



Press Release

XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SELECTED FOR \$1.25 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

New Orleans LA -After a six-month planning phase, UNCF announced Xavier University of Louisiana 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.

“The CPI grant will enable innovation in education at Xavier so as to assure degree completion and advancement of our students to their desired post-secondary study and careers,” said Xavier University of Louisiana President Dr. C. Reynold Verret. “It is about enriching and deepening the Xavier experience.”

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.

Xavier 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 Xavier University of Louisiana 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.

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