



PRESS RELEASE

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LEMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE SELECTED FOR \$1 MILLION GRANT FROM UNCF TO IMPROVE JOB OUTCOMES OF GRADUATES

UNCF[®] Career Pathways Initiative, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., awards \$35 million in grants to selected HBCUs and PBIs; to address social and economic issues of minority graduation, unemployment, and underemployment

(MEMPHIS, TN, DEC. 5, 2016) -After a six-month planning phase, UNCF announced LeMoyne-Owen College as one of 24 colleges and universities that will receive five-year grants totaling \$35.3 million for the UNCF[®] Career Pathways Initiative ([CPI](#)), a transformative effort to design and implement programs to improve employment outcomes for graduates.

“As Memphis’ only historically black college, LeMoyne-Owen College is ideally positioned to create a pipeline of diverse, highly skilled and talented graduates for local and regional employers.” LeMoyne-Owen College President Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller said. “This Career Pathways Initiative grant will further empower LeMoyne-Owen to mold our students into some of Memphis’ and our nation’s brightest and most progressive professionals and expand our institution’s impact on the global marketplace,” she added.

Made possible through a [grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.](#), the UNCF[®] Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is a unique pilot program for select historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly black institutions (PBIs) that is helping them enhance career readiness for their 54,000 enrolled students. Many of these students will be the first in their families to earn college degrees. The majority of students are from low-to-moderate income families and must receive federal financial aid to pursue their undergraduate studies.

LeMoyne-Owen College submitted a proposal that reflects a commitment to strengthening career advising and mentoring, enhancing curricula, and supporting integrated co-curricular engagement. As part of CPI, the selected institutions will develop a range of academic programs, student internships, industry partnerships, specialty certifications, and faculty development as they forge a new model for career readiness.

A complete list of colleges and universities receiving the grants can be viewed [here](#).

“These colleges and universities show promise in significantly addressing the urgent challenges facing African American college students and graduates,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO. “We heartily congratulate LeMoyne-Owen College and the 23 other institutions chosen to lead this important work.”

UNCF launched CPI in December 2015 through a rigorous and competitive [multi-phased grant process](#) that targeted 87 eligible public and private HBCUs and PBIs. In the first phase, UNCF made planning grants to 30 institutions. In the final phase, UNCF has chosen 24 colleges and universities for implementation grants. Of those schools, 15 institutions will receive individual awards ranging from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Nine of the institutions have been selected for three cluster grants, in which each cluster of three institutions will collaborate intentionally to achieve their shared outcomes. Each cluster will receive up to \$6 million.

LeMoyne-Owen College will receive \$1 million over five years, the largest individual grant award based on its student enrollment. According to President Miller, the funds will be used to engage students in activities designed to enhance their experiences beyond the classroom. The goal is to enable students to not only develop more industry-specific skills, but also those soft skills that will serve them well long after they walk across the commencement stage. “We will strengthen our internship program with local employers and partners to ensure our students receive real world work experience that gives them an advantage when they begin to compete for career opportunities or apply to graduate school in Memphis and the across the globe,” Dr. Miller said.

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UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative Implementation Grantees

	<u>College/University</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>
1	Benedict College*	Columbia	SC	\$1,500,000.00
2	Clafin University*	Orangeburg	SC	\$3,300,000.00
3	Clark Atlanta University	Atlanta	GA	\$1,500,000.00
4	Dillard University	New Orleans	LA	\$1,000,000.00
5	Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville	NC	\$1,500,000.00
6	Fisk University	Nashville	TN	\$1,000,000.00
7	Florida Memorial University	Miami Gardens	FL	\$1,250,000.00
8	Huston-Tillotson University	Austin	TX	\$1,000,000.00
9	Jarvis Christian College	Hawkins	TX	\$1,000,000.00
10	LeMoyne-Owen College	Memphis	TN	\$1,000,000.00
11	Morehouse College	Atlanta	GA	\$1,250,000.00
12	Morgan State University*	Baltimore	MD	\$2,000,000.00
13	Norfolk State University*	Norfolk	VA	\$2,000,000.00
14	Oakwood University*	Huntsville	AL	\$2,750,000.00
15	Rust College	Holly Springs	MS	\$1,000,000.00
16	Spelman College	Atlanta	GA	\$1,250,000.00
17	Talladega College*	Talladega	AL	\$1,250,000.00
18	Tennessee State University*	Nashville	TN	\$2,000,000.00
19	Tougaloo College*	Tougaloo	MS	\$2,000,000.00
20	University of West Alabama	Livingston	AL	\$1,250,000.00
21	Voorhees College*	Denmark	SC	\$1,200,000.00
22	Wilberforce University	Wilberforce	OH	\$1,000,000.00
23	Wiley College	Marshall	TX	\$1,000,000.00
24	Xavier University of Louisiana	New Orleans	LA	\$1,250,000.00

*Denotes Cluster Grant recipients. The three clusters are:

- Morgan State University, Norfolk State University and Tennessee State University
- Oakwood University, Talladega College and Tougaloo College
- Benedict College, Clafin University and Voorhees College.



About LeMoyne-Owen College

LeMoyne-Owen College is a four-year liberal arts institution in Memphis, Tennessee that prepares students to become critical thinkers, to lead productive and successful lives, and to make positive contributions to their respective communities. With a rich heritage that dates back to 1862, the College promotes diversity in its student body, staff and faculty and builds student confidence through a core curriculum that emphasizes a multicultural education. For more information about LeMoyne-Owen College, visit www.loc.edu.



About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family—J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli—through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with its founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. Although it maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana, it does support efforts of national significance particularly in the field of religion and on an invitational basis disaster relief and recovery efforts and programs that enhance higher education opportunities for African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans across the country. More information can be found at www.lillyendowment.org.



About UNCF

UNCF (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, 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 nearly 20 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF awards more than \$100 million in scholarships annually and 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 more than 1,100 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized trademark: A mind is a terrible thing to waste®. Learn more at UNCF.org, or for continuous news and updates, follow UNCF on Twitter, [@UNCF](https://twitter.com/UNCF) and [#UNCFPI](https://twitter.com/UNCFPI).