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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dillard University Helps to Make New Orleans Strong by Generating \$83 Million in Total Economic Impact

Dillard serves as the host for an important discussion Thursday about how the state's HBCUs contribute to local and regional economies.

NEW ORLEANS - Dillard University is an important economic engine in its community, generating substantial economic returns year after year, and a new landmark study commissioned by UNCF (United Negro College Fund) confirms it.

In an effort to amplify this discussion, Dillard University will welcome presidents from Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Thursday, May 24, starting at 9 a.m. in the Student Union, 2601 Gentilly Blvd. The gathering is a collaborative effort between UNCF and the White House Initiative on HBCUs. Thurgood Marshall and NAFEO will be involved as well. The goal is to positively change the narrative on the economic contributions of HBCUs in the state and throughout the country.

According to a recent UNCF study, HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in total economic impact for their local and regional economies. This estimate includes direct spending by HBCUs on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations and by students attending the institutions, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending.

Dillard generates \$83 million in total economic impact for its local and regional economies. This estimate includes direct spending by Dillard on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations—and by students attending the institution, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending.

Additionally, every dollar spent by Dillard and its students produces positive economic benefits, generating millions in initial and subsequent spending for its local and regional economies. Communities and regions hoping to foster a more robust and diversified economic climate find HBCU-connected spending a critical component of that effort.

"HBCUs like are vibrant institutions in their communities and are creating jobs and increasing economic expenditures in our surrounding community, as well as educating and preparing our students for the 21st century," said Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough, president of Dillard. "We are excited to host this meeting because it builds community between our respective schools."

[HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) documents the significant economic contributions of Dillard and the nation's network of HBCUs by quantifying their impact on the economy, employment and increased earning power of their students. The

study was underwritten by Citi Foundation and the economic estimates were prepared by the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth.

Key findings of the study are below:

- Dillard generates 778 jobs for their local and regional economies
- The 2014 graduates of Dillard can expect to earn \$472 billion over the lifetimes, 77 percent more than they could expect to earn without a college credential.

This study makes clear that while benefits flow to Dillard graduates who enter the workforce with sharper skills and vastly enhanced earning prospects, these benefits also flow to the local and regional economies connected to the University.

“This new report changes the narrative and demonstrates that HBCUs, like Dillard University are feeding the community's need for an college-educated workforce and driving economic growth,” said UNCF's President and CEO Dr. Michael Lomax. “These institutions have led the way in developing and polishing the practices necessary to get underprepared, first-generation students ready for college, but they also help fill critical jobs with college-educated workers in the community.”

HBCUs have long been bastions of academic achievement. It is clear to see, however, that the value of Dillard is not solely confined to educational impacts. [HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) demonstrates that Dillard matters not only to its students, but also to the local, regional and national economies.

Please visit UNCF.org/HBCUsMakeAmericaStrong to access the full report.

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About Dillard University

Dillard University is a private, historically black liberal arts college in New Orleans. In keeping with its motto Ex Fide, Fortis—“Strength Through Faith”--Dillard is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Founded in 1935, with roots extending back to 1869, Dillard sits on its 55-acre campus in the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans--anchored by Neoclassical architecture and accentuated by the double-tree-lined “Avenue of the Oaks.” Dillard is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; is designated among Historically Black Colleges and Universities; is a founding member of the United Negro College Fund; and a premier undergraduate research center. As it approaches its 150th year of operation in 2019, the University has been cited by “U.S. News and World Report” as the 11th ranked HBCU and by “Washington Monthly” for being in the top 20 percent (49 out of 240) national liberal arts universities in the United States. Dillard University's ongoing commitment to academic excellence continues, and it is poised for an even brighter future.

About the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute

UNCF's Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute (FDPRI) is the nation's foremost research organization focusing on the educational status of African Americans from pre-school to and through college. Committed to understanding and expanding the pathways that lead to educational attainment, FDPRI conducts and disseminates research that informs policymakers, educators, philanthropists and the general public on how to best improve educational opportunities for and outcomes of African Americans and other underrepresented minorities across the pre-school-through-college-graduation pipeline.

About UNCF

UNCF (the United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, supports and strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 17 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 1,100 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Learn more at UNCF.org or for continuous updates and news, follow UNCF on Twitter at [@UNCF](https://twitter.com/UNCF).*