

# INVESTING IN BETTER FUTURES® FOR STUDENTS AND FOR ALL OF US. FACT SHEET



## UNCF: INVESTING IN EDUCATION

UNCF, the country's largest and most effective minority education organization, enables students to get the college education they need and that we as a nation need them to have.

At a time when college is more important—and more expensive—than ever, for both students and the economy, UNCF each year enables more than 60,000 students to attend college, and more than 8,000 to receive degrees, by:

- **Awarding more than 10,000 scholarships and internships each year**, so students from low- and moderate-income families can afford college tuition, books, and room and board.
- **Providing operating funds for its 37 member historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs)**, making it possible for them to offer their students 21st-century academic programs in a small-college environment and still keep their average tuition approximately 26 percent lower than comparable institutions.
- **Serving as a national advocate for the importance of minority education and college readiness** by representing students' public policy interests in Washington, in cities around the country, in newspapers and magazines and on radio, TV and the Web
- **Hundreds of thousands of individuals, corporations and foundations have contributed over \$4.8 billion to send students to and through college since the organization began in 1944.** Charity Navigator gives UNCF four (out of four) stars, and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* ranks it among the country's top charitable organizations. UNCF maintains a low cost ratio of eleven percent of total expenses—five percent for administrative costs and six percent for fundraising in fiscal year 2016.

## INVESTING IN HBCUs AND THEIR STUDENTS

UNCF's 37 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) offer their students a small-college experience at average tuition lower than that of comparable institutions, and out-perform other colleges and universities at graduating low-income students.

- **HBCUs produce college graduates.** America's 101 HBCUs represent only three percent of all four-year nonprofit colleges and universities. But they enroll 10 percent of all African American students, 17 percent of all African Americans with bachelor's degrees, and 24 percent—almost one in four—of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African American graduates.
- **Although HBCUs offer lower tuitions, their students' lower family income results in a greater need for federal student aid and for student loans.**
  - **HBCU students' unmet need is almost double that of other students.** Seventy percent of HBCU students receive Pell Grants, the largest federal grant program for low-income students, compared to 39 percent of all undergraduates.
  - **The cost of attending an HBCU is less than that of comparable non-HBCUs.** HBCUs' cost-of-attendance is 27 percent less than attending a comparable non-HBCU.
  - HBCU students borrow nearly twice as much in federal loans as their non-HBCU peers: \$26,266 vs. \$14,881 (2012)
- **UNCF institutions are prominent in *U.S. News & World Report* and other rankings.**
- Although smaller than competing institutions, UNCF-member colleges and universities occupy six of the top 10 places in the 2016 *U.S. News & World Report's* ranking of black colleges and universities.
- **HBCUs prepare students for STEM employment and further education.** 24 percent of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) bachelor's degrees awarded to Black graduates were conferred at HBCUs. This includes 20 percent of engineering degrees, 28 percent of biological and biomedical degrees, and 30 percent of mathematical and statistics degrees earned by African American undergraduates.
  - The top 10 institutions where African American science and engineering Ph.D.s earned their bachelor's degree are HBCUs.<sup>1</sup>
  - And 10 of the top 11 colleges graduating African American students who go on to earn doctoral degrees in science and engineering are HBCUs. This record of attainment is powerful evidence of HBCUs' contributions to our country's needs for a STEM-educated workforce.
  - African American HBCU grads report having experienced more support and higher levels of engagement than their peers at non-HBCUs, according to a recent *Gallup* study.<sup>2</sup>
- **Many of the nation's leading figures in government, education, literature, the arts and media graduated from UNCF-member colleges**, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Georgia congressman and civil rights pioneer John Lewis, actor Samuel L. Jackson, award-winning composer and singer Lionel Richie, and Children's Defense Fund founder and president Marian Wright Edelman.

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## INVESTING IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

UNCF annually invests over \$100 million and awards more than 10,000 scholarships and internships through more than 400 programs. UNCF programs include:

- **Gates Millennium Scholars Program**—A 20-year, \$1.6 billion collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at fostering a new generation of leaders of color by providing assistance to 5,000 low-income, high-achieving minority students at more than 1,100 colleges and universities each year. Gates Millennium Scholars have a six-year graduation rate of 90 percent, significantly higher than the overall national graduation rate for all students and comparable to graduation rates of students from higher-income families.
- **UNCF/Merck Science Initiative**—A 20-year, \$43.8 million program that increases diversity in the critical field of biological science and engineering by providing undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral support to more than 700 students and scholars in the biological sciences and engineering.
- **Fund II/UNCF STEM Scholars Program**—A \$48 million science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiative designed to create a national STEM pipeline to prepare African American students for careers in technology and innovation.
- **UNCF Career Pathways Initiative**—A \$50 million partnership with Lilly Endowment aimed at solving the unemployment and underemployment crisis among recent college graduates by helping students at HBCUs and predominantly black institutions gain the knowledge, preparation, insight and skills needed for employment in a technology-driven global economy.
- **UNCF/Koch Scholars Program**—Funded by a \$25 million grant from Koch Industries, Inc., and the Charles Koch Foundation, this new educational initiative offers academic support, mentoring and networking opportunities to talented African American undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students with an interest in exploring how entrepreneurship, innovation and economics contribute to well-being for individuals, communities and society.
- **Gateway to Leadership**—A partnership with the Money Management Institute that offers students paid, hands-on internship training and experience in the financial services industry.
- **Campaign for Emergency Student Aid**—A \$2 million per year just-in-time scholarship program that enables UNCF-member college students to meet unexpected financial emergencies and pay their tuition, textbook and dormitory bills so they can stay in college, graduate and begin their careers.

### UNCF scholarships increase the graduation rates of recipients.

UNCF scholarship recipients have a 70 percent six-year graduation rate, almost double the 38 percent six-year graduation rate for African American college students nationwide and is superior to the 57 percent six-year graduation rate for all races and ethnicities. These impacts, extrapolated to the entire population of African American college students, would increase the annual number of African Americans earning college degrees by 15,876 annually, contributing significantly to the country's college completion goals.

## INVESTING IN ADVOCACY

UNCF makes the case, in Washington and around the country, for the importance of a college education and a college degree, for every child's right to a strong K-12 education and for diversity and equality in education at every level.

- UNCF and its member institution presidents serve as the voice of students and HBCUs before Congress and federal agencies on education policy and student and institutional aid.
- UNCF's "A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in"® public service announcements have made UNCF and its mission household words to tens of millions of Americans.
- UNCF and member institution leaders take the case for education to national and local audiences through speeches, op-ed columns, articles and other communication media.
- UNCF works with grassroots and grassroots local leadership organizations in communities around the country to make sure that when better schools and education improvements are discussed, parents and other citizens of color are at the table

<sup>1</sup> These institutions include: 1) Howard University, 2) Spelman College, 3) Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, 4) Hampton University, 5) Xavier University of Louisiana, 6) Morehouse College, 7) Morgan State University, 7) North Carolina A&T State University, 9) Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, and 10) Tuskegee University. Fiegner, M.K., and Proudfoot, S.L. (2013). Baccalaureate-Origin Institutions of U.S.-trained S&E Doctorate Recipients (NSF 13-323), Arlington, VA: National Science Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Gallup (2015). Gallup-USA Funds Minority College Graduates Report. <http://www.gallup.com/services/186305/gallup-usa-funds-minority-college-graduates-report.aspx>