



Fact Sheet

Who We Are

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—is the nation’s largest, oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization.

UNCF lives up to the ideal expressed in its universally recognized motto—*A mind is a terrible thing to waste*®—by enabling more than 60,000 students each year to attend college and get the education they need to launch their careers and contribute to their communities.

UNCF helps increase minority degree attainment by:

- **Providing operating funds for its 39 member colleges**, making it possible for them to offer their students 21st century academic programs in a small-college environment and still keep their average tuition to less than half the average of other private colleges;
- **Administering more than 400 scholarship and internship programs**, so students from low- and moderate-income families can afford college tuition, books and room and board;
- **Serving as a national advocate for the importance of minority education** by representing the public policy interests of its students and member colleges in Washington, in newspapers and on radio, TV and the Web, and through the annual national broadcast of *An Evening of Stars*®, the UNCF annual televised celebration of excellence in education and entertainment.

Small Colleges, Major Impact

Although the historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that belong to UNCF offer students the small-college experience, they have made major contributions to the communities in which their graduates live and raise their families and to the nation as a whole.

UNCF Schools Dominate *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings

In 2007, *U.S. News & World Report* published its first-ever ranking of black colleges and universities. UNCF member colleges occupy **eight of the top 10** places in *U.S. News*' 2008 "America's Best Black Colleges" rankings and **14 of the top 25**.

HBCU Graduates Contribute to Communities

HBCUs, private and public, represent only three percent of all American colleges and universities, and enroll only 14 percent of all African American college students, but they have produced:

- 70 percent of all African American dentists and physicians
- 50 percent of all African American engineers
- 50 percent of all African American public school teachers
- 35 percent of all African American attorneys

Supporting Students, Schools and Companies

UNCF manages approximately 400 programs that provide support to its member colleges and scholarship, internship, and mentoring support that assist students in entering and succeeding in college. UNCF programs include:

- **UNCF-Merck Science Initiative** - A 15-year, \$33 million program that has provided undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral support to more than 400 students and scholars in the bio-sciences, including \$1.5 million in assistance awarded during the past year.
- **UNCF STEM Solution** - A new initiative that will increase the number of STEM-educated minority students graduating from college in order to provide companies with STEM-qualified employees and provide high schools in low-income neighborhoods with well-prepared teachers of science and mathematics.
- **Gates Millennium Scholars Program** - A 20-year, \$1.6 billion collaboration—the nation’s largest private scholarship program—that provides assistance to 1,000 low-income, high-achieving minority students at 900 colleges and universities each year.
- **Institute for Capacity Building** - A suite of institutional capacity-building programs that provide UNCF-member colleges and universities with technical assistance and funding to improve their capabilities in such areas as curriculum enhancement, fundraising and enrollment management.

Notable Graduates

Many of the nation’s leading figures in government, education, literature, the arts and media graduated from UNCF-member colleges. Well-known alumni of UNCF colleges include:

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Lerone Bennett, noted historian, editor at *Ebony Magazine*
- Marian Wright Edelman, founder/president of Children’s Defense Fund
- Lionel Ritchie, award-winning composer, singer
- The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Mississippi U.S. Representative
- Rev. Dr. Floyd Flake, former New York U.S. Representative, president of Wilberforce University
- Nikki Giovanni, poet
- Alexis Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor
- Samuel L. Jackson, actor
- LaTanya Richardson Jackson, actress
- Tom Joyner, radio personality and philanthropist
- Matthew Knowles, music industry executive (father of Beyoncé)
- Spike Lee, award-winning film director, producer, actor
- Rep. John Lewis, member of Congress and civil rights pioneer
- Hazel O’Leary, Esq., former U.S. Secretary of Energy, president of Fisk University
- Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General
- Dr. Betty Shabazz, human rights pioneer, wife of Malcolm X
- Dr. Ruth Simmons, president, Brown University
- Dr. Louis Sullivan, former Secretary of Health and Human Services
- L. Douglas Wilder, mayor of Richmond, Va., and former governor of Virginia
- Keenan Ivory Wayans, actor, writer, producer and director

Fund Raising and Efficiency

- The graduation rates at UNCF schools are higher than the average African-American graduation rate at majority institutions. That, combined with UNCF schools' affordable tuition, means that UNCF donor contributions result in more graduates than other minority higher education contributions.
- UNCF has raised more than \$3 billion to enable more than 350,000 deserving students to earn the college degrees they want and need but might not otherwise be able to afford.
- UNCF has earned the top evaluation from the American Institute for Philanthropy and is ranked among the country's top charitable organizations by both *The Non-Profit Times* and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.
- *Barron's* has named UNCF one of the nation's most efficient educational charities. UNCF maintains a low cost ratio of 13.02 percent of total revenues—5.85 percent for administrative costs and 7.17 percent for fundraising.