Guide to the Records of United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

Prepared by Dana Chandler and Cheryl Ferguson, 2011



**Tuskegee University Archives**

# Tuskegee, AL 36088

Tuskegee University Archives

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Tuskegee University

**Title:** Records of the United Negro College Fund

**Dates:** ca. 1940

**Quantity:** .666cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** In 1943, Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of what is now Tuskegee University, urged his fellow black college presidents to raise money collectively through an "appeal to the national conscience," for black students.

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### Administrative Information

#### Preferred Citation

Records of United Negro College Fund

**Acquisition Information**

Records were originally received in filing cabinets from the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research. No information is available to document when the records were acquired by the Archives. When the Archives moved from the Library in 2000, the filing cabinets had deteriorated to the point that they could not be moved. The documents were removed from the filing cabinets and placed in packing boxes. Any original order to the collection was irrevocably disturbed at that point.

**Processing Information**

A number of the documents are in a fragile state. During processing, the remaining metal fasteners were removed. Copies were made of newspaper clippings and photos and the copies inserted in place of the originals. Blank folders were assigned titles according to the contents of the folder. It is unknown if the previous attempt at processing maintained any of the original folder titles.

### Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Libraries online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations, or places should search the catalog using these headings:

**Subjects:**

Educational fund raising -- Alabama – Tuskegee

**Persons:**

Frederick D. Patterson

### Agency History

In 1943, Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of what is now Tuskegee University, urged his fellow black college presidents to raise money collectively through an "appeal to the national conscience," in order to help educate black students. The next year, on April 25, 1944, Dr. Patterson, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and others incorporated the United Negro College Fund with 27 member colleges. Early supporters of UNCF included President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. That first effort raised $760,000, a sum that would be worth approximately $8.6 million today.

Over the years, the idea and mission of UNCF have attracted hundreds of thousands, who through their gifts and their goodwill have helped us to keep our students focused on achieving their college degrees. Numbered among our friends was Sen. John F. Kennedy, who later became president of the United States. In 1959, he donated the proceeds from his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Profiles in Courage, to UNCF.

In 1972, Forest Long, an executive at Young and Rubicam, the renowned ad agency, created the UNCF motto "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." He explained that it represented a "plea to everybody to reject the prejudices of the past and consider the inner person." The motto has become one of the most recognized slogans in advertising history.

Buoyed by the whole-hearted support of individuals, foundations, organizations, groups and corporations who have generously volunteered their time and donated their resources, our schools have achieved inordinate successes. Graduates of UNCF schools have made lasting contributions to our nation by building successful careers, supporting their families and changing their neighborhoods. They now enjoy freedom and independence that only a great education can provide.

### Scope and Contents

N/A

### Arrangement

The documents are artificially arranged in one series.

### Restrictions

#### Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions on access.

#### Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

### Inventory

#### Box Folder

1 1 United College Drive

1 2 Press Release

1 3 “A Pocket Check-List of Your Prospects” Booklet

1 4 Handwritten Notes

1 5 A Memorandum for Corporations

1 6 Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings

1 7 The Victory Program

1 8 The National News Views, Friday, June 23, 1944

1 9 The National News Views, Friday, June 30, 1944