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Report: HBCUs Generate \$14.8 Billion in Economic Impact

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact annually, which is equivalent to a ranking in the top 200 on the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations, according to a stunning new report by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).



The report, conducted by the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business Selig Center for Economic Growth, revealed that the 1,634-student Alabama school generates \$67 million for its local region.

In total, the nation's HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact annually; that's equivalent to a ranking in the top 200 on the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. 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. Public HBCUs account for \$9.6 billion of that total economic impact, while private HBCUs account for \$5.2 billion.

The economic impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) on their local communities has never been stronger, especially at Miles College in Fairfield, Ala.

A new report funded by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and

fact sheets for the economic impact of individual HBCUs are available at <https://www.uncf.org/programs/hbcu-impact>.

"It's the first time that we've had a study conducted by such a professional institution to recognize the importance of HBCUs and particularly the impact on our community," Miles College President Dr. George T. French, Jr., told the NNPA Newswire. "We've talked in general terms, but to quantify this is important so that our partners can understand the value of our institution. It's a win-win for our region and for government partners who look to partner with us."

The landmark study titled, "HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities," makes clear that the benefits also flow to the local and regional economies connected to Miles College.

The study is a precursor to a larger report that UNCF plan to release on Tuesday, November 14, about the overall impact of all 105 of the nation's 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," UNCF authors wrote in the report.

The benefits flow to Miles College's graduates, who'll enter the workforce with sharper skills and vastly enhanced earning prospects, according to the report.

For every \$1 spent by Miles College and its students, \$1.48 is generated in initial and subsequent spending for the local and regional area, authors of the report said.

Miles College tuition for in-state and out-of-state students is \$11,604 annually and the school

offers courses in accounting, communication, education, humanities, social and behavior sciences, natural sciences and mathematics.

"Hampton University generates \$270 million in total economic impact for its local and regional economies," the study said. "This estimate includes direct spending by Hampton University on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations— and by students attending the institution, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending. Every dollar spent by Hampton University and its students produces positive economic benefits, generating \$1.34 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."

According to the study, Hampton University generates 2,249 jobs for its local and regional economies. Of this total, 825 are on-campus jobs, and 1,424 are off-campus jobs. For each job created on campus, another 1.7 public- and private-sector jobs are created off campus because of Hampton University-related spending. Looked at in a different way: Each \$1 million initially spent by Hampton University and its students creates 11 jobs.

Hampton University plays a major role in the economic success of its 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 949 Hampton University graduates in 2014 can expect total earnings of \$2.6 billion over their lifetimes—that's 62 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials. Or viewed on an individual basis, a Hampton University graduate working full time throughout his or her working life can expect to earn \$1.1 million in additional income due to a college credential.

Howard University generates \$1.5 billion in total economic impact for its local and regional economies. This estimate includes direct spending by Howard University on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations—and by students attending the institution, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending. Every dollar spent by Howard University and its students produces positive economic benefits, generating \$1.58 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.

Howard University generates 9,591 jobs for its local and regional economies. Of this total, 3,301 are on-campus jobs, and 6,290 are off-campus jobs. For each job created on campus, another 1.9 public- and private-sector jobs are created off campus because of Howard University-related spending. Looked at in a different way: Each \$1 million initially spent by Howard University and its students creates 10 jobs

Britain not fazed by mixed-race fiancée for Prince Harry

By Gregory Katz
LONDON (AP) - Meghan Markle is the first person who identifies as mixed race to marry a senior member of the British royal family - but that caused barely a ripple in Britain on Nov. 27 amid speculation about her engagement ring and the site of the spring nuptials.

The lack of focus on Markle's heritage - her father is white and her mother is African-American - reflects Britain's increasingly open attitudes toward race.

Former Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Markle's mixed-race background would have been a huge story decades ago, but goes virtually unnoticed now.

"It's the least interesting aspect of the day's news," he said. "It's not an issue. There is no controversy. The world has moved on."

The election last year of Sadiq Khan, whose parents migrated from Pakistan, as London's first Muslim mayor also showed the declining importance ascribed to racial backgrounds, Rifkind said.

"People were aware of it, but the population didn't give a damn," he said. "Britain has problems, but this shows Britain is a very tolerant society."

That doesn't mean Britain and its institutions are free from racial discrimination. Non-whites have lower incomes, suffer a disproportionate number of hate crimes, and are often stereotyped in the media.

Prince Harry said as much last November in an angry broadside accusing some elements of the British press of racism in stories about Markle.



MS. DELLA REESE

"Touched by an Angel" Star Della Reese Dies at 86

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)
Della Reese, the legendary actress and star of the classic movie "Harlem Nights" and the long-running CBS drama "Touched by an Angel," died on Sunday, November 19. She was 86.

From Reese's memorable appearances in movies like "A Thin Line between Love and Hate" to television shows like "Chico and the Man," "Sanford & Son" and "227," fans and friends celebrated her storied career on social media.

"Saddened to hear of the passing of Della Reese," the Rev. Al Sharpton wrote on Twitter. "I've enjoyed her artistry as long as I can remember."

In a nod to her starring role in the CBS television series, "Touched by an Angel," Reese's co-star Roma Downey wrote: "I know heaven has a brand new angel this day. Della Reese will be forever in our hearts. Rest in Peace, sweet angel, we love you."

According to Variety, "At its height, 'Touched by an Angel' reached more than 21 million total viewers a week and remained popular through syndication and DVD releases."

Chicago jazz composer Ramsey Lewis said, "She really had stage presence, some magic about her."

BET, CBS and Essence magazine also tweeted out their love for Reese.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with her family," Essence magazine posted on Twitter.

Born Deloreese Patricia Early in Michigan on July 6, 1931, Reese started her career recording and performing on television variety shows in the 1950s.

From 1969 to 1970, she hosted a TV talk show called, "Della," and she went on to appear in many other series over the decades including "Sanford and Son" with her good friend, Redd Foxx.

Reese's TV show, "Della," made her the first African American woman to host a talk show.

She earned a gospel music Grammy nomination for best female soloist in 1987 and, in the 1990s, Reese landed the lead role in the hit TV drama, "Touched by an Angel."

However, she never forgot where it all began for her: singing in the church at the age of six, according to Biography.com.

Reese's talents eventually landed her an opportunity to work with gospel great Mahalia Jackson, when Reese was just 13.

Raised on gospel music, Reese transformed into a seductive secular music superstar with her No. 1 R&B and No. 2 pop hit "Don't You Know" in 1959.

It was her first single on RCA Records, a ballad drawn from an aria from Puccini's opera, "La Boheme," NBC News reported.

Ultimately, Reese revealed a mastery of standards, jazz and contemporary pop through the early 1970s, and over the course of her career she received four Grammy Award nominations.

"She was an incredible wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and pastor, as well as an award-winning actress and singer. Through her life and work she touched and inspired the lives of millions of people," Reese's family said in a statement.

In 1997, Reese told the Associated Press that she achieved many things that others may have thought to be impossible. She explained her ability to succeed in song and in film.

"I had good training for it. I was always a stylist, a lyricist," she said. "I became acquainted with the words in order to convince you I must believe in what I'm singing. That's what acting is: believing. It was just like one thing flowing into another," Reese said.

Following her memorable performance in "Harlem Nights" in 1989, Reese appeared in a number of TV shows and made-for-TV movies until she landed the role of "Tess" in the television series "Touched by an Angel" in 1994.

CBS cancelled the show after the first season, but fans swarmed the network with letters and calls, forcing them to renew the series.

Reese would go on to portray "Tess" on "Touched by an Angel" for nine seasons, earning seven NAACP Image Awards as best lead actress in a drama.

She also received two Emmys and a Golden Globe nomination.

Reese is survived by her husband, Franklin Lett, a film producer and concert promoter.