



HBCUs Make America Strong:

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

The landmark study commissioned by UNCF—*HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities*—makes it clear: HBCUs are economic engines in their Tennessee communities and beyond, generating substantial economic returns year after year.

HBCU faculty, employees and students produce—and consume—a wide range of goods and services, which spurs economic activity on and beyond campus. The result? More jobs, stronger growth and more vibrant communities. Meanwhile, Tennessee's workforce is bolstered by a steady supply of highly trained and success-oriented HBCU graduates.

The positive economic impact of Tennessee's HBCUs is large and lasting. The numbers (based on 2014 data) tell the story.

Total Economic Impact: \$873 Million

- Together, Tennessee's HBCUs generate \$873 million in *total* economic impact. 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 in *initial* spending by Tennessee's HBCUs generates \$1.76 in initial and successive spending. This "multiplier effect" means that, on average, each dollar spent by the state's HBCUs and their students generates an additional 76 cents for their local and regional economies.
- Many HBCUs are located in regions of the country where overall economic activity has been lagging, making their economic contributions to those communities all the more essential.

Total Employment Impact: 7,289 Jobs

- Tennessee's HBCUs generate 7,289 jobs in total for their local and regional economies. Of this total, 2,994 are on-campus jobs, and 4,295 are off-campus jobs.
- For each job created on an HBCU campus in Tennessee, another 1.4 public- and private-sector jobs are created off campus because of HBCU-related spending.
- Looked at in a different way: Each \$1 million initially spent by a Tennessee HBCU and its students creates 15 jobs.

Total Lifetime Earnings for Graduates: \$6 Billion

- HBCUs play a major role in the economic success of their graduates by enhancing their education, training and leadership skills. In fact, the 2,143 Tennessee HBCU graduates in 2014 can expect total earnings of \$6 billion over their lifetimes—that's 50 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials.
- Or, viewed on an individual basis: A Tennessee HBCU graduate working full-time throughout his or her working life can expect to earn \$928,000 in *additional* income due to a college credential.¹

¹This estimate reflects incremental earnings averaged across degree and certificate programs.

HBCUs in Tennessee:

- Fisk University
- Lane College
- LeMoyne-Owen College
- Meharry Medical College
- Tennessee State University