



# HBCUs Make America Strong:

## THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE NATION'S HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**HBCUs are valuable economic engines in their communities, generating substantial economic returns year after year.** The benefits flow to HBCUs' graduates, of course, who'll enter the workforce with sharper skills and vastly enhanced earning prospects. But, as a landmark study commissioned by UNCF—*HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities*—makes clear, the benefits also flow to the local and regional economies that are connected to HBCUs.

The presence of an HBCU means a boost to economic activity, on and off—and even well beyond—campus. Stronger growth. Stronger communities. More jobs. And a more talented workforce.

**The study's key findings (based on 2014 data) make a persuasive case:**

### Total Economic Impact: \$14.8 Billion

- 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.
- Every dollar spent by an HBCU and its students produces positive economic benefits, generating \$1.44 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.

### Total Employment Impact: 134,090 Jobs

- HBCUs generate 134,090 jobs for their local and regional economies. Of this total, 57,868 are on-campus jobs, and 76,222 are off-campus jobs.
- For each job created on campus, another 1.3 public- and private-sector jobs are created off campus because of HBCU-related spending.
- Looked at a different way: Each \$1 million initially spent by HBCUs and their students creates 13 jobs.

### Total Lifetime Earnings for Graduates: \$130 Billion

- HBCUs play a major role in the economic success of their graduates by enhancing their education, training and leadership skills. A college degree opens the door to economic prosperity through greater employment and earnings potential. In fact, the 50,037 HBCU graduates in 2014 can expect total earnings of \$130 billion over their lifetimes—that's 56 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials.
- Or viewed on an individual basis, an HBCU graduate working full time throughout his or her working life can expect to earn \$927,000 in *additional* income due to a college credential.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This estimate reflects incremental earnings averaged across degree and certificate programs.

