF's Board of Directors and founding member of Peachtree Providence Partners Holding Company, LLC., in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to his election as UNCF Board Chair on March 11, 2021, Jones served as vice chair of the board and chair of the Finance Committee. He has been a member of UNCF's Board of Directors since 2005. UNCF is one of the nation's largest and most effective supporters of higher education and serves as a leading advocate for college-bound students. Since its founding in 1944, UNCF has raised more than \$6 billion to support more than 600,000 students' access to higher education, provide scholarships and strengthen historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) including UNCF's 37 member institutions.

Under Mr. Jones's leadership, board members have achieved 100% participation in gifting funds to support UNCF's mission, and he has significantly grown corporate representation on the board.

In addition to his role as UNCF Board Chair, Mr. Jones is a founding member of Peachtree Providence Partners Holding Company, LLC. In this role, he advises and collaborates with client board chairs, CEO's and executives in key sectors that include financial services, healthcare, technology, government and higher education. For more than 32 years while at Bank of America, he held a series of senior executive positions with global responsibilities including roles reporting directly to the chairman and CEO.

Mr. Jones is vice chairman of the Meharry Medical College Board of Trustees; board chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.; and co-chair of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He also serves on the advisory boards of the Metro Atlanta YMCA, Boy Scouts and the Commerce Club. He is a member of the Downtown Atlanta Rotary Club and is a member and past chairman of The Atlanta Business League and of 100 Black Men of Atlanta.

Mr. Jones is an alumnus of the University of Notre Dame (BBA-Accounting '74) Leadership Atlanta ('90) and Leadership Georgia ('92). He has received degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa from Shaw University in 2007 and Allen University in 2023. Mr. Jones is a licensed Life and Health Insurance professional and a Six Sigma Black Belt.

Mr. Jones is married with an adult son and daughter and five grandchildren.

**Alfred G. Goldstein**



President and CEO  
A.G. & Associates  
UNCF Board of Directors

## Dr. George T. French, Jr.



Dr. George T. French, Jr., is the the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University (CAU).

Dr. French served as president of Miles College, 2006-2019 before taking the lead at CAU. During his tenure, Miles College exceeded capital campaign goals— besting previous fundraising records, achieved an unprecedented financial composite score to position the school for growth, increased student access to educational funding, and more than doubled the size of the existing campus with key land acquisitions.

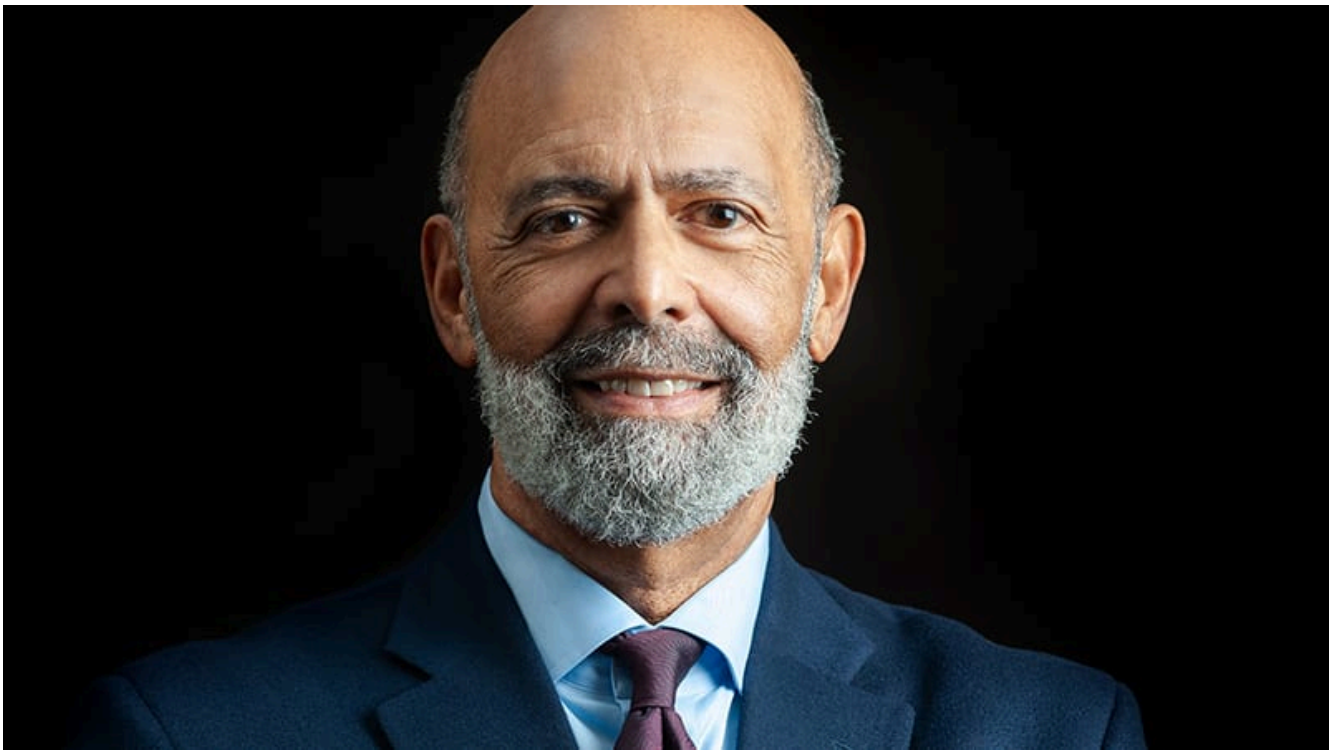
Prior to serving as the president of Miles College, Dr. French served in the roles of acting and interim president for the institution between October and December 2005. Before serving as interim president, Dr. French served as a member of the president's cabinet in the capacity of director of institutional planning and development, and as such directed the offices of alumni affairs, federal contracts and grants, Title III, institutional research and effectiveness, congressional relations and public relations.

A native of Louisville, KY, Dr. French earned a bachelor of arts in political science with an emphasis in policy analysis from the University of Louisville. He was competitively accepted into the University of Richmond Law School and completed two years of studies before being recruited by Miles College to serve as the director of development. He completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School, earning a juris doctorate. Dr. French received his Ph.D. in higher education from Jackson State University.

Dr. French also has great influence off campus grounds. He served two terms, respectively, on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' Board of Trustees, and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. He is a member of the Birmingham Business Alliance's Executive Committee and Birmingham Museum of Art's Board of Directors. In 2015, Dr. French co-founded Higher Education Leadership Foundation to help prepare highly-skilled talent for positions of leadership at historically Black colleges and universities.

"I am thankful and blessed to have the opportunity to lead another great institution and serve as the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University," Dr. French said. "CAU has strong faculty, students and academics. I'm optimistic about the university's next stage of growth and eager to build on the strong foundation CAU has established."

Dr. Michael L. Lomax



Dr. Michael Lucius Lomax has served as president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) for more than two decades. UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization and the largest private provider of scholarships and other educational support to underrepresented students.

A native of Los Angeles, California, Lomax entered Morehouse College at the age of 16 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English as one of the college's inaugural Phi Beta Kappa graduates in 1968. He earned a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Columbia University in 1972 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in American and African American Literature from Emory University in 1984.

In 1969, Dr. Lomax joined the faculty of Morehouse College as an instructor of English. Over the next twenty years, Dr. Lomax subsequently served on the faculties of both Morehouse and Spelman Colleges as a tenured professor.

Lomax began his civic career in Atlanta, Georgia under the city's first African American mayor, Maynard Holbrook Jackson, where he served as the Director of Research & Special Assistant to the Mayor. During the Jackson Administration, he also helped establish the City of Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs, where he served as its first director.

In 1978, Dr. Lomax was elected to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and became the first African American to be elected as board chairman, a position he held from 1981 to 1993. In this role, he was responsible for a \$500 million annual operating budget and 5,000 county employees. He also founded the Bureau of Cultural Affairs, the Fulton County Arts Council, and the National Black Arts Festival.

To meet the needs of a vibrantly changing community, he oversaw the building of Georgia's Interstate 400, a major highway on the outskirts of Atlanta; expanding and renovating the historic Grady Hospital; and building the new Fulton County Government Center. In 1988, he co-chaired the Democratic National Convention and was instrumental in bringing the 1996 Olympic Games to Atlanta.

In 1994, Dr. Lomax began his tenure as president of the National Faculty, an Atlanta-based organization dedicated to bringing together arts and sciences higher education scholars with K-12 teachers.

From 1997 to 2004, Dr. Lomax served as the fifth president of Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. During his tenure at Dillard, the student enrollment increased by nearly 50 percent, accompanied by dramatic increases in private funding and alumni giving. Dr. Lomax also led a \$60 million campaign that improved the educational and everyday environments for students and faculty.

Since 2004, Lomax has served as president and chief executive officer of UNCF. Under his leadership, UNCF has raised more than \$4 billion and helped more than 300,000 students earn college degrees and launch careers. Annually, UNCF's work enables 50,000 students to go to college with UNCF scholarships and attend its 37 member historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). At UNCF's helm, Lomax oversees the organization's 400-plus scholarship programs, which award more than 10,000 scholarships a year. He also launched UNCF's Institute for Capacity Building, which supports member HBCUs to become stronger, more effective and self-sustaining.

Under Lomax's leadership, UNCF has engineered partnerships with reform-focused leaders and organizations and worked to further advance HBCUs with Congress, the administration, and the Department of Education.

Among his many honors, Lomax was appointed to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities by President George W. Bush. He serves on the boards of the Special Olympics, KIPP, Cengage and Studio Museum in Harlem. And he formerly served on the board of Teach for America and was the founding director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

A former Emory University trustee, Lomax, in 2004, received the university's most prestigious alumni honor, the Emory Medal, which honors recipients who are leaders in their field as well as leaders in their local, national, and global communities. Among Lomax's other awards are the Laurel Crowned Circle Award from Omicron Delta Kappa, Morehouse's Bennie Achievement Award, and 17 honorary degrees.

He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Lomax resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is the father of three daughters, Deignan, Michele and Rachel and the grandfather of Chloe, a rising senior at Howard University, who will graduate in the Class of 2026, Averie, Bailey, Ethan and Michael, who is a Morehouse College alum.

Get to know the CEO

## Desirée C. Boykin, Esq.



Desirée Boykin is the senior vice president, general counsel and secretary for UNCF. She joined UNCF in 2002 and provides advice and counsel to the UNCF Board of Directors, senior staff and member presidents in the areas of higher education, insurance, constitutional law, intellectual property, corporate compliance and corporate governance. She was elected secretary of the corporation in October 2017. Additionally, she practices probate, contracts, employment and nonprofit law. Desirée manages UNCF's legacy portfolio (testamentary gifts), which has resulted in more than \$67 million in revenue during her tenure.

Prior to joining UNCF, Desirée was an associate attorney at the law office of John Paul Simpkins, where she was responsible for all phases of general civil practice including personal injury, product liability, family law and medical malpractice.

She has numerous professional and civic affiliations, including membership in the National Bar Association, the Greater Washington Area Chapter Women Lawyers Division, Howard University Alumni Association, DC Club and the Howard University School of Law Alumni Association.

Desirée has a law degree from Howard University School of Law and a bachelor's degree in communications from Howard University.

## Genet Yilma



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