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Talladega College
Talladega, AL

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Tyler, TX

Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, MS

Tuskegee University
Tuskegee, AL

Virginia Union University
Richmond, VA

Voorhees College
Denmark, SC

Wilberforce University
Wilberforce, OH

Wiley College
Marshall, TX

Xavier University
New Orleans, LA

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
U.S. Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

On behalf of UNCF (the United Negro College Fund) – the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization, representing 37 private historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), I am writing in regard to the FY 2018 budget and its investments in the nation's HBCUs.

The historic signing of Executive Order 132779 – *White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities* – laid the foundation for the Trump Administration to prioritize HBCUs. UNCF is grateful for President Trump's personal involvement in the HBCU Executive Order and his recognition of the sizeable contributions of HBCUs. While critically important, however, the HBCU Executive Order is only the first step toward providing "equitable opportunities for HBCUs to participate in federal programs" – one of the HBCU Executive Order's key goals.

Without strong federal investments, however, President Trump's commitment to HBCUs and the rebuilding of African American communities will be unfulfilled promises. In providing input into the Trump Administration's development of the HBCU Executive Order, UNCF recommended that the Administration go further, by committing to an aspirational goal that HBCUs be awarded 5 percent of total federal grant, internship and cooperative agreement funding and 10 percent of total federal contract funding awarded to colleges and universities – which would nearly double federal support to HBCUs. In addition, UNCF recommended that these overarching HBCU funding goals be reinforced by concrete commitments for annual funding growth at each federal agency that are reflected in agency budgets. These spending goals would result in a nearly \$5 billion increase in federal support to HBCUs.

Thus, President Trump's inaugural budget presents a prime opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to do more for HBCUs than any other U.S. president and make a down payment on meeting the financial needs of HBCUs and the students they serve. While the FY 2018 budget blueprint released today provides only an outline of the Administration's budget priorities, we are deeply concerned about the proposals highlighted for the U.S. Department of Education, which include flat funding for the core Title III Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUS) program and deep cuts to federal student aid programs. The proposed \$3.9 billion cut to Pell Grant funds would undercut needed reforms to boost the purchasing power of Pell Grants for financially needy students, including the 70 percent of HBCU students who receive Pell Grants to earn college degrees. The proposed elimination of Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, which supplement Pell awards to the poorest students to pay college tuition, would negatively impact more than 55,000 HBCU students who rely on this assistance to go to and through college. Reductions to Federal Work-Study could impact more than 26,000 HBCU students who receive work-study jobs that not only help pay for college expenses, but also enhance their employment prospects. UNCF's recent study, [Fewer Resources, More Debt](#), documents that HBCU students incur more student loan debt than other students, despite attending affordable institutions; yet, the student aid reductions

in the FY 2018 budget blueprint would increase their debt burden. UNCF strongly urges you to reconsider these reductions, which threaten college opportunity for low-income students at HBCUs and other institutions.

The attached chart details key federal investments we recommend for FY 2018 that would provide the building blocks for a much larger federal investment in HBCUs over time. These funds would enable HBCUs to:

- partner with the K-12 system to help the increasing numbers of students of color succeed by training culturally competent, effective teachers;
- expand academic and support services to graduate more students with the skills in STEM and other fields that our economy needs;
- enable HBCU students to graduate from college with less student debt that currently impedes their futures;
- leverage the expertise of talented HBCU faculty for scientific research, development and innovation;
- revitalize their neighborhoods with community development partnerships; and
- begin to reduce the significant backlog of needed technology, facility and infrastructure upgrades on aging HBCU campuses.

As the Administration develops a separate infrastructure package, UNCF also would like to discuss the inclusion of proposals that would enable HBCUs to make even more progress in addressing their technology, facility and infrastructure needs.

HBCUs are essential to educating and preparing African American students for the workforce. Nearly 300,000 students – primarily first-generation, low-income, minority students – currently attend HBCUs and, while HBCUs represent just 3 percent of all two- and four-year colleges and universities, HBCUs confer 18 percent of all African American bachelor's degrees and generate 25 percent of African American undergraduate science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees. HBCUs accomplish these results while charging students 30 percent less, on average, than comparable institutions and operating with fewer institutional resources. In short, HBCUs have a demonstrated track record of achievement.

With the initial federal investments that are described in the attached chart, the nation's HBCUs would be able to greatly expand their vital contributions to their communities and the country. Again, we urge you to seriously consider them. I would be pleased to discuss these proposals with you. Ms. Cheryl L. Smith, UNCF's Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs at Cheryl.Smith@uncf.org is our key contact.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Attachment

cc:

Mr. Andrew Bremberg, Director, Domestic Policy Council
Ms. Omarosa Manigault, Assistant to the President
Mr. Ja'Ron Smith, Domestic Policy Council



DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY PROGRAMS	FY13 Full Year Continuing Resolution (P.L. 113-6) (1)	FY14 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-76)	FY15 CROmnibus (P.L. 113-235)	FY16 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113)	FY17 House Appropriations Committee	FY17 Senate Appropriations Committee	FY18 UNCF Request
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE							
1890s Research and Extension	\$39 million	\$44 million	\$44 million	\$45.6 million	\$45.6 million	\$45.6 million	\$54.5 million(2)
1890s Facilities Improvement	\$18.7 million	19.7 million	\$19.7 million	\$19.7 million	\$19.7 million	\$19.7 million	\$22 million(3)
1890s Capacity Building	\$18.3 million	\$19.3 million	\$19.3 million	\$19.3 million	19.3 million	19.3 million	\$30 million(4)
Evans-Allen Program	\$47 million	\$53 million	\$52 million	\$54 million	\$54 million	\$54 million	\$64.7 million(4)
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE							
Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Opportunity Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75 million(5)
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE							
HBCU Minority Institutions Program (HBCU-MI)	\$36 million	\$35.9 million	\$34.4 million	\$35.8 million	\$35.6 million	\$32 million	\$40 million(6)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE)							
Pell Grant Program							
Maximum Pell Award	\$5,645	\$5,730	\$5,775	\$5,815	\$5,935	\$5,935	\$6,072(7)
Summer Pell Award	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,650(8)	1,683(7)
Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	\$697.9 million	\$733.1 million	\$733 million	\$733 million	\$733 million	\$733 million	\$757 million(9)
Federal Work Study	\$927.9 million	\$974.7 million	\$990 million	\$990 million	\$990 million	\$990 million	\$1,100 million(10)



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (HIGHER EDUCATION)							
Strengthening Institutions, Title III, Part A	\$76.6 million	\$79.1 million	\$80 million	\$86.5 million	\$86.5 million	\$86.5 million	\$95 million
Strengthening Historically Black Colleges Title III, Part B Section 323							
Discretionary Funding	\$216 million	\$224 million	\$228 million	\$245 million	\$245 million	\$245 million	\$375 million(15)
Title III, Part F Section 371 Mandatory Funding	\$80.7 million(11) (w/sequester cut)	\$78.9 million(12) (w/sequester cut)	\$78.8 million(13) (w/sequester cut)	\$79 million(14) (w/sequester cut)	\$85 million	\$85 million	\$85 million
Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions, Title III, Part B, Section 326	\$56.1 million	\$57.9 million	\$59 million	\$63 million	\$63 million	\$63 million	\$125 million (16)
Title III, Part C Endowment Challenge Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$220 million(17)
Title VII, Masters Degree Programs at HBCUs and PBIs							
Discretionary Funding	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9.5 million	\$11.5 million(18)
Mandatory Funding	\$10.9 million(11) (w/sequester cut)	\$10.7 million(12) (19) (w/sequester cut)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



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Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)							
Discretionary Funding	\$8.8 million	\$9.1 million	\$9.2 million	\$9.9 million	\$9.9 million	\$9.9 million	\$11 million
Mandatory Funding	\$14.2 million(11) (w/sequester cut)	\$13.9 million(12) (w/sequester cut)	\$13.9 million(13) (w/sequester cut)	\$13.9 million (14) (w/sequester cut)	\$15 million	\$15 million	\$15 million
Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP)	\$8.93 million	\$9 million	\$9 million	\$9.7 million	\$9.6 million	\$9.6 million	\$11 million
TRIO	\$797.9 million	\$838.2 million	\$840 million	\$900 million	\$960 million	\$900 million	\$960 million
GEAR UP	\$287.1 million	\$301.6 million	\$302 million	\$323 million	\$345 million	\$323 million	\$345 million
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (OTHER)							
Howard University	\$222.4 million	\$221.8 million	\$222 million	\$220 million	\$222 million	\$222 million	\$250 million
HBCU Capital Financing Loan Subsidies	\$19.5 million	\$19.4 million	\$19.4 million	\$20.5 million	\$20.5 million	\$20.5 million	\$25 million(20)
(New Loan Volume)	(\$304 million)	(\$304 million)	(\$304 million)	(\$302 million)	(\$282 million)	(\$282 million)	(\$400 million)(21)
HBCUs Centers for Innovation							
College Success	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50 million(22)
Teacher Diversity	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50 million(23)



DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY PROGRAMS	FY13 Full Year Continuing Resolution (P.L. 113-6) (3)	FY14 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-76)	FY15 CROmnibus (P.L. 113-235)	FY16 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113)	FY17 House Appropriations Committee	FY17 Senate Appropriations Committee	FY18 UNCF Request
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES							
Minority Centers of Excellence	\$21 million	\$22 million	\$22 million	\$22 million	\$22 million	\$22 million	\$25 million
Health Careers Opportunity Program	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$0	\$0	\$20 million
Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students	\$44 million	\$45 million	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$49 million	\$55 million
Faculty Loan Repayment	\$1.18 million	\$1.19 million	\$1.19 million	\$1.19 million	\$1.19 million	\$1.19 million	\$1.30 million
NIH National Institute on Minority Health Disparities	\$265.3 million	\$268.3 million	\$269 million	\$280 million	\$286 million	\$292 million	\$308 million
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY							
University Programs (houses DHS Centers of Excellence)	\$34.9 million	\$39.7 million	N/A	\$41.6 million	\$41.6 million	\$40.5 million	\$45 million
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT							
HBCU Grant Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75 million(24)
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR							
HBCU Historic Preservation Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5 million	\$0	\$50 million (no match requirement)(25)
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION							
Minority University Research & Education Program	\$28.5 million	\$30 million	\$32 million	\$32 million	\$32 million	\$32 million	\$33 million
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION							
Education Partnerships Program/Minority Serving Institutions	\$12.63	\$14.4 million	\$14.4 million	\$14.4 million	\$14.4 million	\$14.4 million	\$16 million



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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION							
Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP)	\$43.34 million	\$45.62 million	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$51 million
HBCU Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP)	\$30.43 million	\$31.94 million	\$32 million	\$35 million	\$35 million	\$35 million	\$64 million(26)
Alliance for Graduate Education Program (AGEP)	\$7.45 million	\$7.84 million	\$8 million	\$8 million	N/A	\$8 million	\$9 million
Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST)	\$23.03 million	\$23.03 million	\$24 million	\$24 million	N/A	\$24 million	\$26 million
HBCU Excellence in Research	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10 million	\$10 million(26)
NSF INCLUDES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25 million(26)

Notes:

1. Reflects the 5.0 percent sequester cut to discretionary programs on March 1, 2013, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.
2. Reflects additional support for extension activities at all 19 of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.
3. There is a large deferred maintenance backlog at all 19 of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.
4. Provides capacity funding to support agricultural research activities at all 19 of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.
5. Funding for this program is authorized through Sec. 972 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-315). Targetted funding to HBCUs would support an average continuation award of \$750,000.
6. This increase would support the establishment of at least three new Centers of Excellence at HBCUs.
7. Reflects estimated maximum award for the 2018-2019 award year, adjusted for inflation based on Congressional Budget Office 2018 projections for the consumer price index published in January 2017.
8. Reflects estimated average award for 2017-2018 award year.
9. This increase would support an average SEOG grant of \$600 to an additional 40,000 students.
10. This increase would support an average Federal Work Study grant of \$1,700 to an additional 65,000 students.
11. Reflects the 5.1 percent sequester cut to mandatory programs on March 1, 2013, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.
12. Reflects the 7.2 percent sequester cut to mandatory programs on October 1, 2013, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.
13. Reflects the 7.3 percent sequester cut to mandatory programs on October 1, 2014 pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.



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- 14. Reflects the 6.8 percent sequester cut to mandatory programs on October 1, 2015 pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.
- 15. Reflects the authorized level pursuant to the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-315) and would support increased grants to 98 HBCUs.
- 16. Reflects the authorized level pursuant to the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-315) and would support grants to 24 HBCUs with graduate education programs.
- 17. Reflects the required appropriation to satisfy the 21-year unfunded authorization and would support building endowments at both HBCUs and MSIs.
- 18. This program supports 18 HBCUs with master's degree programs.
- 19. Mandatory funding for this program sunsetted in FY 2014.
- 20. The request includes allocating additional administrative support for the HBCU Capital Financing Program.
- 21. A \$5 million increase in loan subsidy would leverage an additional \$98 million in new loans to HBCUs.
- 22. Statutory authority for this initiative is provided by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education program pursuant to the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-315).
- 23. Statutory authority for this initiative is provided by the Fund for the Improvement of Education program pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Act.
- 24. The last appropriation for this program was in FY 2010. This request would support an average \$750,000 grant per HBCU.
- 25. The last appropriation for this program was in FY 2009. A 1998 GAO survey estimated \$755 million needed to repair 712 buildings; the need would be over \$1.1 billion today.
- 26. Reflects NSF 2016 recommendations for increasing HBCU participation in larger research directorates, and in the "Broadening Participation" programs in the Education and Human Resources directorate.